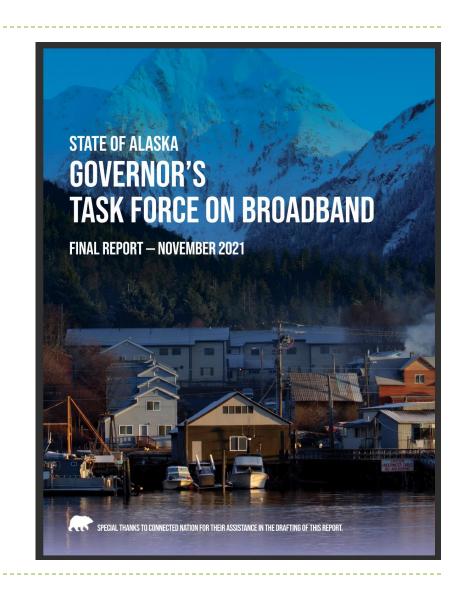


Governor's Task Force on Broadband

February 25, 2022 House Labor & Commerce Committee

Governor's Task Force on Broadband

- Administrative Order 322
- ▶ 11 Voting Members
- ▶ 2 Ex Officio Members
- ▶8 Tasks
- ▶ 2 Subgroups
- ▶ 32 Public Meetings
- gov.alaska.gov/broadband



Prioritize the Unserved & Underserved

Robust broadband services should be available to all Alaskans. Policymakers should expand buildout objectives to deploy infrastructure to **meet the** needs of unserved and underserved locations across Alaska.



Define Gaps

- ▶ Speeds: **100/20Mbps**
- Latency: less than 100 milliseconds, sufficient for real-time applications like 2-way video
- Data usage: comparable to urban markets
- Reliability: 24/7 service with minimal downtime and resistant to single points of failure



Identify Middle Mile Needs

Broadband policy and program analyses should include data gathering and research to **identify where** additional middle-mile capacity is needed to meet established or potential last-mile service availability speed targets, recognizing that any established standards will need to evolve with the growing demands of technology and consumer usage over time.



Give Preference to Fiber Middle Mile

Due to its unparalleled bandwidth, latency, upgradeability, and reliability, **fiber- optic cables** should

be deployed wherever feasible and practical to facilitate middle-mile connections.



Don't Widen the Digital Divide

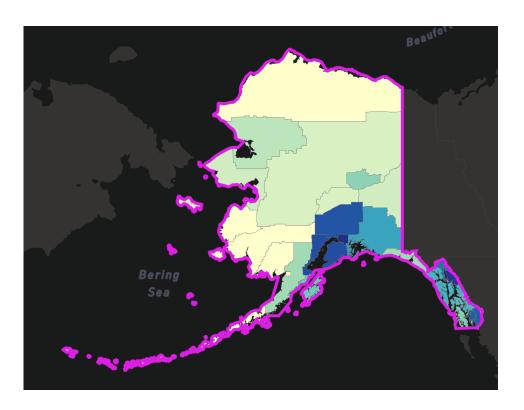
Policymakers should also recognize the importance of **minimizing the** disparity in access to broadband service that may develop because of fast-paced technological evolution and strive to ensure that equitable development continues to occur.



Ensure Accurate Maps

Accurate, granular broadband availability and infrastructure maps should define where unserved and underserved areas exist.

The Office of Broadband Deployment should commit to the utilization of world-class broadband data and mapping analytics, leveraging available data sources to avoid a duplication of efforts.

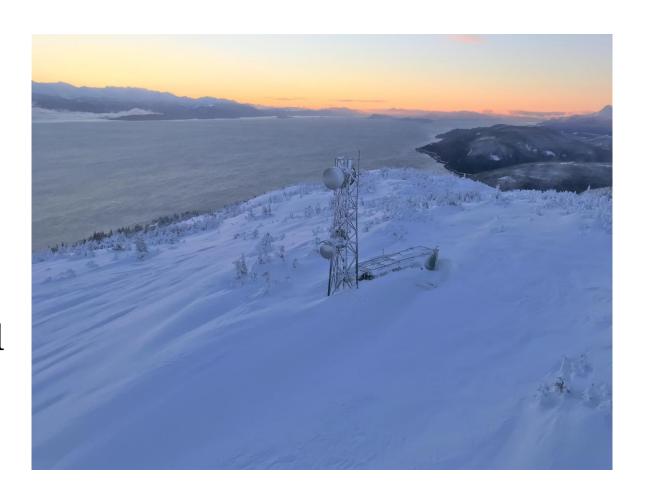


Establish an Office of Broadband Deployment

An Alaska Office of Broadband Deployment should be established to provide

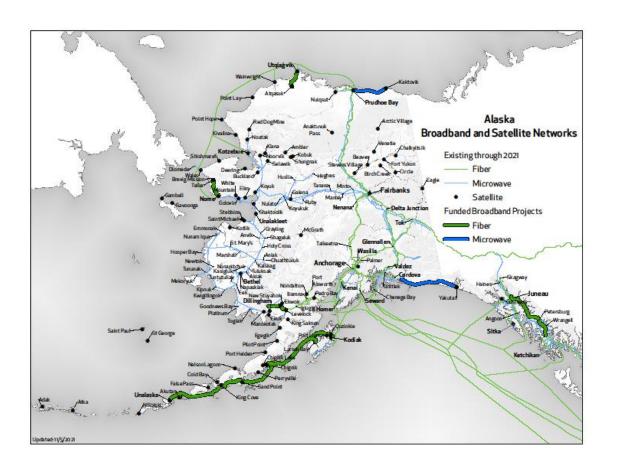
leadership and direction

to the state's efforts to ensure the expansion of broadband access and digital equity for all Alaskans.



Establish a State Broadband Advisory Board

The State should establish a State Broadband Advisory Board (SBAB) to provide guidance to the Office of **Broadband Deployment**, representing local, Tribal, education, health, business, and the general public's interests.



Strengthen Tribal Partnerships

The Office of Broadband Deployment should work closely with Tribal governments, consortia, and other Alaska Native entities to identify ways in which to **collaboratively** address the gaps that may be experienced across the state, leverage available resources, and to ensure equitable development.



Prioritize Local Workforce Development

Additional priority should be given to broadband infrastructure projects that include support for local workforce development.



Affordability

Policymakers should recognize that affordability is an important element in defining where gaps in broadband infrastructure exist. Policymakers should also recognize that affordability is driven by underlying costs associated with Alaska's unique operational environment and that **partnerships** between service providers and state and federal programs are important in achieving affordable service delivery to end-users.



Broadband Parity Adjustment

In recognition of the scale of the investment necessary to bring adequate broadband infrastructure into every Alaska community, policymakers should create a Broadband Parity Adjustment that supports equitable

broadband costs across

Alaska's high-rate areas as compared with those in low-rate communities.



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