



STAR LAKE TOWNSHIP E - BULLETIN # 43

Oct. 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Improved Broadband Access in Rural MN

There are 1,781 townships in the State of Minnesota and most, including Star Lake Township, are dues paying members of the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT). Expanded and improved Broadband Access to rural Minnesota/Townships is, and has been among the top three priorities of MAT for the last several years.

It should come as no surprise that the competition for state dollars is fierce and success within that arena often depends upon accurate and current data; our township officers, and MAT are constantly presenting our case to our legislators to gain their support/vote on matters of importance to our residents before the legislature.

The MN Broadband Coalition in partnership with MAT is asking Minnesotans to participate in their "Speed Test Initiative" which gathers data about the internet speeds that MN households and businesses are experiencing. The process should take only a few minutes, with the test itself lasting less than a minute. The data gathered will help to show where broadband infrastructure may be needed, and can be used to show the great disparity between urban and rural broadband services.

This bulletin asks township residents to take the test and encourage others in their community to do likewise. The more users take the test, the more reliable and useful the data will be to rural communities.

Take the test by going to: <http://mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com/speedtest>

Those with no internet access at their homes are encouraged to visit a local library or drive-in hotspot in their community, or use their mobile device to take the survey and check the "no available service" button. This simple speed test will provide statistically valid data and mapping for our decision makers to plot the course for Minnesota's much needed broadband expansion plans.

Respectfully, SLT Town Board