

The background features a network diagram with nodes and connecting lines. The top and bottom sections are dark blue with light blue lines and nodes. The middle section is white with light blue lines and nodes.

VBCO Municipal Meeting on Broadband

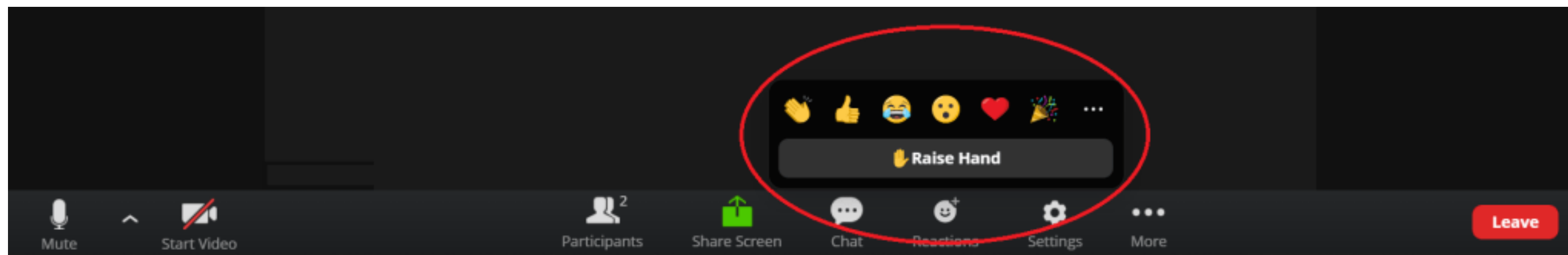
March 28, 2022

Meeting Technology

Online & Have Questions?

Use the “Raise Your Hand” function.

Be sure to introduce yourself!



Meeting Technology

In Person & Speaking?

Speak loudly & clearly toward
center of the room.



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Introductions

Why does the Internet Taskforce exist?

Broadband is the great equalizer between rural and urban communities. Reliable, high-speed internet levels the playing field by allowing our community's residents to connect with educational resources, healthcare, and economic opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable.

It is our goal that every household and business in Van Buren County has access to affordable broadband internet service.

The role of the Internet Task Force is to champion the improvement of internet infrastructure within Van Buren County by accelerating existing projects and leading new initiatives. The Internet Task Force places particular emphasis on supporting projects in unserved and underserved areas.

The purpose of today's meeting is to:

1. Develop shared consciousness regarding ongoing broadband efforts
2. Explore aligning efforts to expand broadband access in Van Buren County

Meeting Agenda


1. Introductions
2. Update from the State
3. Overview: Internet Taskforce & Previous Efforts
4. Update on Current Efforts
5. Roundtable: Aligning Community Efforts
6. Next Steps

Updates from the State

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Overview of the Internet Taskforce & Broadband Efforts

Market Van Buren's Seven-Point Plan:

1. Form an economic development organization
2. Create a county-wide economic development plan
3. Establish county Land Bank
4. Develop county industrial sites
5. Augment the current Revolving Loan Fund
-  6. County-wide high-speed internet connectivity
7. Develop county Business Connect program

Why does broadband access matter?

Improved academic performance for students

Address issues of social isolation for older adults

Reduction in hospitalizations

Higher annual revenues for businesses

Increased competitiveness for manufacturers

Increased revenue for farmers

Bottom line: Internet access benefits our communities and residents.

History of Efforts & Initiatives

August 2019
Initial meetings

May 2021
American
Rescue Plan
Act passes

Fall 2021
Antero
mapping
efforts begin

December
2021
Municipal
meeting on
broadband

January 2022
Exploration
of additional
mapping
consultants

January 2022
\$7M of ARPA
funding
allocated

Get Connected: Internet Taskforce



Van Buren County
MICHIGAN

[Government](#)

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[External Services](#)

[How Do I...](#)

[Visitors](#)

Bid Opportunities

Board of Commissioners

[Agendas & Minutes](#)
[BOC Districts](#)

Broadband Expansion Efforts

[Broadband Resources and Reports](#)
[Internet Task Force](#)

Committees, Commissions, & Advisory Boards

- [911 Advisory Board](#)
- [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(ARPA\)](#)
- [Apportionment Commission](#)
- [Community Corrections Advisory Board](#)
- [Land Bank Authority](#)
- [Local Emergency Planning Committee](#)
- [Land Preservation Board](#)
- [Van Buren County Community Advisory Panel](#)
- [Public Notices](#)
- [Public Transit Local Advisory Council \(LAC\)](#)
- [Van Buren County Building Authority](#)
- [Van Buren County Planning Commission](#)

Community Financial Dashboard

Directory

Economic Development

- [Economic Development Corporation](#)
- [Market Van Buren](#)
- [Brownfield Redevelopment Authority](#)

Municipalities

- [Cities](#)
- [Townships](#)
- [Villages](#)

the technological disadvantage faced by many county residents.

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Update on Current Broadband Expansion Efforts

Roundtable Discussion: Aligning Community Efforts

Is broadband a priority for your municipality?

Have you allocated ARPA funds for broadband?

What broadband resources/information do you need?

Next Steps

- 1. Presentation of Study Findings**
- 2. ARPA Investments for Broadband Expansion**

Internet Taskforce questions or comments?

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Mapping questions or comments?

admin@vanburencountymi.gov

Meeting materials available online:

vanburencountymi.gov/749/Broadband-Expansion-Efforts