



August 7, 2009

Task Force Members,

Attached is our agenda for the August 21st Broadband Task Force meeting at the **Bigwood Event Center** (925 Western Ave) in **Fergus Falls**. We have a number of opportunities to hear from and interact with folks from the Fergus Falls area. See the attached Greater MN Meeting document that details the “DEED on the Road Summer Tour 2009” event and the Blandin Broadband Policy seminar on Thursday, August 20th. Please join us at a **reception at the Bigwood Event Center from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Thanks go to Peg Werner for her efforts in organizing and promoting the Fergus Falls meeting.

We have a very full day planned on Friday starting with coffee and rolls at 8:00 a.m. We will hear from the Speed, Ubiquity, and Role of Government sub-groups in the morning and from the Recommendation #3 (public private partnerships) and Recommendation #4/#6 (financing/cost) sub-groups in the afternoon. If time permits, we will hear from the Recommendation #5 (security) sub-group.

Sub-group leaders – please send anne.losby@thomsonreuters.com any meeting handouts by end-of-day, Friday, August 14th. We will send you an updated version of the report in advance of the meeting and, of course, we will bring copies to the meeting.

Two assignments to complete prior to the August meeting:

1. If you haven't done so already, please reply to Shirley shirley.walz@thomsonreuters.com with specific applications or business names related to your area of interest/expertise to populate the “**Uses in Minnesota**” column of our speed range chart (see attached). This information is critical to make the report come to life for our readers.
2. Review the proposed language at the bottom of this message related to the **speed goal and symmetrical service**. We will finalize this language at the meeting.

I appreciate the extra effort involved for all of you to attend these Greater Minnesota meetings in person. They have been very productive so far and I predict that our August meeting will yield good progress.

As always, please inform Sue susan.lauermann@thomsonreuters.com if you are unable to attend the meeting and who you plan to send as a substitute. Thank you.

Best regards,

Rick



Proposed language for the speed goal and symmetrical service

Recommendation 1: Identify the level of service

Broadband is critical infrastructure for Minnesota's 21st century advancement in education, health, public safety, research & innovation, economic diversification, and public services. Broadband service offerings should be fast enough to support all available applications that improve access to information, communication, social interaction, education, healthcare, business commerce, and entertainment. To that end, the Task Force recommends that Minnesota establish a minimum threshold of service for all of Minnesota.

By 2015, Minnesota citizens will use broadband to access:

- Government services
- Distance education
- Tele-medicine
- Business
- Security
- Interactive video
- Machine-to-machine applications

As we work to achieve ubiquitous broadband, we need to also adopt and maintain a forward-looking vision that will position the state for global competitiveness.

To provide reference for the speeds that will be recommended later in this section, the table below shows the required upstream and downstream ranges for various applications. [Table]

The Task Force recommends that any goal for a base-level standard of broadband service in Minnesota be based on a basic level of functionality to every person in the state. We recommend the following minimum speeds:

- **10-20 mbps (download)**
- **5-10 mbps (upload)**

Revised symmetrical service paragraph

The Task Force heard from a variety of experts in regards to applications which require symmetrical speeds in order to work properly. Examples of such applications include tele-medicine, tele-work, and distance education. The Task Force determined that a symmetrical service option (i.e., equal upload and download speed) should be available to consumers who require it; however, symmetrical service options need not be mandated for every consumer as it may not be required by everyone. Some consumers might prefer service offerings that provide slower upload speed in order to deliver faster downstream speed or a lower price. The Task Force found that many consumers asking for symmetrical service are in need of faster upload speeds. When that upload need is met, whether the download speed is symmetrical or faster, the consumer has a solution to their problem.



Our aspirational speed and penetration goals should be focused on achievement of leading positions in the broadband speeds and penetration that are necessary today and tomorrow for Internet based applications being utilized by Minnesota citizens. Whether citizens are at home or work, leading positions in broadband speed and penetration drive innovation, efficiency, effectiveness, and satisfaction into their daily lives. We are not seeking a leading speed position for the sake of speed, but to ensure our global competitiveness through access to broadband based Internet applications in the areas of education, healthcare, commerce, economic development, and government services.

The Task Force believes that increasing broadband penetration (subscription or take rate) in Minnesota is the most significant measure of ensuring national and global competitiveness and sustaining a high quality of life. Increasing broadband penetration in Minnesota is the most effective way to increase our ranking globally.

The Minnesota Ultra High-Speed Broadband Task Force recommends year 2015 aspirational goals of:

- **Minnesota will be in the Top 5 states of the United States for overall broadband speed (download/upload)**
- **Minnesota will be in the Top 5 states of the United states for broadband penetration**
- **Minnesota will be in the Top 15 globally for broadband penetration**