

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

*Brown County*



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**RURAL BROADBAND SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Committee Members:** Richard Schadewald, Brown County Supervisor; Devon Coenen, Brown County Supervisor; August Neverman, Brown County Broadband Director; Dave Wilquet, City of Green Bay I/T Director; Michael Moran, Public Representative; Steven Liegl, Wisconsin Public Service; and John Blohm, Green Bay Area Public Schools

**BROWN COUNTY BROADBAND SUBCOMMITTEE  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023  
6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.  
VIRTUAL and Veterans Conference Room 660  
305 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, WI**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE MAY  
TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Public Comment
3. **Bug Tussel Updates**
  - o Public Broadband Impact - fiber and wireless service see attachment 3
  - o Discuss impact to the County (911/12pair/BCCAN)
  - o Impact to BCCAN -- August Neverman last day is 12/31/2023, BCCAN Operated by Bug Tussel starting 1/1/2024
  - o see 1page 2sided summary (pages 7 and 8)
4. **Other Broadband Updates**
  - o To date, no ISP is applying for the WI-PSC Broadband Capital Funds Project is due end of this month.
  - o eACAM growing statewide but unlikely to help Brown County – per Brightspeed/Centurylink rep.
  - o RDOF starting to see some activity. The Charter/Spectrum in southern Brown County.
  - o Examples of previous grant funding matches for total project costs are \$5k to \$10k per passing (using Washington island and others as examples). Some of our worst locations are likely in excess of \$14k per passing.

## 5. BEAD \$1B Wisconsin Broadband Grant Updates

- **BEAD Volume 1-** Review / Discussion of Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Initial Proposal (see page 8):  
<https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFview/viewdoc.aspx?docid=480766> – speed test challenges are done.
- **Bead Volume 2-** from WI-PSC Broadband office to NTIA is due December 27, but the draft is expected in November. It will summarize how the grant process will work for BEAD \$1B.
- **UNDERSERVED/UNSERVED** for BEAD (FYI ESTIMATES ONLY)
  - FCC shows 6548 UNDERSERVED and **2095 UNSERVED** in BC (without filtering for RDOF) \$10mil, \$20mil to \$30mil based on \$5k, \$10k or \$14k passing (BSL) costs.
  - We show 77k to 83k UNDERSERVED and **6099 to 9519 UNSERVED**. Roughly \$30mil, \$60mil to \$133mil based on \$5k, \$10k or \$14k passing (BSL) costs.  
\*\*New PSC state broadband map is somewhere between the numbers above.
- **New State Broadband Map.** This map is likely to be the BEAD grant map (or substantially similar). Since this map is “finalized” we don’t need to push for speed tests before the end of the year. <https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/BbExpGApplicants/>
- **Proposed Grant area Broadband Map** - Select Most Critical Areas - see map with 5 areas. None of these have BEAD, eACAM or Capital Projects grants commitments so far. *All the location counts are likely lower than this because of state identifying locations as “underserved or served” and areas being previously funded by RDOF or other Fed/State funds.*
  1. **East side** of Brown County (**Undetermined** ISP – maybe Brightspeed, Spectrum, BugTussel etc) **roughly 3574 homes/businesses.**
  2. **South** “holes” around RDOF (Charter/Spectrum) **roughly 4012 homes/businesses.**
  3. **Airport/Hobart** small area (**Undetermined** ISP Charter/Spectrum, nSight or BugTussel) **roughly 693 homes/businesses**
  4. **Pulaski/Pittsfield** area (nSight) **roughly 677 homes/businesses.**
  5. **West Green Bay Shore**, northeast area of Suamico (**Undetermined** who will be ISP) **roughly 563 homes/businesses.**
- NewNorth REDO (Regional Economic Development Organization) is getting copies of updated data for mapping. Additional equity and general broadband mapping will be performed thru NewNorth and will be shared with Brown County.

## 6. Discussion/Decisions:

- **Roles/Responsibilities:** What is the role of Brown County government in Broadband – and specifically the BEAD Grant(s) and what is the role of the Broadband Committee? (does it continue to exist)
- **BEAD Match Funds:** Still need to decide on BEAD Broadband 25% Match or more for 2024 County budget planning - **25% match:** County Only, County Matches the ISP match, County Partial or No County (also note larger matches more likely to get funding) \*\* note Bug Tussel can use \$27.2m loan as match.
  - Possibly prepare resolution(s) in support of BEAD grant(s) submittals: Likely for Charter/Spectrum (south), nSight Northwest and Bug Tussel (TDB)
  - Prepare for competing ISP activity in undetermined areas 1, 3 and 5.
  - Match would be needed for all except Bug Tussel, and even for Bug Tussel if entering worst (high cost) spots.

- **Communications:** Will BC do broadband mapping in future?
  - If yes, push for future speed test mapping through Brown County to measure progress and identify areas that still need improvement.
  - Reuse NewNorth data?
  - Keep browncountywi.gov/broadband website? What should be on it if anything? Who will maintain?
  - Attend NewNorth planning and regional actively or passively?
- **Legislative Study** (broadband speeds, Actual vs Advertised, fiber rules, utility poles, etc) – who will be a Brown County rep (if any)? To change state laws/regulations.

7. Other Business

8. Schedule next meeting.

9. Adjournment

Notice is hereby given that action by the Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda. Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

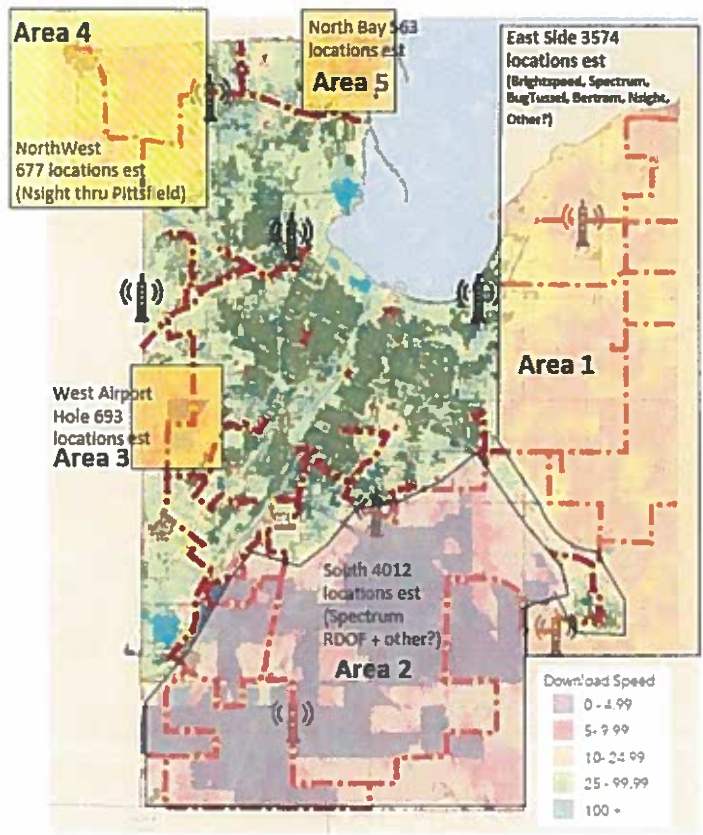
**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

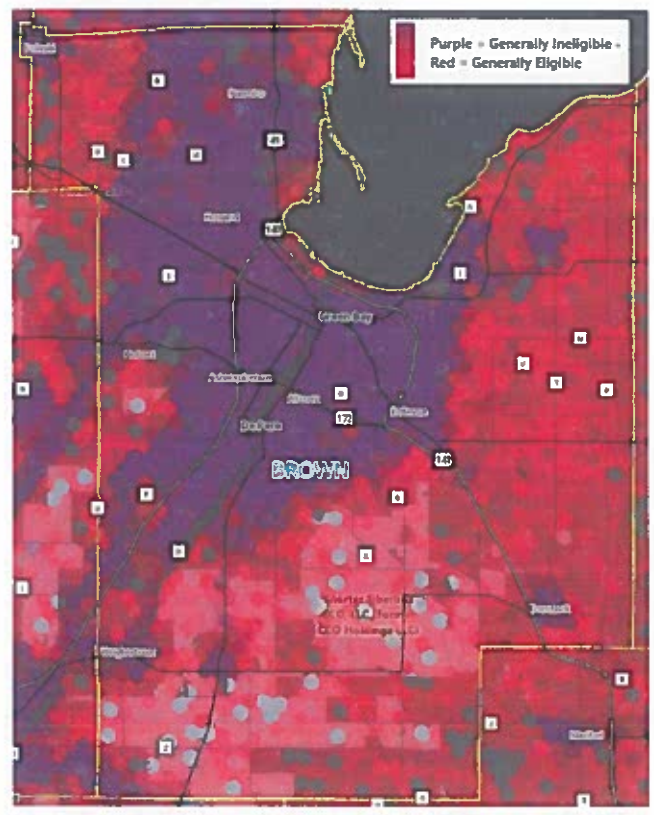
Meeting ID: 217 920 569 805

Passcode: ptyghc

# Attachment 1: County vs State Maps



**Brown County "Areas" Map**  
 \* Extra info added for the 5 areas  
 \* Darker Blue areas in areas 2 and 3 are RDOF (ineligible)

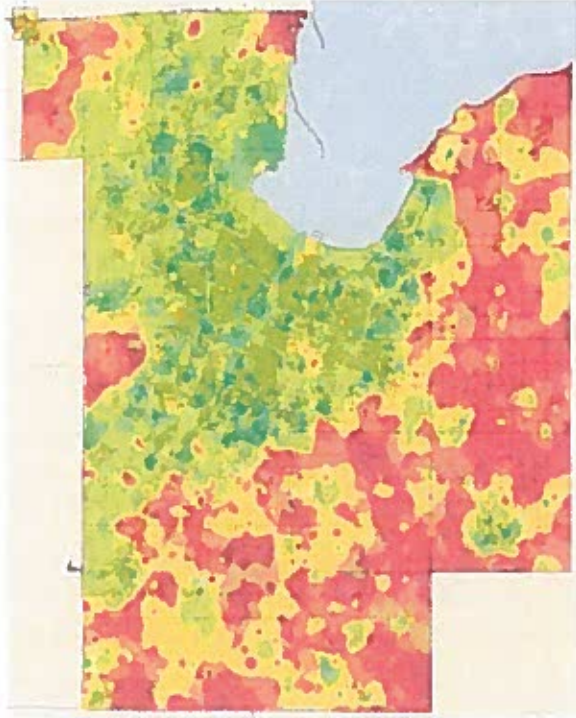


**State of Wisconsin New Service Map**  
<https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/BbExpGApplicants/>  
 \* Pink white areas are "RDOF" (ineligible)  
 \* Likely to be the BEAD qualifying Areas (most red not pink)

VERY GOOD PROGRESS!

## Attachment 2: County vs FCC Map

### Brown County Speed Test Map



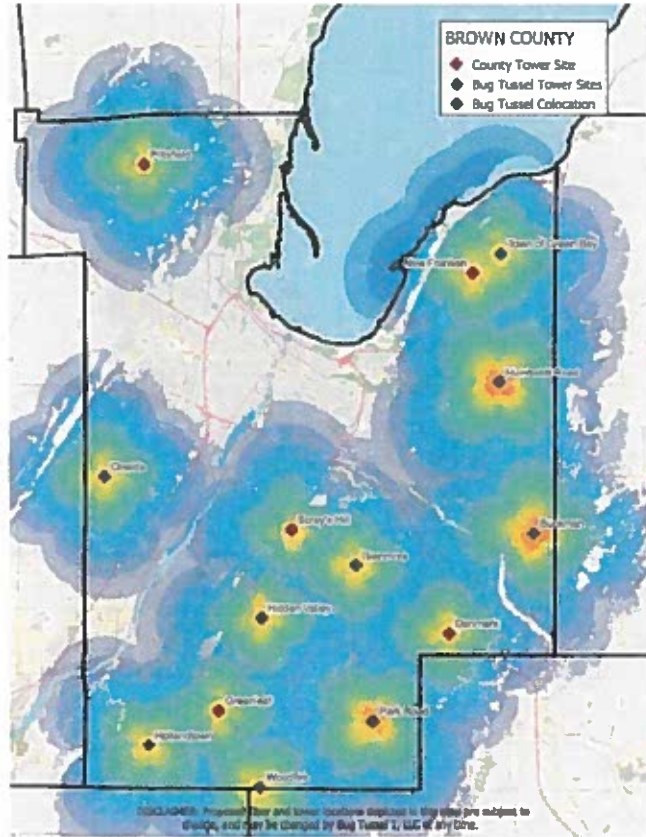
### FCC 25mbps Map

<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/location-summary/fixed?version=dec2022&room=8.30&lon=-88.291522&lat=44.425821&br=&speed=25.3&tech=1.2.3>

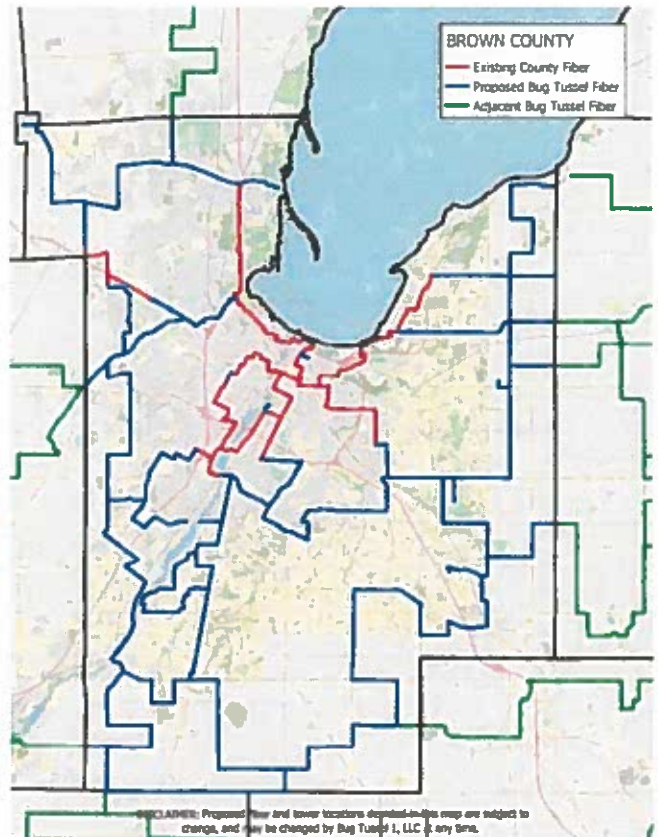


# Attachment 3: Bug Tussel Maps

## Bug Tussel Cellular and Wireless Internet Towers Map



## Bug Tussel Proposed Fiber Map Routes may vary a bit



# BUG TUSSEL LOAN SUMMARY

## Project based on RFI 2487

To build 270 miles of Bug Tussel fiber connecting Brown County 911 towers to BCCAN fiber network, build 8 new Bug Tussel towers and associated equipment and labor costs.

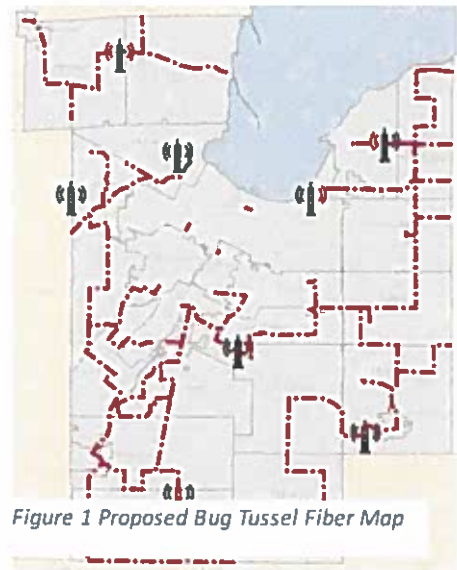
Bug Tussel builds: Middle-Mile Fiberoptic Network, Last-Mile Fiber to the 911 Towers, County & Municipal Sites and Home/Businesses (300mbps and 1000mbps); Fixed Wireless 5mbps, 25mbps, 50mbps Broadband; Enhanced Cellular Connectivity and Community Education thru Bug Tussel University.

## Assumption of BCCAN

As part of the contract, Bug Tussel assumes ownership of BCCAN assets and responsibility to honor all existing contracts for the BCCAN network. This includes all costs for maintenance, repair, locates, fiber relocation and honoring of contracted rates.

County retains use of existing BCCAN fiber and gains the additional use of 12-pair (24 strands) of fiber across the new Bug Tussel network. Both have no recurring cost, in perpetuity.

Brown County provides optional use of county-owned towers for fixed broadband/cellular. If County towers are used, Bug Tussel will pay any upgrades and/or swap costs to meet structural needs.



## Loan Details

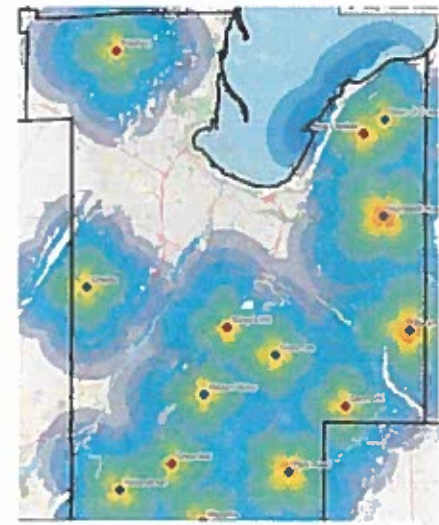
\$27.2M, 15-year zero interest loan with no payments during 60-month construction period. Bug Tussel also pays \$100k per year for 3 years for loan management and oversight and share BCCAN revenue.

The \$27.2M loan results in ~\$9mil in savings:

- A. \$27.2M principal paid back
- B. Approximately \$9M ARPA funds returned

*\*\*There is value in the 270 miles of new lifetime use of 12pair of fiber. There are also other "soft" operational financial benefits including operational BCCAN savings, salary and savings that help individual County Departments and municipalities. These likely exceed \$10M*

**The Bug Tussel loan does NOT preclude the County from participating with Bug Tussel or any other provider in applying for qualifying BEAD, USDA or future WI-PSC Broadband grants.**



- ◆ County Tower Site
- ◆ Bug Tussel Tower Sites
- ◆ Bug Tussel Colocation

## Brown County Government Benefits

1. All the Brown County Public Safety 911 towers will be connected by fiber for emergency services including dual (redundant) fiber connectivity.
2. Frees up over \$9M in ARPA for other uses at the direction of County Board.
3. Provides use of 12-pair of new Bug Tussel fiber pairs at no cost for the life of fiber.
4. Provides use of existing County fiber for the life of the fiber, at no cost. This results in annual operational fiscal savings.
5. Brown County no longer must manage BCCAN resulting in some annual operational savings.
6. Towns and Villages could connect to Brown County 12pair with no recurring fiber transport charge (equipment, labor and internet service would still have a cost).
7. Municipalities could also contract with BugTussel or Bug Tussel partners for services at a discount.
8. Improves local government access to municipal systems and public safety.
9. Brown County gains contractual access to Bug Tussel Towers for possible future County communication devices for public safety, highway, and other purposes.

## Other Public Benefits

10. Improves internet access to County defined “un/underserved” locations.
  - a. Fiber to the homes and businesses along the final fiber route at 300 mbps fiber for ~\$62.50 per month and optional 1gbps service.
  - b. Locations not near the fiber that have line of sight, receive optional 5/25/50mbps fixed wireless service. \$50/mo for 25mbps (14 towers)
11. Provides opportunities for rural residents’ access to internet-based health and education.
12. Improves options for telecommuting, business development, and tax base growth.
13. Improves cellular coverage throughout the build areas.
14. Loan results in no net tax outlay and saves funds over time.

