



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Broadband Plan for South Central Wisconsin Launching January 31 *Participation by Residents and Leaders Requested*

Madison - A team of South Central Wisconsin community leaders are working to identify ways to fill in gaps in broadband availability and improve adoption of available broadband services. The Public Service Commission (PSC) announced a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the Days Inn, I-90/94 at Hwy. 78 exit in Portage. The purpose of the public meeting is to launch initiatives to fill in gaps in broadband (high-speed Internet) availability and improve adoption of available broadband services. Light refreshments will be served.

The agenda is as follows:

- 4:30 p.m. Welcome and Overview**
- 4:45 p.m. Identification of Gaps – Where Broadband Is and Isn't**
- 5:00 p.m. UW Extension Demonstration Project Overview**
- 5:15 p.m. Broadband Service Provider Panel**
- 6:15 p.m. Call to Action: Where We Go From Here**

The regional broadband planning team included representatives from education, health care, business, libraries, regional planning and more. The team's goal is to elicit public and private investment of time and money for more broadband adoption and deployment in the region. The draft plan is designed to enhance the regional economic development and quality of life by refining understanding of broadband service gaps and potential actions to close those gaps.



“Thrive is committed to improving broadband infrastructure in South Central Wisconsin,” said Joe Klosterman, Project Specialist with Thrive, the economic development enterprise for the region. “Ensuring broadband access for all businesses and residents, especially those in our rural communities, is critical to growing our target industries and equipping our region with the tools needed to compete in today’s global economy.”

A team will also be formed to identify policy and programmatic options to expand broadband. Maps of where broadband exists across the state are online at <http://wi.linkamericadata.org>. The South Central Wisconsin regional plan is available online at www.link.wisconsin.gov or by contacting Peter Jahn at 608-267-2338. Those without internet access can view the maps and regional plan at a local library or other facility with public computers.

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