



Barriers to broadband availability:

The broadband intervention zone described as part of this ITQ, is located in rural, unincorporated Dallas County, Iowa. The area consists of rural gravel roads that cross upland prairies and cut across steep river valleys. Cost is one of the largest barriers to investment in broadband networks in rural areas, such as this. In particular there is a lack of middle-mile infrastructure to connect broadband services to remote, rural areas. Moreover, the costs to bury fiber optic cable is high in rural areas because of the terrain and lower population densities. Consequently, without financial incentives it would be difficult to build these networks.