

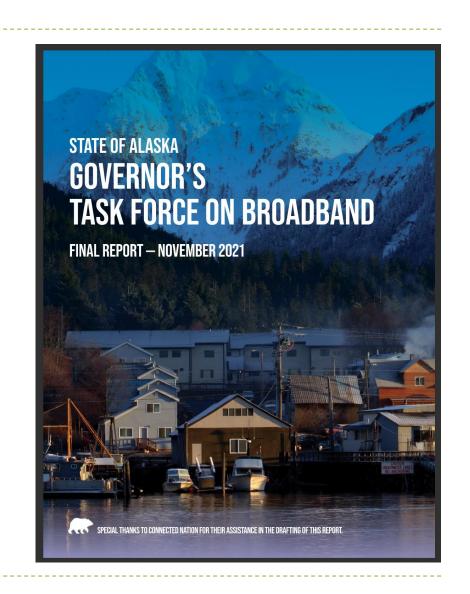
Governor's Task Force on Broadband

March 24, 2022

Senate Community & Regional Affairs 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



Technical Subgroup

- ▶ Stewart Ferguson Chief Technology Officer, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- ▶ Gerad Godfrey President, Alutiiq Professional Consulting, Director FirstNet Tribal Working Group
- Mayor John Handeland City of Nome
- ▶ Representative Grier Hopkins Alaska Legislature
- ► Commissioner Michael Johnson Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
- ▶ Steve Noonkesser Superintendent, Southwest Region School District
- ▶ Christine O'Connor, Chair Executive Director, Alaska Telecom Association
- ▶ Allen Todd General Counsel, Doyon, Limited

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, fiberoptic cables should be deployed wherever feasible and practical to facilitate middle-mile



connections.

Don't Widen the Digital Divide

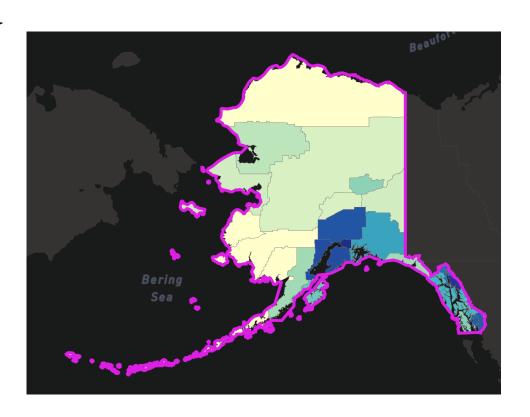
Policymakers should also recognize the importance of **minimizing the** disparity in access to broadband service that may develop because of fast-paced technological evolution and strive to ensure that equitable development continues to occur.



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.



Policy Subgroup

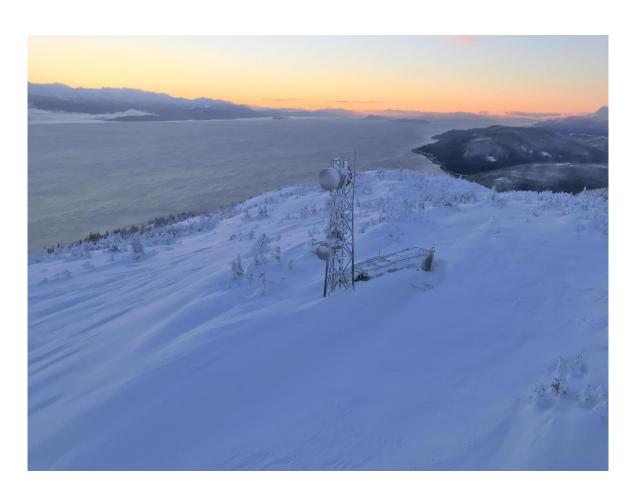
- ▶ Julie Anderson Commissioner, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
- Nils Andreasson Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
- ▶ Hallie Bissett, Chair Executive Director, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association
- ▶ Kati Capozzi Executive Director, Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Bryce Ward Mayor, Fairbanks Northstar Borough
- ▶ Senator Shelly Hughes Alaska Legislature

Establish an Office of Broadband Deployment

An Alaska Office of Broadband Deployment should be established to provide

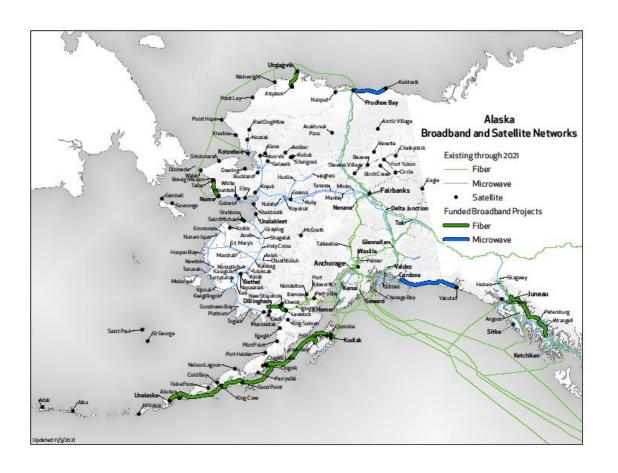
leadership and direction

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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