

BAILEYS HARBOR BROADBAND COMMITTEE

BROADBAND GOALS

- Fiber optic cable available to all businesses, residences, schools, & other gov't
- Minimum of 100 Mbps up **and** down, i.e., symmetrical; top speed 1 Gbps
- Keep monthly costs affordable for all, between \$50-\$100 per month plus discounted rate for qualified households
- Free drop of 500 feet to user

OTHER TOWNS' EFFORTS

- Washington Island Electric Cooperative, with the support of the Town of Washington and the Washington Island School District, has begun an island-wide fiber to the premise broadband project. Their plans could be fully accomplished within as few as three years.
- Liberty Grove has committed their entire American Rescue Plan funding to broadband. They have also joined a partnership with a local ISP and the Washington island Electric Cooperative for a fiber broadband project that will serve Northport and Gills Rock.
- Jacksonport is forming a broadband committee

BROADBAND SYSTEM

- DCEDC Engineer's report in October will describe the system and its costs (by individual municipality and other geographies)
- Mainly aerial installation due to geology of the county; Wisconsin Public Service repoling project helps reduce preparation (i.e., "make ready") expenses of the project
- Fiber to the home; gateway connection box installed at the premise
- Interior modem provided
- System will have excess strands of fiber which provides significant future flexibility; additional strands are cheap if done up front
- The project will certainly be completed in phases and over roughly 3-7 years

COST OF THE SYSTEM (Baileys Harbor)

- Approximately \$6 million – 40% debt; 60% grants
- Debt service averaging \$50 per property unit per year on a \$200,000 property

GRANT FUNDING

- American Recovery Program:
 - State monies - Governor Evers has allocated \$100 for rural broadband; additional funds may yet be allocated as the state received in total \$2.5 billion
 - County monies - ~\$5.3 million
 - Municipal monies - Baileys Harbor ~\$115,000 (all 19 Door County municipalities combined have ~\$2.7 million)
 - School District monies - Gibraltar SD ~\$500,000 (all four County school districts combined have ~\$4 million from the last round of funding, plus they can access the FCC E-rate program for discounted loans)

- With the passage of the ARP bill, the US Treasury was funded with \$10 billion for capital improvement projects. Broadband infrastructure is a key focus area. Wisconsin's state allocation is \$189 million.
- Wisconsin state biennial budget includes \$129 million for broadband through long-term bonds.
- US Congress continues to work on a federal infrastructure bill; the US Senate has passed a version that allocates \$65 billion for broadband, for which Wisconsin's share per capita could be \$800 million.

ADDITIONAL STEPS

- Complete detailed pre-engineering analysis using the DCEDC data to specify project parameters, phases, timing, etc.
- Work with other lakeside towns to explore collaborations around network development projects once the DCEDC study is released.
- Determine who will manage the system
 - Explore other local and regional potential ISP partners.
 - Investigate a broadband cooperative business model to serve as the ISP; the Washington Island Electric Cooperative and the UW-Madison Law School Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center are resources to assist.
- Explore long-term funding options including bonds, the state trust fund loan program, and the new bonding available within the state biennial budget

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