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Subject: SLC Regional Resource on Broadband Deployment

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New SLC Regional Resource
*The Role of State and Local Government in
Broadband Deployment*

The Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) of The Council of State Governments has released its most recent ***Regional Resource, The Role of State and Local Government in Broadband Deployment.***

On January 29, 2015, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) redefined "broadband internet." Under the new definition, broadband internet connection must meet benchmark speeds of 25 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads and 3 Mbps for uploads. Such speeds allow multiple users (or devices) within a household to browse the web and stream video simultaneously, or allow a single user to stream high definition video. The Commission's redefinition of broadband—more than six times its previous download speed benchmark of 4 Mbps—reflects the growing ubiquity of the Internet and aims to ensure the infrastructure has the capacity to meet new, data-intensive usage and its derived benefits.

This ***SLC Regional Resource*** examines the role of states in broadband deployment and its relationship to municipal and federal initiatives, with particular attention to the needs of rural areas, and the successes of Southern cities and towns. Notably, this ***SLC Regional Resource*** focuses on government-owned broadband infrastructure and direct service provision, though other policies and incentives are discussed broadly. It does not address private alternative internet service providers.

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The Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) of
The Council of State Governments was
established in 1947 and is composed of the
presiding officers and key legislators from 15
Southern states. The SLC is a non-partisan
organization located in Atlanta, Georgia.