



Legislative Priority: Geospatial Data for Broadband

WLIA's Request

- Support funding to comprehensively plan and monitor Broadband deployment and connections through the development and use of statewide geospatial datasets.

Background

- Over \$200 Million in federal and state funding has been budgeted to connect Wisconsinites to adequate Broadband, requiring accurate mapping data and analysis to deploy successfully.
- Broadband is a top executive and legislative priority, as evidenced by the Governor's Office initiating the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access and the 2021 "Year of Broadband."
- Geospatial data is used to monitor where Broadband is currently available, where network expansion is necessary, and where grant funding has been deployed to consumers.
- The State of Wisconsin collects voluntarily submitted coverage data to support Broadband deployment planning. To improve on this, collecting more granular coverage and consumer-focused data is needed.
- Development of a Wisconsin Broadband fabric, used to determine where fixed Broadband access is a necessity, will be key to comprehensively serving all of Wisconsin for its coverage needs.
- Creation of repeatable and sustainable geospatial data is vital to support broadband and related programs.

Types of Geospatial Data in regards to Broadband

- Addresses - Base mapping unit used to determine households and businesses that need connectivity.
- Building Footprints - Identifies specific areas that Broadband infrastructure must reach to offer service
- Parcels - Available statewide foundational layer used to provide limited information on Broadband need.
- Imagery & LiDAR - Supports the development of Building Footprints and design of fiber networks.
- Planning & Zoning Layers - Offers additional information that can inform knowledge of Broadband need.

Role of Geospatial Data in Broadband

- **Plan** - Data such as building footprints, address points, and parcels can be used to identify areas that need fixed Broadband access. This is often referred to as using a "Broadband fabric."
- **Fund** - Geospatial Broadband coverage data from providers begins to identify areas that need grants or subsidies to make Broadband available everywhere. High granularity data, beyond Census blocks, is key.
- **Deploy** - Open data exchange between all government-based geospatial data producers and internet providers is important in guaranteeing providers are building networks to cater to current needs.
- **Connect** - Collecting Broadband quality data, including service performance and affordability at the household and business address level, helps track the quality of broadband that is available.
- **Monitor** - Track the installation and adoption of taxpayer-funded projects and programs.

Geospatial Data for Broadband also benefits

- In addition to supporting Broadband deployment, sustainably assembled statewide mapping layers would greatly aid other business areas, including but not limited to the following:
 - Next Generation 911
 - Voter Registration
 - License validation (e.g. DMV and DNR)
 - Validate health care beneficiaries and root out fraud (e.g. Medicare)
 - Help improve private sector delivery of goods and services.