

Preliminary Minnesota's Broadband Scenarios – A general summary**

	Minneapolis St. Paul	694/494 Cities	Metro Edge	Regional Centers/ County Seats	Towns & Countryside	Comments
Typical Incumbent Telephone Provider*	Qwest	Qwest	Qwest, Frontier, Embarq	Qwest, Embarq, Windom	Qwest, Frontier, Embarq - CenturyTel, small independents, Cities of Cross Lake and Barnesville	List not meant to be all- inclusive.* DSL download speeds generally up to 6 Mbps with 1.0 – 1.5Mbps also common. Some marketing of faster DSL speeds faster, but not widely available. FTTH provides unlimited capacity in some exchanges.
Typical Incumbent Cable Provider*	Comcast	Comcast, Charter, Mediacom	Comcast, Charter, Mediacom	Mediacom, Charter, US Cable	US Cable, Mediacom, others	List not meant to be all- inclusive.* Cable providers generally do not provide service in areas outside city limits. Comcast DOCSIS 3.0 available in metro; most cable modems offer 5-6 Mbps download.
Business CLEC present	Yes	Yes	Strong in Qwest Exchanges, less so in others	Strong in Qwest Exchanges, less so in others	No	National CLECs operate aggressively in metro over fiber and leased lines. Smaller independents do the same in regional centers.
Community- wide CLEC overbuild	No	No	No	Grand Rapids, Willmar, Brainerd Lakes Area, Morris, Winona, Wabasha, St. Charles, Fergus Falls, others.	Generally no. Paul Bunyan Telephone and Jaguar Communicati ons do some of this.	Recent overbuilds are FTTP.
Rural DSL	NA	NA	Varies	No or limited	Depends	Large geographic areas are

				to amenity areas	extensively on the area's incumbent provider.	unserved by DSL or cable modems. Generally, the larger the provider, the less likely widespread rural DSL exists. Some independents provide 100% DSL coverage. Some rural DSL does not meet FCC broadband definition of 768k.
Fixed wireless – point to point	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Less, school or health network.	Large customers. Private networks
Wireless Point to multi-point		Yes. Depending on location	Yes	Yes	Depending on terrain – most likely in southern and western MN	Provides redundancy for business. Licensed and unlicensed. Only choice for many rural customers, excluding satellite. Difficult to use in areas with hills and trees. Newer technologies emerging for DSL quality wireless.
Wi-Fi	Minneapolis Wi-Fi and hot spots	Hot spots	Hot spots	Buffalo, Moorhead, Austin, hot spots	No	Often expected as a free service in hotels, coffee shops and public locations.
Satellite					Only choice for some customers in areas unserved by other providers.	Not viewed by many as a competitor to terrestrial technologies due to price, installation costs, speed, latency, and other factors.
Mobile broadband	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Less likely, depends on location	Questionable source of broadband with download caps and costs.

**Exceptions prove the rule. Open to revisions, additions and edit.

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