



CITY OF FORT DODGE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of Fort Dodge is seeking input from community residents and businesses on their broadband experiences as part of its Community Broadband Pre-Feasibility Study.

The study, authorized by the Fort Dodge City Council last month, has several goals:

- Educate citizens in the study area about the importance of broadband service for education, health care, quality of life, business, and the economy of Fort Dodge.
- Engage in discussions with individuals, anchor entities, and leadership groups to identify existing broadband gaps.
- Conduct a comprehensive survey to measure attitudes about existing providers and gauge interest in a public or private solution to close those gaps.
- Identify the geographic location of citizens that would be interested in receiving services from a new, fiber-based provider.
- Gather speed test data from citizens in the study area to measure actual delivered internet speeds, not just advertised speeds.

Two online tools are being used to gather information as part of the Pre-Feasibility Study. Two surveys – one for residences and the other for businesses – will collect data on citizens' experience with internet, cable TV, and telephone services and allow them to provide feedback on whether their needs are being adequately met. The second tool, a broadband assessment tool, is designed to gather additional feedback about internet services and collect actual speed test data from Fort Dodge homes and businesses.

A web page has been established to serve as the information hub for the pre-feasibility study. The site, www.ourbroadbandfuture.com/fort-dodge.html, includes background on the study and the reasons it was launched and educational resources on broadband services.

In August, citizens will be able to attend an informational meeting to learn more about the study and efforts to improve broadband services in Fort Dodge. The meeting schedule will be announced at a later date.