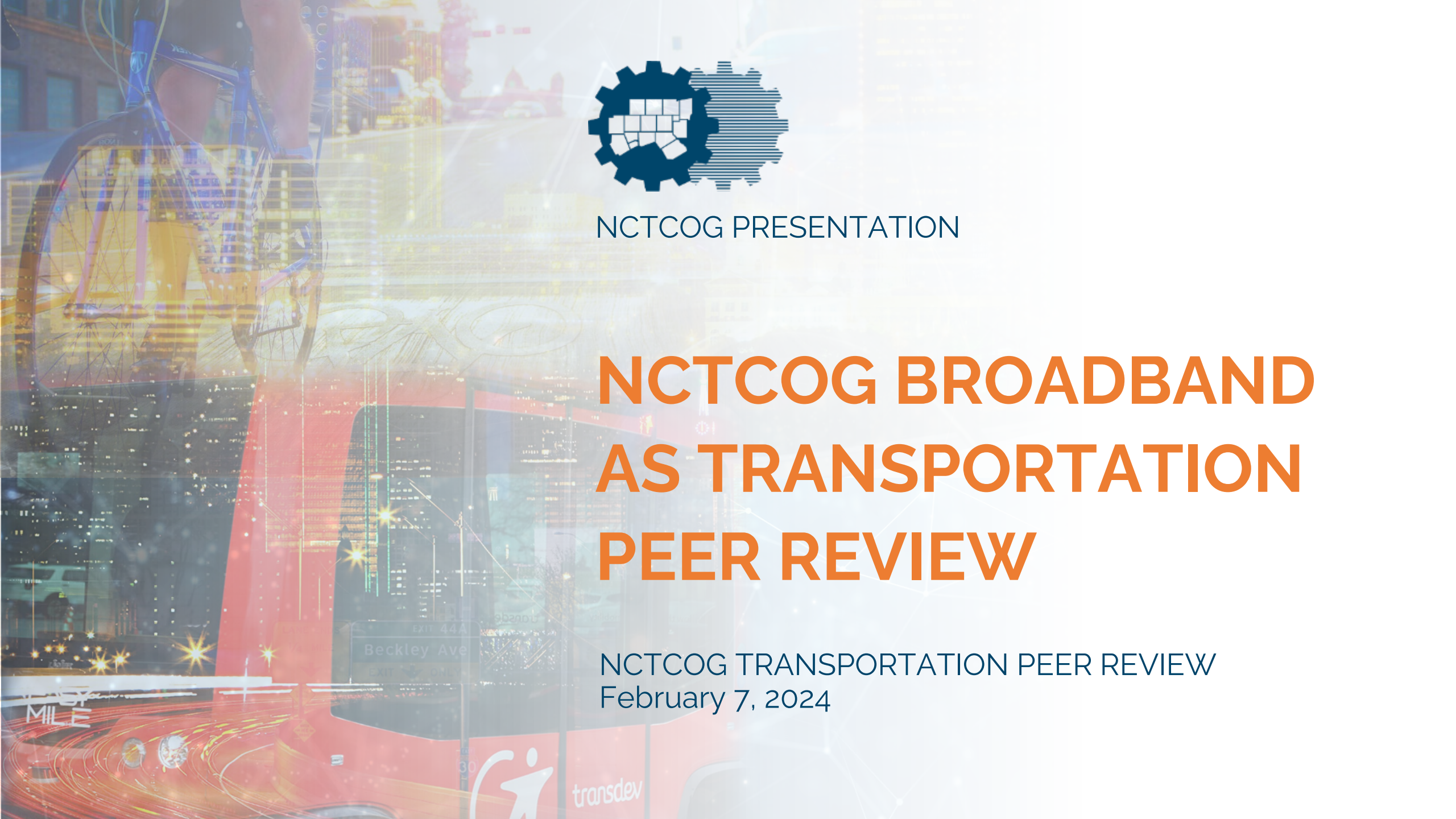


NCTCOG PRESENTATION

NCTCOG BROADBAND AS TRANSPORTATION PEER REVIEW

NCTCOG TRANSPORTATION PEER REVIEW
February 7, 2024



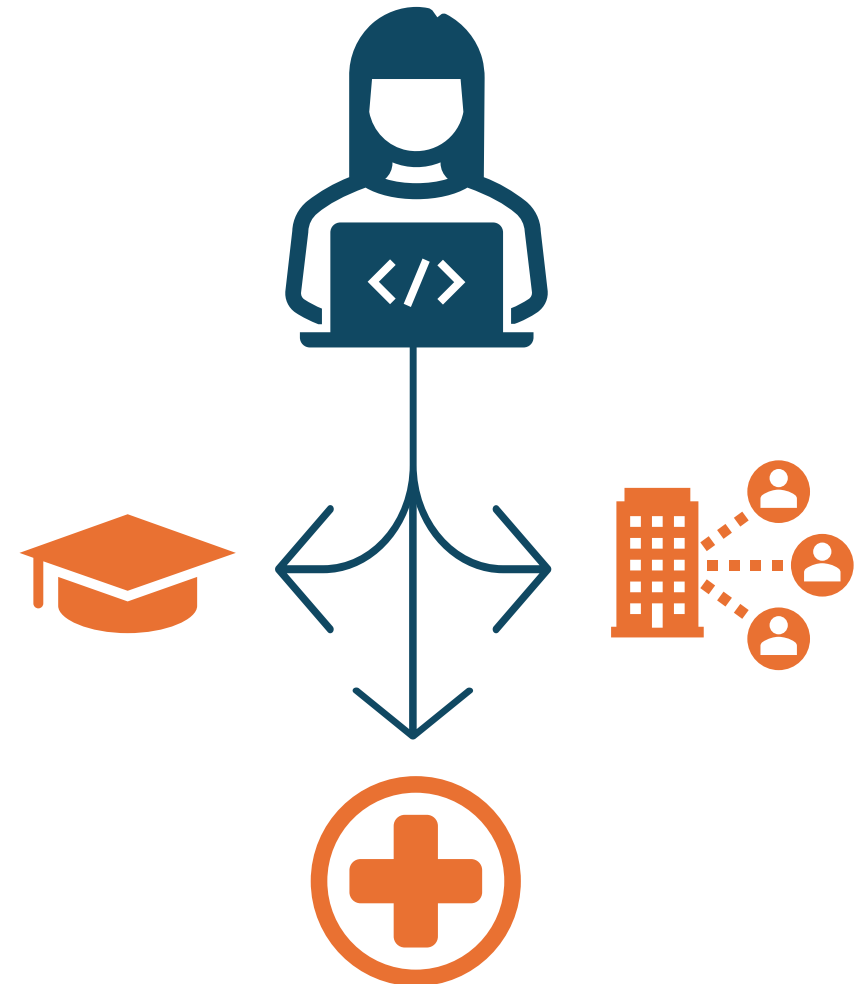
WHY SUPPORT BROADBAND?

- Tens of Billions of Federal, State and Local dollars are being used across the nation for “Digital Equity” activities that reduce “Digital Redlining” of neighborhoods.
- Digital Equity is the practice of increasing infrastructure, trainings, affordability programs, and other activities that advance the accessibility of at-home internet.
- Digital Redlining is historic disinvestment or service price disparity from private industry in areas deemed to not have profit incentive due to historic socio-economic demographics.
- What does Digital Equity support?
 - Access to better workforce, education, healthcare, commerce, legal services, etc.
- What does Digital Redlining prevent?
 - Access to better workforce, education, healthcare, commerce, legal services, etc.



HOW IS THIS A MODE OF TRANSPORTATION?

- What does transportation have in common with Digital Equity?
 - Transportation helps connect people to their life activities by travelling from one location to the other.
 - Internet access helps connect people to their life activities by “travelling” without ever leaving their home.
 - Digital Equity supports communities that do not have the option to “travel” virtually.



WHAT IS THE STATE OF TEXAS DOING?

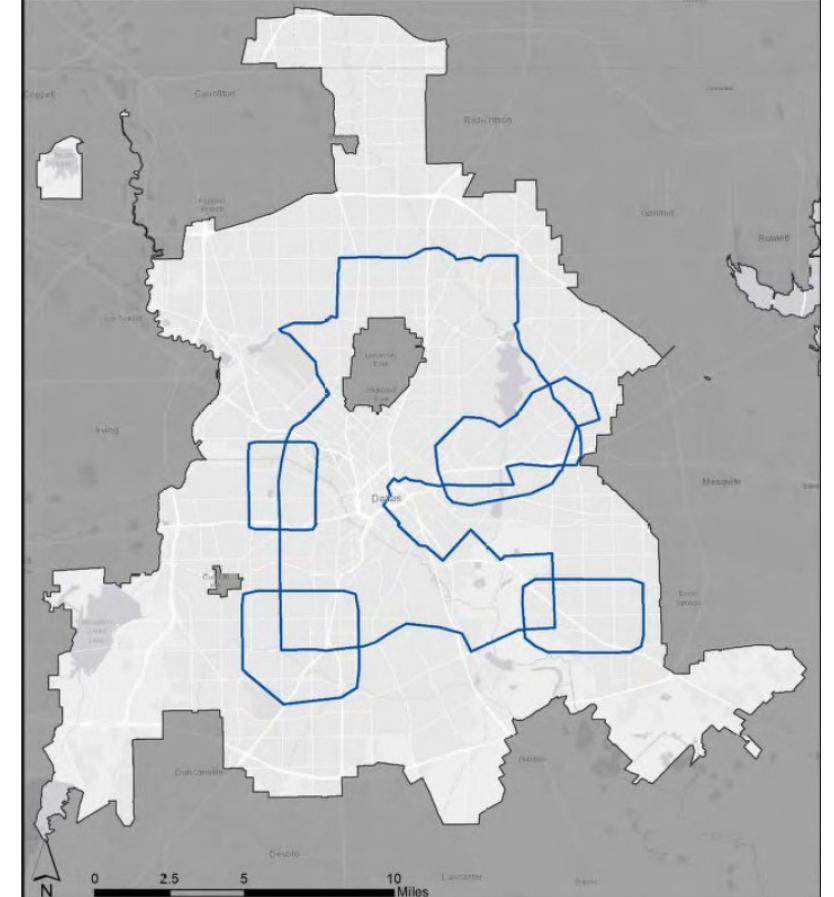
- State of Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO)
 - Received \$3.3B from Federal programming for broadband infrastructure expansion
 - Grant programs to disperse funding
- What can a Texas municipality do?
 - Utility Code 54.201 disallows a municipality from obtaining the certificate to operate as a service provider for telecommunications service
 - The City of Mont Belvieu took the code to court, won, and created MB Link
 - Most urban Texas municipalities are deploying “middle mile” fiber optics



WHAT IS NCTCOG TRANSPORTATION DOING?

Broadband Roundtable

- Attendees:
 - City of Dallas, Dallas County, City of Fort Worth, City of Arlington, Town of Prosper, & Town of Little Elm
- Municipal Plans:
 - City of Fort Worth, City of Dallas and Dallas County Municipal Middle Mile Fiber Optic Infrastructures (Other siloed efforts as well)
 - Several digital navigation and training programs across the Region
- Challenges Mentioned:
 - Inconsistency with federal and state map data
 - Legislative pressure from Internet Service Provider (ISP) lobbyists
 - Local Elected Officials uncoordinated in approach
 - Siloed broadband practitioners
- “Wild West” of municipal broadband
- Whitepaper available per request



Source: City of Dallas



ROUNDTABLE REQUESTS

Four Proposed Elements:

1. The NCTCOG will assist the region with the ***coordination of data collection and analysis*** for the purpose of better reporting broadband availability, affordability, and residential usage rates.
2. The NCTCOG will ***create a policy committee consisting of elected officials*** in the region to provide clear and consistent feedback to the Texas Broadband Development Office.
3. The NCTCOG will leverage this policy committee to ***form a legislative program*** that will help guide the State of Texas legislature on regional needs.
4. The NCTCOG will continue with ***outreach to broadband practitioners in the region*** and ***encourage municipalities to appoint broadband technical leads***. Additionally, the NCTCOG will create a strategy for municipal best practices in achieving internet for all residents.



NCTCOG <> CITY OF FORT WORTH PILOT PROJECT

Infrastructure	Fiber loop limits identified. Cost estimates prepared (high level). E Rosedale retrofit & E Lancaster included in Eastside Transportation plan.
Adoption/Last Mile	Included in Scope: City shall work with Sprocket Networks to ensure last mile delivery with low-cost option for 100/100 Mbps. City shall work in partnership with community orgs local to Historic Southside to support adoption of services.
Devices	Included in Scope: City shall work with recycled device providers to ensure household access to devices (Compudopt). City shall work with the chosen provider on leveraging ACP device credit.
Trainings	Included in Scope: City shall work with community orgs in the region to expand Digital Equity services to the Historic Southside neighborhood (NTXIA “GetConnected”/Workforce Solutions Bus).
Fiber Access Nodes	Included in Scope: City shall work with procured ISP to identify access points along the fiber backbone for last-mile deployment. City shall include access point at location of future National Juneteenth Museum.
“Ornaments”	Included in Scope: City shall work with interagency departments to identify benefits to their work provided by increased broadband tech construction



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