MARCH 2022 STTC/RTC ACTION

PROPOSED DEPLOYMENTS

	PHASE 2	PHASE 1 / EMERGENCY
TECHNOLOGY	BROADBAND	AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES
LOCATION	FORT WORTH	MCKINNEY (A) / DALLAS (B)
TYPE	URBAN	SUBURBAN / URBAN
LEAD PROCUREMENT	NCTCOG	NCTCOG

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NCTCOG Presentation

NATIONAL BROADBAND PROGRAMS AND DATA

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – $65B in Broadband Funding
  - National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Programs
    - Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) - $42.45B
    - Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program - $1B
    - Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program - $2B
    - Digital Equity Act Programs - $2.75B
  - Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Programs
    - The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) - $14.2B
      - Exhausting without Reauthorization
      - ~300,000 households in NCTCOG currently enrolled (USAC Monthly Reporting)
  - Other Programs - $2.6B
- NTIA/FCC collaboration created the National Broadband Availability Map
  - Issues with data collection via Form 477 data
  - Over 1.5 Million serviceable locations added to map through community challenges
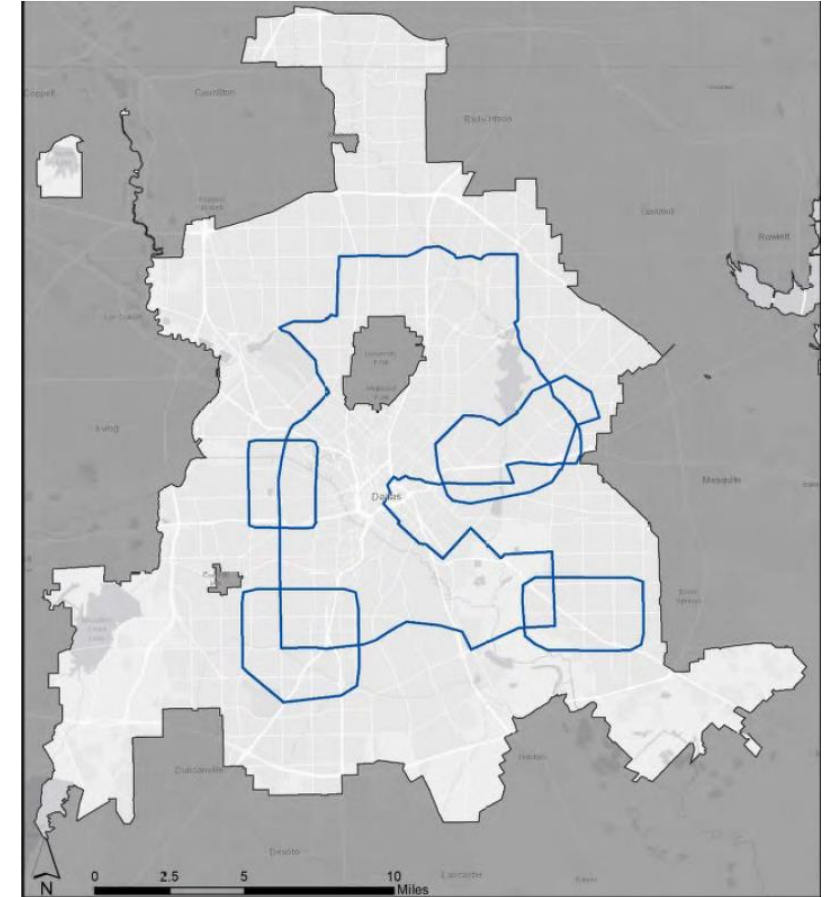
STATE OF TEXAS BROADBAND PROGRAM & LEGISLATION

- State of Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO)
  - Largest BEAD allocation among all States – $3.3B
  - Responsible for awarding BEAD funding with competitive grants
  - Broadband Infrastructure Fund (BIF) – $1.5B
    - Supplements 20% match for BEAD grants
  - Using NTIA/FCC map to guide allocations
- Example of Legislative Challenges:
  - Utility Code 54.201 disallows a municipality from obtaining the certificate to operate as a service provider for telecommunications service
  - The City of Mont Belvieu took the code to court, won, and created MB Link

NCTCOG TRANSPORTATION BROADBAND ROUNDTABLE

- Attendees:
  - City of Dallas, Dallas County, City of Fort Worth, City of Arlington, Town of Prosper, & Town of Little Elm
- Municipal Plans:
  - City of Fort Worth, City of Dallas and Dallas County Municipal Middle Mile Fiber Optic Infrastructures (Other siloed efforts as well)
  - Several digital navigation and training programs across the Region
- Challenges Mentioned:
  - Inconsistency with federal and state map data
  - Legislative pressure from Internet Service Provider (ISP) lobbyists
  - Local Elected Officials uncoordinated in approach
  - Siloed broadband practitioners
- "Wild West" of municipal broadband
- Whitepaper available per request

Source: City of Dallas

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.

REQUEST FOR RTC MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & FEEDBACK

- Under the Roundtable's requested action items 2 & 3, create the 15-member RTC Ad Hoc Broadband Policy Committee:

Jurisdiction	Urban Seats	Rural Seats
County	2	2
Municipal	7	4

- Desired Outcomes:
  - Internet for All Coalition identifies policy, funding, and data needs
  - RTC Ad Hoc Broadband Policy Committee reviews these needs and provides suggestions
  - Policy Committee's Legislative Program introduces these suggestions during the 2024 legislative session

PROPOSED TIMELINE

Action	Date
~~STTC Information Item~~	~~January 26, 2024~~
RTC Information Item	March 21, 2024
STTC Action Item	March 22, 2024
RTC Action Item	April 11, 2024

CONTACT/QUESTIONS

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