
Broadband Matters

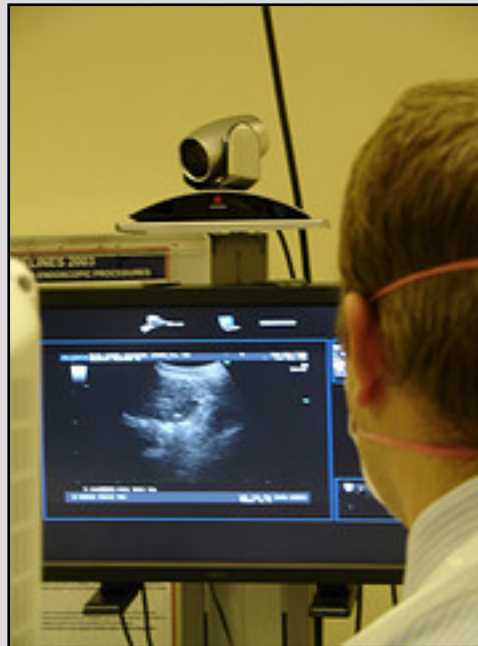
**NARUC Summer Committee Meetings
Seattle, Washington
July 21, 2009**

Julie A. Veach
Acting Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

Broadband: Essential in Many Aspects of Daily Life



Education



Health Care



Public Safety

Problems of Broadband Access



- All communities need broadband.
- According to Pew, 46% of adults living in rural America now subscribe to broadband at home, compared to 67% of adults in non-rural areas.
- Without access to broadband, rural communities like Weirwood, Virginia, that are not connected to the Internet backbone (though they may be close to it), can be left behind.

Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project, Home Broadband Adoption 2009

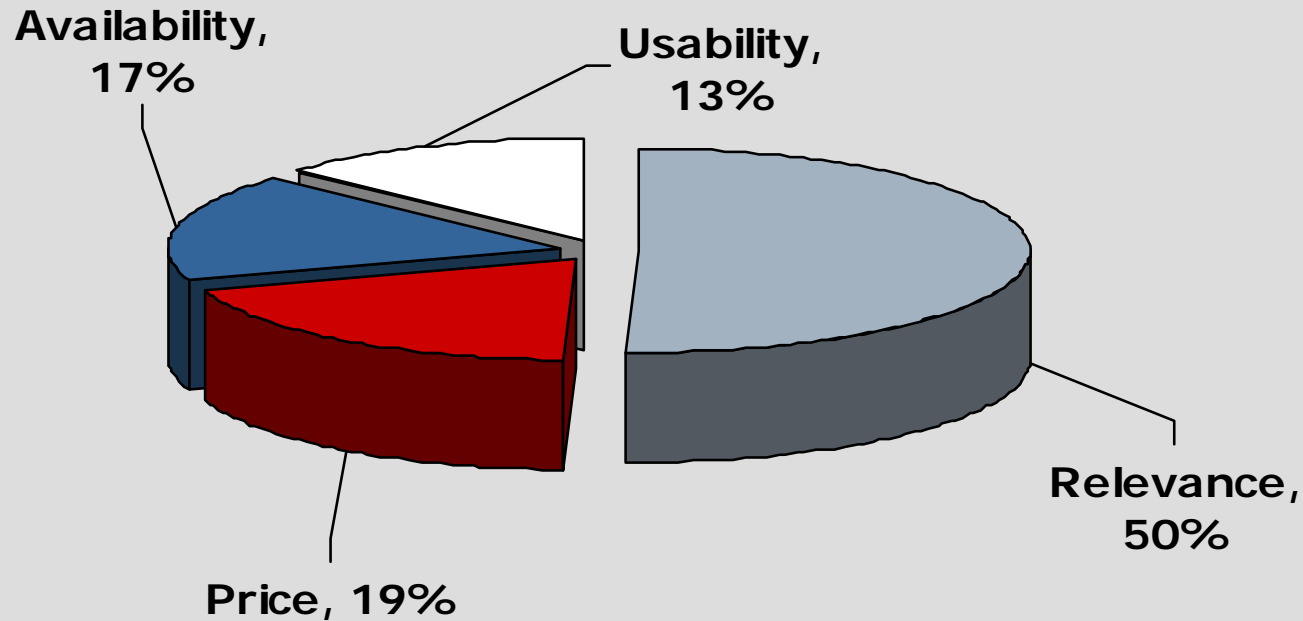
Problems of Broadband Access



- All communities need broadband.
- Not all urban communities are served adequately, either.
- And not everyone who could subscribe chooses to do so.

Roughly one fifth of adult Americans do not use the Internet

Reasons given for not using the Internet:



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project, Home Broadband Adoption 2009

Historic Infrastructure Challenges and Government Response



Rural
Electrification

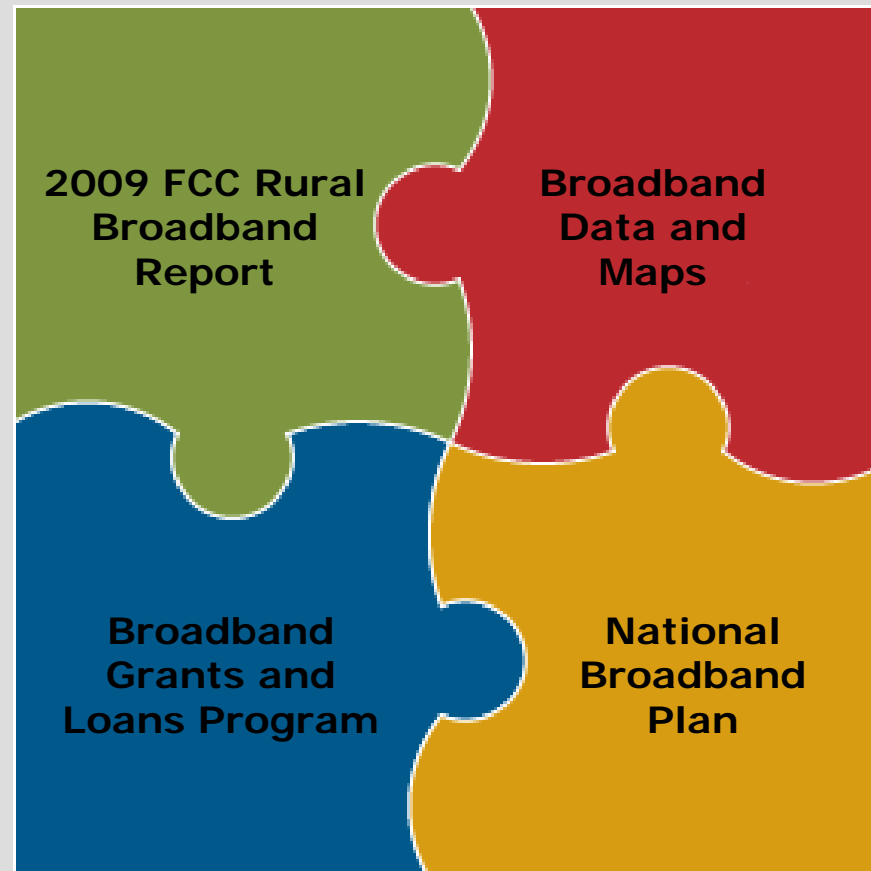
Trans-Continental
Railroads



Interstate
Highways

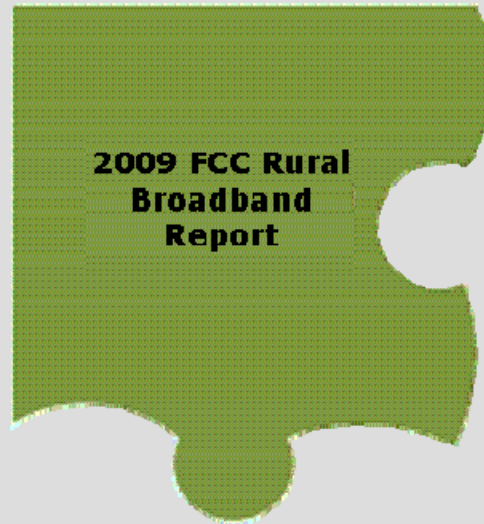
Response to Broadband Challenges

Recent
Legislative and
FCC Actions:



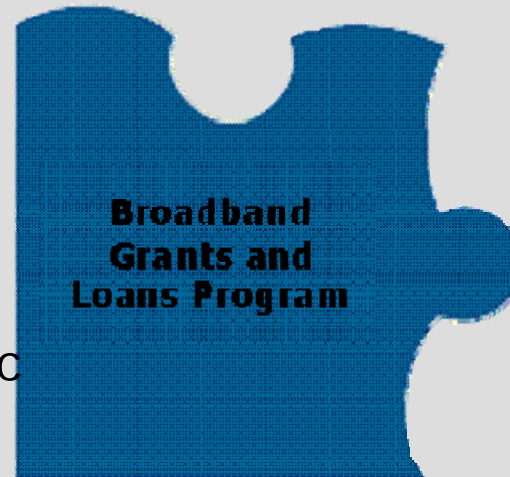
2009 FCC Rural Broadband Report

- 2008 Farm Bill required FCC Chairman to produce a rural broadband strategy report
- The report was delivered to Congress in May 2009
- Identifies challenges for rural broadband
- Recommends coordination of rural broadband efforts with all stakeholders



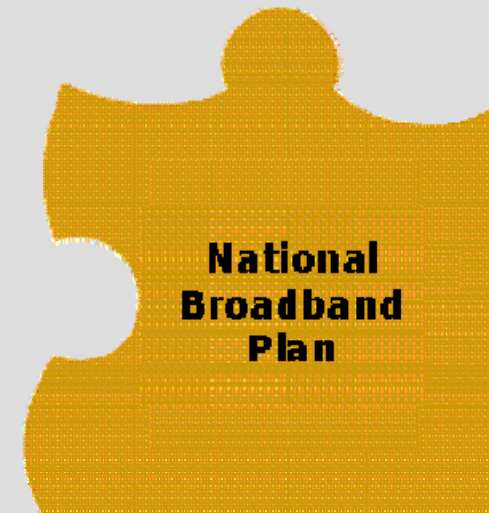
Broadband Grants and Loans Under the Recovery Act

- **NTIA (BTOP)**
 - \$4.7 B total
 - access in unserved and underserved areas
 - public safety, training, outreach, public computer centers, sustainable adoption programs
- **USDA – Rural Utilities Service (RUS)**
 - \$2.5 B loans / grants for broadband
 - facilitate rural economic development



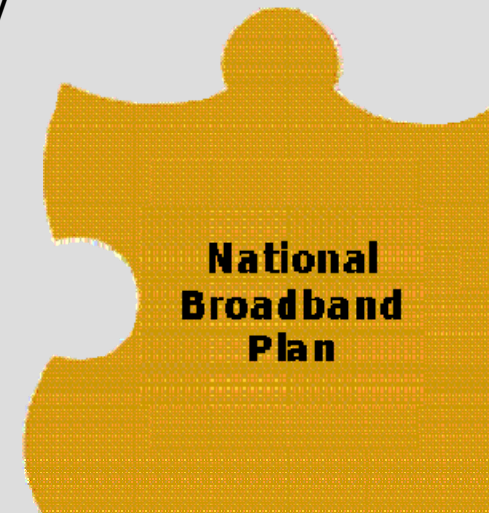
A Broadband Plan for the Future

- FCC must create a **National Broadband Plan** by February 2010 that:
 - Ensures that all people of the United States have access to broadband capability
 - Establishes benchmarks for meeting that goal
 - Addresses affordability, utilization, and an array of national purposes
- Notice of Inquiry released in April 2009:
 - FCC received over 8000 pages of comments in early June; replies due today



A Broadband Plan for the Future

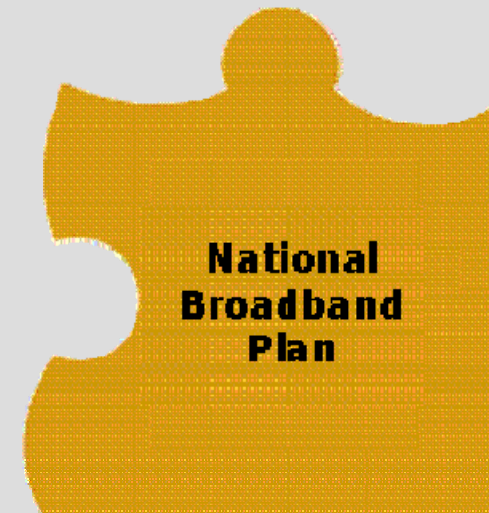
- Consumer welfare
- Civic participation
- Public safety and homeland security
- Community development
- Health care delivery
- Energy independence and efficiency
- Education
- Worker training
- Private sector investment
- Entrepreneurial activity
- Job creation and economic growth
- Other national purposes



A Broadband Plan for the Future

How are we going to do it in the next 211 days?

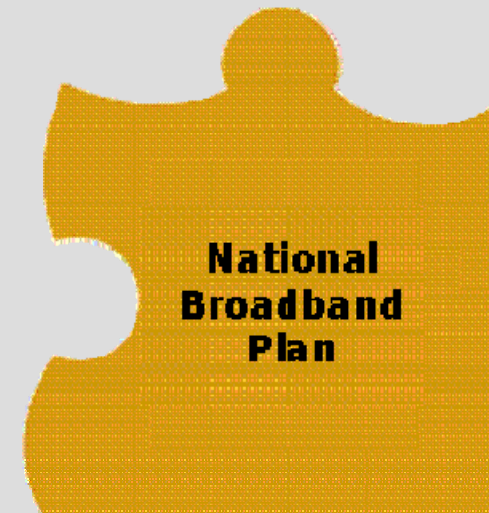
- 21 staff workshops in August to early September to fill out the record (broadband.gov for list of topics)
 - Comments in response due September 11
- Additional workshops and hearings, including hearings outside of Washington, D.C. in the fall



A Broadband Plan for the Future

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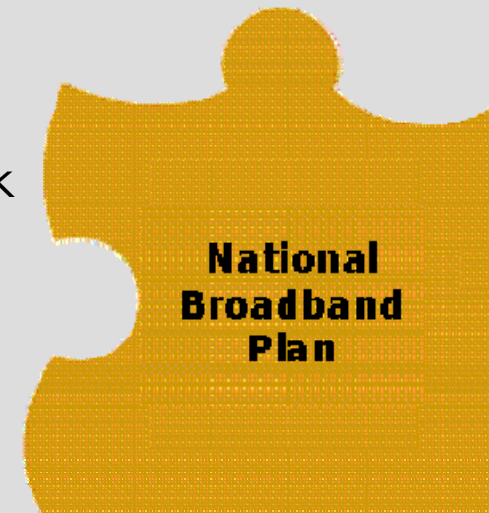
- The Section 706 proceeding on whether “advanced telecommunications capability” is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion will be cross-docketed with the National Broadband Plan proceeding.
- The Section 706 proceeding must commence by August 7.



A Broadband Plan for the Future

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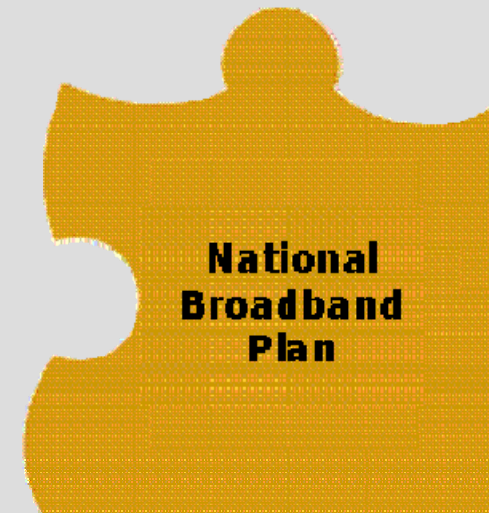
- September – Report on the Factual State of Play
- November – Report on Analysis of Key Gaps
- December – Report on Policy Framework
- January – Report on Opportunities to Drive the National Agenda
- February – Report on the Plan



A Broadband Plan for the Future

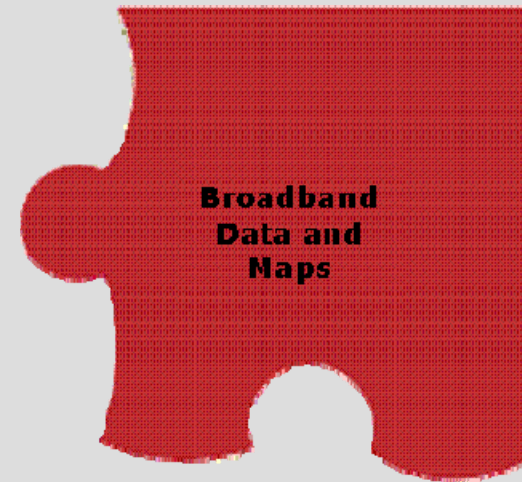
How are we going to do it in the next 211 days?

- We will have an open process that is transparent, inclusive, and participatory.
- Watch **broadband.gov** for developments.



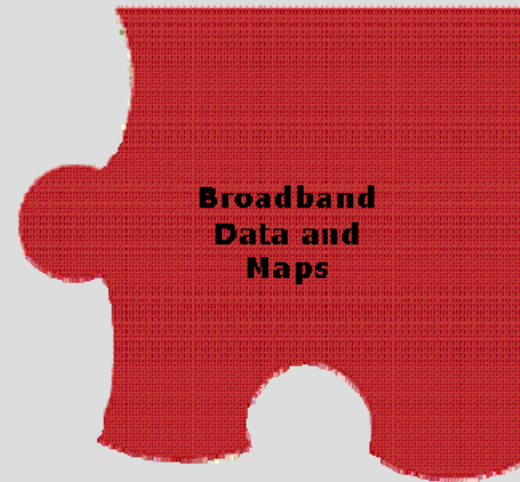
Broadband Data and Maps

- **2008 Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA)**
 - Section 706 Report:
 - must identify “areas not served”
 - must include international comparison of speeds, prices
 - Annual consumer survey
 - Census Bureau, GAO, SBA have new obligations
- **2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**
 - NTIA must create a map



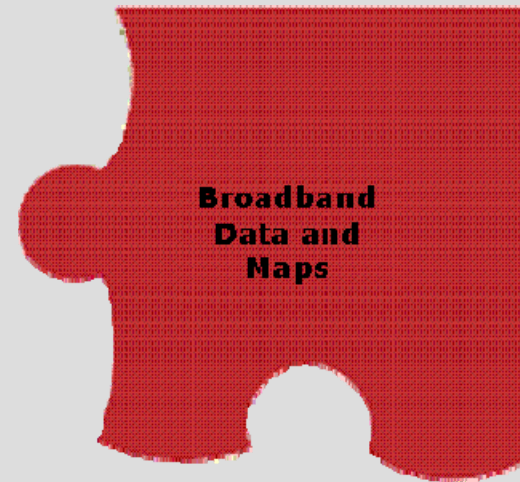
Broadband Data and Maps

- **2008 Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA)**
 - Requires FCC to provide “Eligible Entities” with access to aggregate data based on the Form 477 filings, subject to confidentiality protections.
 - Comment on the meaning of this provision sought on July 17. (DA 09-1550)
 - Comments are due 7 days after publication of the notice in the Federal Register (so due probably around July 30 or 31). Replies are due 5 days later.



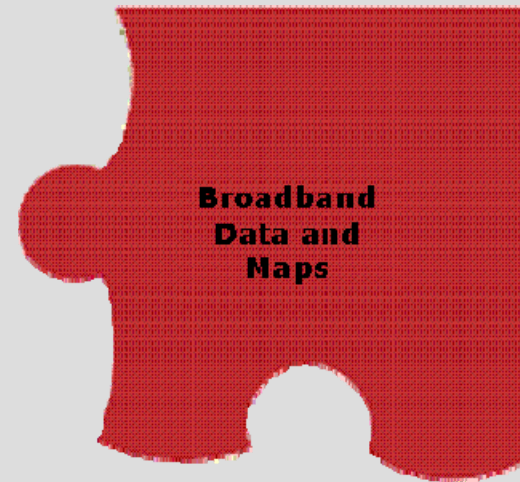
Broadband Data and Maps

- **2008 Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA)**
 - To assist states and others in their efforts to gather and analyze data, the FCC will:
 - Release a list of Form 477 filers, sorted by state.
 - Release the last report on “Zip Code” based data as of June 30, 2008.
 - Work as quickly as possible to “scrub” the Form 477 data that were due on March 16 and make available consistent with the BDIA and FCC rules. (That will be subscription data by Census Tract as of December 31, 2008.)

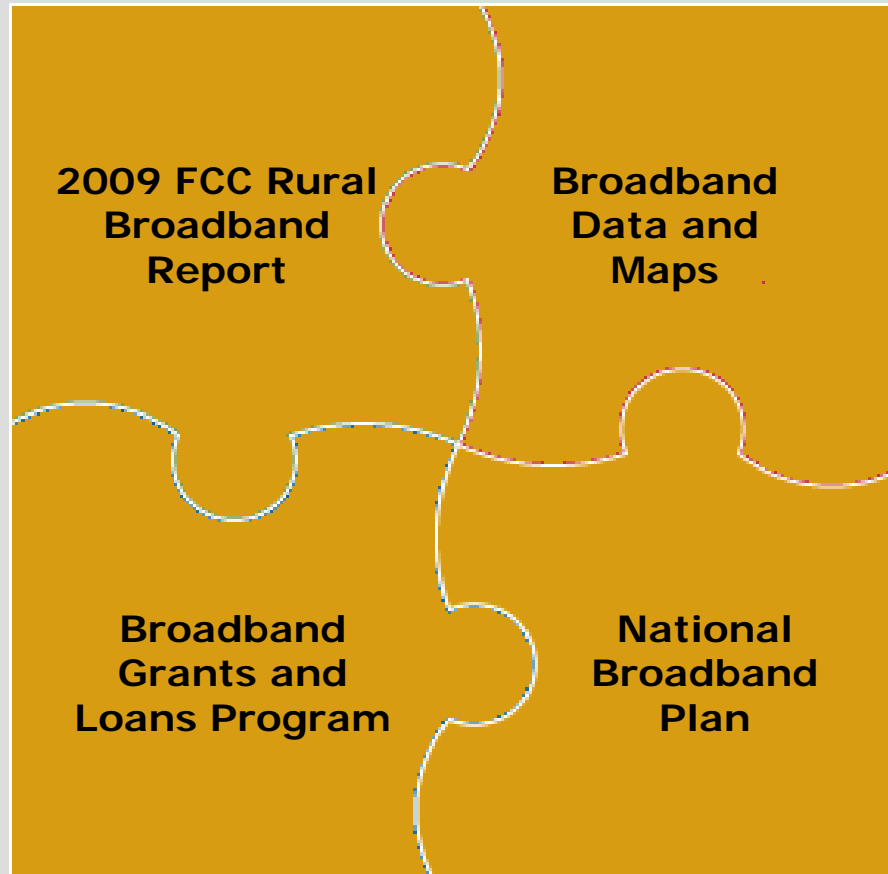


Broadband Data and Maps

- **2008 Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA)**
 - The FCC cares a great deal about the success of NTIA's and the states' mapping efforts.
 - As Chairman Genachowski has already said, our broadband decisions (and everything else) will be "fact-based and data-driven."
 - The FCC is looking at a variety of creative ways to use existing data to inform the National Broadband Plan.



Response to Broadband Infrastructure Challenges:



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(202) 418-1500
Julie.Veach@fcc.gov