



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3B

Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** February 23, 2016

**Title of Item:** Accept Blandin Foundation Broadband Vision Statement

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
<b>Submitted by:</b> Ross Wagner		<b>Department:</b> Economic Development & Forest Ind
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 5 Minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> Following is the Broadband Vision Statement as adopted at the MN DEED and Blandin Foundation Border to Border Broadband Conference of which Nate and I attended. Counties, Cities and other jurisdictions are being asked to adopt the vision to help foster broadband development across the state of Minnesota.  Everyone in Minnesota will be able to use convenient, affordable world-class broadband networks that enable us to survive and thrive in our communities and across the globe.  Attached, As of February 10th, are the jurisdictions that have adopted the vision.		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Approve		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

***Everyone in Minnesota will be able to use convenient, affordable world-class broadband networks that enable us to survive and thrive in our communities and across the globe.***

The Blandin Foundation is working hard to garner as many endorsements of this vision as possible. Our hope is that the vision and the many endorsements will help our elected officials at the legislature understand the importance of this infrastructure to vital rural communities as they consider broadband investments during the session. To date, the vision has received nearly 30 endorsements (see below for a list of endorsements to date). Endorsers include cities, counties, foundations, co-ops, NGOs, and associations.

***Endorsing organizations (as of February 10, 2016):***

**Statewide Advocacy Organizations:**

**Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM):** *a statewide association of professionals specializing in the field of economic development.*

**Greater Minnesota Partnership (GMP):** *a nonprofit corporation devoted to advocating for state economic development policies and resources that benefit Greater Minnesota*

**Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA):** *originally formed to address issues that impact cable television and franchise development, MACTA has evolved into an advocacy organization to help shape the rapidly changing telecommunications landscape as it affects cities*

**Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED):** *promotes the role of counties in fostering economic growth, expanding the tax base, and enhancing quality of life*

**Minnesota Association of Townships:** *a nonprofit corporation representing 1,779 of Minnesota's 1,782 townships*

**MN Library Association Legislative Committee:** *the committee is charged with recommending a legislative platform and program to the MLA board of directors each year and to lobby on behalf of MLA*

**Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA):** *a nonprofit corporation representing the interests of the state's 100+ municipal electric and natural gas utilities*

**Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA):** *the only advocacy organization devoted exclusively to Greater Minnesota schools*

**Minnesota Service Cooperatives:** *a Joint Powers organization comprised of nine educational service agencies*

**Educational Institutions**

**Minnesota State Community and Technical College:** *with campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena and online, M State's mission is to provide education for dynamic learning, living, working and serving*

**Telecommunications Organizations**

**East Central MN Educational Cable Cooperative (ECMECC):** *a joint-powers association of schools in east central Minnesota that provides interactive TV programming to its members*

**Leech Lake Telecommunications Company:** *a department of Leech Lake MIS Division, the telecommunications company is charged with providing and maintaining telephone communications to over 2000 desktops and modems on the reservation*

### **Place-based Development Organizations**

**Chisago County HRA-EDA**

**Ortonville EDA**

**Minnesota Initiative Foundations:** *established in the early 1980's, these are strong, independent entities that are built to respond to regional needs and opportunities*

- Northwest Minnesota Foundation
- West Central Initiative

**Regional Development Commissions:** *established in 1969 to provide technical assistance to the local units of government in their region*

- Headwaters Regional Development Commission
- Mid-Minnesota Development Commission
- Region Five Development Commission
- Region Nine Development Commission
- Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission

### **Counties**

**Carlton County**

**Chippewa County**

**Nobles County**

**Sherburne County**

**Winona County**

### **Cities**

**City of Big Lake**

**City of Elk River**

**City of Grand Rapids**

**City of Lafayette**

**City of Stewart**

**City of Winthrop**

### **Utility Companies**

**Agralite Electric Cooperative:** *a locally owned progressive utility providing dependable electric service and other consumer related products to improve the quality of life in the Benson area*

### **Nonprofit Organizations and Community Groups**

**Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative (CVII):** *a multi-township effort to improve the options residents have for high-speed internet service*

**EnSearch:** *located in the Brainerd Lakes Area, EnSearch provides research and evaluation services to support the growth of a variety of businesses and industries*

**Project FINE:** *a nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen and enrich the Winona area by facilitating the integration of people who are ethnically diverse*

**Resilient Region Champions of Region Five:** *a group of citizens working together to realize the Resilient Region mission of planning sustainable regions that integrate the disciplines of housing, transportation, natural environment and economic development that will encompass in-reach strategies through HIGHLY involved civic engagement in efforts to build an inclusive region that will provide opportunities, be free from discrimination and improve the quality of life of ALL residents*