The Marconi Society

Connecting North Carolina

Broadband to Fuel Education, Healthcare, Rural Development

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The Quilt

Meet Our Participants

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More than just high-speed Internet

- Access
- Skills
- Opportunities
- Economic Development
- Full Potential

What are some **Challenge(s)** and/or **Opportunities** to close the digital gap?

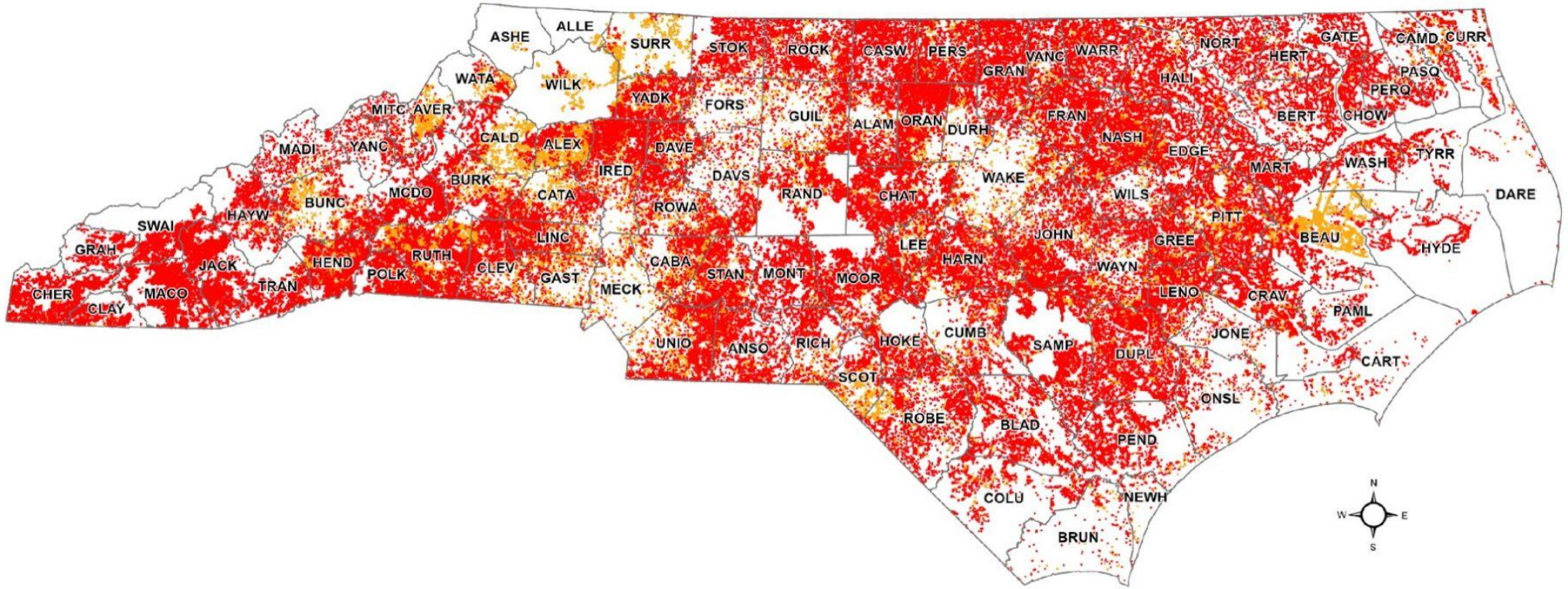
IT'S TIME TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

At least 1.1 million North Carolina households lack access to high-speed internet, cannot afford it or do not have the skills needed to take advantage of the digital economy. Gov. Roy Cooper has a plan to close the digital divide to achieve digital equity for all North Carolinians.

NC BROADBAND PROFILE

Evolving Identification of Unserved Locations

New FCC Broadband Data Collection Serviceable Location Fabric – December 2022



- Unserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (Less Than 25mb/s Download and 3mb/s Upload)
  - **374,412 Locations = 409,445 units (homes and businesses)**
- Underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (Less Than 100mb/s Download and 20mb/s Upload)
  - **127,956 Locations = 145,778 units (homes and businesses)**

NCDIT NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY FUNDING

American Rescue Plan Act	Infrastructure	$941M	Ensure availability of internet service at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps for more than 98% of North Carolina households
		$350M	GREAT Grant
		$400M	Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)
		$90M	Stop-Gap Solutions
		$100M	Broadband Pole Replacement Fund
		$1M	Broadband Mapping
	Awareness and Digital Literacy	$50M	• Increase enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program • Increase access to devices for households • Increase access to high quality digital literacy and skills training • Build local digital equity capacity
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)	$1.53B	• Infrastructure for homes and businesses • Upgrades to infrastructure for community anchor institutions • Mapping and data collection • Internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure for multi-family residential buildings • High-speed internet adoption, including affordable internet capable devices and sign-up assistance • Training and workforce development • Digital equity programs

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Digital Equity as a Service

- Digital Equity Economics
- Important Collaborations
- Scaling Cross-Sector Innovation
- Networking and Public/Private Partnerships

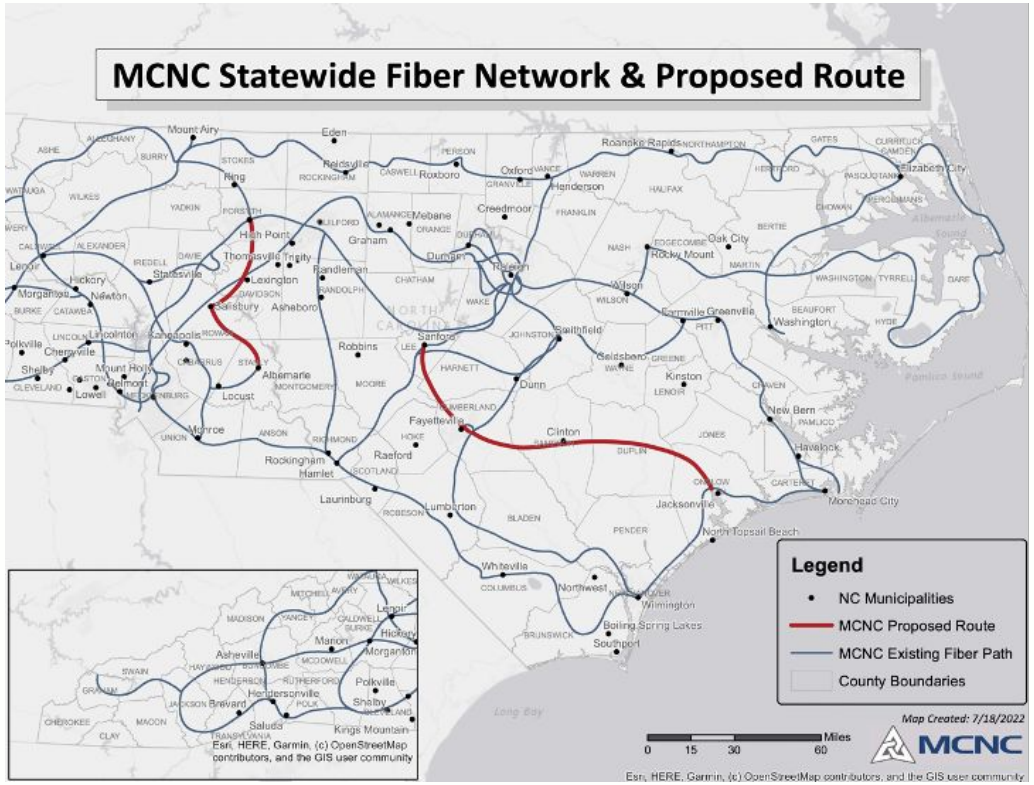
What are some **Surprises**? How about **Successes**?

Digital Equity as a Service - HERO Project

Upon completion, HERO will support affordable, high-performance broadband for ***at least 4998 fully unserved locations (and nearly 4300 additional underserved locations)*** *within just 5 miles of the planned routes.*

- *The 11-county area has over 16,000 unserved and 12,000 underserved housing units, including many substantially unserved local communities.*

- *In total, the affordability, latency, and resilience benefits of* ***HERO would impact over 350,000 housing units and 696 CAIs, bringing new economic opportunities to these economically challenged rural areas of North Carolina.***



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Social Change starts with … ?

- Leadership and Trust
- The Five C's
- Broadband Connections
- Tools and Training
- Support and Advocacy

Where's the finish line of this **"ultra-marathon"** and what does it look like?

New Wave of Innovation

- North Carolina's Digital Navigator Initiative
- Examples of Public/Private Partnerships that have worked
- North Carolina Digital Equity and Inclusion Collaborative
- Celebrating Digital Inclusion Week (Oct. 2-6, 2023)

Where is the **sweet spot** for Comprehensive Community Infrastructure?

How do **diverse perspectives** and **cross-sector engagement** lead the way?

Final Thoughts

Q&A

CONNECTING MAINE

Register Here:

An "All In" Approach for Funding Sources, Community Engagement and Sustainability

Featuring Jeff Letourneau, Executive Director, NETWORKMAINE

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

12:00pm ET - 1:00pm ET

Online Webinar

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Become a Marconi Society Member

Networking Opportunities

Access to member-only networking invitations, including virtual events with Marconi Society Board and Fellows

Event Advantages

Preferential rate for events tailored for our members: Award Galas, seminars, interactive workshops, and expert-led panel discussions

Magazine Feature

Exclusive opportunity to be featured in the Marconi Signal magazine that showcase your insights, experience, and contributions.

Monthly Newsletter

Stay at the forefront of technological advancements and innovations.

Contact Yeimidy Lagunas at ylagunas@marconisociety.org for more information.

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Thank you!

Join our mailing list to receive the latest updates:

https://marconisociety.org/join-our-mailing-list/

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