

District Local Area Technical Assistance Grant Funded Project Update

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Overview

- Project was executed after IT Strategic Plan Update in 2023 after consistent feedback from District departments noted “connectivity in the field” was needed.
- CPUC Funded the planning project through the Local Area Technical Assistance (LATA) grant program
- The federal government, along with the State of California, is providing significant funding opportunities to help close the digital divide and expand broadband access across communities.
- These initiatives, aimed at enhancing connectivity, are especially impactful for local municipalities looking to bridge the gap in digital equity.
- Key funding programs
 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - California's California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)



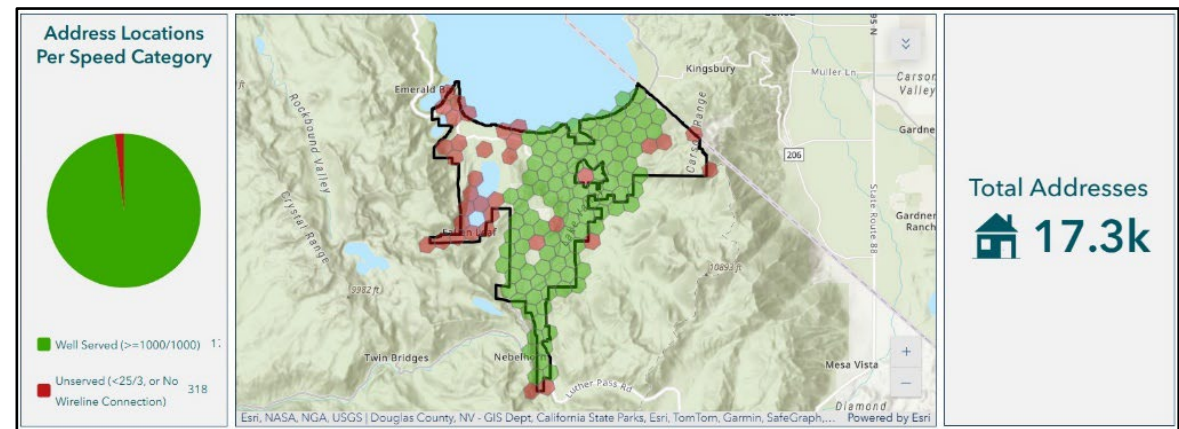
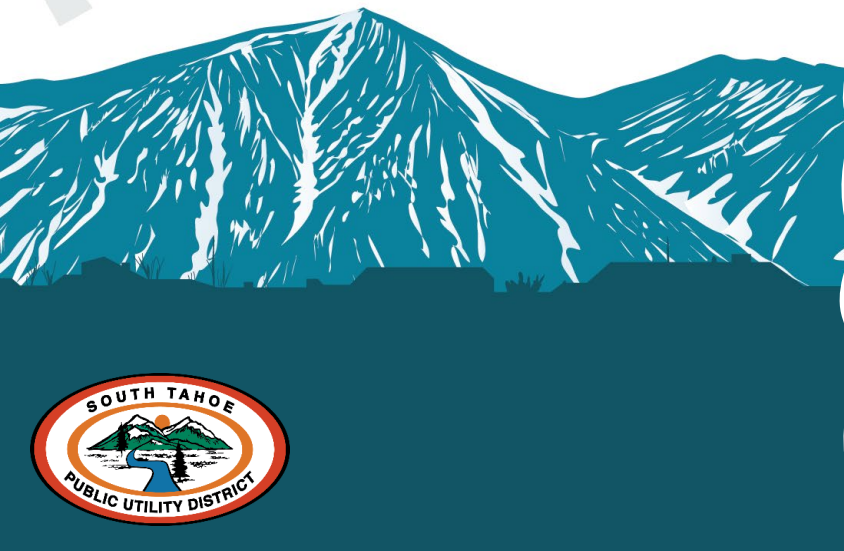
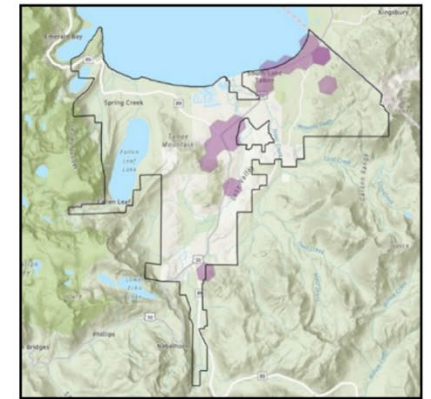
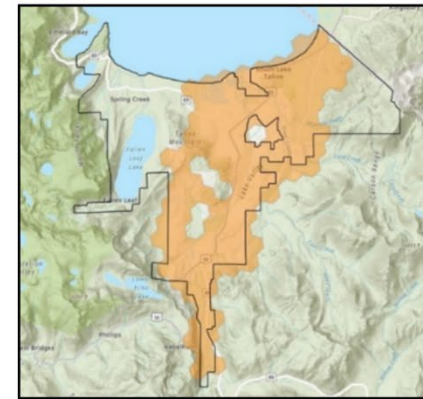
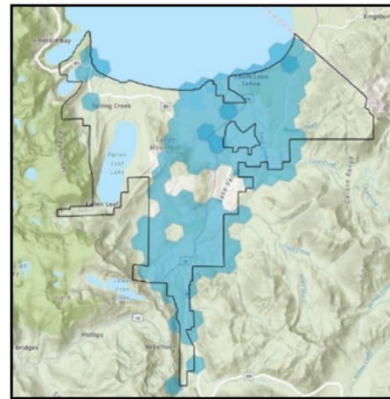
Process

- Broadband Map and Asset Inventory
- Policy and Regulatory Review
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Conceptual Network Design
- District's Capital Project Review



Broadband Map and Asset Inventory

Provider	Technology Type	Coverage
AT&T Inc	Wired-DSL (Copper)	11.9k
AT&T Inc	Licensed Fixed Wireless	35
Charter	Wired-HFC	16.9k
HughesNet	Satellite	17.2k
Preferred Networks, Inc	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	687
Starlink	Satellite	17.2k
T-Mobile US	Licensed Fixed Wireless	11.4k
TPx Communications	Wired-Varies	9
Verizon	Licensed Fixed Wireless	11.4k
Visasat, Inc.	Satellite	17.2k



Policy and Regulatory Review

- California law grants PUDs, Cities, and Counties the authority to construct, own, and operate broadband networks.
 - SB 156 - allocates funds for broadband expansion in underserved areas.
- *P3 Contracting and Operations*
 - A local government agency may enter into contracts with private entities if a public or municipally owned broadband network is chosen as the preferred model.
- **FUNDING SERVICES**
 - BEAD / CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND (CASF) / LOAN LOSS RESERVE FUND / FFA



Stakeholder Engagement

Common needs determined by the analysis of the stakeholder data collection

- Addressing internet service availability and reliability
- Strengthening communications capabilities
- Ensuring infrastructure enables consistent, continuous communications
- Assessing technology options to provide network resiliency
- Strategic planning and coordination to address local permitting processes
- Project management and communication to address obstacles to Dig Once policies

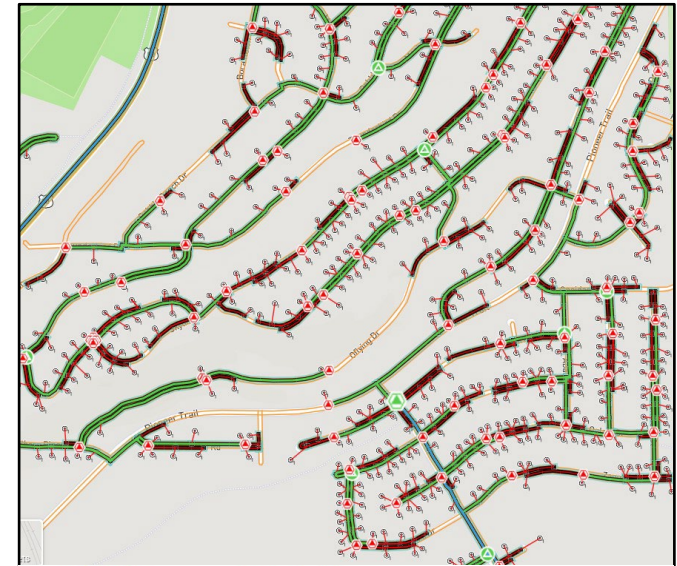
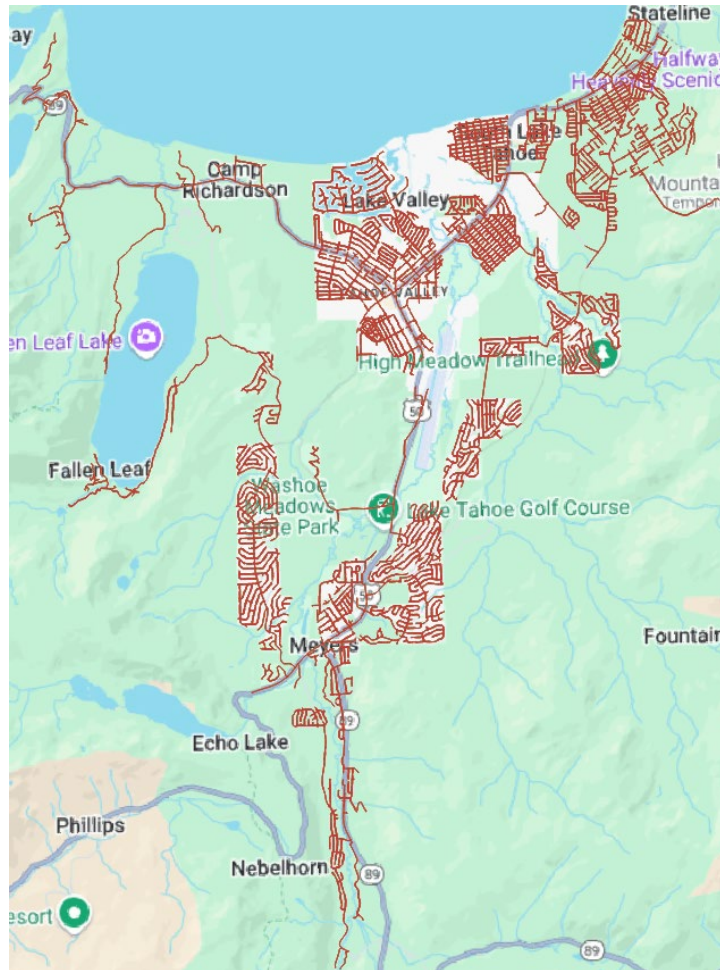


Stakeholders

- District
 - Customer Service
 - Engineering
 - Operations
- Liberty Utilities
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- Lake Tahoe Community College
- Tahoe Transportation District
- Southwest Gas
- Tahoe Prosperity Center
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency



Conceptual Network Design



- Fiber cable
- Feeder cable
- Distribution cable
- Drop cable
- ▲ Feeder hub
- ▲ Distribution hub
- ▲ Distribution dedicated hub
- ▲ Drop hub
- ▲ Feeder splice
- ▲ Distribution splice

- Network Design and Technology Selection
- Infrastructure Requirements
- Geographic and Demographic Considerations



District's Capital Project Review

- District has several upcoming capital improvement projects that may present significant opportunities for ISPs or stakeholders located in the South Lake Tahoe region to collaborate and split trench costs.
- The District can engage with ISPs currently operating in the District's footprint well in advance of these projects to explore possible collaboration. By following Dig Once policies mentioned above, ISPs could, if feasible, design the necessary infrastructure, including innerduct and handholes, along the designated water or sewer line routes. This would allow ISPs to procure and install materials concurrently with the capital projects, significantly reducing the cost of burying fiber.



Next Steps

- Provide Access to the District's Broadband Atlas and other reports and resources to stakeholders.
- Open communication with partners and stakeholders for future opportunities.

Questions?

