

WORKING DRAFT

Georgia Municipal Association Broadband Workshop

Objectives

1. Cultivate a broadband planning approach that engages stakeholders and mitigates risks.
2. Explore funding options including detailed roadmaps for partner engagement.
3. Learn from peers and experts.

Thursday, September 20, 2018

9:30 Registration and Coffee

10:00 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Larry Hanson, Executive Director, Georgia Municipal Association

10:15 **Roadmap for Planning a Broadband Infrastructure Project**

Andy Spurgeon & Scott Woods, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

- Broadband Basics
- Defining Community Objectives
- Assessing Community Needs
- Engaging Stakeholders
- Building a Team
- Evaluating Technology Options
- Assembling a Broadband Plan

11:45 **Lunch**

12:00 **Lunch Speaker**

Options for Funding Broadband Infrastructure Projects

Andy Spurgeon & Don Williams, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

- Bonds
- Government-Backed Loans
- Tax Credits
- Grants
- Private Equity
- Public-Private Partnerships

12:45 **Working Together to Strengthen Infrastructure: The Power of Partnerships**

How can strong partnerships lead to bolder and more sustainable projects? Industry and civic leaders will share insights and describe how they overcame challenges to accelerate broadband deployments.

Moderator: Tom Berry, former Thomasville City Manager, helped create Community Network Services (CNS)

Panelists: Scott Johnson, Columbia County Administrator (Broadband Utility (C³BU)

Bruce Abraham, former Executive Director of North Georgia Network (NGN)

Bill Price, Broadband Program Manager, Georgia Technology Authority

Rusty Haygood, DCA Deputy Director, (or the new DCA Broadband Czar?)

1:45 **Break**

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2:00

Federal Partners and Funding Opportunities

Federal partners share the latest on federal funding opportunities.

Speakers:

- *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS)*
Andrew E. Hayes
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- *TBD, EPA? DOT?*

3:15

Going Forward: GMA's Commitment to Georgia Connections

3:30

End