COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VISIONING SESSION

In January of 2016, focus groups were organized into a virtual discussion and vote to determine a strategic direction for the MetroNet. Focus groups were facilitated by an independent facilitator to ensure an unbiased process. The visioning process was designed to be inclusive, with community members directly involved in the decision-making process. The visioning process was designed to be inclusive, with community members directly involved in the decision-making process.

BUSINESS INTERVIEWS

Business interviews were conducted with business owners in Winneshiek County with 10 or more employees. Interview themes were extracted from the interviews to identify key challenges and opportunities for the MetroNet.

Investment Scenarios

- **INVESTMENT SCENARIO 2: Residential Decorah**
  - Total Construction Cost: $710,907
  - Total Potential Grants: $465,134
  - Total Project Cost: $245,773
  - Social Benefits: Increased internet access for rural residents
  - Economic Benefits: Improved business productivity and competitiveness in the region

- **INVESTMENT SCENARIO 4: Decorah Business Park**
  - Total Construction Cost: $1,215,120
  - Total Potential Grants: $965,084
  - Total Project Cost: $250,036
  - Social Benefits: Increased internet access for rural residents
  - Economic Benefits: Improved business productivity and competitiveness in the region

CONCLUSIONS

The MetroNet project has the potential to transform the Winneshiek County region by providing high-speed internet connectivity to rural and underserved areas. The project has the potential to boost the economy, improve educational opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for residents. The MetroNet project has the potential to boost the economy, improve educational opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for residents.