**Does Baileys Harbor have a broadband problem?**

In a word, yes. Speed test studies done recently report that the current internet service provided to residents averages 4 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up. The FCC definition of broadband is 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up. Based on these data, Baileys Harbor can be defined as unserved. That classification is critical for many funding programs.

**What will it take to improve broadband access in Baileys Harbor?**

The main ingredient is funding. It is estimated based on industry cost standards that to serve every premise in Baileys Harbor with a fiber connection would be roughly $5.25 million, plus or minus about 20 percent. These cost estimates are affirmed by the Door County Economic Development Corporation broadband study. Interestingly, these estimates are similar to what the Town of Baileys Harbor spent when building the sewage treatment facility in the early 1990's. With inflation accounted for, the cost of placing fiber at every premise in the Town is less than half of what it would take to build the sewage treatment facility in today's dollars.

**What technology is being explored for broadband in Baileys Harbor?**

The preferred technology is fiber. The DCEDC broadband study is also recommending this approach. It is the only technology that guarantees 1 Gbps symmetrical (i.e., both download and upload speeds are the same). This speed is also very fast (e.g., a two hour movie would download in six seconds.) Fixed wireless, cellular, and satellite are all slower and significantly impacted by line of sight issues. With the topology and trees in Door County these other technologies are severely challenged. Fiber is also very similar to other historical technologies that have been adopted like electricity and telephones. Following those models of the past provides a great path for solving the broadband problem today. On a related note, fiber is guaranteed to be useful for at least 30 years, and likely much longer, just as electricity was nearly a century ago. Many places in the country are still relying on those same power lines. For a more detailed comparison of the various technologies please look here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ziCjIUZ1W0XZr7SRd1YNILIgNjoS1av5pUfjwnAqmXw/edit?usp=sharing

**What funds are available to help with implementing broadband in Baileys Harbor?**

Right now, there are more funds available from state and federal sources as there ever have been. The federal relief programs have provided funds to every municipality and county in the nation. There are also several new federal grant programs that have been funded for broadband. Healthcare institutions have access to federal funds as do schools and libraries. The State of Wisconsin adopted a $129 million bonding program in its most recent biennial

budget for use by localities for broadband projects.  It is our goal to obtain as much as 60 percent in grant funding such that the local cost is only 40 cents on the dollar.

**How can I stay up to date on the broadband effort in Baileys Harbor?**

The Broadband Ad Hoc committee meets regularly and agenda and minutes are posted here:

https://baileysharborwi.org/agendas-minutes/

Also, feel free to contact the Committee Chairperson, Kurt Kiefer, at kkiefer18@gmail.com.  We are always interested in getting more people involved in the efforts.

You can subscribe to notices from the Committee - or any other Town Committee - here:

https://baileysharborwi.org/subscribe-to-updates/

Here is a slide presentation that also highlights much of the broadband information.  This presentation will be updated as information and activities warrant them.