

Big Steps Forward for Broadband Expansion

Written by Jeff Smith, State Senator District 31

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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/internet-in-rural-areas-s450.jpg>



Sen Smith writes about Governor Evers' visit to the Town of Cross in Buffalo County last week and the efforts his administration has taken to expand broadband in Wisconsin.

Town of Cross, WI - I enjoy being out and about in the community and listening to the issues that are on folks' minds. No matter what corner of the district I'm in, one of the top issues I hear over and over again is broadband access.

We've long known the importance of broadband expansion, but the COVID-19 pandemic certainly stressed the urgency of connecting all homes and businesses to reliable, high-speed internet.

This was the main topic of conversation during a community meeting held last week in the Town of Cross near Fountain City. Governor Tony Evers came to this meeting to hear firsthand from residents the importance of expanding broadband, specifically in Wisconsin's rural areas.

The location of this meeting wasn't chosen at random. Governor Evers' Administration recently awarded the Town of Cross \$2.1 million through the Broadband Expansion Grant Program. This grant award will help to connect nearly 230 addresses in the Town of Cross by the fall.

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