DATE: July 28th, 2020

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Dan Cater, Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Broadband Connectivity within Dakota County borders

Dakota County Government has an interest in expanding high speed internet throughout Dakota County and into our neighboring counties as the COVID-19 situation has illustrated the need for faster more reliable connectivity for our residents, business, and other agencies.

The County is interested in learning about potential opportunities to invest CARES Act funds to better support our residents to engage in remote learning, work from home, and other activities that require a robust network of connectivity and to better meet the public service needs revealed by the pandemic. Dakota County requires broadband infrastructure built out to serve the unserved and underserved. The County is interested in exploring all technologies available to address the unserved and underserved areas of the County. These areas can be large or small geographically or in population.

Attached is the most recent service inventory map produced by the State of Minnesota Deed Office of Broadband. CARES Act requires an aggressive timeline. Submissions must specify the unserved or underserved area(s) to be addressed, the total cost and funds requested from the County, and the timeline including the firm completion date. Work and payment need to be completed before December 1st of this year. A high-level timeline is below:

* July 28th – letter soliciting proposals/plans
* August 12th – deadline for receipt of responses
* Week ending August 21st review responses, setting up zoom meetings
* Request Board approval in September
* Contracts executed in September
* October/November buildout
* Payment before December 1st

Please let us know if you have an interest in discussing in providing a solution by contacting Dan.Ferber@co.dakota.mn.us or Dan.Cater@co.dakota.mn.us.