



City of Dallas

Implementation Update on Broadband and Digital Equity Strategic Plan

**City Council Briefing
June 1, 2022**

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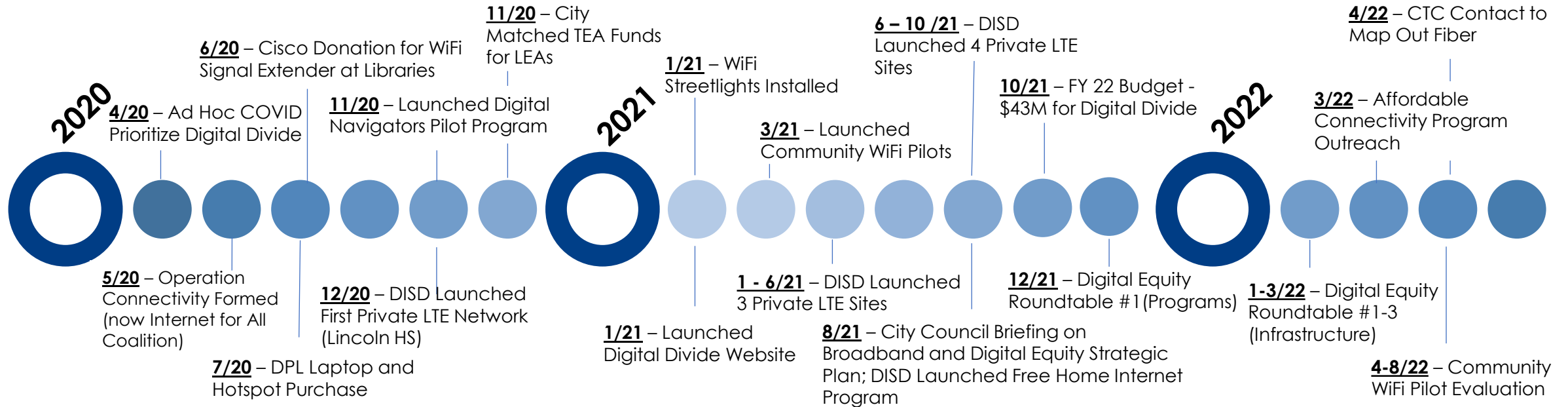
Agenda



- Background and Overview
 - Digital Divide Actions
 - ARPA Funding
- Plan Recommendations
 - Middle Mile Network/Fiber Backbone
 - Fixed Wireless Network
 - Digital Equity Programs
- Additional Digital Divide Efforts
- Federal Funding Opportunities
- Next Steps



Digital Divide Actions



Short Term

WiFi Hotspots and Hardware Purchase
Signal Extender Projects at Library locations
Digital Navigators
TEA Matching Funds Support for LEAs

Medium Term

Broadband and Digital Equity Strategic Plan
Private Wireless Networks
Community WiFi Pilots
Street Light Pilot Project

Long Term

Implementation of Plan Recommendations
Smart City Integration
Leverage Additional Funds



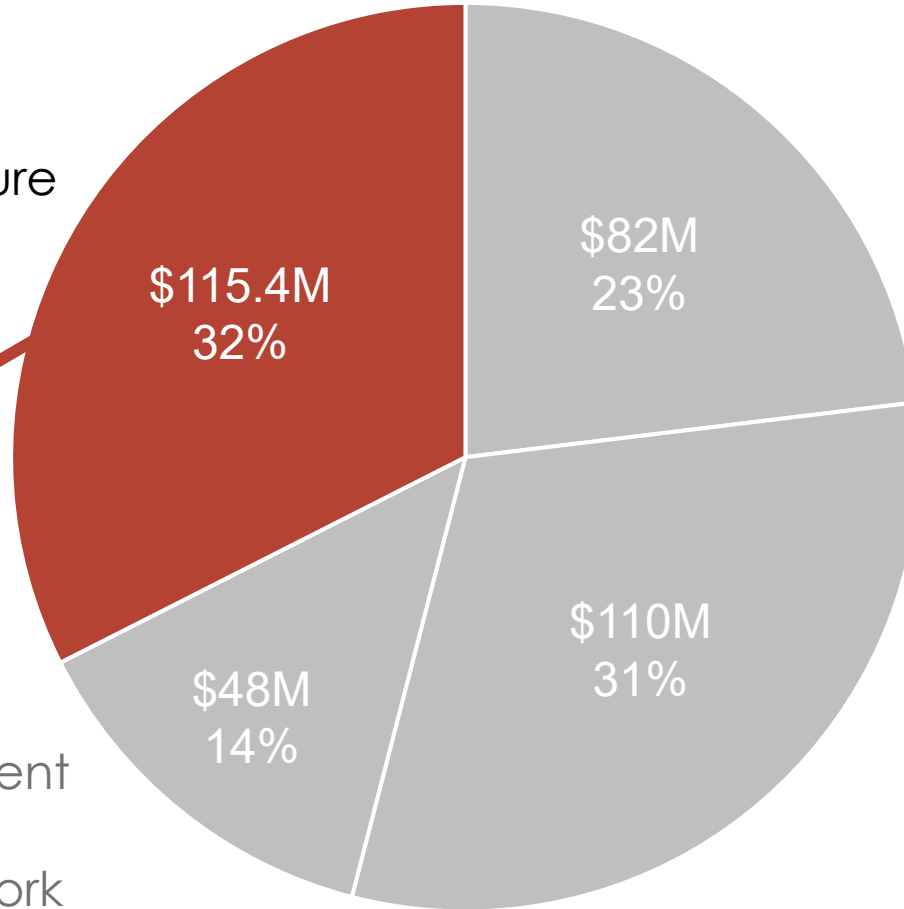
ARPA Funding Proposed Spending Framework

\$355.4M Allocation



Infrastructure
Invest in the future

\$43M – Bridge the Digital Divide
- \$3M – WiFi at PKR Facilities
- \$40M – Other Projects



Health & Safety
Keep employees and
the public safe

Fiscal Recovery &
Sustainability
Replace lost revenue

Economic Development
Get residents and
businesses back to work



Does not include an additional \$22.4M for health and safety for residents experiencing homelessness

Prioritizing Funds for Long-Term Sustainability



Short Term

6 months
to 1 year

Tier 1: Immediate Relief

Meet immediate public health and safety needs and support people in crisis

Tier 2: Budget Sustainability

Replace lost revenue and take actions to further fiscal sustainability

Tier 3: Service Delivery

Analyze and prioritize programs and services

Tier 4: Regional Partnerships

Pursue local solutions at scale and leverage partnerships to optimize resources regionally

Tier 5: Big Swings

Fuel results through bold resource investments; spend to save more

Long Term

1 to 3 years



Broadband and Digital Equity Strategic Plan



- **Recommendation 1: City Fiber Back Bone**
 - Begin by building 200+ miles of fiber
 - Focus on areas of the city that are least serviced by broadband and those with the greatest need for connecting City services
 - City infrastructure connectivity (traffic cameras, traffic signal controllers, data centers)
- **Recommendation 2: Fixed Wireless Infrastructure**
 - Expand fixed wireless infrastructure for city residents in areas with less existing broadband infrastructure
 - Shared infrastructure with DISD
- **Recommendation 3: Digital Equity Initiatives**
 - Expand the Digital Navigators program to help families enroll in ISPs' low-cost programs & federal subsidy programs
 - Fund the expansion of digital skills training offered through the Digital Navigators program

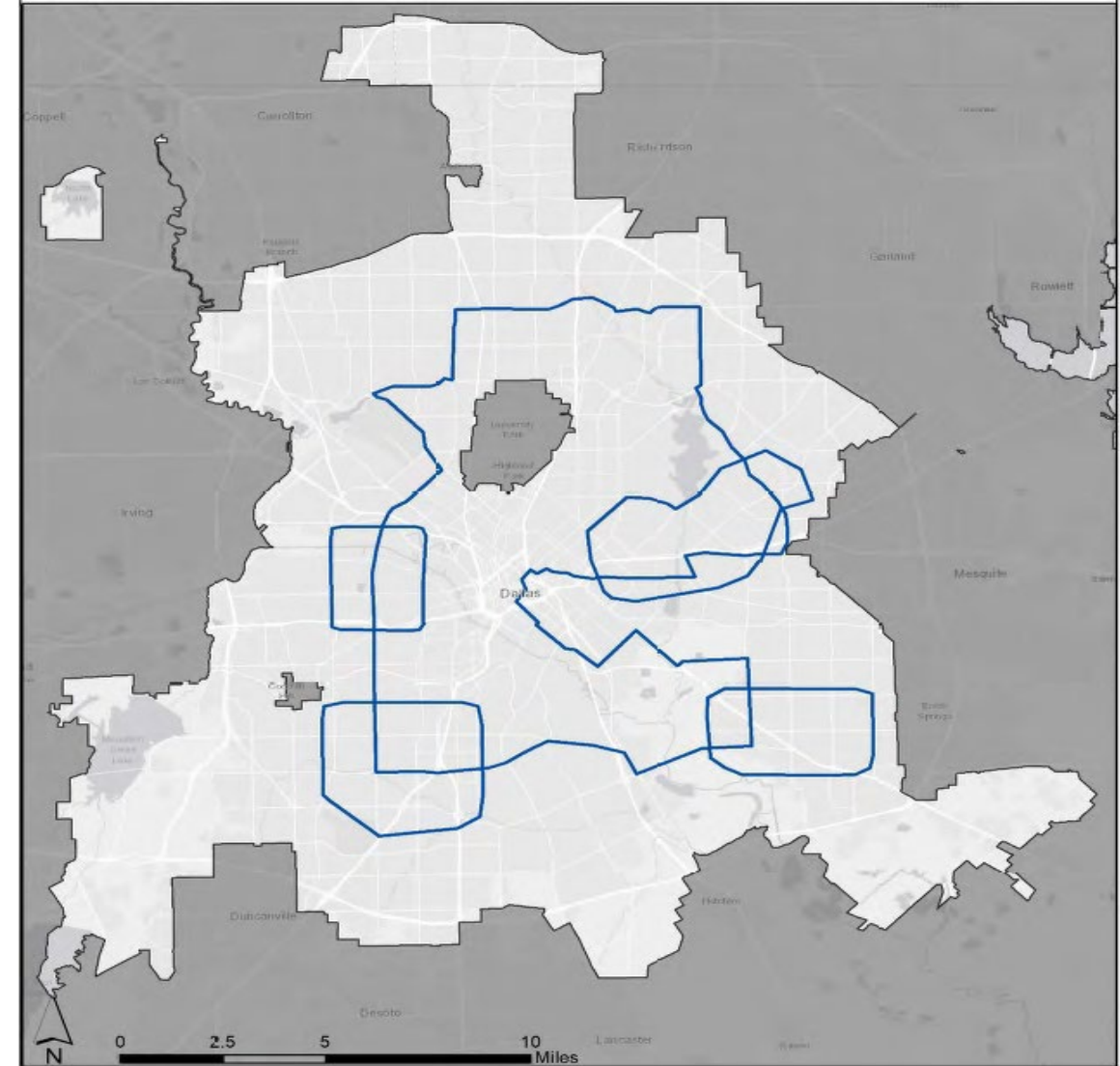
bit.ly/dallasdigitaldivide



Recommendation 1: Fiber Back Bone



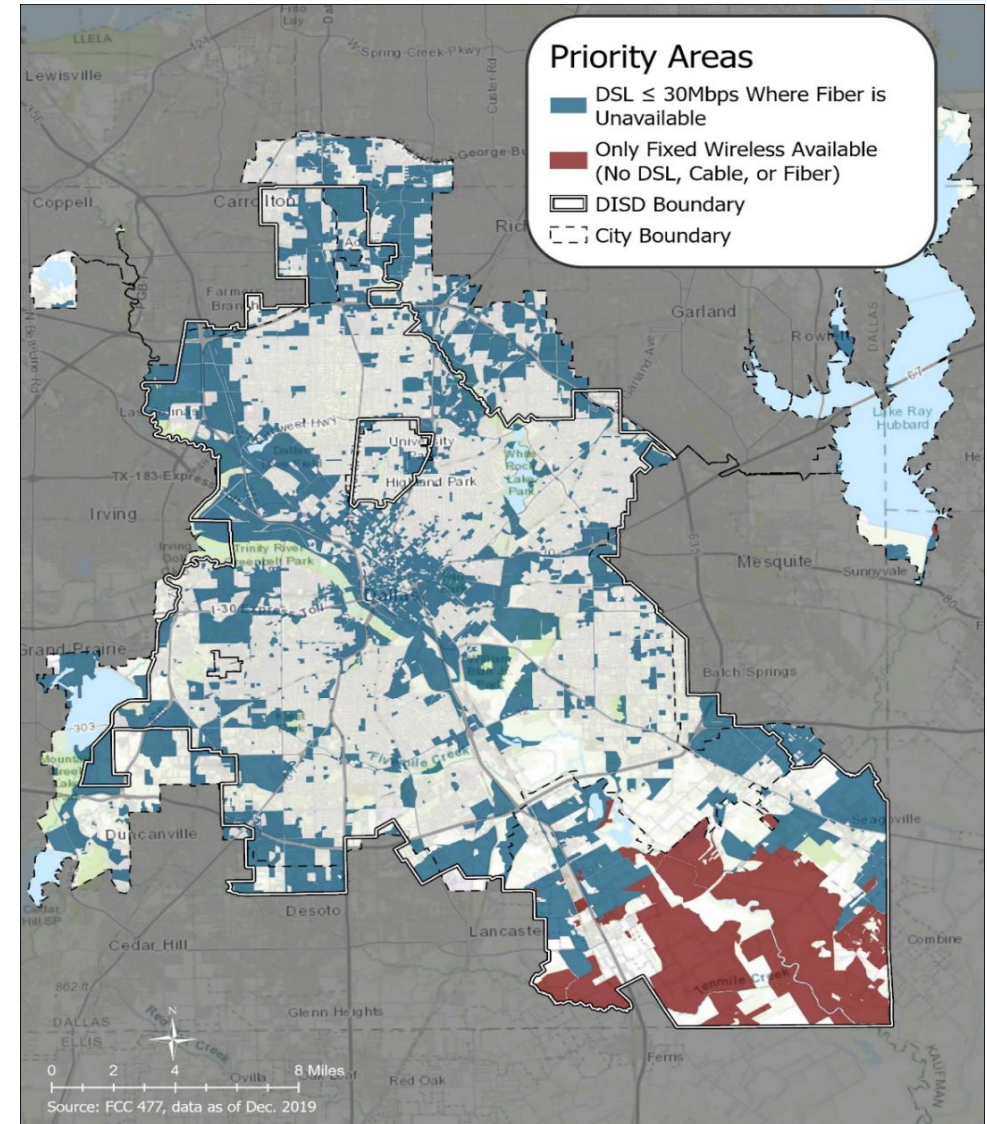
- 3 Digital Infrastructure Roundtables Held
 - Virtual sessions on Jan 11th, February 11th and March 4th
 - Participants included internet service providers (ISPs), telecom infrastructure vendors, labor unions, non-profit organizations, representatives from federal/local entities, along with City employees
 - Attendance for each session exceeded 75 individuals



Recommendation 1: Fiber Back Bone



- CTC/City of Dallas Contract
 - Fully executed on 4/25/2022 ;
\$380,000.00
 - Task 1: Facilitate network planning process leading to a strategic plan
 - Task 2: Prepare a request for information (RFI) to identify potential vendors and solicit input on the City's plan
 - Task 3: Prepare a request for proposal (RFP)
 - Task 4: Perform required levels of project design and oversight



Recommendation 2: Fixed Wireless Network



CTC/Dallas ISD Contract; City/Dallas ISD ILA

- Fully executed on 5/10/22 ; \$250,000.00
- Task 1: Conduct technical performance testing of DISD wireless broadband plots
- Task 2: Develop technical elements of procurement of a citywide fixed wireless network
- Task 3: Oversight of implementation of citywide fixed wireless network
- Task 4: Conduct technical performance testing of city wireless broadband pilot
- Task 5: Develop technical elements of procurement of an expanded City Wi-Fi network
- Task 6: Oversight of implementation of City Wi-Fi network

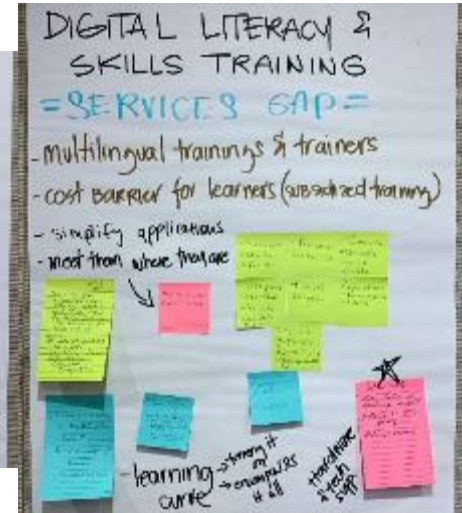
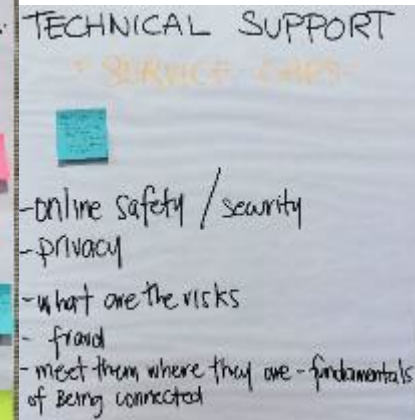
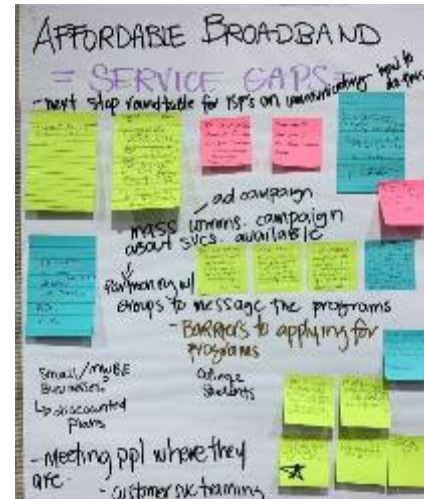
Collaboration to leverage different fixed wireless technologies to ensure efficient coverage for the underserved areas for City of Dallas and Dallas County



Recommendation 3: Digital Equity Initiatives



- Digital Equity Program Roundtable
 - Held on December 10, 2021; total of 50 attendees
 - Provide overview of City's efforts
 - Understand existing services and identify opportunities for growth
 - Utilize feedback to develop Digital Navigators solicitation



Recommendation 3: Digital Equity Initiatives



- Digital Navigators Program

- **Access** – broadband infrastructure and reliable high-speed broadband plans available for purchase.
- **Affordability** – broadband service that is not only available but can be obtained at reasonable prices by all.
- **Devices** – residents own or have access to well-functioning, up-to-date computers and have capacity to maintain and replace these devices if needed
- **Skills** - residents are able to make full use of computers and online resources, and thus are able to use these tools to communicate, work, learn, attend medical appointments, and accomplish other desired tasks all while avoiding online risks and harms.
- Align with Dallas Public Library enhanced library card and other City offerings and programs





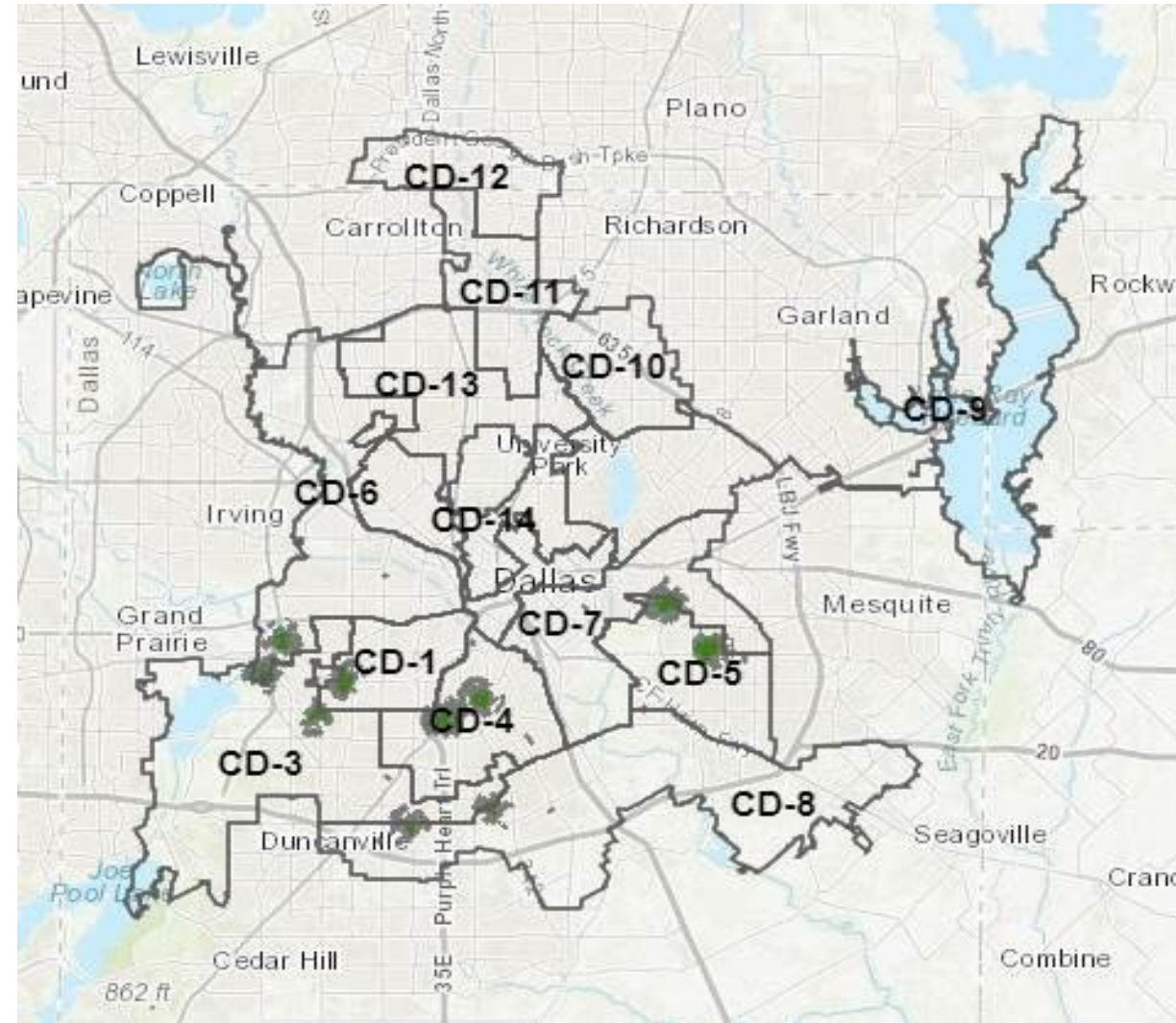
Additional Digital Divide Efforts



Digital Sustainability – Transportation & Public Works



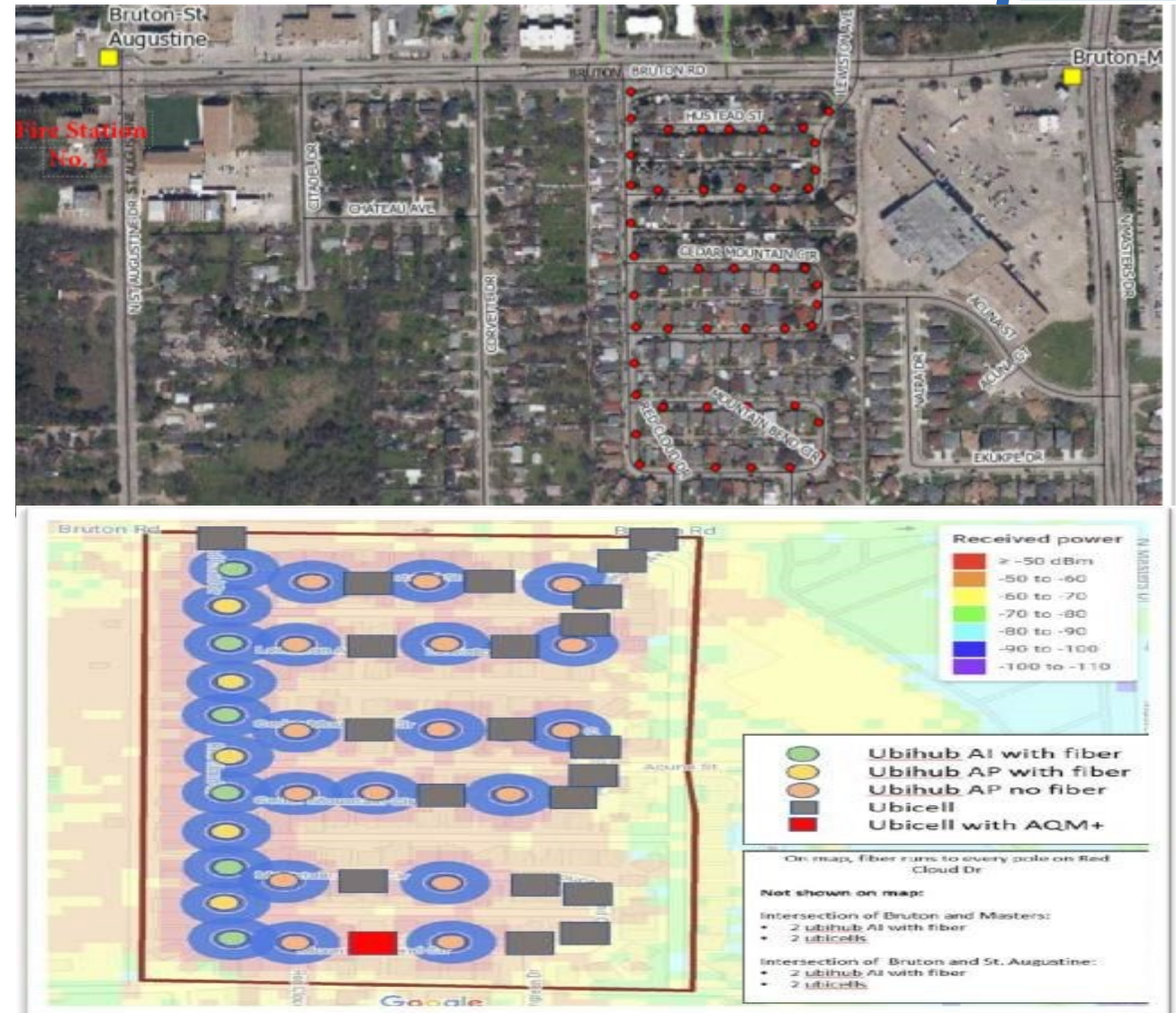
- 10 City of Dallas sites to which the City's network has been extended to provide free City Wi-Fi
 - Initially provisioned by Neo Networks now managed by the City's ITS department
- All new traffic signals have provisions for fiber optic connections
- Developed an interim standard for placement of fiber optic conduits within city ROW
- Interdepartmental coordination of fiber optic deployment





Red Cloud Neighborhood Project

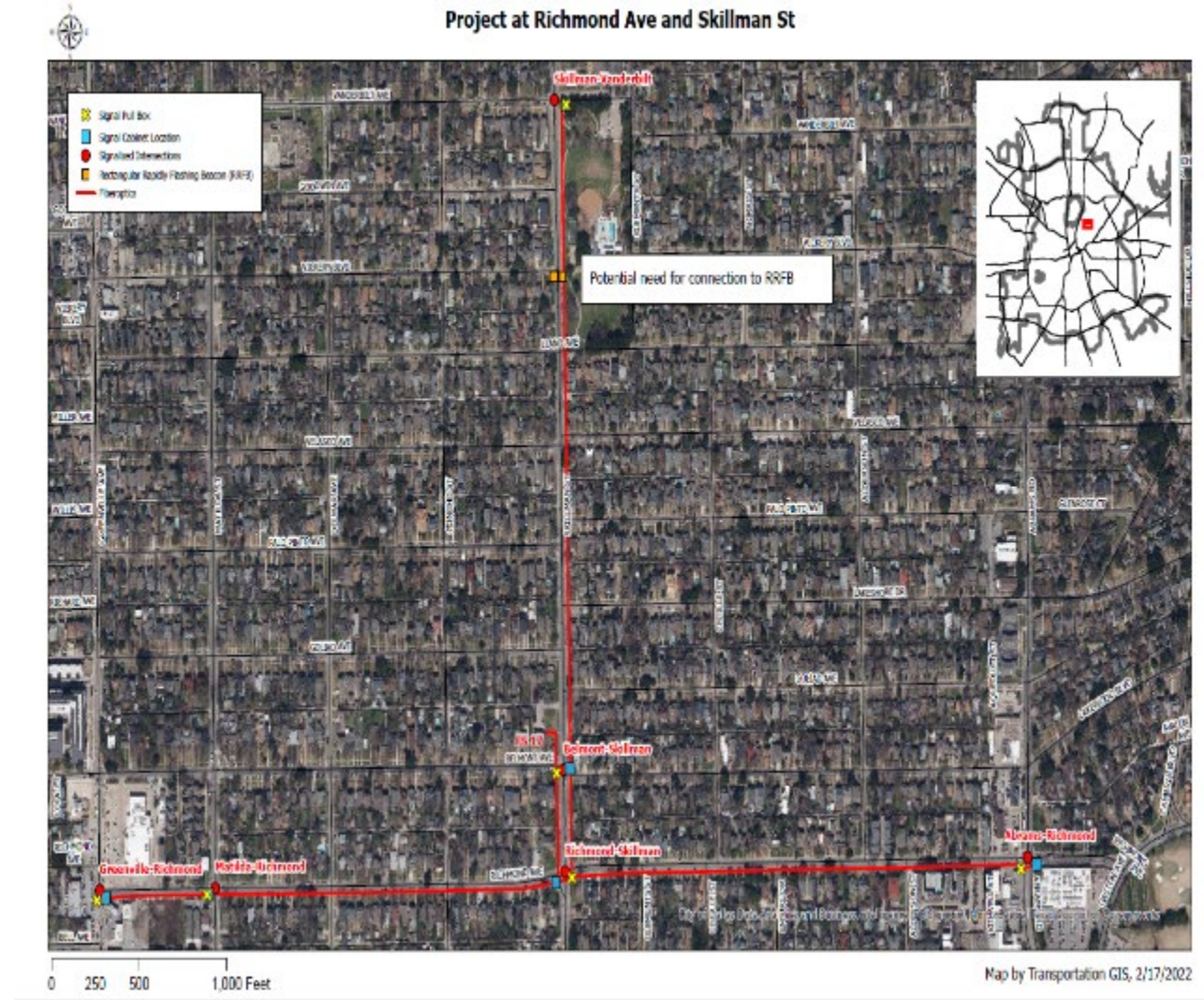
- Upgrading and installing streetlights which include multi-function devices that provides free City WiFi
- Construction currently in progress





Richmond Avenue and Tietze Park Projects

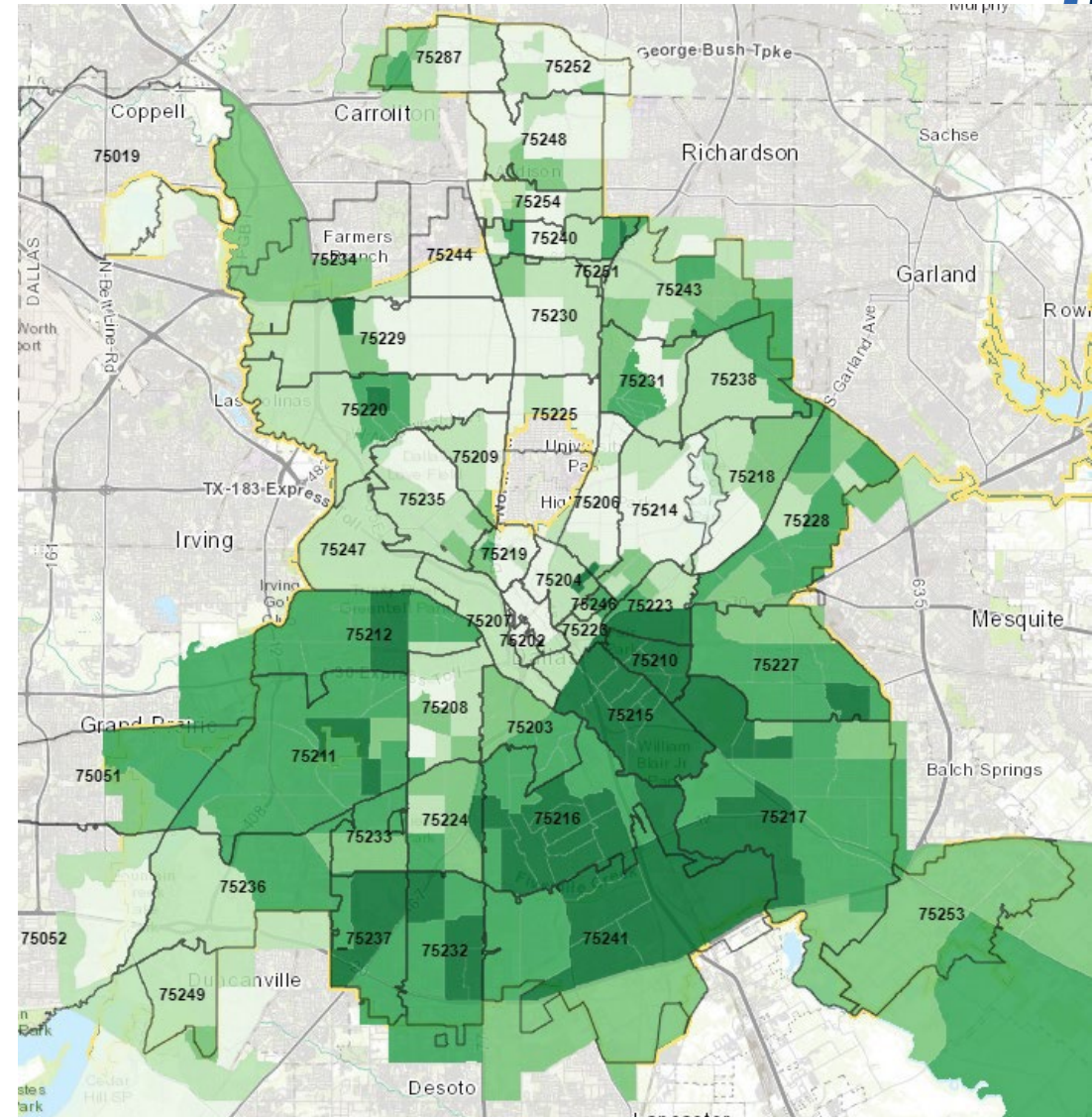
- Installation of fiber from Fire Stations #5 & #17 to traffic signals/streetlights along the routes in each area.
- City will install multi-function devices which include:
 - Access points providing free City Wi-Fi
 - High-resolution cameras
 - Gun shot detection
 - Lighting controls
 - Air quality monitoring



Digital Sustainability – Library, Parks & Recreation



- Four libraries designated to which free City Wi-Fi was extended to their parking lots
- Hardware devices available for check-out to the public with City support 3,000 Hotspots and 1,500 Laptop Bundles
- \$3 million designated to extend free City Wi-Fi to PKR parks and facilities
- Prioritized list of PKR parks and facilities identified and project underway to deploy City Wi-Fi
- Locations to which free City Wi-Fi is being extended based upon identified areas of need



Texas Metro City/County Broadband Collaborative



- Coalition of metro cities and counties across Texas working together to advocate for our common interests at the state and federal level and share best practices and lessons learned.
- Recent activity:
 - Comments to NTIA related to BEAD and Middle Mile Grant Programs
 - Comments to FCC related to Digital Discrimination Rulemaking
 - Comments to Texas State Affairs Committee related to HB 5
 - Comments to State Broadband Office in the development of the State Broadband Plan





Federal Funding Opportunities



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



- \$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
- Roughly \$65B invested in high-speed internet efforts through 7 federal programs:
 - Administered by National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
 - Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program (\$42.45B)
 - Digital Equity Planning, Capacity, and Competitive Grants (\$2.75B)
 - Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (\$2.00B)
 - Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program (\$1.0B)
 - Administered by other federal Agencies
 - Affordable Connectivity Program (\$14.2B)
 - Rural Broadband Programs at the Department of Agriculture (\$2.0B)
 - Private Activity Bonds (\$.06B)



Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment Program



- 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 increase adoption of high-speed internet
- Eligible uses of funds:
 - 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
- Notice of Funding Opportunity – currently open, closes 7/18/2022
 - **Local government not eligible to apply**



Digital Equity Act Program



- Funding Pool: \$2.75B
 - State Planning - \$0.60B
 - State Capacity - \$1.44B
 - **Competitive - \$1.25B**
- 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 to improve their lives
- Eligible uses of funds:
 - Develop digital equity plans; state must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
 - Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
 - Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
 - Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
 - Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
 - Facilitating the adoption of high-speed internet
- Notice of Funding Opportunity – State Planning Program currently open, closes 7/12/2022
 - **Local government not eligible to apply**



Middle Mile Grant Program



- Funding Pool: \$1B
- A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.
- Eligible 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 for program's activities
- Notice of Funding Opportunity – Opens 6/21/2022, closes 9/30/2022
 - **Local government eligible to apply**



Affordable Connectivity Program



- Funding Pool: \$14.2B
- Program to help low-income families pay for internet service. Families can get up to \$30 per month, or \$75 per month if they live on qualifying Tribal Lands. And they can get \$100 to help pay for a desktop, laptop, or tablet computer.
- Two-Step Process:
 - Submit an application to www.AffordableConnectivity.gov or by mail.
 - Apply to internet service provider and select a plan to have the discount applied to the bill.



Affordable Connectivity Program
Helping Households Connect

Bridging the Digital Divide, Together



Internet Service

Providers/Telecomm

- Support communications to amplify ACP
- Engage with all sectors to collaborate



Anchor Institutions

- Apply for and/or partner on BEAD and Digital Equity applications
- Identify opportunities for collaboration across sectors



Private Sector

- Advocate for community needs and interests
- Support community organizations through funding opportunities



Local government

- Leverage federal and state funding opportunities in partnership with private sector, community organizations, and non-profits

Community Orgs/ NPOs

- Participate in federal, state, and local funding opportunities
- Identify and communicate trends and needs in the community



Residents

- Engage and participate in federal and local programs
- Provide feedback and comments on efficiency of programs offered



Next Steps



- Utilize ARPA funding allocation to implement recommendations
 - Fiber Back Bone
 - Fixed Wireless Network
 - Digital Equity Programs
- Coordinate and align investment opportunities with external partners and stakeholders
- Target additional federal, state and private funding





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