



# **BROADBAND UPDATE: MAKING THE CONNECTION**

## ***Florida League of Cities Annual Conference***

**Julia Pulidindi, Broadband Program Specialist  
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth  
August 11, 2022**

**NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION**

# The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure and competitiveness

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- \$1.2T bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021
- Largest ever investments in high-speed Internet, rail and transit, clean energy, and water
- Allocated funding to over 350 distinct programs across more than a dozen federal departments and agencies

## This historic legislation will:

- Deliver **clean water** to all families and eliminate the nation's lead service lines
- Ensure every American has access to affordable, reliable, **high-speed Internet**
- Repair and rebuild **roads and bridges**
- Improve **transportation options** and reduce greenhouse emissions
- Upgrade our nation's **airports and ports** to strengthen our supply chains
- Make the largest investment in **passenger rail** since Amtrak's creation
- Build a national network of **electric vehicle chargers**
- Upgrade **power infrastructure** to deliver clean, reliable energy
- **Make infrastructure resilient** against the impacts of climate change, cyber-attacks, and extreme weather events
- Deliver the largest investment in tackling **legacy pollution** in US history

Please see [Build.gov](https://www.build.gov) for more details on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

# NTIA will administer ~\$48B through four programs that drive high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption

**NTIA will administer ~\$48B of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**

BEAD	DIGITAL EQUITY	TRIBAL	MIDDLE MILE
<b>\$42.45B</b>	<b>\$2.75B</b>	<b>\$2.00B</b>	<b>\$1.00B</b>
<b>Broadband Equity, Access &amp; Deployment Program</b>	<b>Digital Equity Act</b>	<b>Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments</b>	<b>Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure</b>
A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.	Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.	A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.	A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

**FCC to administer \$14.2B**

For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program

**USDA to administer \$2.0B**

Via the Rural Utilities Service

**Private Activity Bonds \$0.6B**

Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband

# BEAD program will provide ~\$42.45B for infrastructure planning and implementation

**Funding pool**  
**\$42.45B**

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

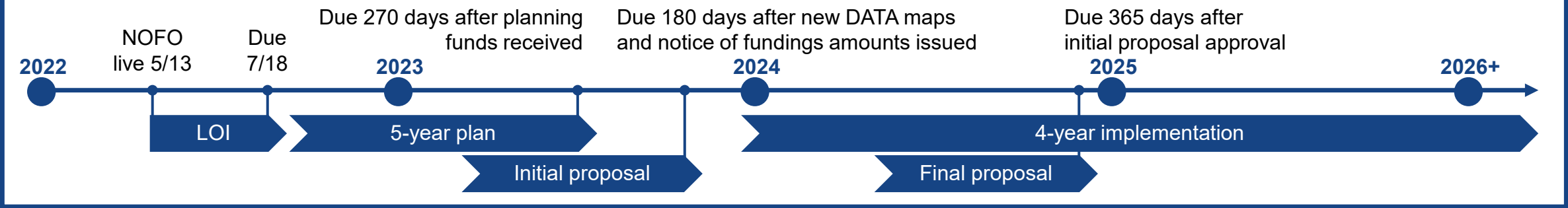
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds include:

- ☆ Planning for deployment of Internet
- ☆ Deploying or upgrading Internet
- ☆ Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- ☆ Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- ☆ Workforce and job training

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



# Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

**Funding pool**  
**\$2.75B**

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

## PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

### State Planning

- \$60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

### State Capacity

- \$1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

### Competitive

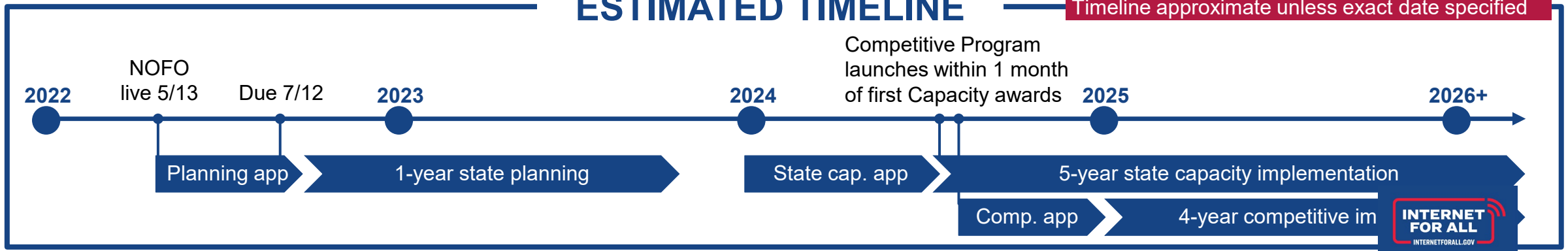
- \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

**Example eligible uses of funds include:**

- ☆ Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- ☆ Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- ☆ Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- ☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- ☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- ☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



# Technical amendments and new funding will strengthen current Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

**Funding pool**  
**\$2.00B**

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

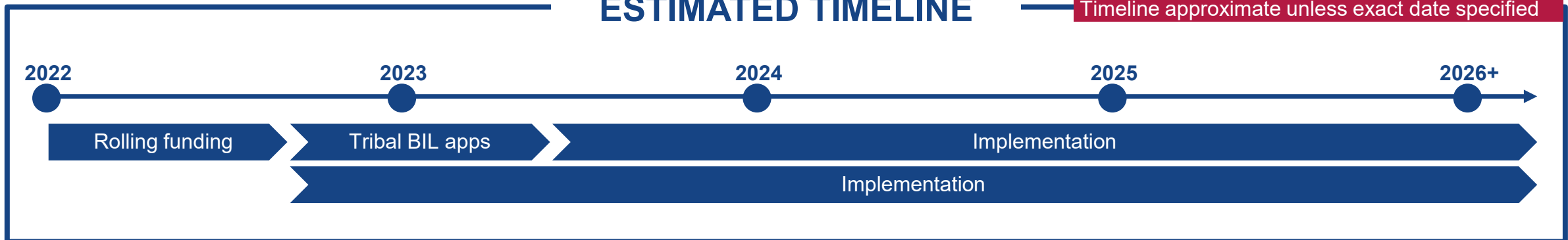
New funding will be used for additional new grants and to fully fund grants from first round of awards

### Amendments to original program:

- Relaxes time requirements of original program
- Allows infrastructure grantees to spend up to 2.5% of the total project cost for related planning, feasibility and sustainability studies
- Preserves unused allocated funds for other Tribal broadband projects instead of reverting to the Treasury

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



# Middle Mile Grant Program will invest in the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure

**Funding pool**  
**\$1.00B**

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Middle mile infrastructure refers to** the mid-section of Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances and connects the "backbone" of Internet infrastructure to the "last mile", which connects to end users

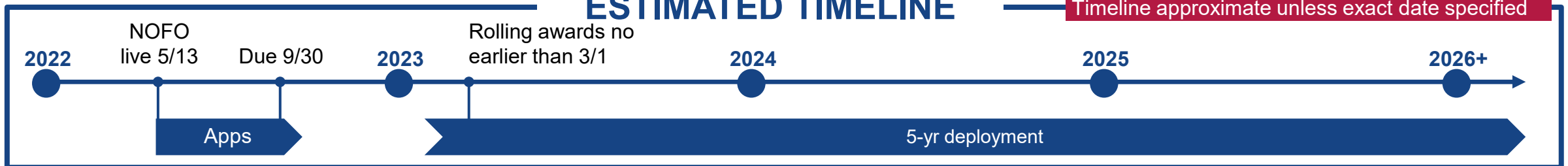
**Entities eligible to apply include a wide variety of entities**, incl. but not limited to government entities, utilities, companies, and non-profits that provide Internet services

### Example uses of funds:

- ☆ Construction, improvement or acquisition of facilities and equipment
- ☆ Engineering design, permitting and work related to projects
- ☆ Personnel costs, including salaries and benefits
- ☆ Other costs necessary to program's activities

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



# There are many ways stakeholders may get involved in the programs

Illustrative, non-exhaustive

## Telecom provider

- Apply to be a BEAD subgrantee or apply directly for Middle Mile
- *Note: Telecom providers may include government owned entities*



## Community anchor institution

- Benefit from BEAD funding for faster Internet
- Apply for Digital Equity competitive grant
- Advocate for community interests across programs



## Local government

- Collaborate with state to develop Digital Equity plan and during BEAD planning
- Apply for a Middle Mile or Digital Equity capacity and competitive grants

## Community orgs

- Serve as a thought partner as states design their outreach strategies
- Advocate for community interests across programs



## Individual

- Participate in digital skill and literacy courses funded by programs
- Contact local reps for more information

## Tribal government

- Coordinate, consult, and partner with states during BEAD planning
- Apply for a Middle Mile, Tribal Broadband, or Digital Equity capacity and competitive grants



## Additional resources about the programs

- 1 Visit the [InternetForAll.gov](https://InternetForAll.gov) for additional information on federal funding programs
- 2 Engage with your State or territory regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access
- 3 Submit questions to [InternetForAll@ntia.gov](mailto:InternetForAll@ntia.gov)
- 4 Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants





---

# FPUANet Story

August 2022

# Overview of Fort Pierce

- **Fort Pierce**

- Established 1901
- 31 sq. miles
- Residents 45,000

- **FPUA**

- Established 1972
- Electric Customers 28,870
- Water Customers 21,470
- Natural Gas Customers 4,110
- 110 Miles of Fiber



# Timeline

Year 2000 - Internal fiber use for FPUA network

Year 2004 - Dedicated Fiber Internet Access

Year 2006 - **FPUA***net*

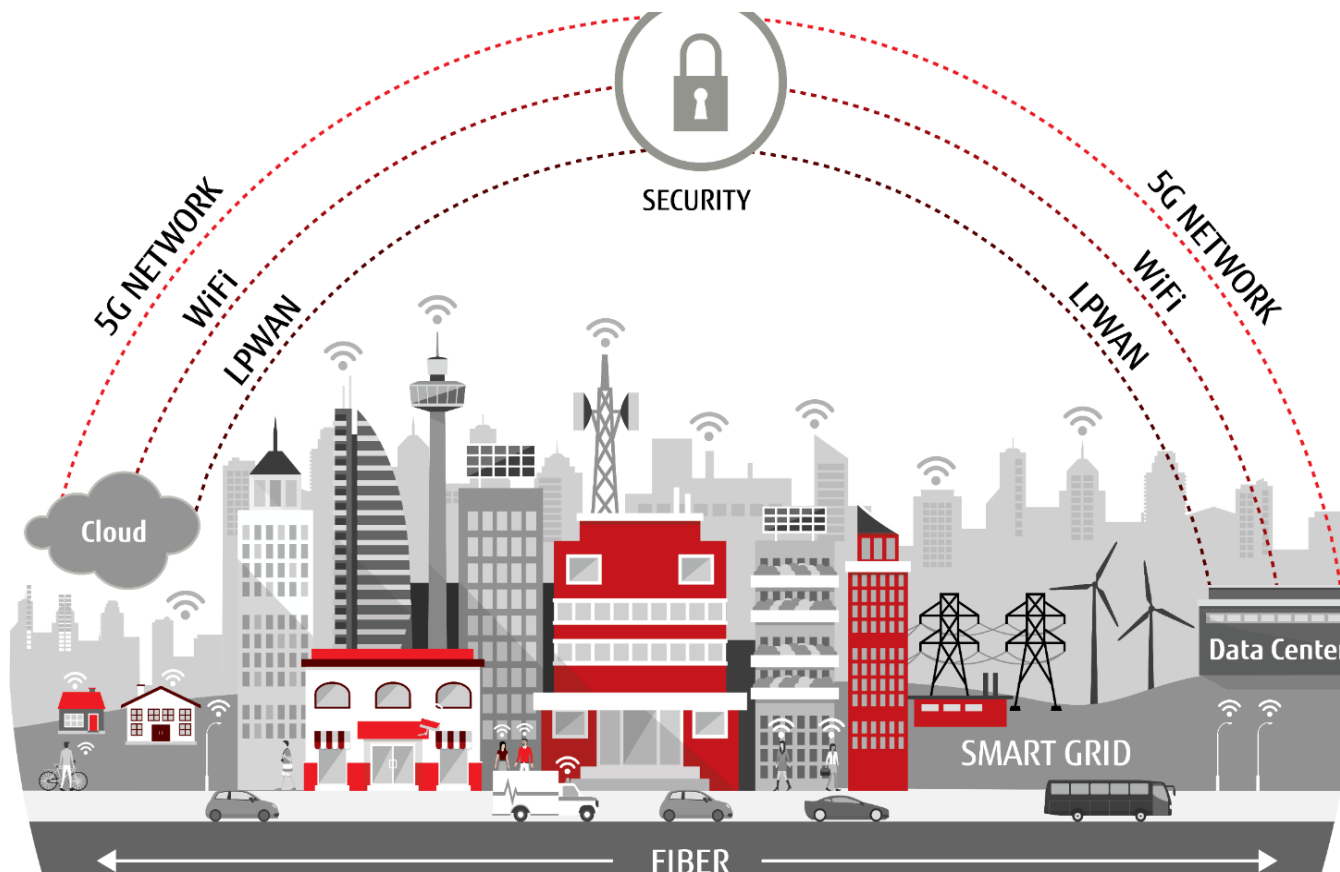
Year 2018 – SMART City Initiative

Year 2022 – FTTX Deployment



# Why Smart City?

## FPUAnet



Improved Infrastructure

Efficient Public Utilities

Improved Transportation

Reduced Environmental Footprint

Safer Communities

Cost Savings

Economic Development

Increased Workforce Engagement

More Effective, Data-Driven Decision-Making

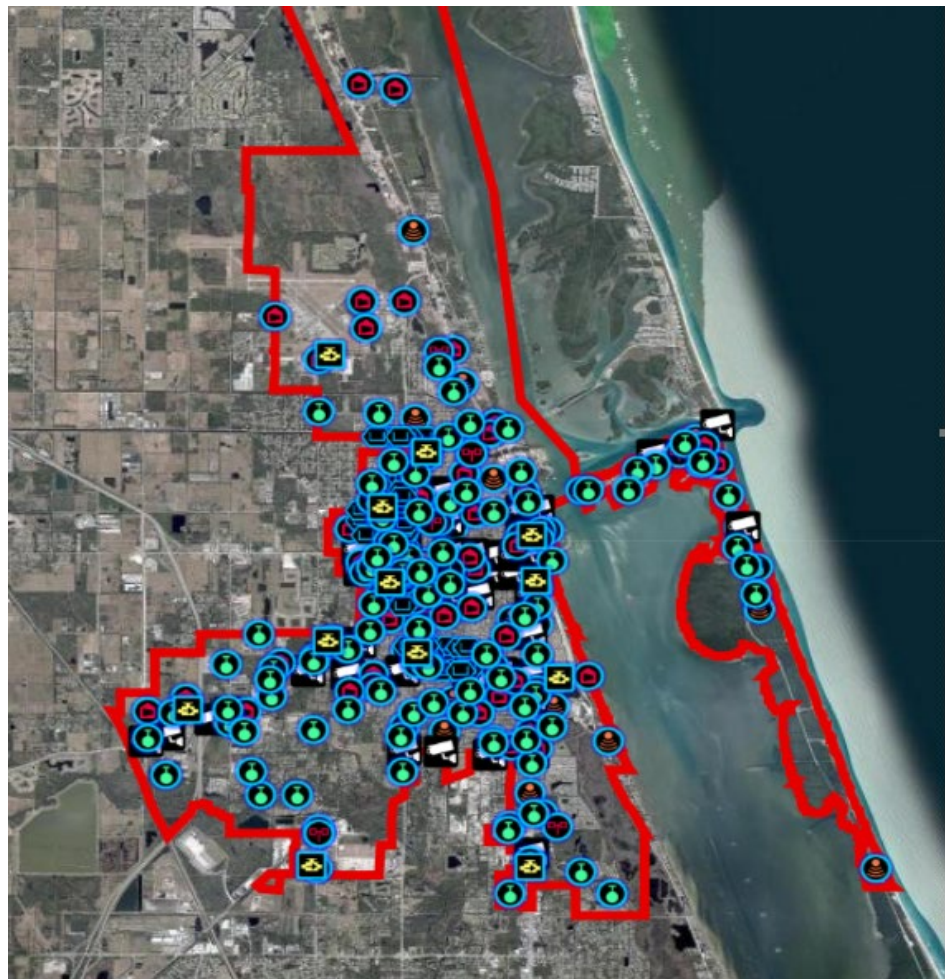
Enhanced Citizen and Government Engagement

Increased Digital Equity

Higher Quality of Life

Revenue Generation





## SMART City Connections (332)

- Gas Scada (12)
- Wastewater Lift Stations (91)
- Electric Reclosers (8)
- Water Wells (58)
- Capacitors (58)
- AMI Gatekeepers (33)
- Cameras (45)
- Park Wi-Fi (23)
- Digital Kiosks (4)

Identify Smart City  
Opportunities

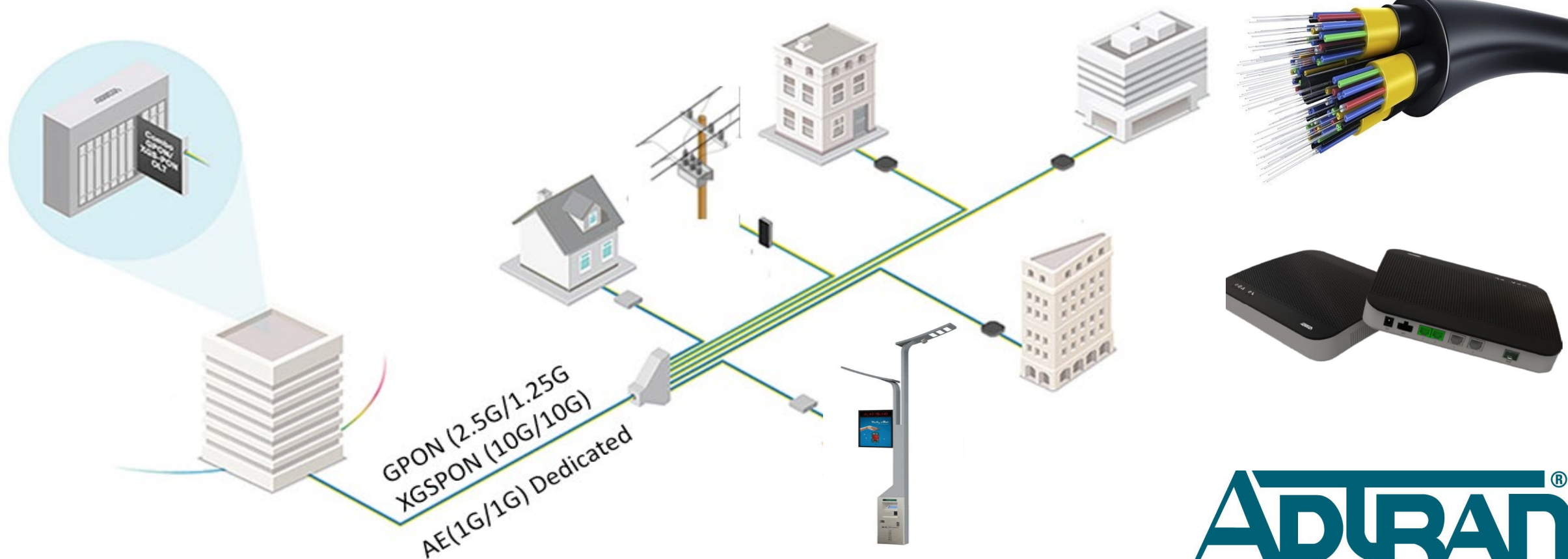
Solution  
Requirements, Design  
& Financials

Proof of Concept  
(PoC)

Solution Deployment

# Advanced Architecture

- **SMART City and Internet** over the same network
- **Improved reliability** & uptime over copper systems
- **Future proof** the speeds Fort Piece will need now and into the future.

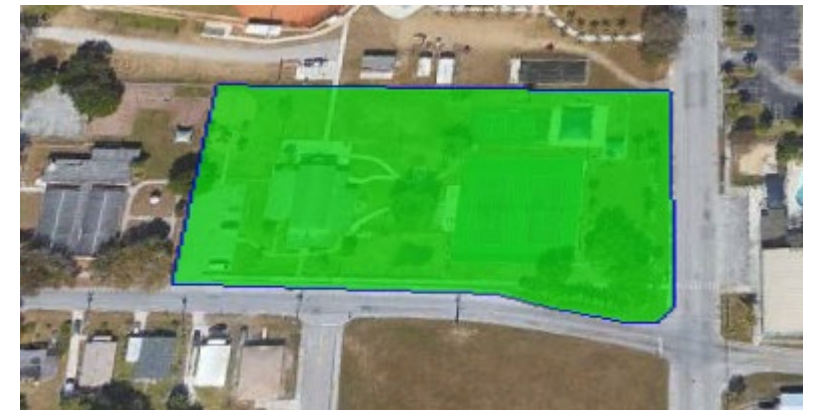




# Lincoln Park SMART Neighborhood



- Fiber to Every Parcel
  - 470 Services
- Public Wi-Fi
  - 5 Locations





# Downtown SMART City Initiative



- Fiber to Every Parcel
  - 400 Services
- Public Wi-Fi
  - 3 Locations
- SMART Kiosks
  - (4) 65" Double Screen Kiosks



# Community Outreach and Recognition

- Digital Divide – Cornerstone Award
  - Broadband Communities Summit – Cornerstone Award
- Podcasts
  - Community Broadband (Jason Mittler & Javier Cisneros)
  - Broadband Bunch (Jason Mittler & Rachel Tennant)
- National Articles
  - January 2, 2022, “Fort Pierce, Florida Utility Aims To Deliver Affordable Fiber To All” (Community Networks)
  - December 2021, “Florida’s Fort Pierce Utilities Authority Revitalizes Community With Fiber-Based Broadband” (Broadband Communities)





# Questions

