



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Broadband Plan for West Central Wisconsin Launching October 4 *Participation by Residents and Leaders Requested*

LA CROSSE-The Public Service Commission (PSC) announced an open house is set for Tuesday, October 4, from 4:00 to 7:00 in the Best Western Midway Hotel Riverfront Resort. A team of Western Wisconsin community leaders are working to identify ways to fill in gaps in broadband availability and improve adoption of available broadband services.

The open house at Best Western Midway Hotel Riverfront Resort will include findings on broadband needs, barriers to adoption, and maps showing gaps in service. Those at the meeting will have the opportunity to identify their ideas of how to increase broadband availability in Southwest Wisconsin and ways to make broadband more effective for communities.

The planning team included representatives from education, health care, business, libraries, regional planning and more. The team identified achievable projects in an effort to elicit public and private investment of time and money for more broadband adoption and infrastructure to deploy broadband to more rural areas. For example, projects including outreach to assist residents with classes on computer and internet basics.

A regional leadership team comprised of representatives of internet providers, education, businesses, and government will be formed and meet later this fall to act on recommendations in the plan. “By improving broadband access we also improve the region's business opportunities, access to health care, public safety, education opportunities, family communications and energy independence” said Greg Flogstad with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, who has agreed to convene the first leadership team meeting.

Presenters from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, LinkWISCONSIN and the Regional Planning Team will be available to talk with participants. Broadband maps are online at <http://wi.linkamericadata.org/> and the Western Wisconsin region plan is online at www.link.wisconsin.gov or call Greg Flogstad at 608-785-9396. If you don't have internet at home, the plan can be reviewed by accessing the internet at a public library.

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