



## **MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Madison County Holds Kickoff Meeting for Broadband Project**

**Wampsville, NY** – Earlier today, Madison County Officials held a kickoff meeting with our partners for the construction of the Broadband Project. The meeting included Empire Access who will provide the service for this new network, Madison County Administrator Mark Scimone, Town of Lenox Supervisor John Pinard (Chairman of Public Utility Service Committee), New York Engineering Services, ECC Technologies, Madison County Treasurer Cindy Edick, Madison County Director of Planning Scott Ingmire, and other County leaders.

Madison County's Broadband Project is funded by a \$10.1 million USDA ReConnect Grant that was awarded in July 2021, a \$3.3 million match from Madison County, and \$2.3 million investment by Empire Access. This project will construct a fiber optic broadband network that will provide service to unserved and underserved homes, businesses, and farms in the County. Today's kickoff meeting was met with much excitement that this project is finally in the beginning stages of construction.

Over the next few months, Madison County will be working with our partners to develop a three stage construction timeline. "We are excited about today's kickoff meeting," said Administrator Scimone. "Our society revolves around being online, whether it is for school, health care, or even for fun, everyone deserves the opportunity to be able to access high-speed, reliable internet. That is exactly what this project will provide for many of our residents. The actual construction of the new broadband infrastructure will take time due to the complexity of the fiber design and build out, and numerous regulations we must follow."

Madison County will be providing updates on the project as it progresses. To follow the progress go to <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2765/USDA-ReConnect-Project> or call 315-366-2822.

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