



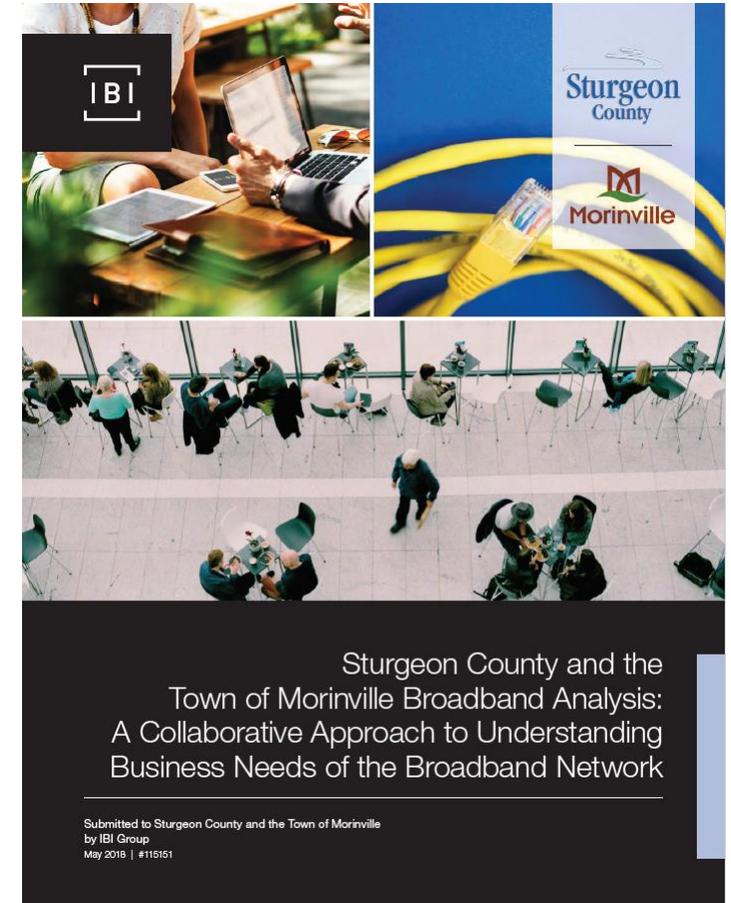
BROADBAND INCENTIVE PROGRAM

DECEMBER 8, 2020

Background

Improving Broadband in Sturgeon County

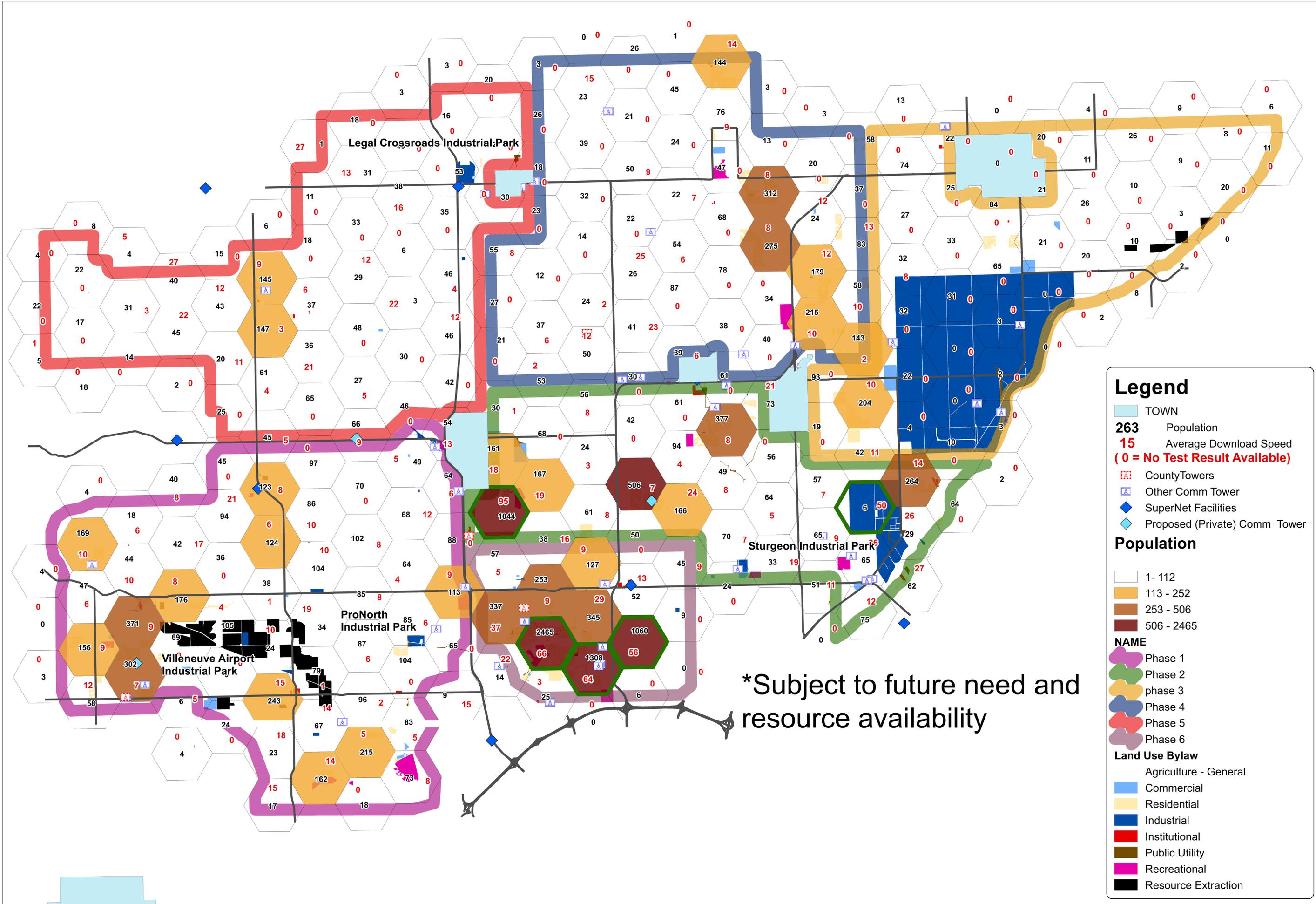
1. The County is taking active steps to improve broadband services available to businesses and residents.
2. A broadband speed testing program has been implemented to capture the current state of broadband services. Feedback from wireless ISPs has also provided radio tower information.
3. A 2021 pilot project is desired to focus on areas in the County that will provide benefit to many residents and improve broadband service in industrial parks.



Pilot Project Objectives

1. Identify areas of need (residents and businesses) based on current speed test results.
2. Provide maximum benefit to the most residents.
3. Focus on a subsidy program to fund ISP investment based on service improvements and achieving minimum service standards.
4. Position the County to take advantage of federal grant programs (Universal Broadband Fund, Canada Infrastructure Bank).
5. Use debt financing, therefore a municipal asset ownership requirement. County maintains 'paper' asset ownership with ISP responsible for asset maintenance. Transfer asset to ISP after a defined term based on borrowing regulations (TBC).

Sturgeon County Broadband



Legend

- TOWN
- 263** Population
- 15** Average Download Speed
- (0 = No Test Result Available)**
- County Towers
- Other Comm Tower
- SuperNet Facilities
- Proposed (Private) Comm Tower

Population

- 1- 112
- 113 - 252
- 253 - 506
- 506 - 2465

NAME

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- phase 3
- Phase 4
- Phase 5
- Phase 6

Land Use Bylaw

- Agriculture - General
- Commercial
- Residential
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Public Utility
- Recreational
- Resource Extraction

*Subject to future need and resource availability

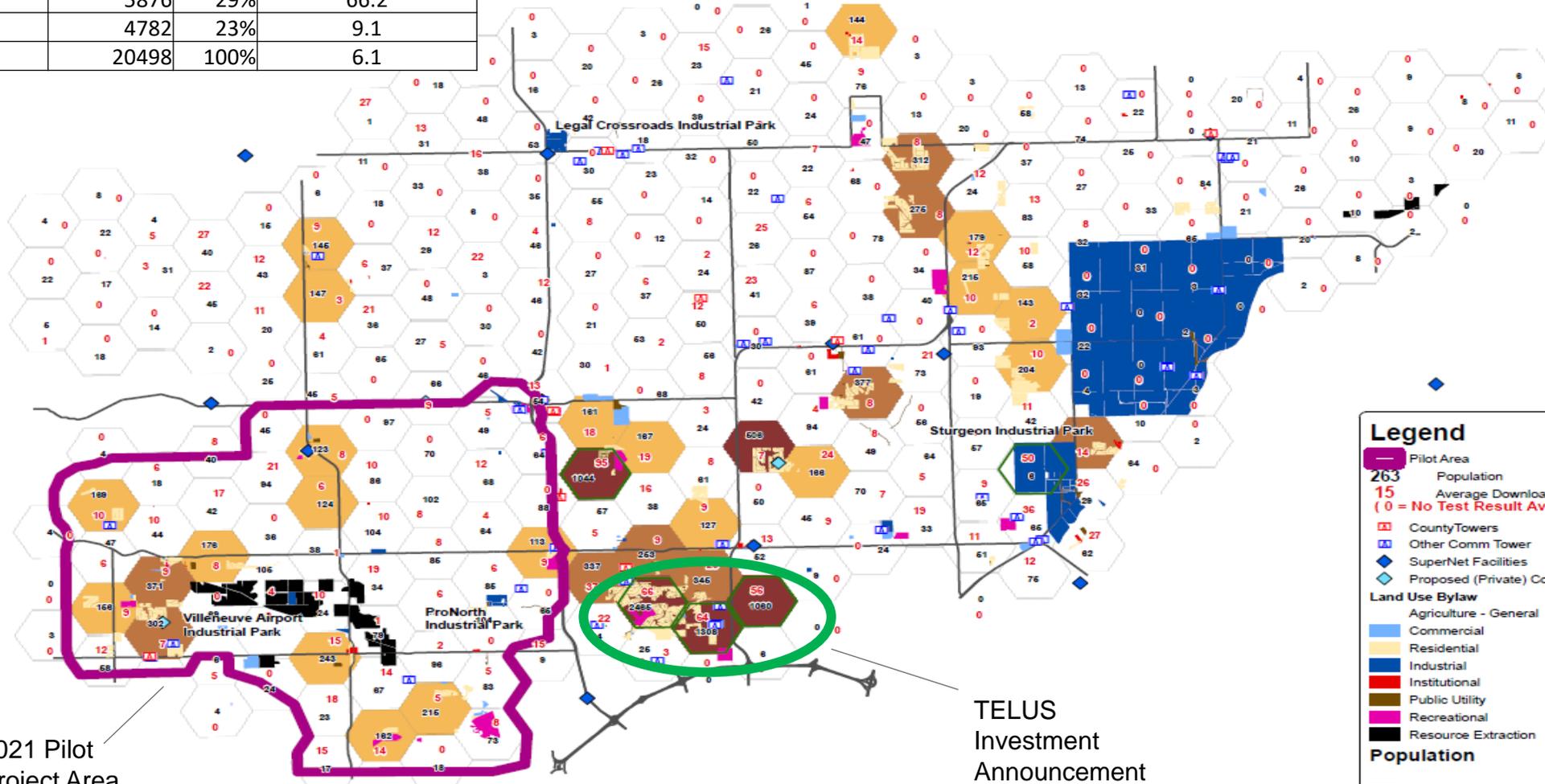


County Analysis

Sturgeon County Broadband



	Population	Pop. %	Download Average (Mb/s)
Areas exceeding 50/10 Standard	5876	29%	66.2
2021 Pilot Project Area	4782	23%	9.1
Total Sturgeon County	20498	100%	6.1



Legend

- Pilot Area
- 263** Population
- 15** Average Download Speed (0 = No Test Result Available)
- County Towers
- Other Comm Tower
- ◆ SuperNet Facilities
- ◆ Proposed (Private) Comm Tower

Land Use Bylaw

- Agriculture - General
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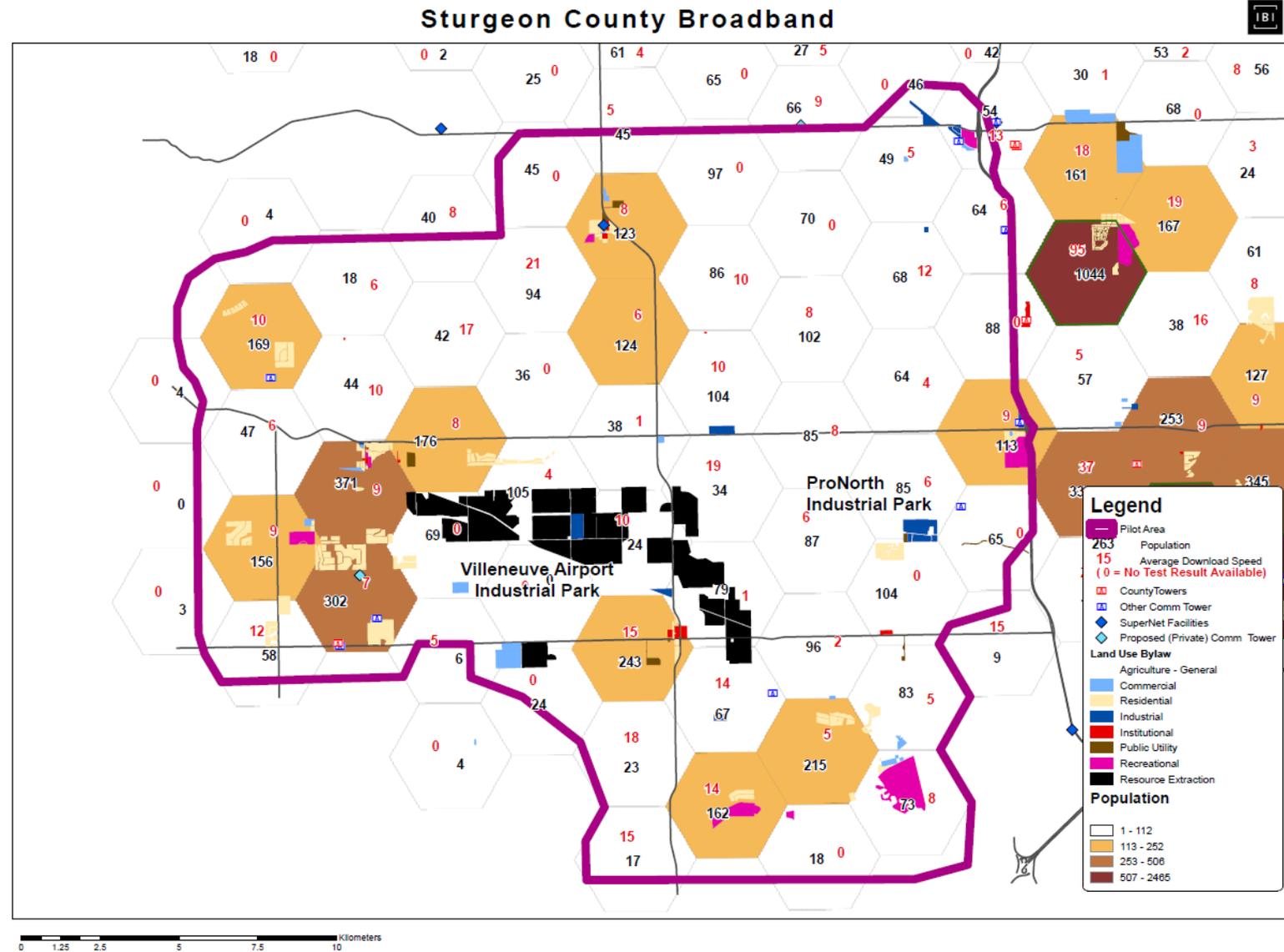
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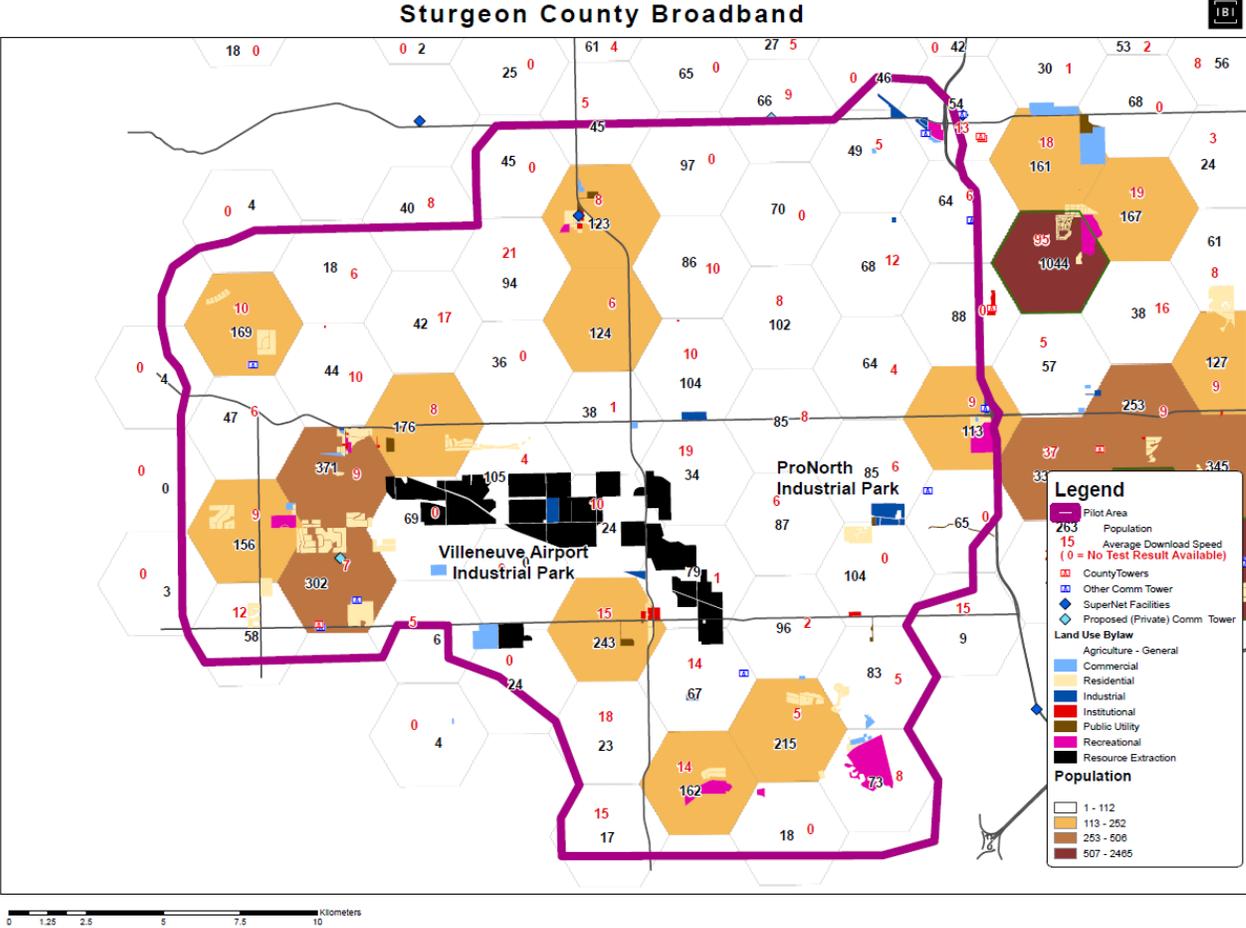
Pilot Project Area

1. Areas of higher population density and business parks are top economic candidates for fibre investment
2. Low population areas candidate for improved wireless services with fibre to towers
3. Area has low speed test results, even in high density population areas



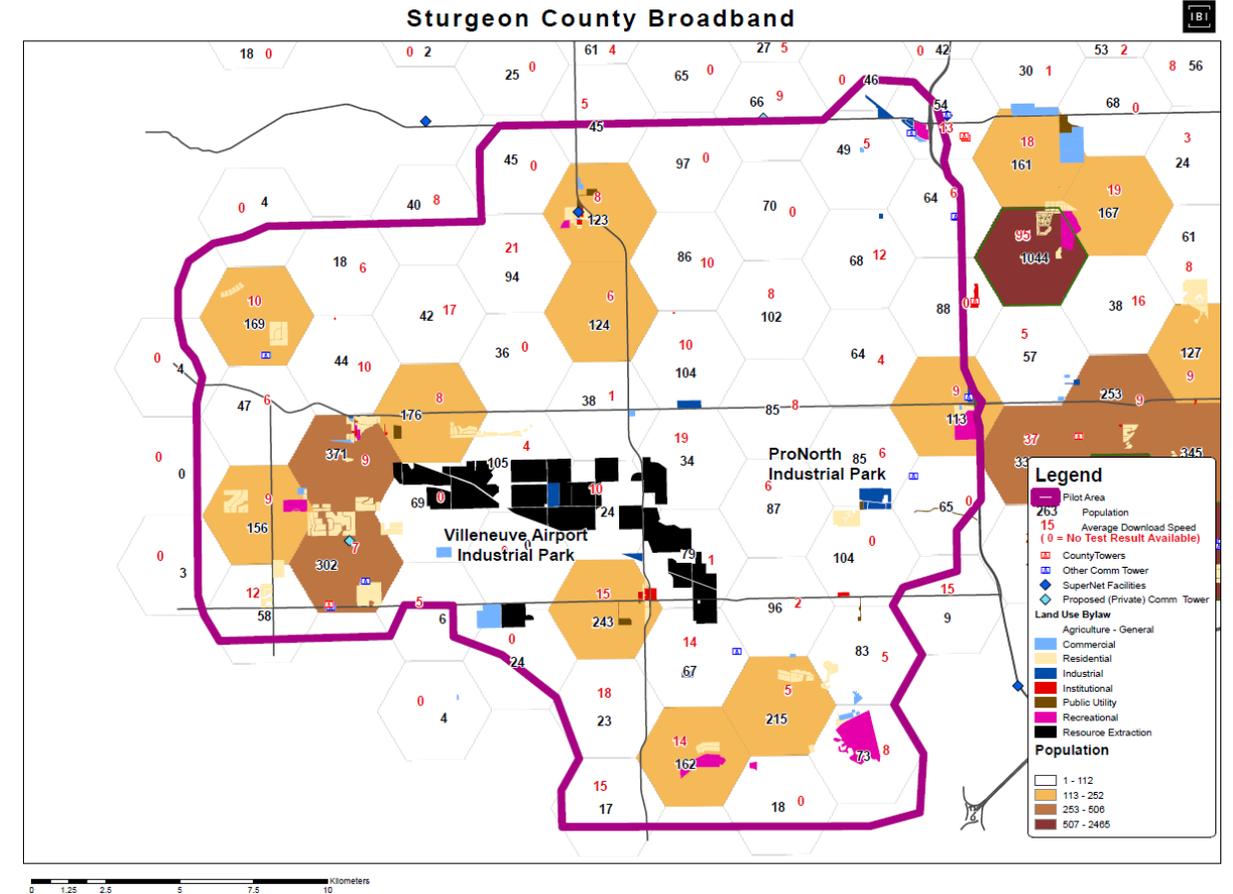
Recommended Subsidy Parameters

- Must meet minimum service standards (50/10 Mbps) and service affordability objective (~\$115/month).
 Would establish scalability objectives to increase to higher speeds in future years (e.g. 1 Gb/s in 5 years)
- Procurement process to create ISP competition for subsidy. Technology agnostic, but can favor future scalability of technologies in the evaluation process.
- Also use procurement process to select ISP partner(s) for future Universal Broadband Fund application (Federal Subsidy).
- Subsidy for one-time capital investment only, no ongoing ownership / operations and maintenance commitments.
 (County needs to maintain asset ownership for defined period of time as asset is debt financed)



Other Recommendations

1. Advocate for flexibility in the Universal Broadband Fund eligibility criteria (most of the County is currently shown as meeting the 50/10 Mbps minimum service level).
2. Follow up with Internet Service Providers with announced plans to confirm geographic plans/ timing.
3. Lobby provincial government to contribute SuperNet assets 'in kind' to reduce subsidy costs.
4. Evaluate other high density areas of the County for future subsidy program / UBF application
5. Engage neighbours, such as Alexander First Nation, to determine if interested to extend pilot area.
6. Identify any County Anchor Institutions –(e.g. facilities that provide a public service schools, medical facilities, libraries, community halls, First Nations band offices, or other institutions around which a community is formed).



Disclaimers

- All costs are budgetary based on conceptual program design
- A CLASS “D” ESTIMATE is provided. This is a preliminary estimate, which, due to little or no site information, indicates the approximate magnitude of cost of the proposed project, based on the client’s broad requirements. This overall cost estimate may be derived from lump sum or unit costs as identified from past experience for a similar project. It may be used to obtain approval in principle and for discussion purposes.



Thank You!



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of tomorrow

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