

**MEDA Broadband Committee Meeting**  
**February 15, 2021**  
**1pm**

**Present: Anne Booth, Russ Fletcher, Stephen Walter, Diane Smith, Geoff Feiss, Steve Simonson, Geoff Feiss, Michael Mattmiller, Charlotte Lauerman, Mehmet Casey, and Gloria O'Rourke.**

**Edits to potential legislative bill language:**

- Instead of tiered approach, edit to require at least 100/20 as reflected by speed test or some other verification process.  
Discussion:
  - Do higher speeds disincentivize investment?
  - Does setting 100/20 leave some companies out?
- 40/20 standard is fairly good – qualifying level but realize it is a continuing evolving target to reach higher
- More than a coordinator – need an advisory board commission. Discussion: some prefer a single point of contact. States have accomplished more with a single point of contact.
- Considered on an annual basis to make sure needs are being met.
- Beef up broadband position language.

Discussion:

- Diane noted wireless for high resolution healthcare reading cardio files, etc., has been prohibited. Can we meet speed requirements for the needs we are trying to deliver? Super high bandwidth telehealth.
- Perhaps having a broadband coordinating position is the best we can advocate for; also, a commission. We have a highway commission, communications commission, why not a commission?

**Next steps:**

Take to lobbyist and begin language for a bill.

Next meeting: Monday, Feb 22; 2:00pm

**Chat:**

Russ: If not Speed Test <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=speed+test>  
Can we come up with an acceptable standard test to determine actual speed?

Russ: I hope you all read this: A 90-year-old man spent \$10,000 on ads complaining about slow Internet. He got AT&T's attention. <https://matr.net/news/a-90-year-old-man-spent-10000-on-ads-complaining-about-slow-internet-he-got-atts-attention/>

Diane: Wireless broadband v. wired broadband are different. If all we're trying to do is get to average, then low speeds will do. If we're trying to do better than average, then our speeds should reflect that. For example, the use of wireless for high resolution healthcare (reading cardio films, etc.) has been prohibited in certain circumstances. Broadband is a journey, not a destination.

Russ: From 2018: "The Congressional Research Service concluded that the minimum acceptable level of broadband service is 4 Mbps downstream transmission capacity and 1 Mbps upstream transmission capacity for any government regulated data transmission. While there is no specific set minimum for healthcare broadband speeds, many telehealth programs require a minimum of 1.5 Mbps for both upload and download speeds to successfully display audio and video data." <https://hitinfrastructure.com/news/lack-of-broadband-access-can-hinder-rural-telehealth-programs>

As I've stated, I'm paying for 400 down and getting 67.

Russ: How Fast Does The Internet Need To Be In Montana To Be Competitive? What Do You Think? <https://matr.net/news/how-fast-does-the-internet-need-to-be-in-montana-to-be-competitive-what-do-you-think/>