

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Traverse County

Rank: 71 (out of 87) for broadband speeds of 100/20 megabits per second (Mbps)

Background

Every year since 2017 Blandin Foundation has contracted with Ann Treacy of Treacy Information Services to synthesize data from the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development and broadband news from communities across the state to gauge progress toward the state broadband goals (2022: 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up and 2026: 100 Mbps down and 20 Mbps up).

Leaders can use this information to plan and act to improve broadband access and use in their communities.

Traverse County: data and community action

Traverse County is not poised to meet the Minnesota broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	49.39	45.62	45.37
25/3 (2022 goal)	67.25	66.14	45.37

In 2017, [Mediacom has announced¹](#) upgrades to Gig service in parts of Traverse County, specifically Wheaton. Traverse is also getting almost [\\$2 million in FCC funding²](#) but that is over the next 10 years. At a regional meeting hosted by [Blandin Foundation in 2018, Traverse County³](#) gave an update on their broadband situation...

What was the story in Traverse County?

They found an interested provider in the area. They cut a deal where the county lent the company money and provided some easier access to towers. Once the provider got a certain number of providers, they had to look at paying back the loan. They've been successful. It's wireless. It's maybe not 25/3 Mbps but it's better than what people had before.

Wireless isn't wireless – it's wireless to a tower that needs fiber.

Fixed wireless isn't a long terms acceptable solution for Minnesota. They are akin to party lines. My connectivity cannot depend on my neighbor's trees (or on whether they build a new barn).

But fixed wireless is working in places like Renville Sibley County – where people can get fixed wireless and are happy to have it until FTTH becomes available.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/04/02/mediacom-minnesota-1-gig-upgrade-schedule-is-out/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/08/16/more-on-fcc-funding-freeborn-county-receives-almost-2-million/>

³ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/03/02/west-central-regional-roundtable-on-broadband-providers-legislators-and-community-leaders/>



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 71
- 25/3 ranking: 78
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: no
- Household density: 2.6
- Number of providers: 7

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Traverse County (<http://tinyurl.com/gmvojv8>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 12
House: 12A
- [Find your reps⁴](#)

Analysis: Code Red

- Red (yikes)
- Yellow (warning)
- Green (good shape)

⁴ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>