

## Memo to Residents:

As part of the Washtenaw County Broadband Initiative, this memo is being sent to residents in the western Washtenaw area to inform you of the efforts taken to expand and improve high speed internet service to our local residents and businesses.

In the fall of 2013, the Washtenaw County Broadband Initiative was formed through a partnership of several township supervisors, key village, city and county leaders, and Connect Michigan. Supported by Representative Gretchen Driskell, our goal is to better understand the need for broadband service by our residents, develop mutually beneficial relationships with local broadband providers, and identify and implement plans to increase and improve service where the need exists.

Earlier this year we completed a survey of over 2,700 residents in western Washtenaw County to gather more detailed information on the current need for service and other factors. Attached are the survey results for your township. You can also view an overview of the results from all the townships at <http://bit.ly/10faRL8>. The survey results clearly show that our residents and community leaders recognize the value and importance of having fast, reliable high speed internet access to support their daily lives.

We have provided our local internet service providers with a list of residents who reported that they did not have access to broadband. These service providers were asked to explore the possibility of providing broadband to those residents. We have also had a number of townships willingly amend their ordinances to make them more “broadband friendly” and less restrictive for broadband providers to expand their services.

We are in the process of forming a telecommunications cooperative called PureBroadband ([purebroadband.org](http://purebroadband.org)) that would work with the local communities, local internet providers and Connect Michigan, with the goal of enabling high speed internet connectivity for unserved and underserved regions of Michigan by building a community-controlled open-access network.

Finally, to help identify which providers may be able to service your specific address, you can use Connect Michigan’s interactive map by going to <http://www.connectmi.org> and then clicking on “Find a Broadband Provider”.

Our Washtenaw County Broadband Team will continue to work to help improve high-speed internet service to local residents and businesses and keep you informed of new developments.

Respectfully,

Peter Psarouthakis  
Supervisor, Sharon Township  
[sharonsupervisor@gmail.com](mailto:sharonsupervisor@gmail.com)  
734-320-9240

Melanie Bell  
Chelsea District Library  
[mbell@chelseadistrictlibrary.org](mailto:mbell@chelseadistrictlibrary.org)  
734-475-8732

Dan Manning  
Connect Michigan  
[dmanning@connectmi.org](mailto:dmanning@connectmi.org)  
810-844-3760

-----  
If you are interested in joining PureBroadband please fill out the information below and return to Melanie Bell at the Chelsea District Library (221 S. Main St Chelsea MI 48118) or go to [purebroadband.org](http://purebroadband.org) and click on Join Us.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom Township Broadband Survey Results



