

# Funding for Border-to-Border Broadband

## BACKGROUND

Efforts to spur the placing of necessary infrastructure to ensure access to high-speed internet service in all parts of the State has been a long-term but underfunded undertaking. This has hampered the ability to maximize shared public-private opportunities to expand high-speed broadband service to unserved and underserved communities across the State. It is time to provide on-going and reliable funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband program.

## CURRENT STATUS

- Border-to-Border Broadband is essential for economic viability, particularly in rural communities.
- Access to reliable high-speed internet access assists utilities' ability to implement new technologies that can foster conservation efforts.

## REQUESTED ACTION

MMUA supports efforts to allocate sufficient funding in the FY 2022 – 2023 biennial state budget for implementing border-to-border broadband expansion efforts identified by the Office of Broadband Services and the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition.