

NOTICE OF SPECIAL WORK SESSION AGENDA LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL MUNICIPAL CENTER 211 N. HENRY ST. LANCASTER, TEXAS 75146



Monday, January 25, 2021 - 6:00 PM

While the Mayor may be physically present at City Hall, the other Councilmembers will attend via video or audio link due to the COVID-19 emergency situation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) state of emergency and consistent with the Governor's Order regarding modifications to the Texas Open Meetings Act ("TOMA"), and executive orders, the public will not be admitted to the physical meeting location.

Please click the link below for forms:

https://www.lancaster-tx.com/1413/Notice-Regarding-Public-Participation

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEgfuGprDMuG9xQ6HQvhVhL5McnI1WVvfe2

The meeting will be broadcast live via video at the following address:

http://www.lancaster-tx.com/324/Watch-Meetings

CALL TO ORDER

- 1. Receive a presentation regarding connectivity & access, improvements and land uses for I-35E and Loop 9 Corridors and provide input on development scenarios.
- 2. Discuss and receive a presentation regarding broadband connectivity.

ADJOURNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The City Council reserve the right to convene into executive session on any posted agenda item pursuant to Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code to seek legal advice concerning such subject.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT: Meetings of the City Council are held in municipal facilities are wheelchair-accessible. For sign interpretive services, call the City Secretary's office, 972-218-1311, or TDD 1-800-735-2989, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodation will be made to assist your needs.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06 PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT

CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

CONFORME A LA SECCION 30.06 DEL CODIGO PENAL (TRASPASAR PORTANDO ARMAS DE FUEGO CON LICENCIA) PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO DEL SUB-CAPITULO 411, CODIGO DEL GOBIERNO (LEY DE PORTAR ARMAS), NO DEBEN ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTADA.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07 PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

CONFORME A LA SECCION 30.07 DEL CODIGO PENAL (TRASPASAR PORTANDO ARMAS DE FUEGO AL AIRE LIBRE CON LICENCIA) PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO DEL SUB-CAPITULO H, CAPITULO 411, CODIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY DE PORTAR ARMAS), NO DEBEN ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO AL AIRE LIBRE.

Certificate

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted at the Lancaster City Hall on January 22 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. and copies thereof were provided to the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tempore, Deputy Mayor Pro-Tempore and Council members.

Carey D. Neal, Jr.

Assistant City Manager

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LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

City Council Special Work Session

Meeting Date: 01/25/2021

Policy Statement: This request supports the City Council 2020-2021 Policy Agenda

Goal(s): Healthy, Safe & Engaged Community

Sound Infrastructure Quality Development

Submitted by: Vicki D. Coleman, Development Services Director

Agenda Caption:

Receive a presentation regarding connectivity & access, improvements and land uses for I-35E and Loop 9 Corridors and provide input on development scenarios.

Background:

During the FY 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 Strategic Planning Session, the City Council identified an objective to conduct and complete the I-35E and Loop 9 Corridor studies and to make recommendations regarding the City's preferred development scenario. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) plans for the section of Loop 9 that will connect I35E and I-45 are underway.

Operational Considerations:

In February 2020, the City Council received a presentation from Halff Associates regarding the scope of work for the I-35E and Loop 9 Overlay District Corridor Studies.

In June 2020, the City Council approved a resolution accepting the terms and conditions of an agreement with Halff Associates for I-35E and Loop 9 Overlay District Corridor Studies.

Halff Associates led and facilitated a discussion between the City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission and covered the following:

- 1. SWOT discussion for the two corridors
- 2. Corridor vision questions (value statements)
- 3. Visual preference surveys (development type and intensity, building character, streetscape features, roadway features, placemaking strategies)
- 4. Map exercises

As work continues on these corridor studies, City Council's input regarding development scenarios of the two corridors is needed. The scenario workshop outline is as follows:

- Recap of Process
- Engagement Results to Date
- Virtual Mapping Exercises Connectivity & Access Improvements Land Uses
 City Council will receive a presentation.

1.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

City Council Special Work Session

2.

Meeting Date: 01/25/2021

Policy Statement: This request supports the City Council 2020-2021 Policy Agenda

Submitted by:

Agenda Caption:

Discuss and receive a presentation regarding broadband connectivity.

Background:

During the fiscal year 2020-2021 City Council Strategic Planning Session, City Council identified "Evaluate the development of a city-wide WI-FI network" as a priority under Sound Infrastructure.

Connected Nation is an independent non-profit organization that works with consumers, local community leaders, states, technology providers, and foundations to develop and implement technology expansion programs with core competencies centered on a mission to improve digital inclusion for people and places previously underserved or overlooked. Connected Nation prides itself in working with cities across the state of Texas to develop community-specific Action Plans. Since its foundation, 20 years ago, it has helped more than 300 communities across the country develop similar plans by collecting data from local stakeholders and working with providers to identify opportunities and challenges for expanding access to high-speed internet and related technologies.

Certain areas in Lancaster are still faced with the challenge of slow internet service. City Council will receive a presentation from Jennifer Harris with Connected Nation Texas regarding broadband connectivity. In this presentation, information will be shared and options discussed for improving internet speed and coverage.

Attachments

Presentation

Connected Nation Texas Jennifer Harris State Program Director, Connected Nation Texas CONNECTED **NATION**^{ss} **Texas**



WHATIS BROADBAND?

Broadband Defined

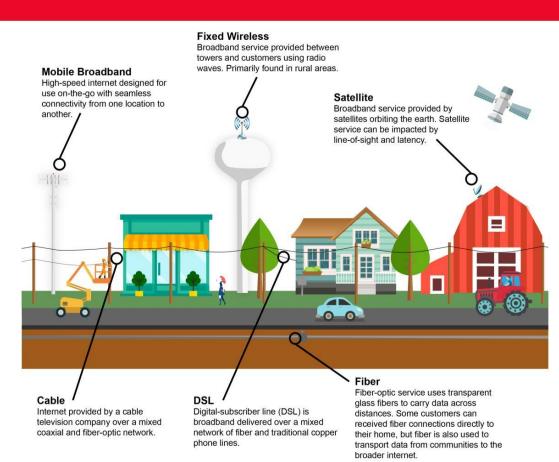


Broadband: More commonly referred to as high-speed internet access, technically, broadband is any kind of connection other than dial-up. Connection is always on.

Fixed, terrestrial broadband: Service designed for permanent, stationary use at a home, business, or institution

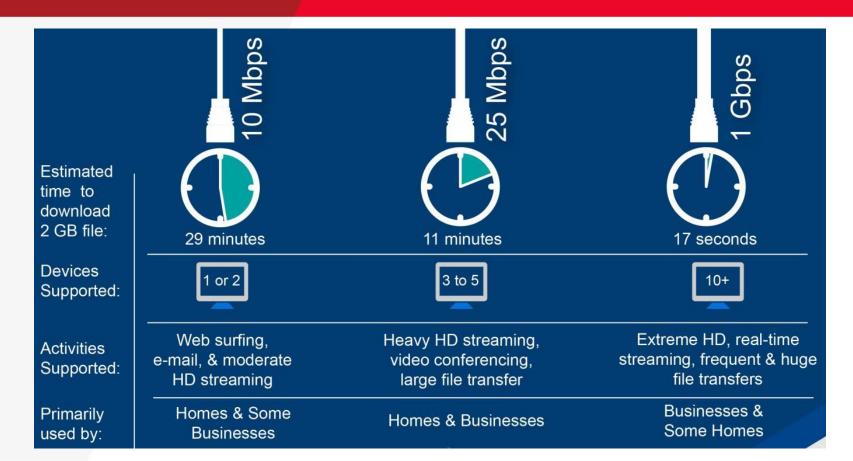
Mobile broadband: Wireless internet service designed for continuous use on a portable device

FCC definition of broadband is 25/3 Mbps



Broadband Defined





Broadband Defined



Access

Physical connection to highspeed infrastructure.

Adoption

Recognizing the value in broadband and subscribing either at home, work, and/or via public institutions.

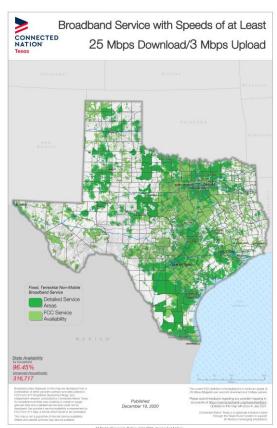
Use

Having the skills necessary to utilize and leverage broadband and related technologies across sectors.

Broadband Access in Texas



- 96.45% of households in Texas have access at 25/3, leaving 316,717 households unserved at the minimum speed considered broadband.
- Of note, 281,119 of these homes are in rural Texas.
- This means at least 877,907 Texans
 (776,277 who reside in rural Texas) do not
 have access to broadband at home to attend
 school, visit a doctor online, or work from
 home.
- That's like having the <u>entire state</u> of South Dakota not connected to broadband.



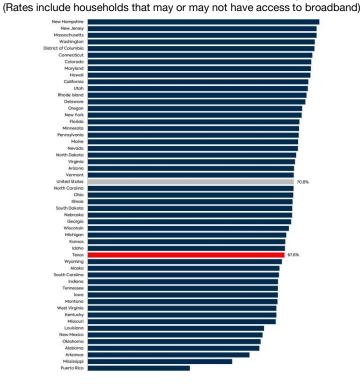
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Broadband Adoption in Texas



- 32.4% of Texas households
 do not subscribe to fixed,
 terrestrial broadband service
 such as DSL, cable, fixed
 wireless or fiber.
- Texas 35th is in broadband adoption among other states and territories.

Adoption Rate: Households with Broadband Subscriptions by State



Broadband Adoption in Texas (Cities)



The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) ranked 623 communities with populations of 65,000 or more by:

- percentage of households without "wireline" broadband subscriptions (cable, fiber or DSL)
- percentage of each community's households that lacked broadband Internet subscriptions of any type, including mobile data plans



Pharr (1st)

Brownsville (2nd)

Tyler (4th)

Harlingen (5th)

Beaumont (18th)

Bryan (33rd)

Longview (68th)

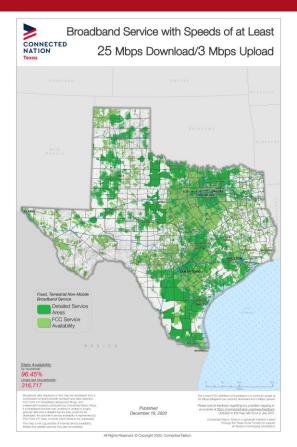
Killeen (71st)

Mission (75th)

Odessa (77th)

Statewide Broadband Maps & Data





Texas Statewide Broadband Availability Estimates by Speed Ti	er
Among Fixed Technologies: Cable, DSL, Fiber, Fixed Wireless	

Speeds	Unserved Households	Served Households	Percent of Households Served
10 Mbps Download x 1 Mbps Upload	116,139	8,806,794	98.70%
25 Mbps Download x 3 Mbps Upload	316,717	8,606,216	96.45%
50 Mbps Download x 5 Mbps Upload	541,145	8,381,788	93.94%
100 Mbps Download x 10 Mbps Upload	1,020,692	7,902,241	88.56%

The current FCC definition of broadband is a minimum speed of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Help improve the maps: https://connectednation.org/texas/feedback

Source: Connected Nation Texas, Dec 2020.

RURAL Texas Statewide Broadband Availability Estimates by Speed Tier Among Fixed Technologies: Cable, DSL, Fiber, Fixed Wireless

Speeds	Unserved Rural Households	Served Rural Households	Percent of Rural Households Served
10 Mbps Download x 1 Mbps Upload	85,994	2,820,629	97.04%
25 Mbps Download x 3 Mbps Upload	281,119	2,625,504	90.33%
50 Mbps Download x 5 Mbps Upload	500,084	2,406,539	82.80%
100 Mbps Download x 10 Mbps Upload	903,348	2,003,275	68.92%

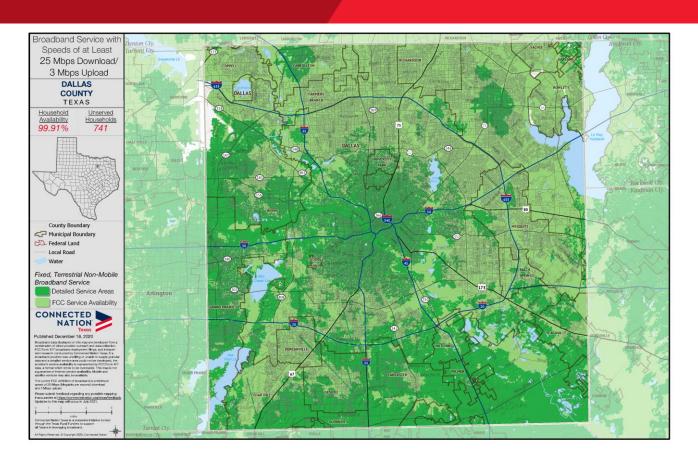
The current FCC definition of broadband is a minimum speed of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

Help improve the maps: https://connectednation.org/texas/feedback

Source: Connected Nation Texas, Dec 2020.

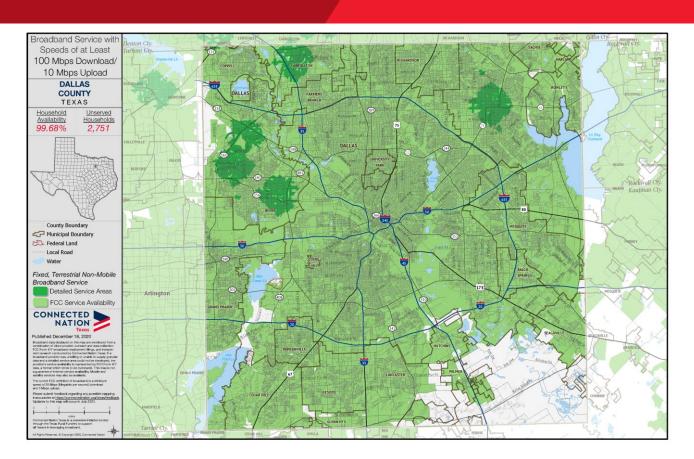
Dallas County





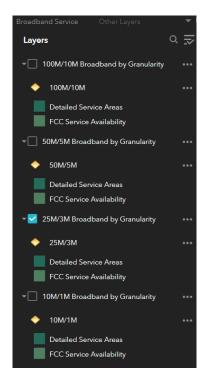
Dallas County

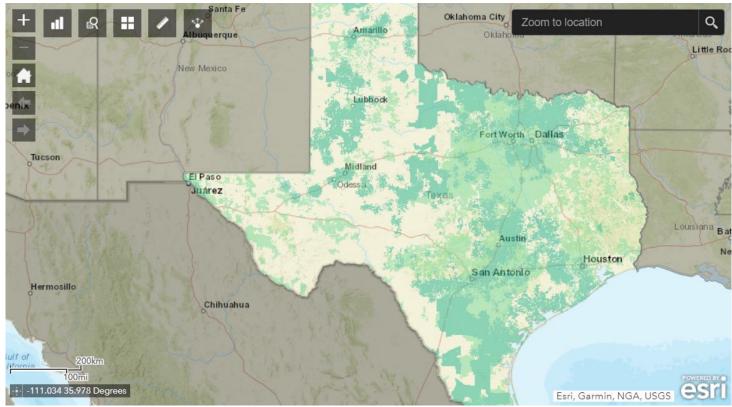




Interactive Map

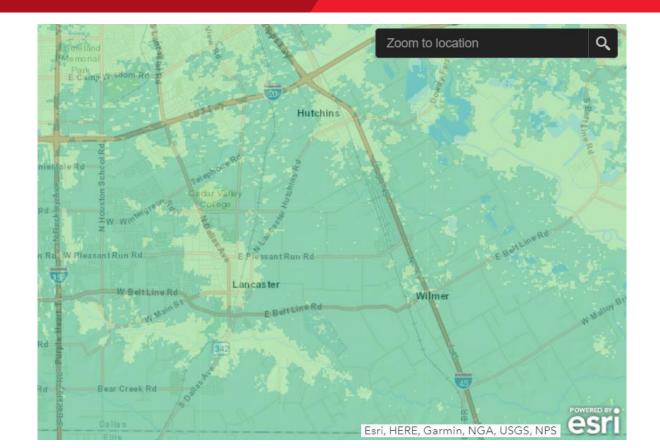






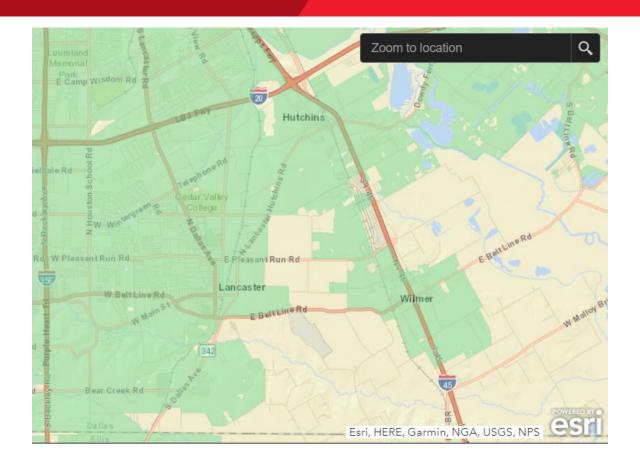
Lancaster – 25x3





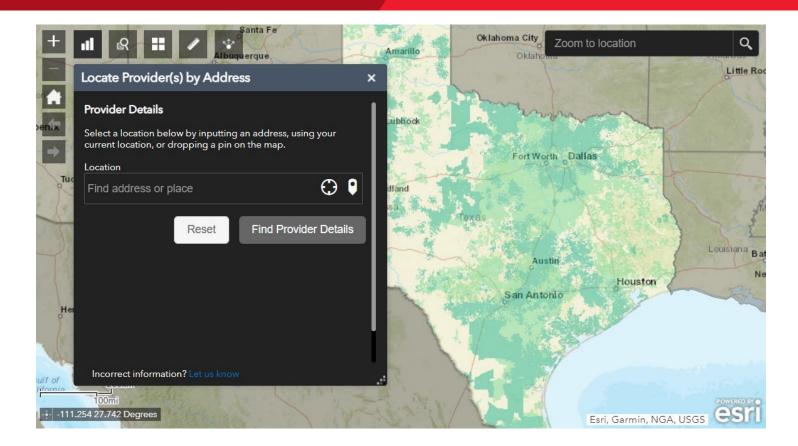
Lancaster – 100x10





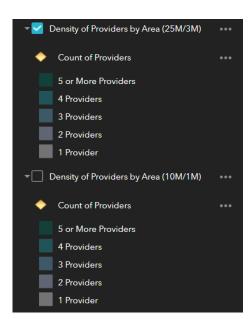
Provider Locator Tool

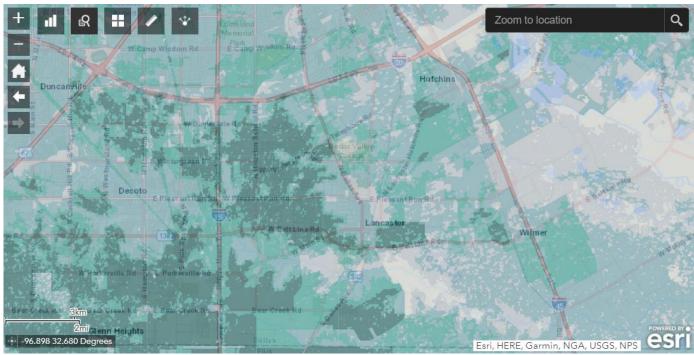




Provider Density

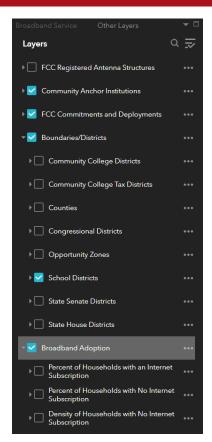


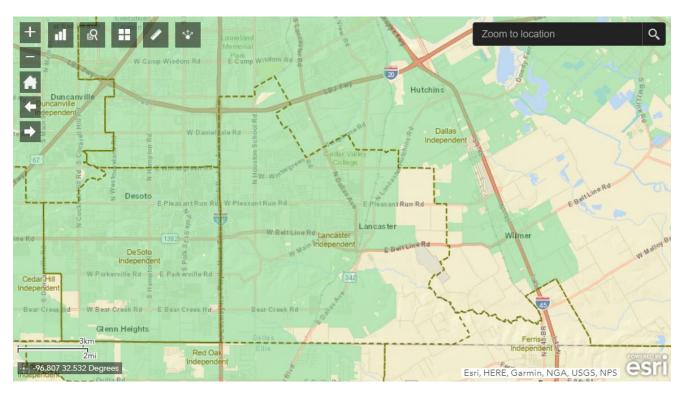




Other Layers







100x10 Mbps



TEXAS BROADBAND INITIATIVES

Governor's Broadband Development Council



Created by HB 1960 (86th Legislature)

17 voting members, 15 appointed by the Governor

Duties:

- (1) Research the progress of broadband development in unserved areas;
- (2) Identify barriers to residential and commercial broadband deployment in unserved areas;
- (3) Study technology-neutral solutions to overcome barriers identified under Subdivision (2); and
- (4) Analyze how statewide access to broadband would benefit:
 - (A) Economic development;
 - (B) The delivery of educational opportunities in higher education and public education;
 - (C) State and local law enforcement;
 - (D) State emergency preparedness; and
 - (E) The delivery of health care services, including telemedicine and telehealth.

Annually, not later than November 1, the Council will prepare and deliver an electronic report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and each member of the legislature.

Governor's Broadband Development Council



Recommendations:

The Governor's Broadband Development Council has researched the progress of broadband development in unserved areas; identified barriers to residential and commercial broadband deployment in unserved areas; studied technology-neutral solutions to overcome barriers; and analyzed how statewide access to broadband would benefit economic development, higher education and public education, state and local law enforcement, state emergency preparedness, and health care services. Resulting from this research, the Council recommends that the Texas Legislature take the following action:

- ☐ Create a state broadband plan; and
- ☐ Establish a state broadband office.

The Council also believes that the following action could benefit the broadband landscape in Texas and therefore recommends its continued study:

☐ Develop a state broadband funding program to incentivize deployment in unserved areas.

Operation Connectivity



A statewide initiative launched by Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and Dallas Independent School District in May 2020 to deliver internet connectivity and device solutions for school districts, families, and students in Texas.

Operation Connectivity was originally started in Dallas to address the lack of high-speed internet and/or home laptops for many DISD students which caused an interruption to their learning, as education in the classroom transitioned to at-home digital instruction due to COVID-19. This initiative ultimately aims to provide internet connectivity to hundreds of thousands of students statewide.

On July 17, it was announced that the State of Texas will allocate **\$200 million** in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to TEA for the purchase of eLearning devices and home internet solutions to enable remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic for Texas students that lack connectivity. On November 18, Governor Abbott announced an additional **\$420 million** to cover costs incurred by Texas public schools that purchased Wi-Fi hotspots and/or eLearning devices in the form of a reimbursement program.

Operation Connectivity has a longer-term goal to connect all students with high-speed internet and devices by the 2021-2022 school year.

