



# STORY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**LATIFAH FAISAL**  
**LINDA MURKEN**  
**LISA K. HEDDENS**

Story County Administration  
900 Sixth Street  
Nevada Iowa 50201  
515-382-7200  
515-382-7206 (fax)

March 21, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer  
200 E. Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50309

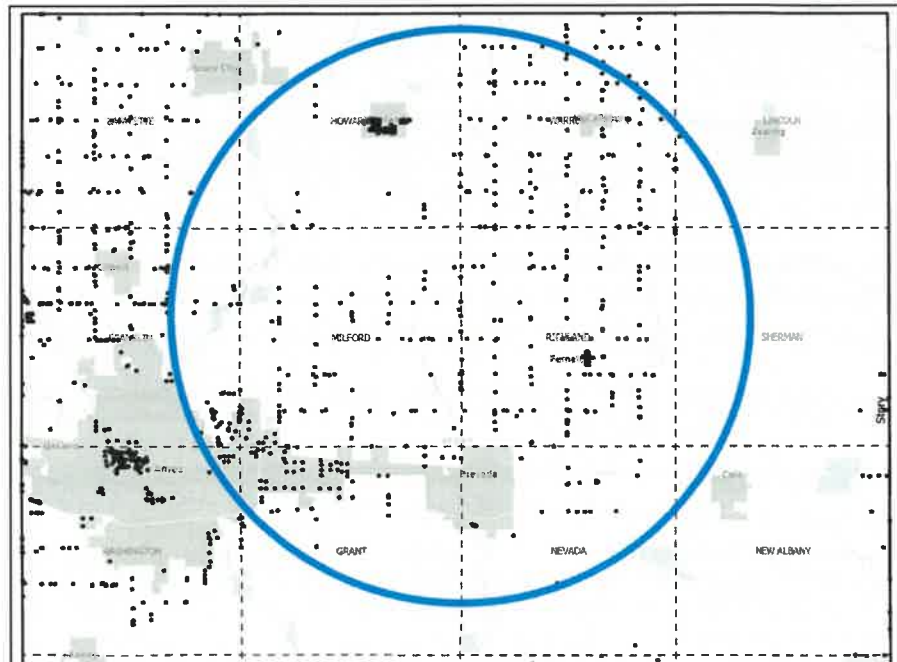
RE: Broadband Intervention Zone

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

Providing adequate broadband to residents and businesses in our rural areas is one of Story County's highest priorities. In 2021 we formed a working group of county employees and others to spearhead our work on this issue. We reached out to our broadband providers and made strides with them in securing funding through the OCIO for broadband expansions.

But we still have several large areas of the Story County that are unserved or underserved. This is particularly important because Story County is one of a handful of counties in Iowa with significant population increase shown by the 2020 Census, and a good share of that growth is residential development and agriculture-related businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county. There are also many locations that may be too expensive to serve with fiber or other hard infrastructure, due to low population density.

The map to the right shows the unserved and underserved locations in Story County per your map on February 15 of this year. As you can see, a good share of these locations are in a contiguous area in north-central Story County (north of Nevada, extending to the northern border of the county) which includes the townships of Howard, Milford, Richland and Warren; and the northern half of the townships of Grant and Nevada.



(We superimposed the township lines on this map for our planning purposes).

It is also important to note that these townships have low population densities, which make them difficult to serve, as follows:

Richland Township	344	Includes the unincorporated village of Fernald
Milford Township	553	No towns or villages
Warren Township	598	Includes the town of McCallsburg
Grant Township	1,692	Includes the unincorporated village of Shipley
Howard Township	2,387	Includes the town of Roland, to which fiber is being run. However, some rural locations remain unserved
Nevada Township	6,775	Includes part of Nevada, the second largest city in Story County, which is generally well-served. However, rural locations remain largely unserved.

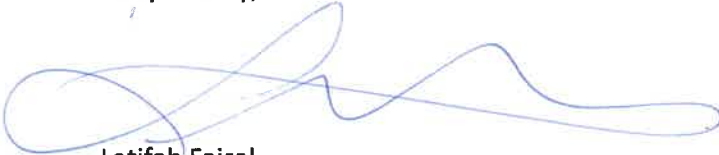
NOTE: A township is approximately 36 square miles, so the resulting population densities (people, not households) are very low in the unincorporated areas.

The pandemic showed us how dependent our communities and economies are on an interconnected world. The longer we go without adequate internet service, the farther we fall behind and the harder it becomes to catch up.

Being designated as a Broadband Intervention Zone and participating in planning with the OCIO will ensure that broadband expansion can be completed in a planned and organized fashion that will make broadband accessible and affordable to all Story County residents.

We greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer taking this step to qualify regions as Broadband Intervention Zones. Thank you for considering Story County for this designation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Latifah Faisal', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Latifah Faisal

Chair, Story County Board of Supervisors

