PICKENS COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

BROADBAND INITIATIVE

SCAC's Building Resiliency for Your Community

Panelist: Ken Roper

PICKENS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COVID-19 has only intensified the broadband gap

May 21, 2020 | Brad Smith - President

CORONAVIRUS

With third-world internet speeds, some SC rural residents struggle to learn online

BY LUCAS DAPRILE

APRIL 06, 2020 08:45 AM

NEA News

Coronavirus Brings 'Homework Gap' to the Forefront

Even before the pandemic, between 8.5 to 12 million K-12 students lacked Internet access at [illegible]e. "Without access, opportunity means nothing."

The State

Broadband for all SC? It could cost more than $800M, expert says

By Joseph Bustos, The State (Columbia, S.C.) · 6/25/2020

Like

Bringing high-speed internet to the nearly half a million South Carolinians currently living without it could cost more than $800 million, a broadband mapping expert said after speaking to lawmakers Wednesday.

Leaders seek to bridge the broadband internet gap in South Carolina

Emily Wakeman · 8/4/2020

Like

COLUMBIA, S.C. (WIS) - A lack of broadband internet access continues to plague hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians, creating barriers for students trying to learn virtually and for people trying to access health care remotely.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

Alliance Pickens
South Carolina.USA

SCHOOL DISTRICT
SD of PC
PICKENS COUNTY

2020

Broadband Community Champion Training Program

South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development
SCACED
Rural Resource Coalition SC
Growing economies through stronger communities

revolution.ai

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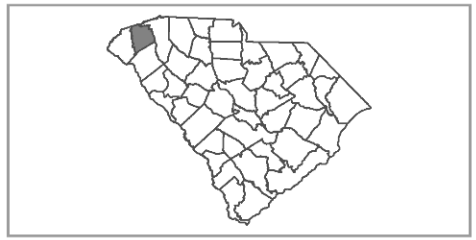
SOUTH CAROLINA

Pickens County
South Carolina
Best Available Technology
March 31, 2020



Best Available Technology (type | capability)

- Fiber | Speeds >= 300 Mbps/10 Mbps
- Cable (DOCSIS 3.1+) | Speeds >= 300 Mbps/10 Mbps
- Cable (DOCSIS 3.0) | Speeds >= 100 Mbps/3 Mbps
- Cable (DOCSIS < 2.0) | Speeds >= 25 Mbps/3 Mbps
- VDSL (Fiber-To-The-Curb) | Speeds >= 25 Mbps/3 Mbps
- ADSL2, ADSL2+ | Speeds >= 10 Mbps/1 Mbps
- Fixed Wireless | Speeds >= 10 Mbps/1 Mbps
- ADSL | Speeds >= 3 Mbps/768 kbps
- No Internet Service Available
- Zero Households

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OOKLA

Data: Based on Revolution D's analysis of FCC Form 477, Jun. 30, 2019 (pub. 3/12/2020). In addition, all member Internet Service Providers of the SCTBA have voluntarily contributed their FCC Form 477, Dec. 31, 2019 data to augment and update the base dataset. Satellite and mobile broadband services excluded. Demographic data based on US Census 2010 information. Finally, Speedtest Intelligence® data from Jan. 1, 2017 through Mar. 31, 2020 combined for analysis in the region. Ookla® trademarks used under license and reprinted with permission.

Submit comments of questions to maps@revolutiond.ai

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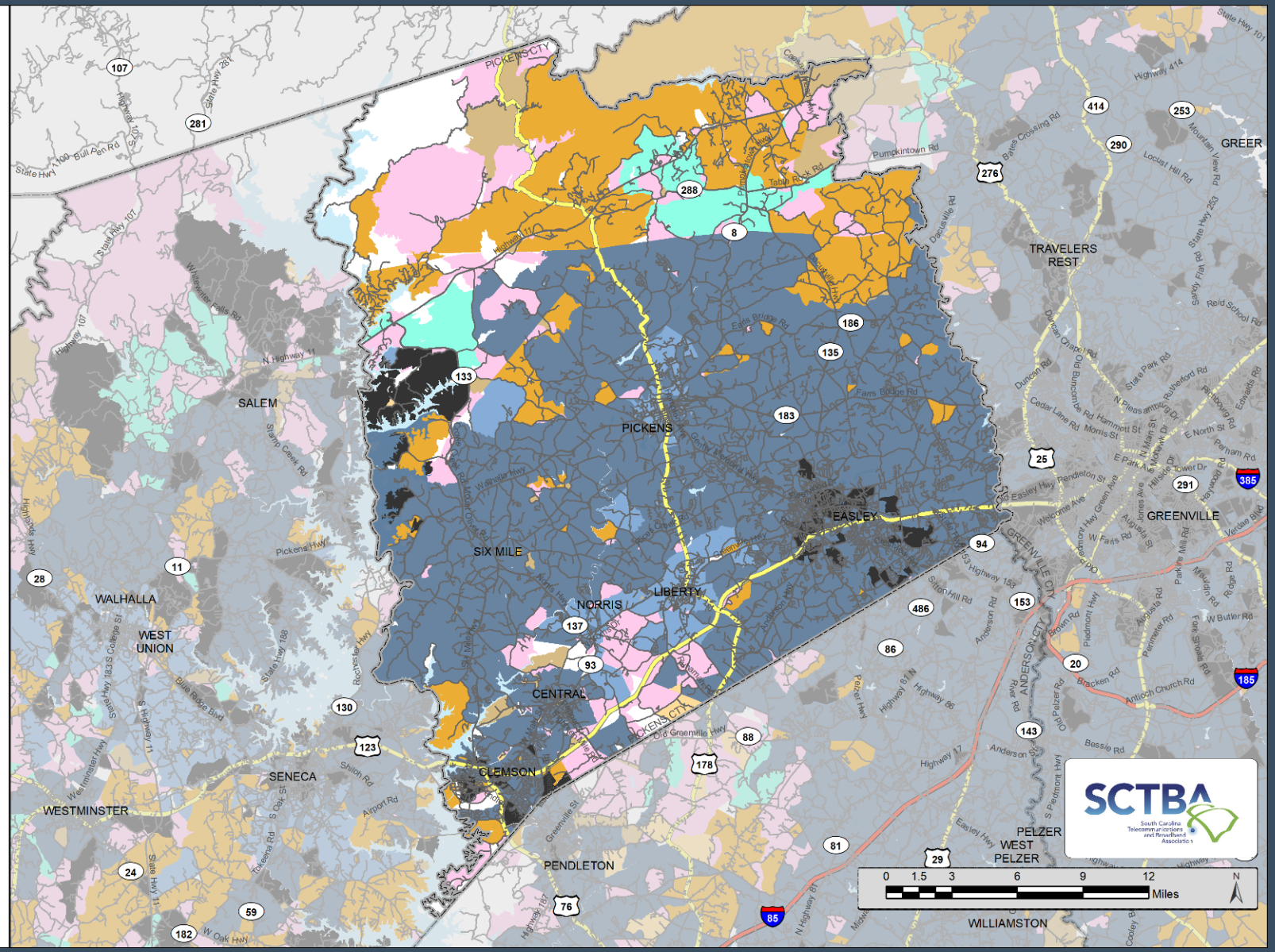
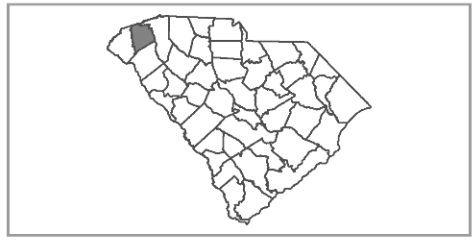


PICKENS COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Pickens County
South Carolina

Areas of Need
March 31, 2020



Speed Tiers (download / upload)

- 300 Mbps / 10 Mbps
- 100 Mbps / 3 Mbps
- 25 Mbps / 3 Mbps

Density of Unserved Households (sq. mi.)

- 200 or More
- 25 - 199
- 1 - 24
- > 0 and < 1
- Zero Households
- Opportunity Zone

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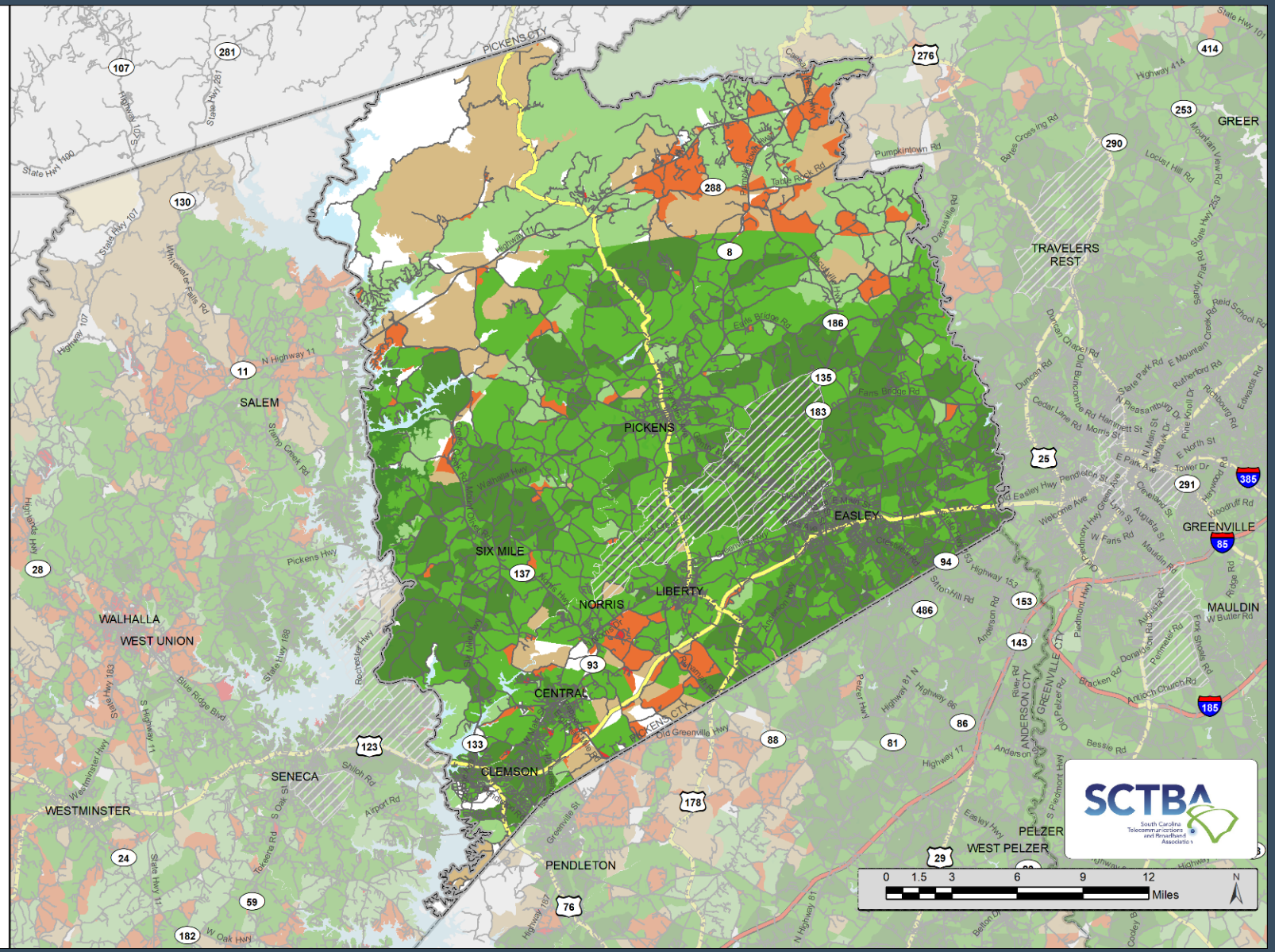

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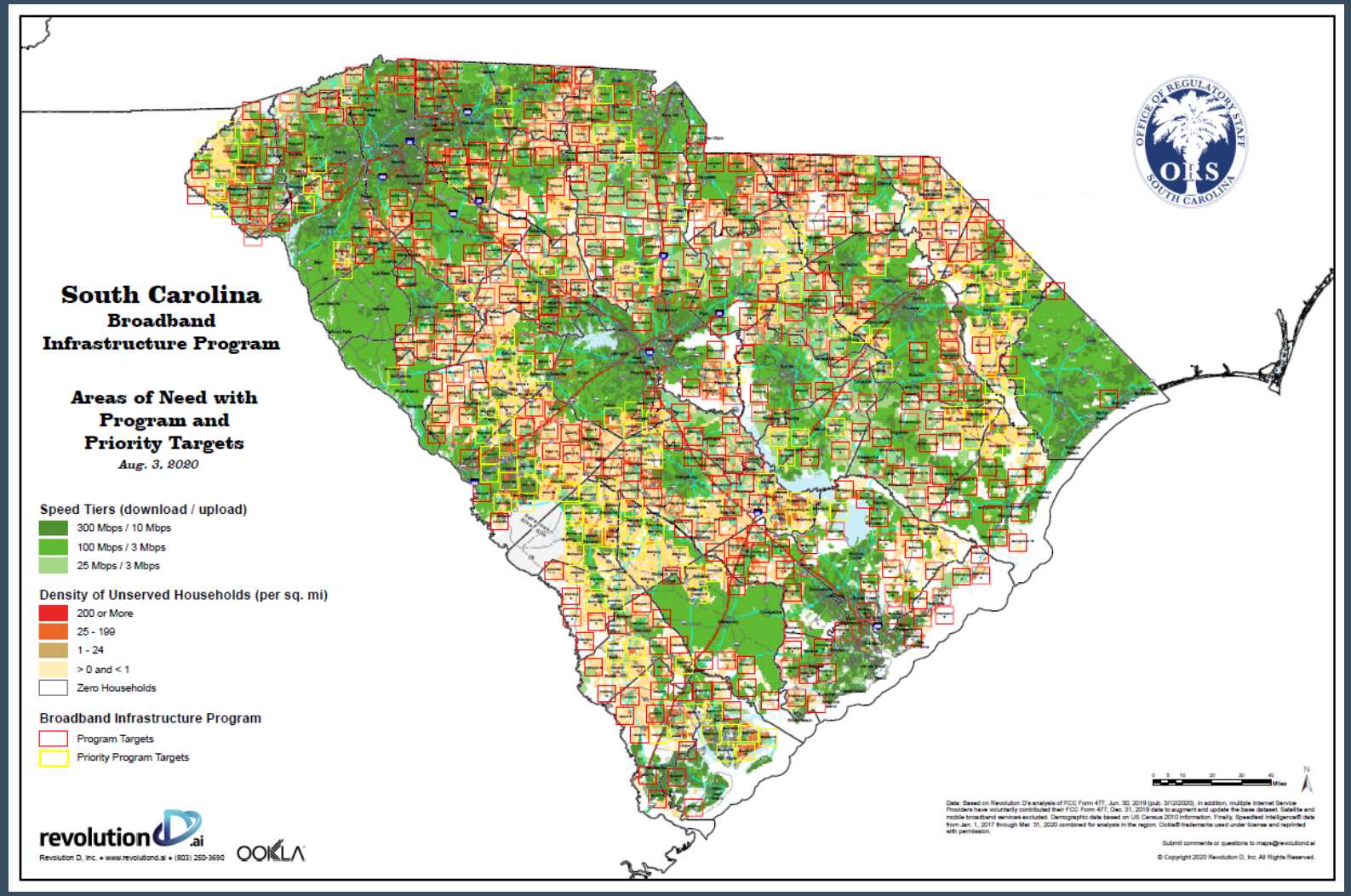

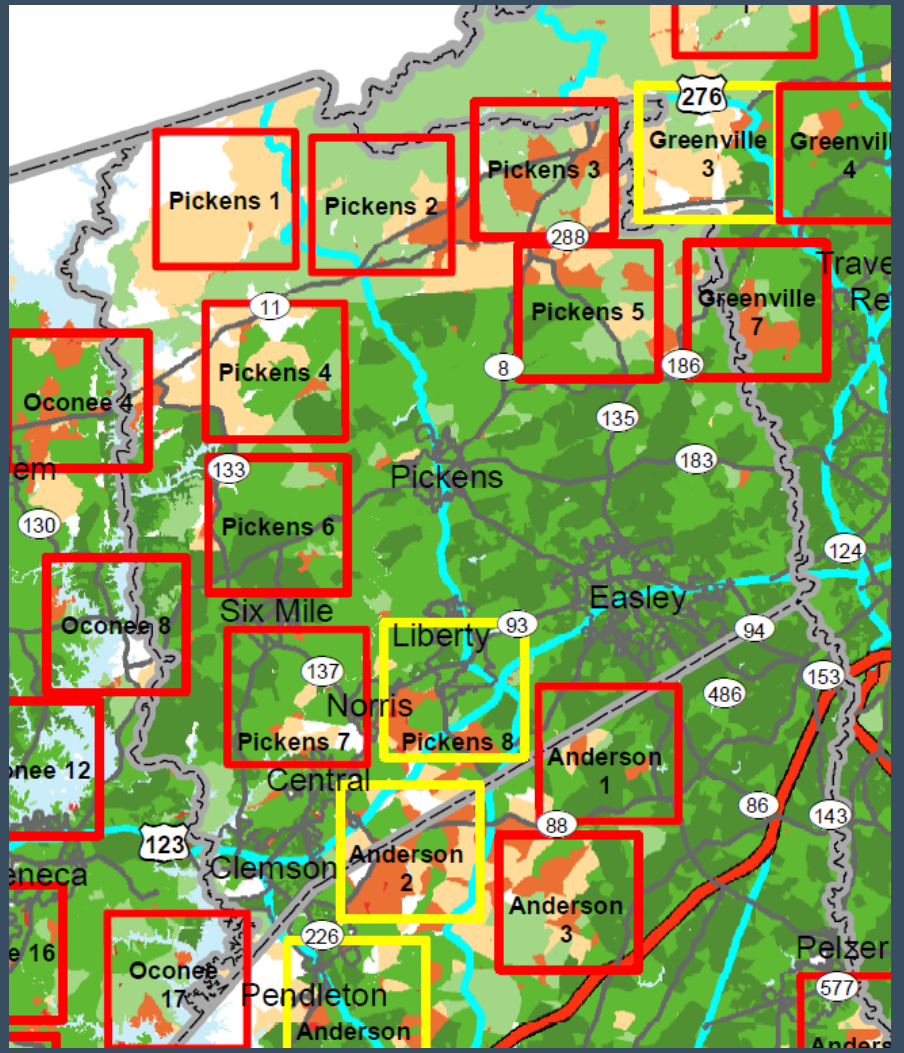

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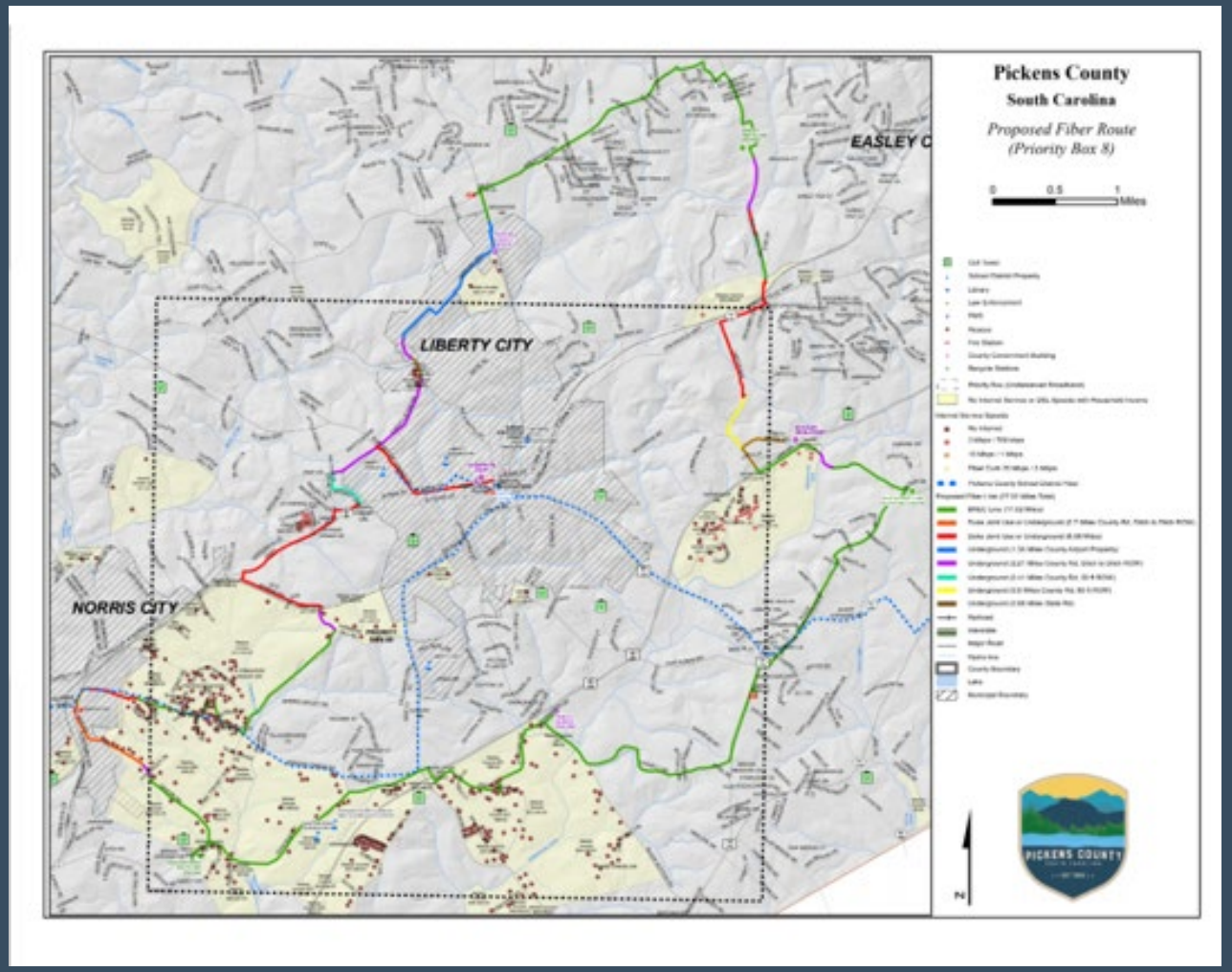
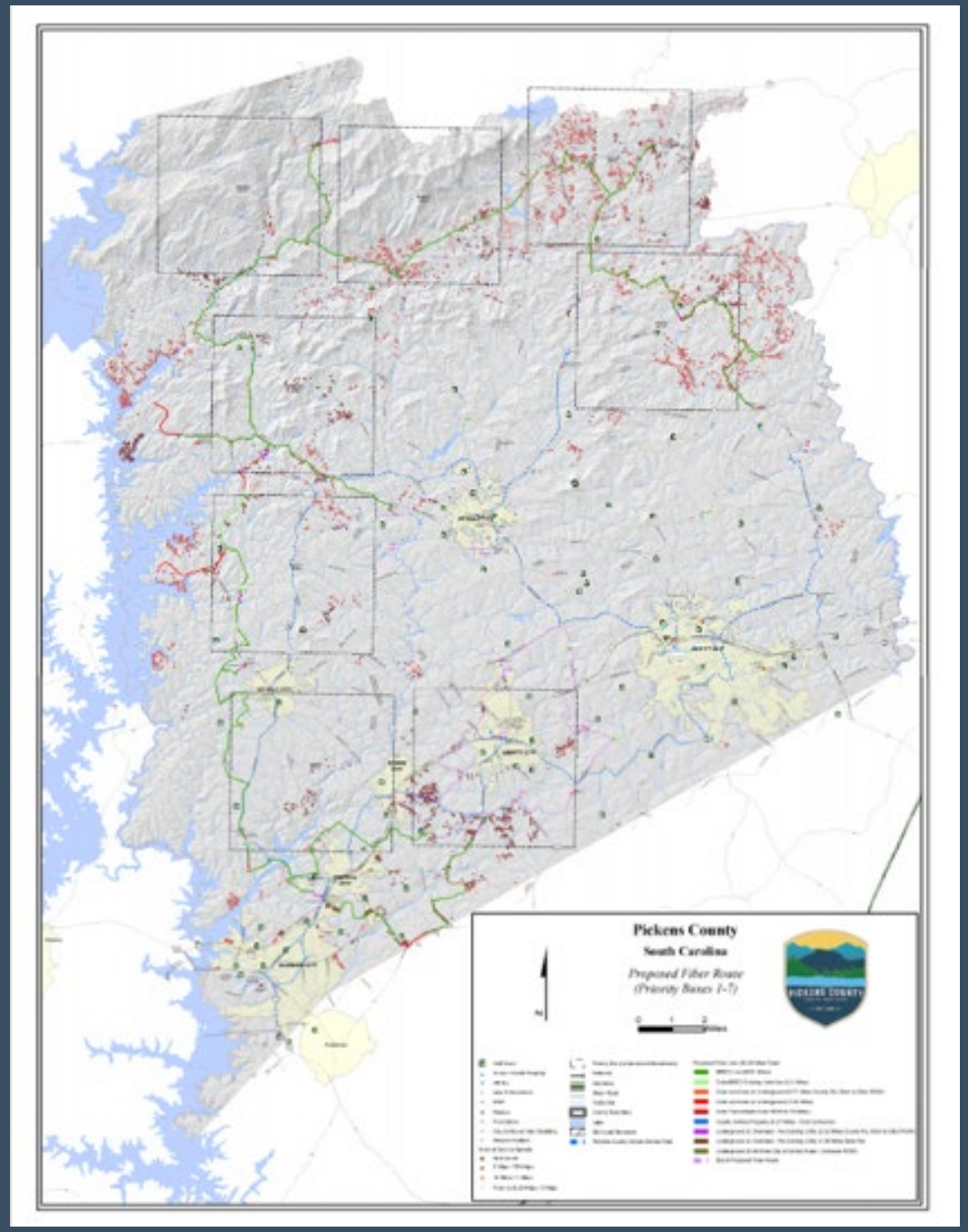
STAFF DEVELOPED PROPOSAL





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CHANGES IN STATE LAW

In September of 2020, the General Assembly passed the **Broadband Accessibility Act** which authorized electric cooperatives to invest in or deploy broadband facilities and allowed for utilizing electric easements to provide broadband services, especially existing overhead or underground facilities.

PICKENS COUNTY
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FINDING THE RIGHT ISP

BLUE RIDGE Electric Co-op

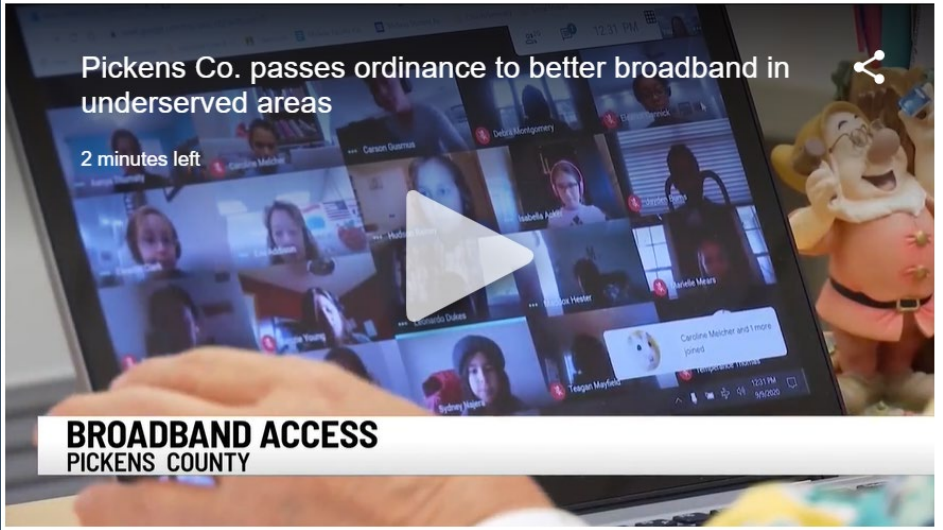
WCTEL
WEST CAROLINA TEL

UPCOUNTRYFIBER
A STRONGER CONNECTION

COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORT

TOP STORIES

Pickens Co. passes ordinance to better broadband in underserved areas



by: Asia Wilson

Posted: Feb 3, 2021 / 06:01 PM EST / Updated: Feb 3, 2021 / 07:40 PM EST

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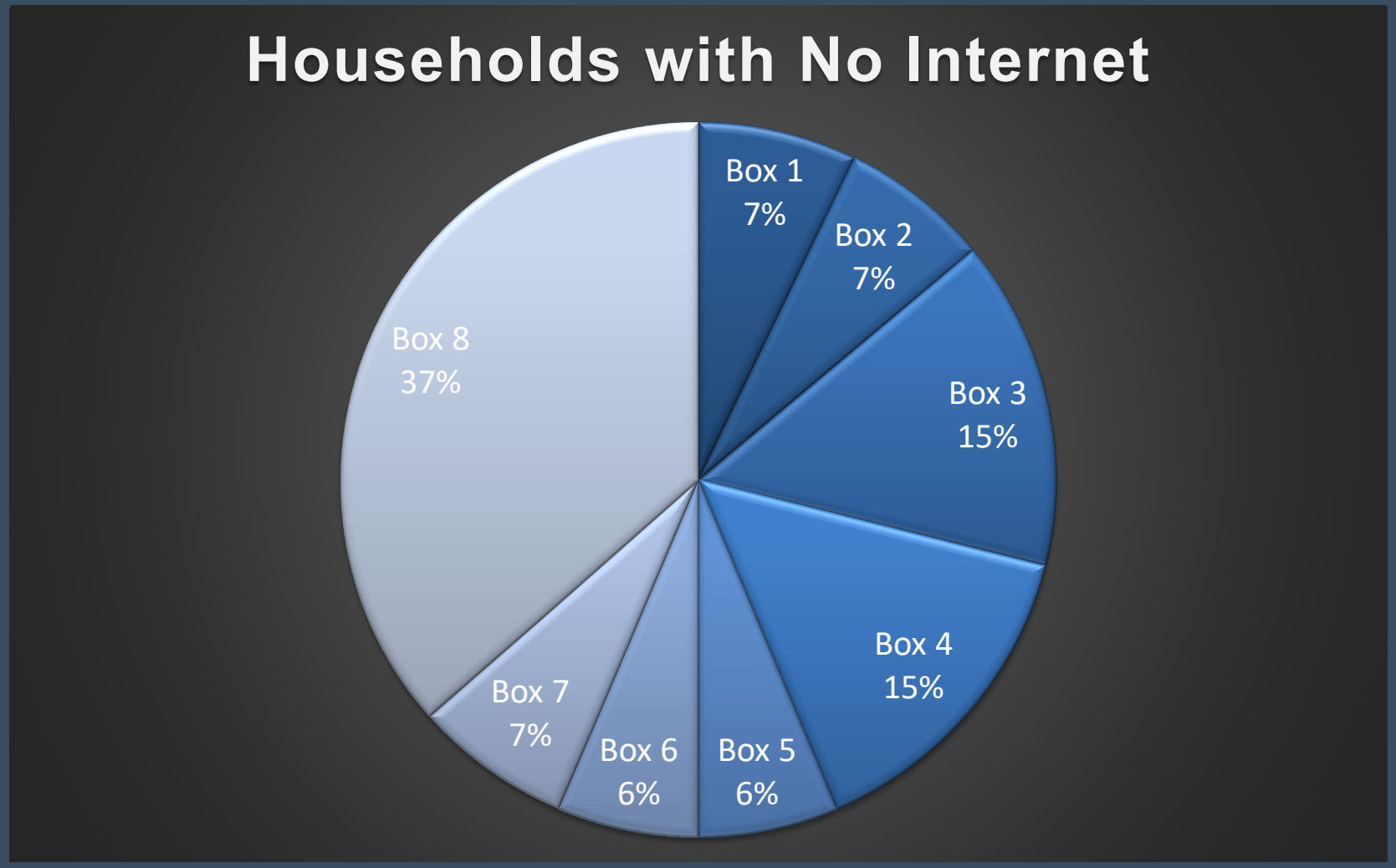
MAKING PROGRESS



Upcountry Fiber is on track to install fiber in **Box 8** by September 2021, solving the issue of access for **over 1/3** of all residents in Pickens County with **no internet**.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT SD of PC PICKENS COUNTY

"We now have a local cooperative willing to provide broadband throughout the county, with Pickens County providing incentives to ensure they build to our families quickly. What looked like a 7-year project is becoming a 2-3-year project, all due to the strong support of Pickens County."

- Barbara J. Nesbitt, PhD
Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services

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Fiber installation is currently underway in Pickens County!

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EST. 1868