



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

Todd County

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Work Session Agenda

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

10:00 AM

or immediately following the regular board meeting

*Meeting to be held in the County Board Room via teleconference,
hosted at the Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, MN.*

PUBLIC WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND IN PERSON.

MEETING WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED AT: [HTTPS://WWW.CO.TODD.MN.US](https://www.co.todd.mn.us)

Agenda Item #

Agenda Time:

- | | | |
|----------|--|-------|
| 1 | Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition Launches Statewide Speed Test Initiative
<i>Rick Utech, Economic Development</i> | 10:00 |
| 2 | Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-Visiting Program (MECSH)
<i>Jackie Och, HHS Director & Samantha Cofell, Nursing Supervisor</i> | 10:10 |
| 3 | Solid Waste Survey
<i>Commissioner Neumann</i> | 10:20 |

Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition

Access to high speed broadband is important for a sustainable rural economy in Minnesota.



Minnesota Broadband Speed Test Initiative

Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition Launches Statewide Speed Test Initiative

Friday, August 07, 2020

By [Ann Treacy](#)

From the MN Broadband Coalition...

“The Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition is pleased to announce the launch of the Minnesota Speed Test Initiative,” said Vince Robinson, Chair of the MN Rural Broadband Coalition. “There is no doubt that the lack of broadband in rural Minnesota hampers telework, distance learning, and telehealth.

Our goal is to find out exactly where broadband service is available in rural Minnesota and what speeds people are receiving.”

TAKE THE TEST: <http://mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com/speedtest>

A pilot program for speed testing is ongoing in St Louis, Koochiching, and Itasca Counties. The Range Association of Municipalities and Schools has been leading the way to create a different set of broadband maps based on approximately 7,000 broadband speed tests submitted by area residents and businesses.

These speed tests, mapped by GEO Partners, clearly show the speeds available in cities and townships across the three northern Minnesota counties.

“For years we’ve been relying on incomplete data to make big decisions on broadband infrastructure in Minnesota,” said Nathan Zacharias, Project Manager for the Minnesota Speed Test Initiative. “Most broadband maps stop at the census block, township, or county level. The Minnesota Speed Test Initiative will give us house-by-house data that just isn’t available anywhere else. We’re very excited to get this project in the field.”

The speed test can be taken with any device that has an internet or cellular connection and takes less than one minute to complete. No personal information will be collected. Testing data will be statistically valid and provide a map of what service levels are for any given area in the state. This information will be an important tool for communities that are planning a broadband expansion project through the FCC, USDA, or MN Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program.

COVID-19 has shown us how important access to broadband is for every Minnesotan now that we’re being asked to work, learn, or receive care from home. Broadband is no different than any other basic utility that people need. It is an essential part of our daily lives.