



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



3

226 Capitol Boulevard Bldg., Suite 508
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0760

Phone: (615) 741-3012

Fax: (615) 532-2443

www.tn.gov/tacir

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members
FROM: *Lynnise* Lynnise Roehrich-Patrick
Executive Director

DATE: 5 January 2016

SUBJECT: Broadband Internet Technologies, their Capabilities and Availability in Tennessee

At the request of Chairman Norris, the Commission voted at its June 2015 meeting to study broadband availability, deployment, and adoption in Tennessee. The Commission reviewed the draft research plan for the study at its September 2015 meeting and determined that it would hear from expert panelists at its October 2015 meeting and review preliminary information related to the study at its January 2016 meeting. This update provides that preliminary information, including

- maps showing examples of maximum advertised downstream speeds and typical downstream speeds reported by providers for census blocks in Southwest Tennessee Development District (attachment A);
- a 2015 survey on the percentage of Americans with at-home broadband connections and factors affecting adoption conducted by Pew Research Center (attachment B);
- a copy of a presentation by Victor Hazlewood, chief operating officer of the University of Tennessee Joint Institute for Computational Sciences (attachment C), who will provide information about
 - technologies used to provide internet access, and
 - the effects of connection speed and other factors on different online tasks; and
- technology guidelines by the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration's division of Strategic Technology Solutions for state employees working out of the office (attachment D).

In addition to Victor Hazlewood, a representative from the Department of Finance and Administration's division of Strategic Technology Solutions will speak about these and other broadband issues. This information is being provided to support development of the

Commission's report due next January on broadband deployment, availability, and adoption and tax policy and barriers to expansion by public and private providers.