

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEMBERS

Tim Barnes
Blake Mulder
Terrance Augustine
Brandon Haskell
Jeanne Pearl-Wright
Jane Whitacre
Mark J. Mudry
Joseph Brehler



MEMBERS

Brian Droscha
Dairus Reynnet
Wayne Ridge
Brian Lautzenheiser
Jim Mott
Jeremy Whittum
Barbara Rogers

1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ROOM, COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CHARLOTTE

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Agenda Additions and Changes.
4. Approval of the December 1, 2021 & January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes.
5. Limited Public Comment.
6. Board of Commissioners' Room Technology Project.
7. Broadband Survey Update.
8. Miscellaneous.
9. Limited Public Comment.
10. Adjournment.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners may be present at this meeting.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021
4:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Wayne Ridge, Dairus Reynnet, Brian Droscha, Brian Lautzenheiser, Mark Mudry and Barbara Rogers.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Brandon Haskell

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Jeremy Whittum; Eric Daley, Nathan Nighbert and John Fuentes

The December 1, 2021 regular meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairperson Ridge.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no limited public comment.

A proposal for a permanent solution for video display capability in the Board of Commissioners Room was presented and discussed. A supplemental proposal to enhance the video capability for continuation of livestream public meetings including remote public participation was also presented. Discussion held. Various alternatives and considerations for continued compliance with the Open Meetings Act were discussed. The consensus of the Committee was to request a revised proposal focusing on the ability to continue livestreaming meetings with remote public participation and incorporating improvements to the video display capability within the Board of Commissioners Room for further consideration.

Eric Daley, Technology Services Director, provided a staffing and transition update. It was reported that the Department is experiencing difficulty in recruiting qualified candidates similar to what is being reported by other departments and elected officials currently.

It was also reported that the new campaign financing reporting solution has been implemented and is live. It was also reported that research for a solution to identify an electronic solution for remaining archival documents within the Equalization Department is ongoing based on discussion at the November committee meeting.

Chairperson Ridge adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee will be held in January 2022, at a date and time to be determined by the Board of Commissioners at its Organizational Meeting, January 3, 2022.

Wayne Ridge, Chairperson

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
COMMITTEE MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Wayne Ridge, Dairus Reynnet, Brian Droscha, Brandon Haskell, Brian Lautzenheiser, Mark Mudry and Barbara Rogers.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jeremy Whittum, Terrance Augustine and Joseph Brehler; Eric Daley, Dan Manning (Connected Nation Michigan), Nathan Nighbert, Claudine Williams and John Fuentes

The January 5, 2022 regular meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairperson Ridge.

Chairperson Ridge introduced Dan Manning, Connected Nation Michigan, to discuss the results of the Eaton County Community Broadband Survey. Mr. Manning presented and discussed the survey results and reviewed the preliminary action steps contained in the draft report. Discussion held.

Chairperson Ridge adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee will be held at 4:00pm on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 in the Board of Commissioners Room in the Eaton County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.

Wayne Ridge, Chairperson

Boardroom Quote

Eaton County

1045 Independence Blvd
Charlotte, MI 48813 United States



THIRD COAST TECH

Presented By:



Third Coast Tech, LLC.
4514 Pontiac Lake Rd.
Waterford, Michigan 48328
800-828-9517
www.thirdcoasttech.com

Modified: 12/7/2021
Revision: 0

Boardroom

TCT will upgrade boardroom system with new equipment listed.



2 **Crestron**

\$923.00 *

The HD-TX-101-C-1G-E (-B-T or -W-T) is a wall plate DM Lite transmitter designed to pair with a DM Lite receiver to form a point-to-point signal extender for HDMI signals. The DM Lite family of products offers a very simple and versatile solution for extending HD, UHD, 2K, and 4K video signals, with stereo or surround sound audio, over a single CAT5e (or better) cable. A cable length of up to 230 ft (70 m) is supported for HD 1080p, WUXGA, and 2K signals, or up to 130 ft (40 m) for UHD and 4K.

2 **Crestron**

The HD-RX-101-C-E is a surface-mountable DM Lite receiver designed to pair with a DM Lite transmitter to form a point-to-point signal extender for HDMI signals. The DM Lite family of products offers a very simple and versatile solution for extending HD, UHD, 2K, and 4K video signals, with stereo or surround sound audio, over a single CAT5e (or better) cable. A cable length of up to 230 ft (70 m) is supported for HD 1080p, WUXGA, and 2K signals, or up to 130 ft (40 m) for UHD and 4K.



1 **Crestron Electronics**

\$560.00

The HD-MD4X1-4KZ-E is a 4K60 4:4:4 HDR (High Dynamic Range) AV switcher that provides a cost-effective solution for professional AV applications. Equipped with four HDMI inputs and one HDMI output, the HD-MD4X1-4KZ-E includes features such as automatic switching of inputs, EDID management, HDCP 2.3 compliance, enterprise-grade security, and XiO Cloud service support.



1 **Crimson AV**

\$496.34

Multiple joint arms hold screen 3.4" from wall when retracted and 27" when fully extended. Smooth tilt adjustments of +15 (forward) and -5 (back) with a locking knob and 3 side-to-side roll facilitates a variety of viewing angles and perfect screen positioning. Makes a secure installation quick and easy, simply hang the screen and turn the pre-assembled securing screws to lock in place. Integrated cable management for clean look.



1 **EIPHAN**

\$499.95

Works seamlessly with your SDI video sources, including: SD-SDI, HD-SDI, and 3G-SDI.

* Price Includes Accessories

Presented By: Third Coast Tech, LLC.

Project Name: Boardroom Quote

Project No.: TCT-0809

1/26/2022

Page 2 of 4

Third Coast Tech, LLC.



2	HuddleCamHD		\$187.20
		Universal wall mount small	



2	PTZOptics		\$3,325.92
		1080p Video conferencing camera with SDI support, 12X optical zoom, gray	

1	TCT		\$541.30
		1x4 HDMI Extender Splitter Over Single Cable CAT6/7 1080P With IR Remote EDID Management - Up to 132 Ft - Loop Out - Low Latency	

1	TCT		\$448.50
		1x8 HDMI Extender Splitter Over Single Cable CAT6/7 1080P With IR Remote EDID Management - Up to 132 Ft - Loop Out - Low Latency	

1	TCT		\$3,920.00
		Quoted at \$49/Hour as per G2G contract	

1	TCT		\$2,249.89
		Cabling & Hardware	

1	TCT		\$3,800.00
		Quoted at \$95/Hour as per G2G Contract	

1	TCT		\$400.00
		Video Auto switcher	

	Boardroom	Equipment Total:	\$9,632.10
		Labor Total:	\$7,720.00
		Total:	\$17,352.10
Project Equipment Subtotal:			\$9,632.10
Project Labor Subtotal:			\$7,720.00
Project Subtotal:			\$17,352.10

* Price Includes Accessories

Presented By: Third Coast Tech, LLC.

Project Name: Boardroom Quote

Project No.: TCT-0809

1/26/2022

Page 3 of 4

Third Coast Tech, LLC.

Project Summary

Equipment: **\$9,632.10**

Labor: **\$7,720.00**

Grand Total: **\$17,352.10**

Client: **Eric Daley**

Date

Contractor: **Third Coast Tech, LLC.**

Date

* Price Includes Accessories

Presented By: Third Coast Tech, LLC.

Project Name: Boardroom Quote

Project No.: TCT-0809

1/26/2022

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Broadband Workgroup

Mike Gorishek	Eaton Regional Education Service Agency
David Votta	Charlotte Community Library
Claudine Williams	Eaton County Community Development
Eric Daley	Eaton County Technology Services

TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eaton County, Michigan

January 2022



**CONNECTED
NATION™**

SolidCircle
513 East 8th Street, #28
Holland, MI 49423
616.928.2249
www.solidcircle.com

Company Representative
Cole Watson

Expires On
03/31/2022



Eaton County ECU Database Cost Estimate

Description	Cost
Implementation • Evaluate the current system and meet with PA staff to gather functionality requirements. • Create ECU Case Management system that tracks each case independently as in the current system. • System will have all the same fields as the current legacy ECU application. • System will create new cases from data stored in the installed PACC/PAAM system. • System will create receipt xml file for batch upload to new world financial system. • Report configuration/creation to match the reporting capabilities in the current system. • Training and Testing.	\$35,000
Total One Time Cost	\$35,000.00
Annual Support and Maintenance • Software Hosted on Microsoft Gov Azure. • Two-Factor Authentication login. • 120 hours of support.	\$6,000 annually

Statement of Confidentiality

This estimate and supporting materials contain confidential and proprietary business information of SolidCircle. These materials may be printed or photocopied for use in evaluating the agreement but are not to be shared with other parties.

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OVERVIEW

01

Today, technology plays a pivotal role in how businesses operate, how institutions provide services, and where consumers choose to live, work, and play. The success of a community has become dependent on how broadly and deeply it adopts technology resources, which include access to reliable, high-speed networks; the digital literacy of residents; and the use of online resources for local business, government, and leisure.

As such, the Eaton County Broadband Communication Council partnered with Connected Nation Michigan's (CN Michigan) Connected Community Engagement Program to conduct a study designed to determine the availability of broadband infrastructure; how county residents are adopting and using broadband services; and what steps would have the greatest impact toward improving broadband access, adoption, and use across every local sector. Pursuant to this goal, between September and November 2021, Eaton County collected responses from 1,322 households, as well as other community sectors.

In addition to these surveys, CN Michigan staff met regularly with community leaders as part of this countywide study to help determine the community's technology needs and develop a plan to close those gaps.

EATON COUNTY, MICHIGAN QUICK FACTS

Population

109,175

Households

44,420

Median Household Income

\$65,409

Poverty Rate

6.6%

Adults with a Bachelor's Degree
or Higher

29.4%

Age 65 and Older

19.4%

Households with Broadband Access¹

90.28%

Source:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=0500000US26045>

¹The current FCC definition of broadband is a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. These data are derived from CN Michigan as of September 2021.

<https://connectednation.org/michigan/planning/>



90.28% of households in
Eaton County have access
to fixed broadband service

Nearly 3 out of 4 households surveyed in Eaton County (**74%**) say they subscribe to fixed broadband service. Among households that do not subscribe to home internet service, the top barrier is a **lack of available service**, followed by the **cost of internet service**.

Only **6.22%** of households in Eaton County have access to top-tier internet service with download speeds of 1 Gbps or greater. Statewide, **31.56%** of households can access broadband at this speed.

Eaton County households **pay more** on average for access to the internet (**\$73.70**) than other Connected communities (\$71.98). However, their average download speeds (**45.95 Mbps**) are faster than in other surveyed communities.

One-half of Eaton County households that subscribe to home internet service (**50%**) say their current service does not meet their needs. The top reasons for dissatisfaction are **slow speeds** and **unreliable connections**.

Nearly 9 out of 10 households (**89.2%**) say they would like to have improved or additional options for home internet service.



INFRASTRUCTURE RESULTS

02

According to CN Michigan broadband data initially released in September 2021 — followed by additional public feedback, field validation, and provider input — more than 9 out of 10 (90.28%) Eaton County households have access to broadband of at least 25/3 Mbps, the current definition of broadband set forth by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Broadband service in Eaton County is concentrated in the northern portions of the county.

Below is the list of internet service providers (ISPs) in Eaton County.

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE QUICK FACTS

Unserved Households (25/3 Mbps)
6,928

Households Served (10/1 Mbps)
98.20%

Households Served (25/3 Mbps)
90.28%

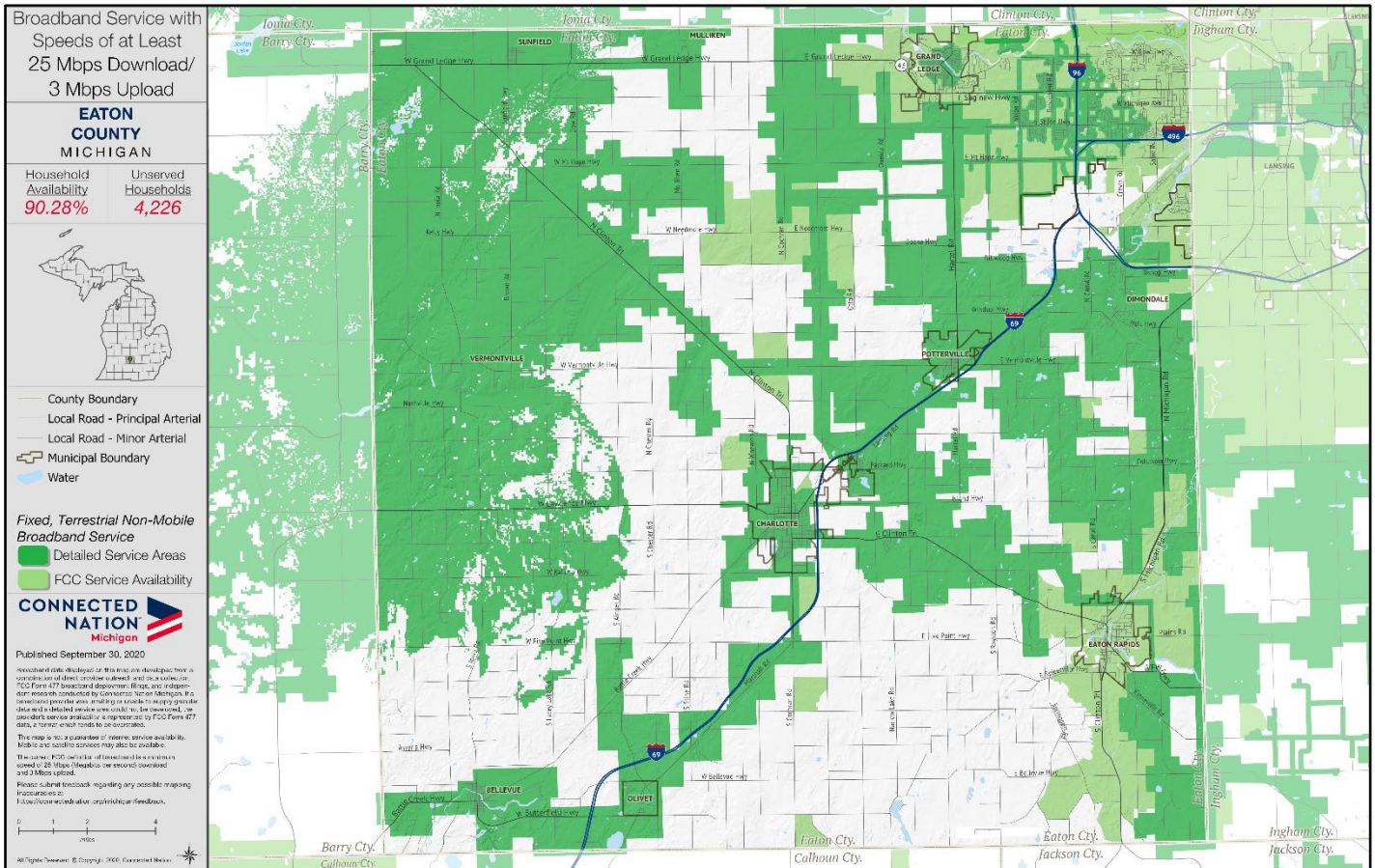
Households Served (100/10 Mbps)
87.05%

Households Served (1 Gbps)
6.22%

*Broadband data released by CN Michigan in September 2021:
<https://connectednation.org/michigan/mapping-analysis/>*

PROVIDER	TECHNOLOGY	MAXIMUM DOWNLOAD SPEED (Mbps)	MAXIMUM UPLOAD SPEED (Mbps)
ACD Telecom Inc.	DSL	25	1.5
Barry County Telephone Co.	Fixed Wireless	30	5
CenturyLink Inc.	DSL	40	3
Comcast Cable Communications LLC	Cable	987	35
Frontier Communications Corp.	DSL	100	10
Martell Cable Services Inc.	Cable	10	1.5
MetroNet	Fiber	1,000	1,000
Michigan Bell Telephone Co.	DSL, Fixed Wireless	25	2
Springcom Inc./Springport Telephone	Cable, Fiber	50	50
Surf Broadband	Fixed Wireless, Fiber	25	3
Tri-County Electric Cooperative	Fiber	1,000	1,000
Vogtmann Engineering Inc.	Cable	100	15
WideOpenWest Michigan LLC	Cable	200	20

Below is Eaton County's (25/3 Mbps) map. To access the full map, go to <https://connectednation.org/michigan/county-maps/> and select Eaton County from the list. Portions of the county are served by internet service providers (ISPs) offering slower advertised speeds, and those are not shown on this map.



The first step in understanding the status of broadband infrastructure in Eaton County and statewide is having accurate maps. Accordingly, CN Michigan works with providers to develop a variety of broadband maps at a state and county level. Data shown on this map are derived from a combination of direct provider outreach and data collection, FCC Form 477 broadband deployment filings, and independent research conducted by CN Michigan. If a provider was unable or unwilling to supply granular data and a detailed service area could not be developed, the provider's service is represented by Form 477 data, a format that tends to overstate the service territory.



HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS

03

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS: Eaton County



HOUSEHOLD QUICK FACTS

Fixed Home Broadband Adoption
74.0%

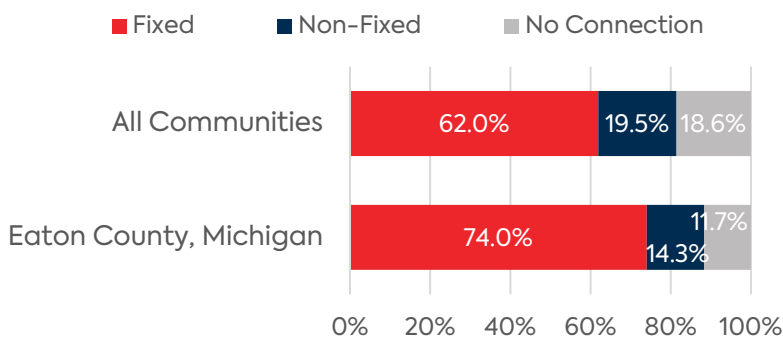
Average Monthly Internet Cost
\$73.70

Average Download Speed
45.95 Mbps

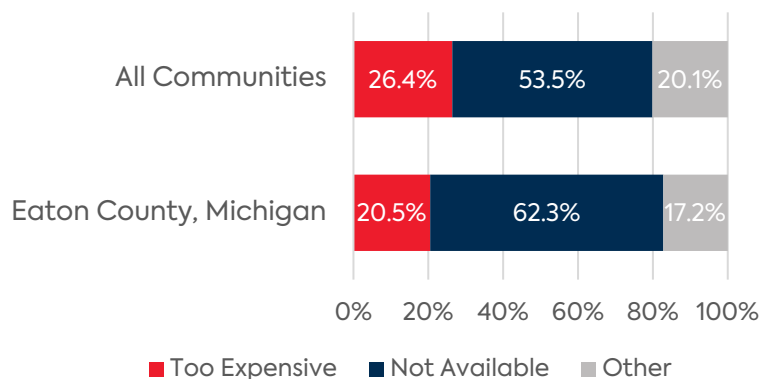
Households Satisfied with Service
50%

The following section provides an overview of results from a broadband survey conducted in Eaton County between September and November 2021. Altogether, CN Michigan received 1,322 completed surveys from households across the county, and respondents provided insights into their internet connectivity or lack thereof. Data from Eaton County are compared to data from hundreds of other rural, participating Connected communities across Michigan, Ohio, Texas, and Pennsylvania to benchmark and identify areas for improvement.

Home Broadband Adoption



Primary Barrier



ADOPTION

In Eaton County, 74% of households that took the survey subscribe to fixed broadband service delivered via a cable, DSL, fiber, or fixed wireless technology. One in 7 respondents (14.3%) indicate they have internet service delivered via dial-up, satellite, or a mobile wireless service. This leaves 11.7% of survey respondents without internet access at home.

Among those without a home internet connection, 62.3% said they did not have broadband because it was not available to them, while one-fifth (20.5%) indicate that it was too expensive. Like in many communities, cost and availability are the two primary barriers to home broadband adoption.

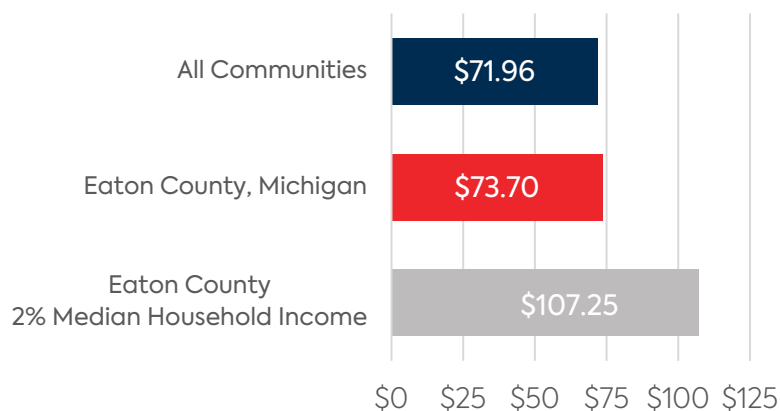
HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS: Eaton County



CONNECTION DETAILS

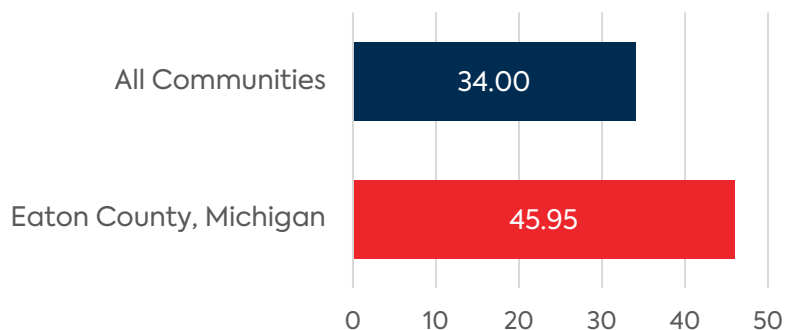
Two percent of monthly income is a recognized standard for measuring the affordability of a home internet connection. Eaton County respondents indicate that they pay about \$73.70 per month on average for their internet service. This is slightly higher than the monthly cost in other communities (\$71.96). Two percent of the median household income in Eaton County is \$107.25 per month.

Average Monthly Cost

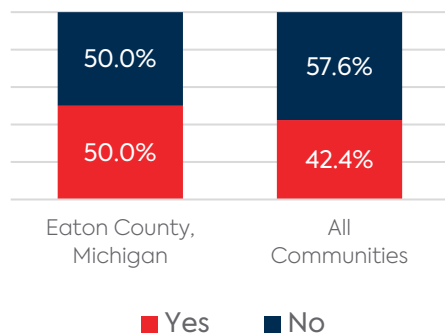


The FCC currently defines broadband as an internet connection with a download speed of at least 25 Mbps and upload speed of at least 3 Mbps. On average, respondents indicate that their connection's download speed is 45.95 Mbps, which is significantly higher than the minimum defined speed.

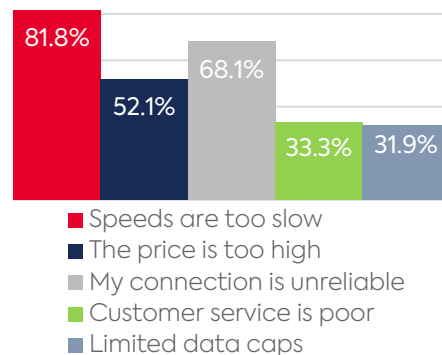
Average Speeds (Mbps)



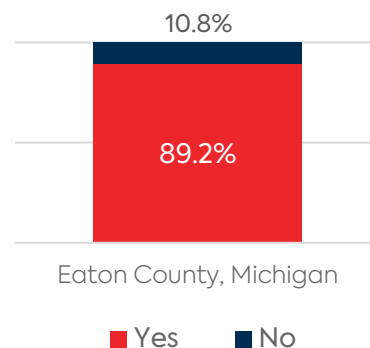
Does Your Internet Meet Your Needs?



Why Doesn't Your Internet Meet Your Needs?



Are You Interested in More Choices at Home?



HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS: Eaton County



Competition provides residents with choices for service, allowing households the ability to switch providers if their current service does not meet their needs. One-half (50%) of responding households indicate that their internet connection does not meet their needs. This is a lower rate of dissatisfaction than among households in other communities (57.6%).

When asked why their connection does not meet their needs, 81.8% of dissatisfied households indicate that their speed is too slow, 52.1% say the price is too high, and more than 2 out of 3 (68.1%) indicate that the connection is unreliable. Respondents could choose more than one reason.

Finally, 89.2% of all respondents indicate that they are interested in additional internet choices for their home.

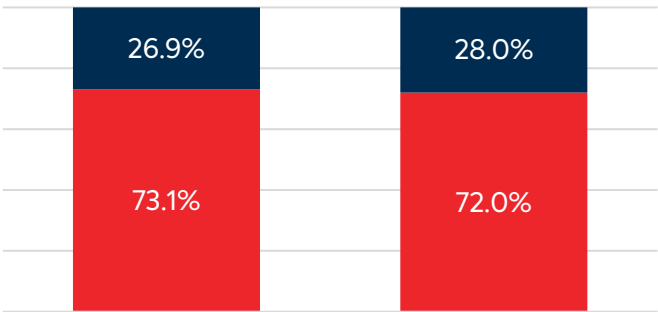
MOBILE CONNECTIVITY

Almost 3 out of 4 households (73.1%) reported that they subscribe to mobile internet service, which they access via a smartphone or similar mobile device. This is on par with what is reported in other Connected communities (72.0%).

Additionally, nearly one-quarter of mobile-connected households (24.6%) report that they rely on those mobile connections as their primary source of home internet connectivity or use mobile service to connect other household devices to the internet.



Households Subscribing to
Mobile Internet Service



Eaton County, Michigan All Communities

■ Yes ■ No

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS: Eaton County



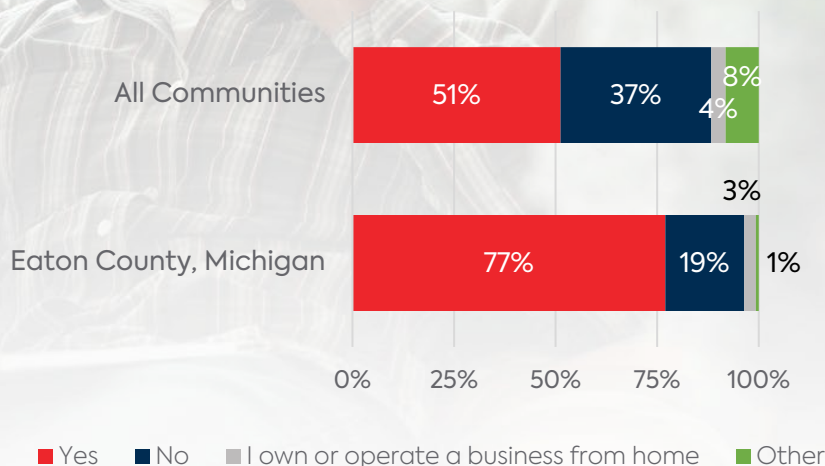
TELEWORKING

Teleworking, or telecommuting, refers to working outside of the conventional workplace by way of telecommunications or computer-based technology. The COVID-19 pandemic forced many organizations to allow their staff to telework. In Eaton County, broadband access likely helped organizations operate virtually when needed.

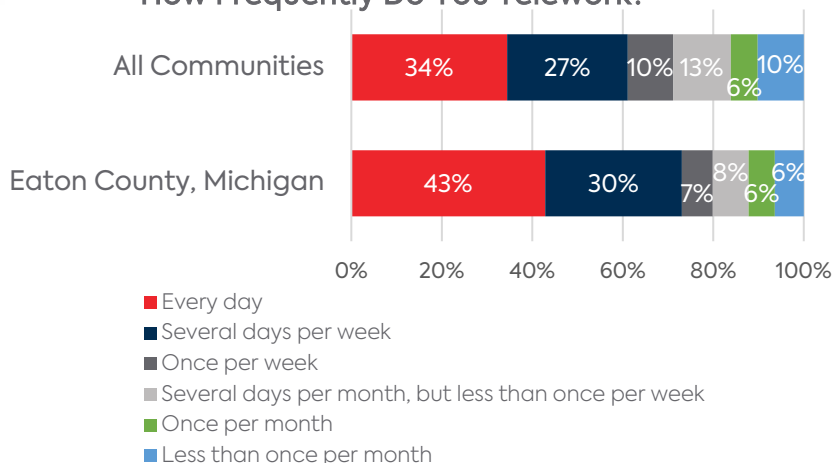
Teleworking is quickly becoming a critical part of growing a local economy because it represents an opportunity to attract and retain employees even when employees are not located in the same community as their employers. However, this only works if those employees have access to advanced broadband infrastructure.

Approximately 77% of employed respondents in Eaton County telework in some capacity. More than 2 in 5 (43% of this group) telework every day.

Do You Currently Telework?



How Frequently Do You Telework?





RECOMMENDATIONS

04

The following recommendations are offered to assist Eaton County in expanding broadband access and adoption throughout the community.

Recommendation 1: Form an Eaton County “Broadband Workgroup”

Goal: Establish a small, empowered team of motivated individuals to focus on broadband-related needs and actions to benefit Eaton County.

A primary responsibility of this Workgroup is to manage and execute the following recommended actions to form the Eaton County Technology Action Plan, while also serving as the “go-to” resource for broadband-related needs, questions and information across the county.

Actions

- 1) Identify and solicit candidates for the Eaton County Broadband Workgroup to provide leadership and direction; and set goals and objectives, structure, and meeting agendas.
- 2) Begin regularly scheduled meetings to develop workplans, foster individual broadband provider discussions, develop partnerships and recruit businesses and individuals to the Workgroup as appropriate.
- 3) Create a centralized technology portal/website or other information source that promotes local technology resources for use by residents. Resources could include broadband provider identification and contact information, Eaton County Broadband Workgroup updates, public hotspot locations, calendars of events, online training resources, local computer resources, etc.

Recommendation 2: Identify and Prioritize Specific Areas in Need of Service Improvements Based on Broadband Survey Findings

Goal: Effectively target unserved and underserved areas in Eaton County for improvements.

Actions

- 1) Review most recent broadband coverage maps from Connected Nation Michigan to assess estimated residential broadband coverage at various speeds across Eaton County (10 Mbps, 25 Mbps, 100 Mbps, and 1 Gbps).
- 2) Use the new Eaton County Interactive Map to overlay broadband coverage with broadband survey

data to narrow in on key areas and population centers that lack service or need improvements.

3) Use Connected Nation Michigan's statewide interactive map to view additional layers of broadband-related information and zoom to specific areas of Eaton County for more detail.

4) Overlay population maps and data with broadband coverage maps to further identify which areas would provide the greatest return for new broadband investment.

5) Engage with municipality leaders in the identified unserved and underserved areas to gather additional input and confirm the need for broadband expansion in their communities.

6) Engage with library directors in these areas to understand the local, residential demand for library connectivity resources (due to lack of at-home service).

Initial geographic areas identified (with little or no current RDOF commitments):

Bellevue Township, Carmel Township, Roxand Township, Sunfield Township, Windsor Township, Kalamo Township, Vermontville Township

Eaton County Interactive Map:

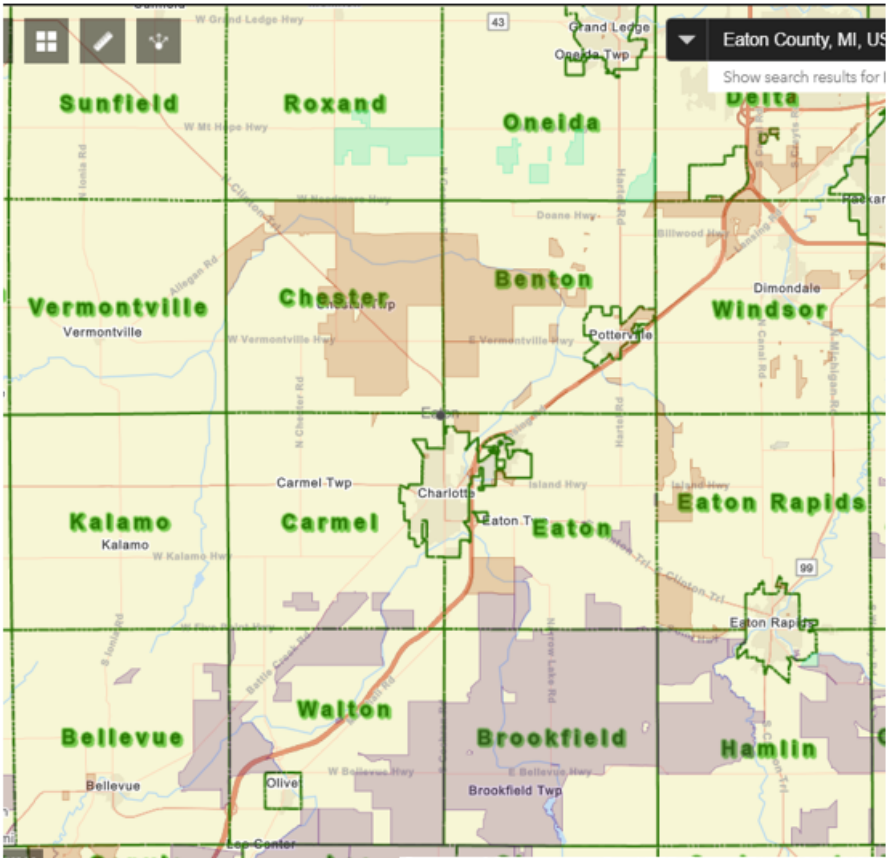
<https://connectednation.org/michigan/eaton/interactivemap>

Recommendation 3: Engage with Winning RDOF Providers to Understand Their Plans and Identify Opportunities to Accelerate, Ease, and Maximize Broadband Expansion

Goal: Establish and grow working relationships with RDOF providers for mutual benefit.

The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) has currently committed \$2.18 million to three fiber broadband providers for expanded broadband buildout in Eaton County over the next five to six years. The following map indicates where that buildout will take place, which will bring at least 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps service to over 3,000 locations (homes, businesses, other buildings).

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Commitments in Eaton County



Commitments to
100 Mbps or 1 Gbps
service over
next 5 years

- Mercury
Broadband
- Midwest Energy &
Communications
- Tri-County
Electric /
HomeWorks

Recommendation 4: Work with Local Broadband Providers to Assess Targeted Unserved and Underserved Areas for Potential Buildout

Goal: Determine why some areas of the community remain unserved, assess the feasibility of deploying various technologies in the targeted areas, and help generate a business case for deployment.

Actions

- 1) Identify incumbent or nearby broadband providers in targeted areas and arrange meetings to understand current issues and plans for potential deployment in those areas.
- 2) Assess the feasibility and use of various broadband technologies and implementation approaches as potential solutions for broadband deployment in these areas.
- 3) Explore potential partnerships between affected municipalities, community organizations, economic development groups, and broadband providers to help eliminate barriers to broadband expansion in these targeted areas.
- 4) Explore and evaluate funding sources that could support broadband efforts and solutions in these targeted areas (local, state, federal).

Recommendation 5: Evaluate and Develop Public-Private Partnerships to Support the Deployment of Expanded Broadband Service

Goal: Leverage existing community assets (including American Rescue Plan funds) in partnership with interested broadband providers to expand broadband network deployment.

The strength of these partnerships is that each party brings something important to the table that the other doesn't have or can't easily acquire. The community can offer infrastructure (publicly owned building rooftops, light poles, towers, and other vertical assets for mounting infrastructure) for the deployment of a network, as well as committed anchor tenants. Private-sector partners bring network-building and operations experience.

- 1) Determine priorities: Competition, enhanced service, equity, and service to all; public control over infrastructure; risk avoidance; redundancy, etc.
- 2) Consider different models of partnership:

Model 1: Private Investment, Public Facilitation — Make available public assets such as fiber and conduit, share geographic information systems data, streamline permitting and inspection

processes, offer economic development incentives to attract private broadband investment.

Model 2: Private Execution, Public Funding — Identify revenue streams that can be directed to a private partner, issue RFP for private turnkey execution.

Model 3: Shared Investment and Risk — Evaluate using assets to attract private investment, evaluate funding new assets to attract private investment, evaluate building new fiber assets to businesses and/or homes for leasing to private ISPs.

3) Understand key legal considerations for localities looking to build a broadband partnership: Review authority issues, understand the legal tools and instruments that could shape the partnership, negotiate the agreement.

Recommendation 6: Assess and Pursue Available Funding Sources for Broadband Expansion in Partnership with Interested Broadband Providers

Goal: Understand the applicability and timing of broadband funding programs (federal/state/local) that could support community plans for broadband expansion.

- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program (2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill)
- USDA ReConnect program — grants and loans
- Connecting Michigan Communities (CMIC) grants
- American Rescue Plan funds

Recommendation 7: Identify and Promote Low-Cost Broadband Service Offerings for Vulnerable Populations

Goal: Overcome the cost barrier to broadband adoption for low-income and vulnerable residents.

Actions

1) Promote the availability and use of low-cost monthly broadband programs for eligible households offered by national broadband providers.

2) Pursue relief for low-income households with the cost of broadband service via the new **Affordable Connectivity Program (2022)** <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>