

STATE: TENNESSEE

Date of Reports: Two related reports have been issued in Tennessee.

- January 10, 2007 - Tennessee Broadband Task Force Report and Recommendations.
- 2008-09 Progress Report - Connected Tennessee: Closing the Digital Divide/Opening the Possibilities

Nature of report (preliminary, final, advisory, executive/legislative):

- Tennessee Broadband Task Force Report and Recommendations - Final
- Connected Tennessee: Closing the Digital Divide/Opening the Possibilities - Advisory

Key recommendations:

Tennessee Broadband Task Force Report and Recommendations.

- Establish a baseline of current broadband availability.
- Establish a program that promotes access to broadband service in every home and business.
- Establish a public-private partnership similar to Connect Kentucky.
- Expand policies to promote competition.
- Identify and coordinate state efforts toward expanding broadband deployment and usage.

Key Programs Initiated: Connected Tennessee (Connected Nations)

Recommended Appropriation: None disclosed or found.

Web link to agency or task force:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tra/bbtaskforce/Tenn. Broadband Task Force Report and Recommendations.pdf>

<http://www.connectedtennessee.org/>

Statement of Values:

Broadband service is essential to the future of Tennessee's economy, the health of our citizens and the education of our children. Every Tennessee home and business should have access to broadband service.

Where we've been: Not addressed.

Where we are today:

Tennessee Broadband Task Force Findings.

- One in four Tennessee households has adopted broadband (37th in U.S.).
- 35% broadband lines are DSL; 54% cable modem; 11% other.
- Access to broadband is limited in rural areas. This is caused by:
 - Low takes rates;
 - High deployment costs
 - Lower income and education levels.
- The Task Force does not know specifically where broadband service is deployed in Tennessee.

Connected Tennessee Findings.

- Half of all Tennesseans have broadband at home.
- Tennessee broadband adoption grew at a rate of 16% over the past six months. 8% higher than national average.
- Rural Tennessee counties saw an increase in broadband adoption of 37%.
- Tennessee businesses saw a 16% increase in broadband adoption over past 6 months.
- 64% of Tennessee businesses have access to broadband, with the biggest increase in adoption coming from small businesses which grew from 61% to 77%.
- There is a direct correlation between presence of a broadband connection and increased revenue for businesses. Tennessee businesses with a broadband Internet connection have median annual revenues of more than two times greater than businesses that rely on dial-up service.
- Tennessee "has 88% broadband coverage" in Tennessee at an average speed of 3.3 Mbps.

Where we want to be:

- Focus on bringing broadband to rural areas in parity with urban areas of Tennessee.
- Make broadband more affordable.
- Increase broadband speeds.

How are we going to get there?

- Expand policies to promote competition.
- Identify and coordinate state efforts toward expanding broadband deployment and usage.

Broadband functionality (tiers of service) - 200 Kbps is not fast enough. Otherwise, not addressed.