



# PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

## SUSTAINABILITY

**JOSH BUSARD**  
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**BECKY SOGLIN**  
CC-P, LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE  
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

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March 24, 2023

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

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 03-23-23-02, attached to this introduction, that includes authorizations to provide Community Broadband Capital to each of the areas it is applying for Broadband Intervention Zone status. Section 8 of that resolution refers to:

- Use of Rights of Way ("ROW") where applicable.
- Streamlined ROW permitting for broadband investments serving groups of locations.
- Increased County staff time and support to coordinate with providers on grant and other funding opportunities.
- Fostering private economic investments and partnerships, including in-kind use of multiple Community members' facilities (such as putting communication infrastructure on private property).

For the category of Public/Private Partnerships within the four strategies above, the County has initiated an ongoing engagement program with area broadband providers and property developers. Activities of this staff initiative is to:

1. Bring awareness of likely housing and commercial development to the attention of broadband providers early in the community development planning process through an ongoing email notification process. Contact information and pertinent public filings are contained in the engagement process to foster initial engagement.
2. Facilitate with stakeholders for a more coordinated approach to infrastructure construction in Rights of Way (ROW) during the time broadband installation is more cost-effective.
3. Communicate sources of customer base growth for broadband providers, that may also extend services to unserved and underserved areas of the county.
4. Evaluate how Johnson County can help broadband providers attain grant and other outside funding, where applicable. This may be working with economic development and community development agencies funded in part by Johnson County.



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For the category of Community Engagement/Broadband Adoption within the four strategies above, as per recommended next steps in the Johnson County Broadband Study:

- Evaluate how to best facilitate the engagement of pertinent schools, libraries, human services, and health services organizations to promote broadband adoption, digital skill development, and participation in broadband affordability programs.
- Monitor new broadband investments and periodically request updates to broadband provider coverage maps, generated during the study, to evaluate access and adoption growth.
- Communicate sources of customer base growth for broadband providers through economic growth opportunities, that may also extend services to unserved and underserved areas of the county.



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For the category of Public/Private Partnerships within the four strategies above, the County will evaluate:

- Increasing engagement and participation with broadband providers on roadway capital improvement planning processes.
- Reducing ROW permitting and use impediments, particularly for projects making broadband investments for housing developments or extending service to unserved and underserved areas.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-23-23-02****RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR BROADBAND INTERVENTION ZONE  
STATUS FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES IN JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA**

**WHEREAS** the term “Broadband” is minimally defined as “the transmission of wide bandwidth data to a particular address location at 100 megabits per second download and 20 megabits per second upload service or faster”; and

**WHEREAS** Johnson County has a goal for each premise in the county to have access to 100 megabits per second upload and download service; and

**WHEREAS** Johnson County, Iowa (“Johnson County”) has identified addressing Broadband deficiencies as a matter of public interest as evidenced by commissioning and receiving a countywide Broadband Study (“JC Broadband Study”) to determine current Broadband access gaps, areas where providers are likely to extend services, and where gaps will persist due to barriers limiting future Broadband investments; and

**WHEREAS** the JC Broadband Study contained analysis of a Market Assessment of provider-reported Broadband services and speeds, responses by key stakeholders at meetings, FCC mapping data, State of Iowa Broadband grant eligibility maps, and provider input to verify the existence of Underserved Locations and Unserved Locations (“Locations”), as defined by the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer (“OCIO”) in its Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zoned application (“ITQ Application”);

**WHEREAS** the ITQ Application defines “Communities” as “a gathering of individuals representing households, schools, and/or businesses in a particular area in the State of Iowa with a shared interest in eliminating Unserved or Underserved Locations within a Geographic Area of Concern”, with increased priority given to Communities demonstrating support from its leaders; and

**WHEREAS** Johnson County has identified three separate Communities of Underserved and Unserved Locations within Johnson County that are resulting in economic, education, and health access disparities described in the JC Broadband Study for consideration by the OCIO for designation as a Geographic Area of Concern; and

**WHEREAS** these Communities have unique degrees of historically disadvantaged populations for which special emphasis should be afforded under relevant federal programs; and

**WHEREAS** these Communities are served by or have locations of Johnson County schools, hospitals, and correctional institutions.

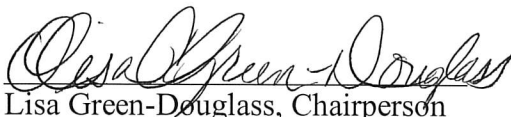
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) that:

1. The Board supports submitting Invitation to Qualify applications to qualify the following Communities to each be designated as a Geographic Area of Concern by the State of Iowa OCIO, as a matter of public interest:
  - a. SW Kansas Avenue Community
  - b. Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas
  - c. Rural Area Between Iowa City and West Branch; and
2. Conclusions detailed in the JC Broadband Study prescribe that Broadband-related impediments exist within these Communities to directly engage in work, education, and health care that resulted from or were made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency due to lack of broadband access, as evidenced by provider-reported service and speed availability at their Location, and also in Location maps provided by the OCIO; and
3. The JC Broadband Study reports that the lack of Broadband investments in Johnson County to serve these Communities is primarily due to lack of adequate population density per square mile and challenging topography, which together increase the cost per subscriber to construct and operate Broadband service beyond any subscription revenue that could be collected; and
4. These Communities’ members’ engagement in employment, search for employment, and/or development of the requisite skills and knowledge to become employed are impeded by lack of Broadband investments in these areas of Johnson County, as identified by key stakeholders and reported in the JC Broadband Study; and
5. Broadband investments in these Communities, once designated as Geographic Areas of Concern, will help facilitate educational activities at Underserved and Unserved Locations as part of a person’s participation in school, academic programs, or social-emotional development programs for students or youths, improve internship opportunities, increase professional development program participation, and provide other educational experiences not otherwise afforded to the people at these Locations; and
6. Broadband investments in these Communities, once designated as a Geographic Area of Concern, will help facilitate health monitoring services to monitor an individual’s health, including with respect to either physical or behavioral health; and
7. The Board, as being direct representatives of those at Underserved and Unserved Locations within Johnson County, hereby supports these Johnson County

- Communities, as geographically defined in ITQ Applications to be filed, for future Broadband investment as proposed Geographic Areas of Concern; and
8. Johnson County endeavors in a non-binding, streamlined manner and in good faith to provide or coordinate efforts to directly support construction of Broadband infrastructure projects that accelerate Broadband investment, and which may include but are not limited to:
    - a. Use of public Rights of Way ("ROW") where applicable.
    - b. Streamlined ROW permitting for Broadband investments serving groups of Locations.
    - c. Increased County staff time and support to coordinate with providers on grant and other funding opportunities.
    - d. Fostering private economic development investments and partnerships, including in-kind use of multiple Community members' facilities (such as putting communication infrastructure on private property).

It was moved by Fixmer-Oraiz and seconded by Porter the Resolution be adopted this 23rd day of March, 2023.

**Roll Call:** Fixmer-Oraiz Aye Green Aye Green-Douglass Aye Porter Aye Sullivan Aye



Lisa Green-Douglass, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

03/23/23  
Date

**ATTEST:**



Travis Weipert, Auditor  
Johnson County, Iowa