



America's National Broadband Plan

Remarks to QUESTNet 2010

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

- Signed into law February 17, 2009
- Broadband in the Recovery Act:
 - \$7.2B to expand broadband access and adoption across the United States
 - Mandate for FCC to develop National Broadband Plan
 - Mandate for creation of an inventory and map of broadband service capabilities



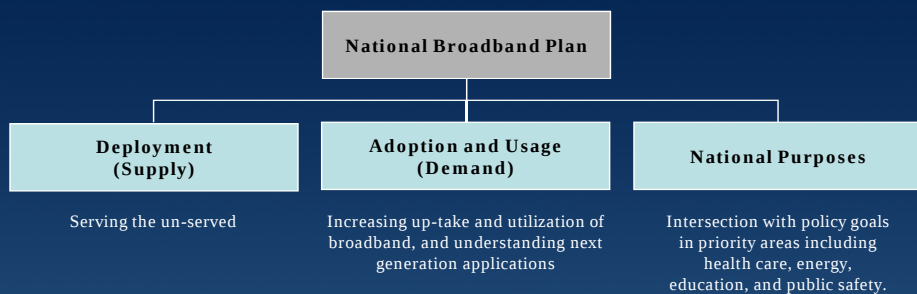
Recovery Act Goals: National Broadband Plan

- “Ensure that all people of the United States have access to broadband capability and establish benchmarks for meeting that goal.”
- “[I]nclude . . . a detailed strategy for achieving affordability . . . and maximum utilization of broadband infrastructure and service”
- “[I]nclude . . . an evaluation of the status of deployment of broadband service”
- “[I]nclude . . . a plan for use of broadband . . . in advancing consumer welfare, civic participation, public safety and homeland security, community development, health care delivery, energy independence and efficiency, education, worker training, private sector investment, entrepreneurial activity, job creation and economic growth, and other national purposes.”

CONNECTING AMERICA: THE NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN



The National Broadband Task Force



Why A National Broadband Plan?

Because broadband is the great infrastructure challenge of the early 21st century



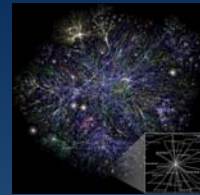
Transcontinental railroad
(1860s)



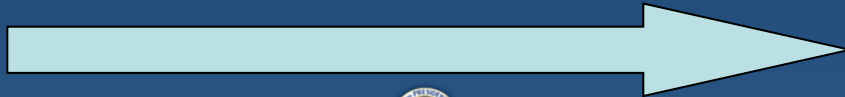
Rural electrification
(1930s)



Interstate highways
(1950s)



Broadband



Gaps in the U.S. Broadband Ecosystem

Availability gap

- Fourteen million Americans do not have access to broadband infrastructure that can support today's and tomorrow's applications

Adoption gap

- 93 million Americans do not have broadband at home
- More than 10 million school-age children do not have home access to broadband

Digital skills gap

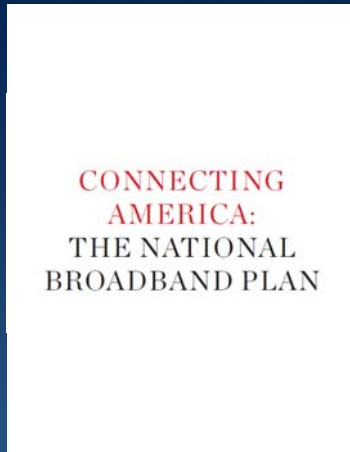
- Many Americans lack digital skills, even as many job openings are posted exclusively online

National purposes gap

- In health care, the U.S. ranks in the bottom half of comparable countries on nearly every metric used to measure the adoption of health information technology
- In energy, most of the U.S. electric grid is not connected to broadband
- In education, schools lack easily accessible digital educational content
- In public safety, the U.S. lacks a nationwide mobile communications network



National Broadband Plan (broadband.gov)



Long-term Goals

- At least 100 million U.S. homes should have affordable access to actual download speeds of at least 100 Mbps and actual upload speeds of at least 50 Mbps.
- The United States should lead the world in mobile innovation, with the fastest and most extensive wireless networks of any nation.
- Every American should have affordable access to robust broadband service, and the means and skills to subscribe if they so choose.
- Every American community should have affordable access to at least 1 gigabit per second broadband service to anchor institutions such as schools, hospitals and government buildings.
- To ensure the safety of the American people, every first responder should have access to a nationwide, wireless, interoperable broadband public safety network.
- To ensure that America leads in the clean energy economy, every American should be able to use broadband to track and manage their real-time energy consumption.



Taking Action: NTIA/RUS Funding



The Recovery Act provided NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program with \$4.7B to support deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

The Recovery Act provided RUS's Broadband Initiatives Program with \$2.5B to provide broadband in unserved and underserved communities



Next Steps for the Obama Administration

- **Creation of a Broadband Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Technology**
- **Plan to double available commercial wireless spectrum**
 - Release 500 MHz spectrum over the next 10 years
 - New tools to reallocate spectrum, including incentives
 - Redeploy spectrum to high-value uses
 - Use auction process to promote public safety, infrastructure, and deficit reduction
- **Focus on National Priorities**
 - Smart Grid - \$15.5B in the Recovery Act
 - Health Care Information Technology (Health IT) - \$19B in the Recovery Act
- **Continued Public Sector Innovation**
 - Open Government
 - Expansion of online service delivery
 - Integration of New Media / Social Media
 - Data.gov / Apps.gov

