Broadband Data Collection:

Presentation to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee

C. Sean Spivey
Senior Counsel, Broadband Data Task Force

Steven Rosenberg
Chief Data & Analytics Officer, Office of Economics and Analytics

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The FCC today collects broadband deployment data using FCC Form 477

Fixed broadband service providers report broadband deployment based on U.S. Census Block geographic areas

- The U.S. is divided into +11,000,000 census blocks varying in size between urban and rural areas.
- If a fixed provider makes service available to a location within a census block, then the entire census block is shown as "served" by the provider.

Mobile broadband service providers report broadband deployment by technology and based on minimum advertised speed or, if a particular speed is not advertised, then speeds consumers should reasonably expect to receive at a given location.

- A lack of standardized reporting parameters prevents apples-to-apples comparisons of data among mobile service providers.
Broadband Data Collection: Goal

- More precise and consistent broadband availability data is critical to efforts to target public funds to connect unserved and underserved communities, including Tribal lands.

- Congress directed the FCC to develop processes and procedures to collect, verify and publish more precise data in the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act.
Broadband Data Collection: Key Dates

- **March 2020: Broadband DATA Act**
  - Specified collection of broadband data and challenge/verification processes

- **July 2020: Second Report and Order/FNPRM**
  - Reporting
  - Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric
  - Processes for verifying data

- **December 2020: Consolidated Appropriations Act**
  - Funding for implementation and administration of data collection

- **January 2021: Third Report and Order**
  - Further refinements and challenge processes
  - Delegated additional technical challenge/verification methodologies to Bureaus/Offices
  - Established the requirements for the collection and submission of verified coverage data from governmental entities
  - Directed OEA and CGB/ONAP to provide technical assistance to various constituencies

- **February 2021: Broadband Data Task Force Established**
  - Expedite and coordinate implementation effort spanning multiple FCC Bureaus and Offices
Broadband Data Collection: What We Need to Accomplish

Data Sources
- Provider data
- Local-government data
- Tribal-government data
- Federal-government data
- Third-party data
- Public data
- Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric

Output
- Improved public maps
- More precisely targeted Universal Service Funding
- Better data for Commission reports and analyses

Data-Quality Processes
- Validation
- Technical assistance
- Challenge and crowd-sourcing processes
- Audits
Broadband Data Collection: What We Will Achieve

- Fixed broadband availability data down to the individual location
- Mobile broadband availability data standardized across providers
- Challenge process to identify and dispute data collected from providers
- Incorporation of data from state, local, and Tribal governments
- Crowdsourced information to support verification efforts
- Audits and enforcement
Broadband Data Collection: Implementation Milestones

- **Spring 2021**
  - Data Architect & Design Services Contract
  - RFI for Fabric
  - Consumer Experience Portal

- **Summer 2021**
  - RFP for Fabric Development
  - Contract for IT System Development
  - Public Notice on Mobile Challenge, Verification, and Crowdsourcing Methodology
  - 4G LTE Mobile Map of Four Largest Providers’ Coverage Based on BDC Parameters to Preview BDC Maps
Broadband Data Collection: Next Steps

- Fabric contract
- Other contracts (e.g., mobile app updates, technical assistance, user acceptance and IV&V testing)
- Outreach to Tribes and technical assistance to other filers
- Public Notice to announce start of data collection, followed by initial data collection and map publication
- Open Submission Window
- Publish Maps/Data
- Challenge and Verification Process