



ABOUT THE CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Help Us Bring High-Speed Internet to Your Community

The need for broadband internet is greater now than ever before and your leaders are here to help. We are developing a plan that identifies the communities across the region without access to reliable and affordable internet.

The plan will outline and rank high-speed connectivity projects to close the digital divide. It will bring broadband to the communities that need it most to provide access to jobs, education, health care and new business.

The plan is critical to ensure we take advantage of opportunities for broadband grants and funding that are available now and new ones coming soon.

It will also lay the groundwork for the critical change needed to look at broadband as a required utility like water, electricity, and gas.

WILL THE PLAN COVER ME?

Broadband Should Be Available and Affordable to the 10-County Southwest PA Region

Rural and urban areas in our region are lacking access to affordable internet and equipment that is fast and reliable. This impacts the quality of life for our residents and communities.

- Rural issue – high-speed broadband service is oftentimes unavailable.
- Urban issue – affordability where low-income households cannot afford access.

The plan will also serve the region’s most vulnerable populations who don’t have access to or can’t afford current connectivity.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Community & Stakeholder Engagement

A series of virtual workshops and in-person community conversations in towns throughout the region will be held about current challenges and future access needs. The issues, needs, and stories shared will help guide next steps in public outreach and engagement opportunities.

We would also like you to take the internet speed test and complete the online survey at www.spcregion.org/connected/.

TYPES OF BROADBAND



FIBER



MOBILE



FIXED WIRELESS



SATELLITE



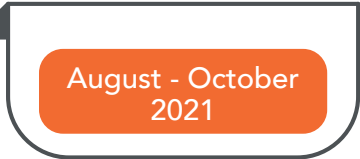


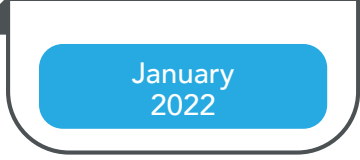
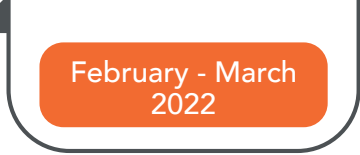
CABLE



VDSL

MILESTONE SCHEDULE

Connectivity Improvement Plan

	MILESTONE	ENGAGEMENT
 <p>August - October 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan kickoff to identify needs & service gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee Established Regional Advisory Committee Established Project Website Created
 <p>October - December 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Vision, Goals & Strategies Identify Measures based on Feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Market Research Hold Regional Community Conversations (15) Hold Stakeholder Workshops (5)
 <p>December 2021 / January 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritization and Program Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Community Conversations Continue
 <p>January 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation Planning Governance Strategy Funding and Grant Applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding & Grants Interagency Coordination Legislative Outreach Launch
 <p>February - March 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan Draft Final Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation Public Plan Launch

CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN LEADERS



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

The regional planning agency serving the 10-county Southwestern PA region that directs the use of state and federal transportation and economic development funds.



ALLIES FOR CHILDREN

Allies for Children

Allies for Children builds alliances and serves as a bold voice for policy and practice changes that improve the wellbeing of all children in the Allegheny region.



Carnegie Mellon University

A private, global research university, Carnegie Mellon is a model for economic development and forming partnerships with private and public sectors.