



Leaping the Digital Divide

Encouraging Policies and Partnerships to Improve
Broadband Access Across North Carolina

Report Findings

- 1 High-speed broadband and the networks that support it are just as essential today as roads and electricity were in the first half of the 20th century.**
- 2 High-speed broadband attracts more capital investment into local economies.**
- 3 While all urban areas of the state contain sections that are considered underserved with respect to broadband access, the starkest gaps are found in rural areas.**
- 4 A primary function of government is to build the infrastructure networks that people need in order to work, conduct business and simply to live their daily lives.**
- 5 Public-private partnerships represent a promising means to limit risks for both the public and private partners, while generating huge benefits for the residents/customers served.**
- 6 Current North Carolina law creates significant hurdles that can prevent public-private broadband partnerships from moving forward.**
- 7 To unleash the full potential of public-private partnerships and close gaps in broadband access, these structural hurdles must be removed. Also, incentives for private providers, dedicated investment by all levels of government, and policies that streamline permitting and construction of broadband systems are needed.**

Local Governments Need Explicit Authority to:



Raise money for broadband infrastructure, including taxes and borrowed funds.



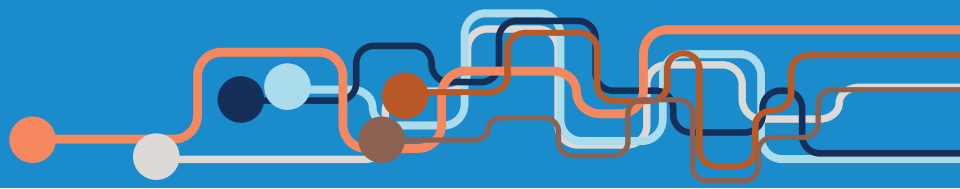
Spend money on broadband infrastructure.



Lease infrastructure to the private and non-profit entities that will operate and profit from using the infrastructure.

Read the full report at
www.nclm.org/broadband

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Broadband is Critical 21st Century Infrastructure

Three Broadband P3 Models

Public facilitation of private investment.
No public investment; public partner takes modest measures to encourage private investment.

Public funding and private execution (concessionaire model). Public partner makes substantial investment in broadband infrastructure; private partner executes project, operates network.

Shared investment and risk.
Public and private partners find creative ways to share the costs and risks of building, operating, and maintaining a broadband network.

