

# Trump's rural broadband goal won't be easy

By Mark Niquette and Alan Bjerga, Bloomberg

President Trump has promised to expand broadband service to rural areas as part of his \$1 trillion nationwide infrastructure plan. That may be easier said than done.

It would take an estimated \$80 billion to extend broadband to all U.S. areas that lack it, but the White House has initially proposed spending just \$25 billion over 10 years on rural infrastructure needs. At the same time, policy experts disagree about how best to expand rural broadband – and what responsibility government has to subsidize it.

“Our suspicion is the president’s plan won’t be sufficient,” said Johnathan Hladik, policy director for the Center for Rural Affairs, a Nebraska-based nonprofit that advocates for small farms. “We’re happy he’s saying it. You also have to do it, and that’s where it gets tough.”

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