

RESOLUTION 21-XX
CITY OF COLUMBUS
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA

**RESOLUTION SEEKING SUPPORT FROM ANOKA COUNTY
TO EXPAND BROADBAND SERVICES IN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS**

Whereas, broadband or high-speed internet service is increasingly essential to serve residents and businesses and provide for economic development, affordable and quality health care, equitable educational opportunities, and effective government; and

Whereas, the City had identified areas in the City of Columbus without access to affordable and reliable broadband service that meets or exceeds the federal broadband standard of 25/3 Mbp; and

Whereas, the City Council has engaged residents through survey and direct communication to determine the state of broadband service within the City's jurisdictional boundaries; and

Whereas, full broadband service provides significant benefits to residents and businesses in the community, including enhancing access to services, government programs, schools, lifelong learning and social services; and

Whereas, the City intends to work with all levels of government and all broadband service providers to maximize the opportunity to extend and expand service using federal, state and local broadband funding programs in Minnesota; and

Whereas, the City of Columbus has taken the necessary steps to work collaboratively with broadband service providers to construct the required infrastructure in areas of City that lack access to affordable and reliable broadband service; and

Whereas, the City of Columbus will receive funds from the Federal Recovery Act and has pledged \$300,000 if such funds to enhance broadband service in the City, which funding will be drawn half from the federal allocation in 2021 and half from the federal allocation in 2022; and

Whereas, the allocation of \$300,000 to broadband expansion over the next two years is a significant investment but will not cover the total cost of extending broadband service throughout the City.

Now therefore, the City Council of the City of Columbus hereby approves this resolution seeking collaboration with Anoka County as follows:

1. Requesting the County Board to adopt a resolution in support of the City's efforts to extend broadband service throughout the City in connection with funding provided through the Federal Recovery Act.
2. Requesting the County Board to approve a match in the amount of \$150,000 for each of two years from the County's allocation of federal funds under the Federal Recovery Act, for a total match of \$300,000, payable half in 2021 and half in 2022.
3. Requesting the County to support legislative efforts to prioritize expansion of broadband service during the recovery from the pandemic.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Columbus, Minnesota, this 7th day of April 2021.

By: _____
Jesse H. Preiner
Its: Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Mursko
City Administrator