NCTCOG PRESENTATION

BROADBAND AS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ACTION

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
APRIL 11, 2024

ROUNDTABLE REQUESTS

Four Proposed Elements:

1. The NCTCOG will assist the region with the ***coordination of data collection and analysis*** for the purpose of better reporting broadband availability, affordability, and residential usage rates.
2. The NCTCOG will ***create a policy committee consisting of elected officials*** in the region to provide clear and consistent feedback to the Texas Broadband Development Office.
3. The NCTCOG will leverage this policy committee to ***form a legislative program*** that will help guide the State of Texas legislature on regional needs.
4. The NCTCOG will continue with ***outreach to broadband practitioners in the region*** and ***encourage municipalities to appoint broadband technical leads***. Additionally, the NCTCOG will create a strategy for municipal best practices in achieving internet for all residents.

REGIONAL INTERNET FOR ALL COALITION

- The Internet for All Coalition will be structured with collaborative leadership between NCTCOG staff, the North Texas Innovation Alliance (NTXIA), and a member of the Governor's Broadband Council.
- The Regional Internet for All Coalition will be open to all members of public agencies and their supporting partners involved in broadband equity projects.
- The goal of the Internet for All Coalition will be to provide NCTCOG staff and the Policy Committee with concise and impactful suggestions for the following elements:
  1. Policy and legislation that present barriers for public agency entry into the public sector broadband space
  2. Funding needs that public agencies at all levels request
  3. Data coordination in conjunction with NCTCOG staff support, mentioned in later slide
  4. Regional strategy to encourage other agencies to participate in the expansion of equitable broadband

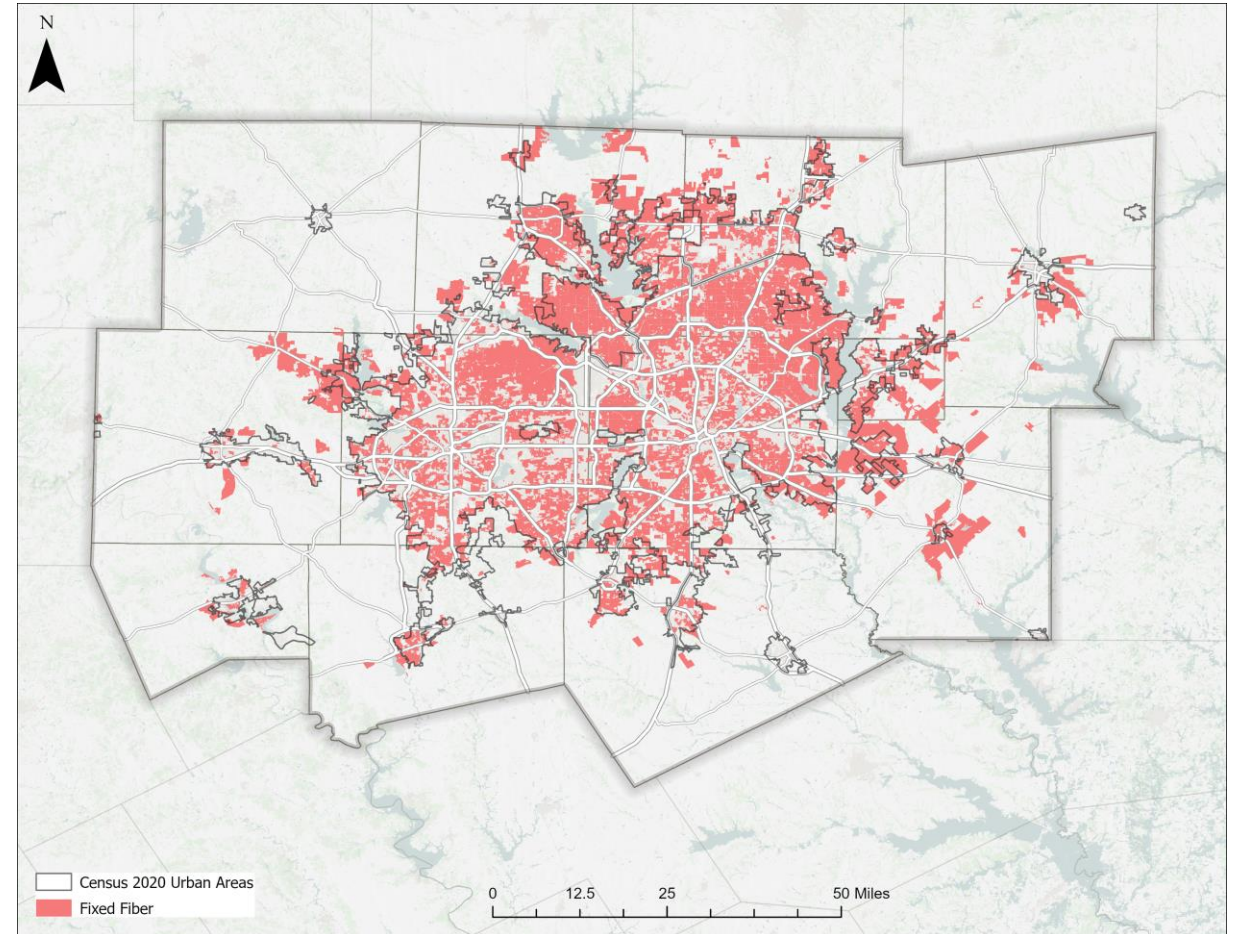# REGIONAL RTC AD HOC POLICY COMMITTEE & LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

- This program requires that the RTC form an ad hoc policy committee that creates and executes a legislative program, guided by the needs of the Technical Committee, that accomplishes the following goals:
  - Suggested broadband legislation amendment, additions or deletion
  - State-level broadband funding program language
- The Policy Committee will have 15 seats encompassing the following designations:

Jurisdiction	Urban Seats	Rural Seats
County	2	2
Municipal	7	4

REGIONAL DATA BROADBAND COORDINATION ELEMENTS

- A critical role for the Internet for All Coalition's is to guide broadband data collection and coordination
- Why do we need to focus on data?
  - FCC and State Map challenges
  - Local Implementation Guidance
  - Identify Communities of Low Connectivity
- How do we plan to improve?
  - FCC Licenses necessary to submit map challenges
  - Broadband Technical Committee guides data collection from all channels (municipal, school districts, 9-1-1 districts, etc.)

NCTCOG Region Fiber Locations reported through Form 477 Data

REGIONAL BROADBAND STRATEGY DOCUMENT

- The Internet for All Coalition's third and final function is to guide NCTCOG staff in the creation of a regional broadband activity strategy
- Elements for the Technical Committee to consider:
  - Broadband technology implementation strategies
  - Digital Equity Programs
    - Device access, subscription affordability, digital trainings classes, etc.
  - Public Private Partnerships and how to navigate them
- This document will serve as a foundation for all public agencies interested in starting or expanding their broadband efforts
  - NCTCOG staff will provide outreach opportunities to continuously encourage participation

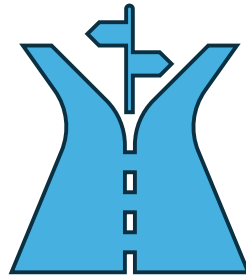# Opportunity Cost - $1.5M Per Mode

¾ Mile Bike Trail

2 ITS Traffic Signals

2 EV Charging Stations (DCFC)

3 Miles of Sidewalk

.075 Miles of 6-Lane Roadway

10 Miles of 48-Strand Fiber

~6,000 Households Served by Middle Mile

PROPOSED BUDGET

Task	Amount
Data Consultant	Existing w/Consultants - $1M Federal
Policy Committee/Legislative Committee	Existing – Staff Time
Technical Committee	Existing – Staff Time
Regional Strategy Document and Outreach	Existing w/Consultants - $300k Federal

PROPOSED TIMELINE

Action	Date
~~STTC Information Item~~	~~January 26, 2024~~
~~RTC Information Item~~	~~March 21, 2024~~
~~STTC Action Item~~	~~March 22, 2024~~ <mark>Approved</mark>
RTC Action Item	April 11, 2024

REQUESTED ACTION

Approve the program criteria associated with the Four Proposed Elements of Broadband Activities for NCTCOG Transportation AND the use of $1.3M Federal funds to execute activities

CONTACT/QUESTIONS

Connor Sadro

Transportation Planner III

csadro@nctcog.org | (817) 608-2395

Natalie Bettger

Senior Program Manager

nbettger@nctcog.org | (817) 695-9280