



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Interim Executive Director

DATE: 31 August 2016

SUBJECT: Broadband Internet Deployment, Availability, and Adoption in Tennessee—
Updates and Panel Discussion

Continuing the collection and review of information for the Commission's study of broadband internet deployment, availability, and adoption in Tennessee, this update includes presentations by

- Michael Ramage, Director of the Center for Telecommunications Systems Management at Murray State University and Former Director of Connected Tennessee, who will discuss the history of Connected Tennessee and its programs; and
- Amanda Martin, Special Projects Director for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD), who will present the findings of ECD's Broadband Initiative.

Commissioner Boyd's transmittal letter and a summary of ECD's findings are attached along with executive summaries or introductions from the three reports produced by ECD's consultants:

- *Internet Connectivity and Utilization in Tennessee 2016* (attachment B),
- *Tennessee eStrategy Report: Broadband as a Driver of Economic and Social Development in Tennessee, Strategies, Options, and Recommendations* (attachment C), and
- *State of Tennessee: Considerations and Best Practices for Statewide Broadband Initiatives* (attachment D).

In addition to the presentations listed above, a panel of experts will discuss issues related to broadband access, adoption, and incentives:

- Cliff Lloyd, Chief Information Officer, Tennessee Department of Education
- Charles A. Sherrill, Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist, Office of Secretary of State
- Larry Jones, Telehealth Coordinator for Rural Health Care Program, Tennessee Telehealth Network
- Jacob Weiss, Director, High-Wired Communities and High-Wired Lifeline
- Keith Durbin, Information Technology Services Director and Chief Information Officer, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

A 2016 study of broadband investment and activity in each state produced by Strategic Networks Group, one of ECD's consultants, is also included as attachment E. Staff will continue its own review of information about programs and initiatives in other states.