



Carroll County Growth Partnership  
407 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
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### **Barriers to Broadband Infrastructure Investment**

To the Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer:

The barriers to broadband infrastructure investment in this area are mainly economic. Building a future proof broadband network, using fiber optics as an example, is very expensive. It can cost upwards of \$35,000 per route mile to build fiber optics in a rural setting. Considering the extreme rurality of Iowa, it is difficult for a service provider to make a business case for building an area without funding support. The housing density in the proposed broadband intervention zone is approximately 2 to 3 locations per square mile. To make it economically feasible to build to an area like this without funding, the service charges to subscribers would need to be so high, it would be unaffordable for nearly all. Many of these areas in Carroll County have a high poverty rate, making it a difficult decision for service providers to build to these areas, and placing these resident at risk of being left behind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mathu F. Meiners'.

Mathu F. Meiners  
Economic Development & Government Affairs Director  
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