



SC Broadband Advisory Council

Enabling South Carolinians to Thrive in the Global Digital Economy

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff | Apr. 9, 2024

Agenda

Welcome / Roll Call Review / Approve Minutes Introductions	Jim Stritzinger, Co-Chair Anna Berger, Co-Chair
SC Broadband Office Update	Jim Stritzinger, ORS
Digital Opportunity	Tom Allen, ORS
Other Business	All
Next Meeting – Tuesday, Apr. 9, 2024 Adjourn	All

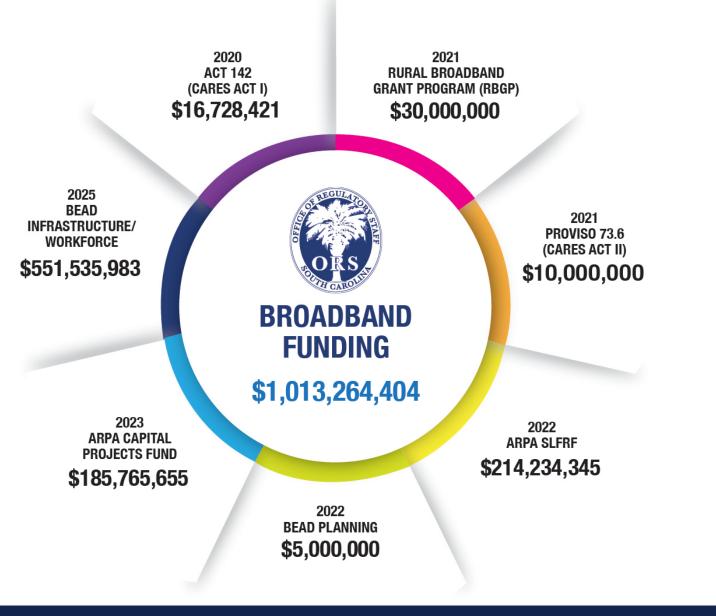




2023 Awards

- Esri | Special Achievement in GIS
- SC Information Technology Director's Association | Innovation Award

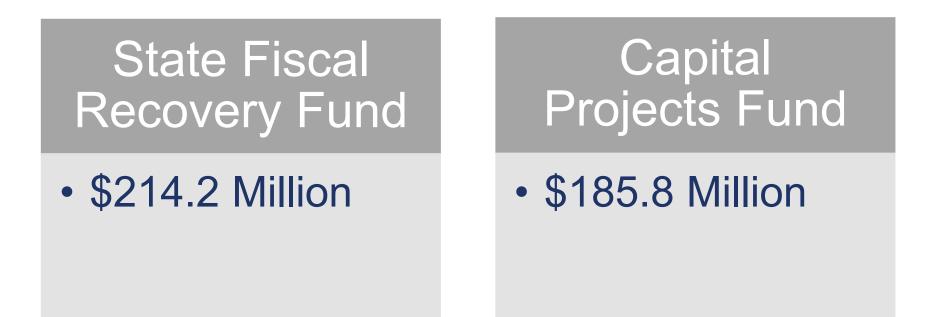
ORS.SC.GOV



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

H. 4408 \$400 Million for SC Broadband Infrastructure

Act 244 Enacted May 13, 2022



The funds in the ARPA Broadband Account shall be used to expand broadband infrastructure to households, businesses, and communities in the State that are **<u>unserved</u>** or **<u>underserved</u>** by broadband services.

ARPA Capital Projects Fund



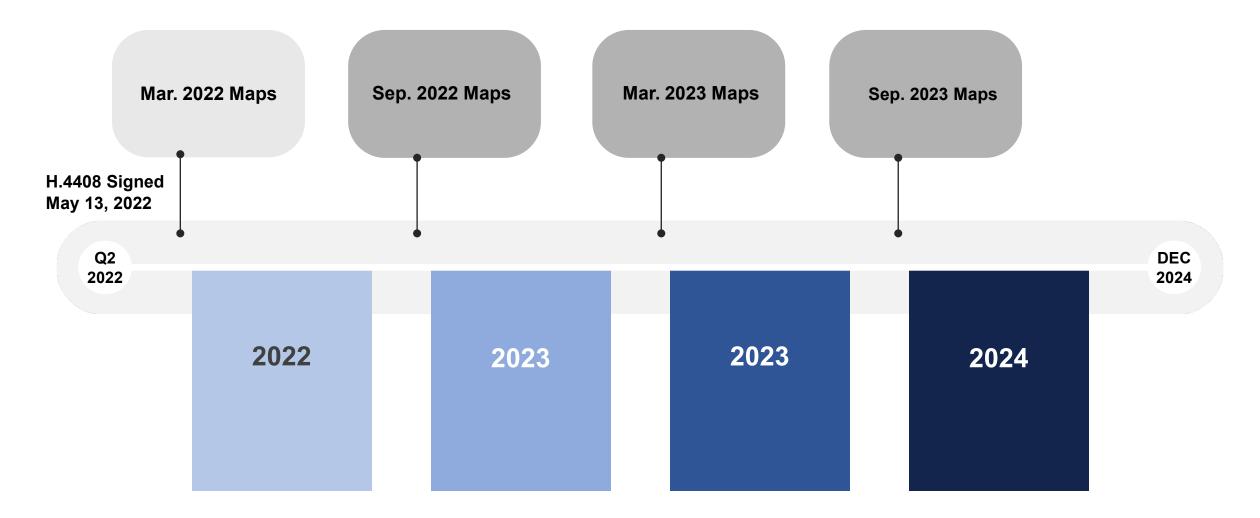
Unserved 2020 Census Blocks with:

- 1) More than 20 public K-12 student households; or,
- 2) Difficult Development Areas (HUD); or,
- 3) No Internet Service Provider (ISP); or,
- 4) <u>Underserved</u> Main Street Communities

Requires 100 Mbps Symmetric (100/100)

Source: Act 244 (H.4408), Section 9: Priority must be given to unserved areas with no current Internet Service Provider, Difficult Development Areas as identified by U.S. Housing and Urban Development, and census blocks that have a high concentration of unserved public K-12 student households as documented by the South Carolina Department of Education. Capital Projects Fund plan approved by US Treasury on March 7, 2023.

SC BROADAND INVESTMENT ROADMAP



SCBBO Invests to Eliminate the Main Street Digital Divide



For Immediate Release January 31, 2024



Main Street CPF Kickoff Events

Mar. 16 – Charter, Ridge Spring, SC Mar. 20 – Charter, Norway, SC









Main Street Workshops

09 JULY

13 AUGUST

10 SEPTEMBER

Planning & Implementation

Itinerary & Familiarization Tours

Impact: Measuring Outcomes

(Tuesday)

(Tuesday)

(Tuesday)

Learn More About

Main Street SC

09 APRIL (Tuesday) Main Street 101

14 MAY (Tuesday)

Local Market Dynamics

18 JUNE (Tuesday)

Community Outreach

Workshops provided in partnership with the SC Broadband **Office and Charter** Communications.



hosted monthly

3 Crosses Ministry 231 Lexington Avenue



A technical assistance program of the Municipal Association of South Carolina.



09 APRIL (Tuesday) Main Street 101

14 MAY (Tuesday) Local Market Dynamics

18 JUNE (Tuesday)

Community Outreach

Workshops provided in partnership with the SC Broadband Office and Charter Communications.

Main Street Workshops

09 JULY (Tuesday) Planning & Implementation 13 AUGUST (Tuesday) Itinerary & Familiarization Tours **10** SEPTEMBER (Tuesday) Impact: Measuring Outcomes **Ridge Spring Civic Center** Learn More About

Main Street SC

A technical assistance program of the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

MAIN STREET South Carolina

904 West Main Street

hosted monthly

@ 9:00 a.m.

SCBBO Completes \$185.1 Million CPF Investment Round, Launches ARPA 3.0 Grant Program



For Immediate Release February 12, 2024



CPF Kickoff Events

Mar. 6 - UpCountry Fiber, Anderson Mar. 19 – Lumos, Spartanburg Mar. 25 – UpCountry Fiber, Pickens Mar. 26 – HomeTel, Berkeley/Dorchester





ARPA SLFRF 2.0 Accelerated Deployment Grant

- Construction from <u>Mar. 15, 2021</u>, through <u>June 30, 2022</u>
- 10 ISPs, 23 Counties
- Total Project Cost: \$48.1 million (1:1 match)
- SLFRF Funds: \$24,063,566

- 19,341 Broadband Serviceable Locations
- 2,097 Fiber Miles



What are Priority Areas?

Unserved/Underserved 2020 Census Blocks with:

1) K-12 student households; or,

✓ Broadband maps include data from 785,000+ public school students that was provided by SC Department of Education

2) Difficult Development Areas as identified by US Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or,

 Defined geographies that are updated annually by HUD and are the basis for deploying Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) in the United States.

3) No Internet Service Provider

✓ FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) shows no wireline ISP.

Source: Act 244 (H.4408), Section 9: Priority must be given to unserved areas with no current Internet Service Provider, Difficult Development Areas as identified by U.S. Housing and Urban Development, and census blocks that have a high concentration of unserved public K-12 student households as documented by the South Carolina Department of Education.

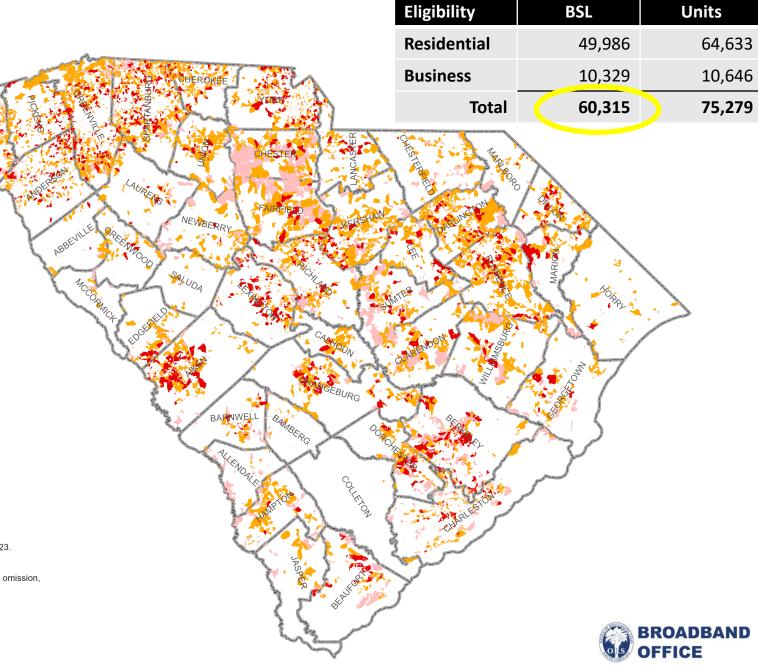
South Carolina

ARPA SLFRF 3.0 Eligibility

Feb. 12, 2024

ARPA SLFRF 3.0 Eligibility Status





Data Source: Based on SC Broadband Office analysis of FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) Submission, Sept. 1, 2023. Satellite and mobile broadband services are excluded.

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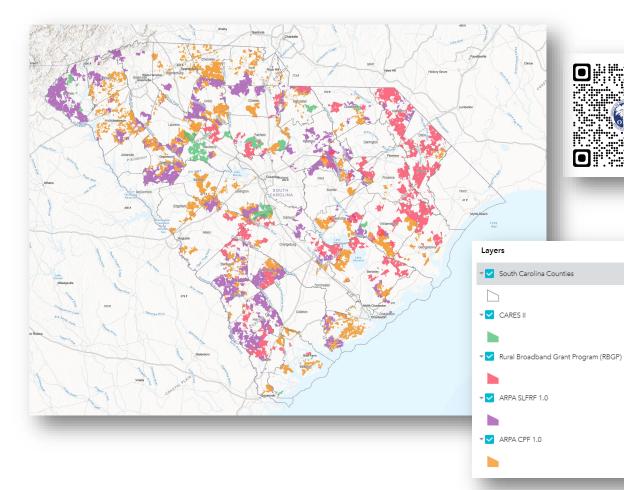


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Additional information may be found at:

SCBBO Managed Projects





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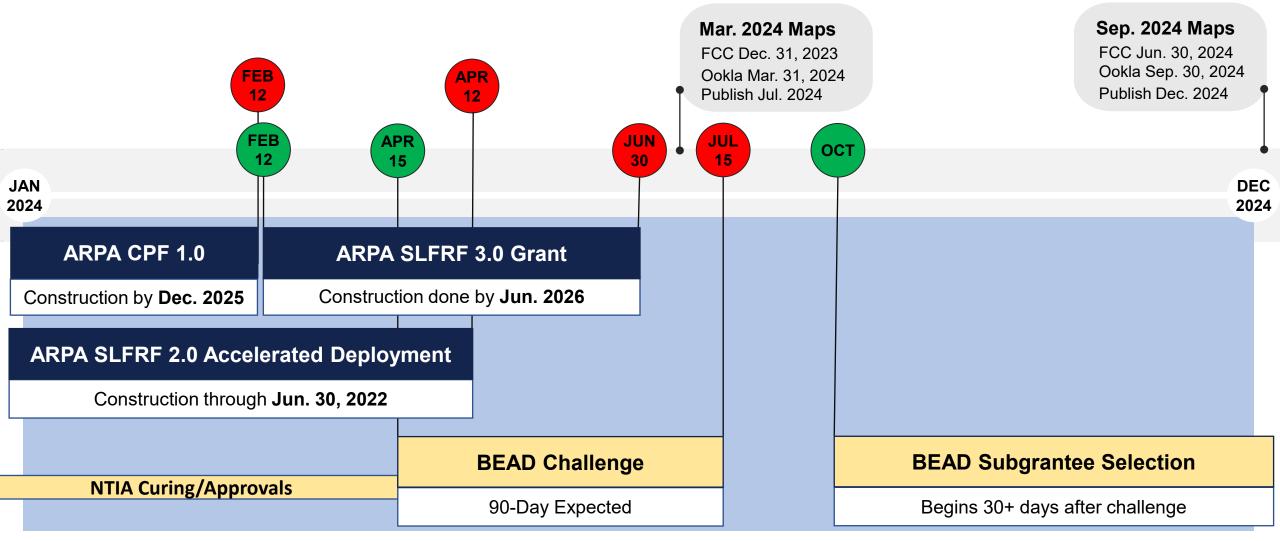
Project ID: Project Name: Pickens/Anderson Counties

Project Construction Start Date: 7/31/2024 Project Construction End Date: 9/30/2025 Total Structures: 2.893 SCBBO Grant Award: \$24,182,663 ISP Funding: \$10,926,638 Third Party Funding: \$43,000 Total Project Cost: \$35,152,301

Project Summary: submits this grant application to construct a 100% fiber network in the proposed project area. This project area includes unserved locations across all regions of Pickens County and the northwestern region of Anderson County. The proposed network will utilize XGS PON technology capable of delivering 10 Gbps symmetrical service to each location passed.

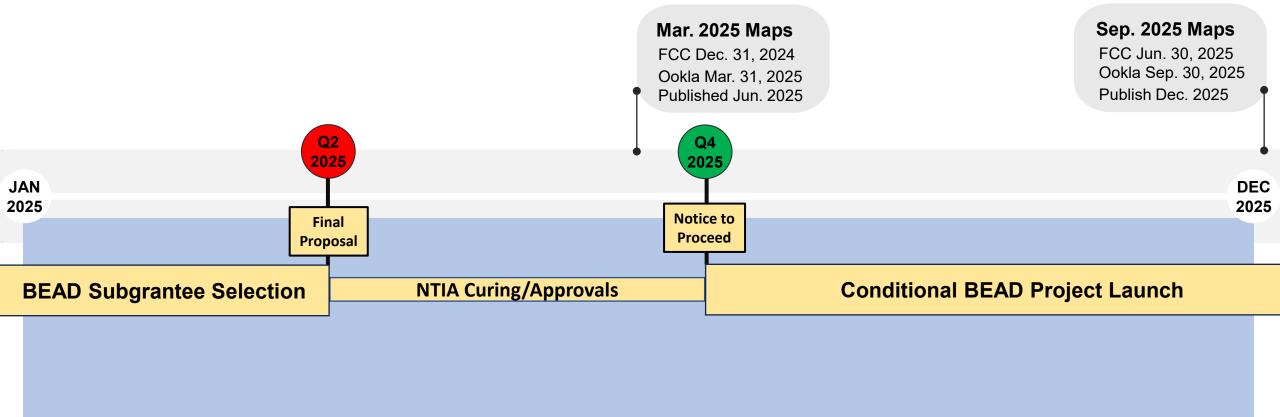


2024 SC BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAMS



* All dates are subject to change without notice, assume timely NTIA approvals.

2025 SC BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAMS



* All dates are subject to change without notice, assume timely NTIA approvals.

About BEAD

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
 - Digital Equity (DE) Adoption and Use
 - Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)
 - ✓ \$551.5 million allocation for SC
 - ✓ Broadband Deployment

- Use
 K-12 Education

 Sovernment
 Travel & Tourism

 Use
 Use

 Bregister schendigt fragt
 Higher Education

 Output
 Entrepreneurship

 Research
 Agriculture

 Business
 Non-Adoption

 Access
 Access

 Special Infrastructure
 Special

 Oppulation
 Special

 Special
 Special
- Must provide access to <u>all homes and businesses</u> throughout state (first)
- Next, must connect Community Anchor Institutions (< 1Gbps symmetric)
- ✓ Non-Deployment
 - Only occurs after SCBBO confirms enough allocation available to provide access to <u>all homes and businesses</u> throughout state
- ✓ Initial Proposal
 - Volume 1 Approved (3/22/24), BEAD Challenge begins 4/15/24
 - Volume 2 Establishment of BEAD Grant Program



BEAD | Key Themes

- End of ARPA = Beginning of BEAD
- County-Managed ARPA Broadband Projects
 - ✓ Please Coordinate w/SCBBO Right Away
- BEAD Zip Code Project Areas → Internet for All!
- BEAD Challenge Q2-2024
 - ✓ Residents must contact units of local government
 - ✓ Recommend Identifying Single Point of Contact
 - ✓ FCC Fabric is Confidential → Procure CostQuest Tier E License (free)
- Broadband-Related Workforce Opportunities
 - ✓ Apprenticeships
- Community Anchor Institutions
 - "... facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations."
 - ✓ MUST Lack ACCESS to 1 Gbps symmetric

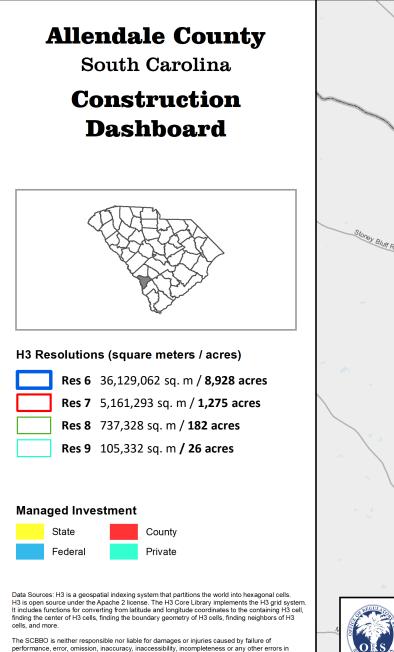




Construction Dashboard

Near Real-Time Broadband Construction Status

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff | April 7, 2024

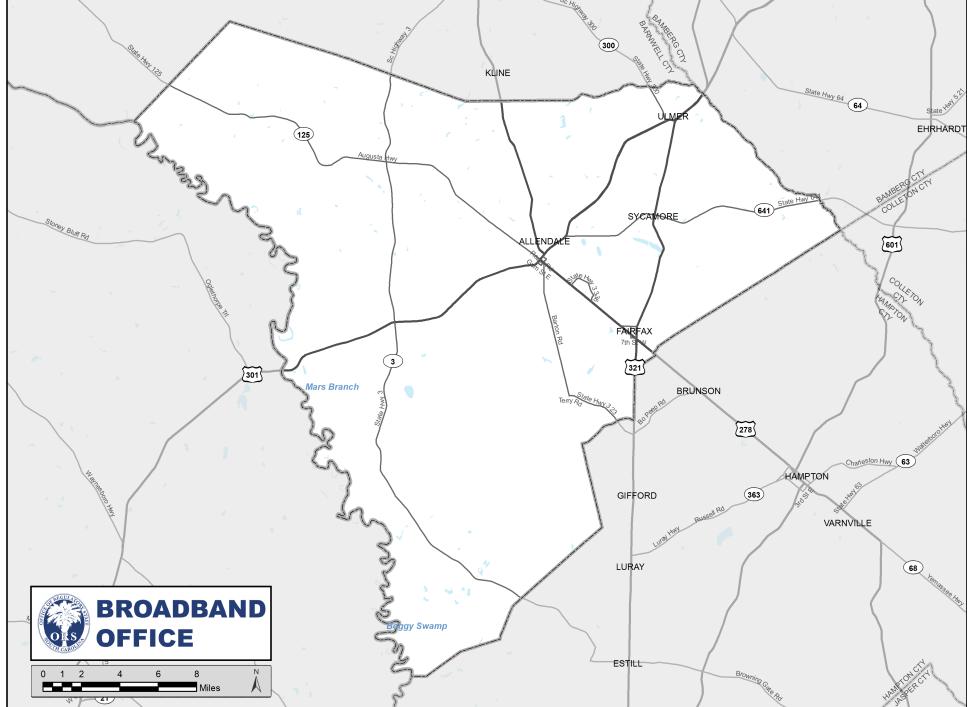




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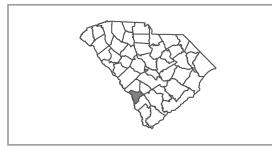


OLAR



South Carolina

Construction Dashboard



H3 Resolutions (square meters / acres)



Managed Investment



Data Sources: H3 is a geospatial indexing system that partitions the world into hexagonal cells. H3 is open source under the Apache 2 license. The H3 Core Library implements the H3 grid system. It includes functions for converting from latitude and longitude coordinates to the containing H3 cell, finding the center of H3 cells, finding the boundary geometry of H3 cells, finding neighbors of H3 cells, and more.

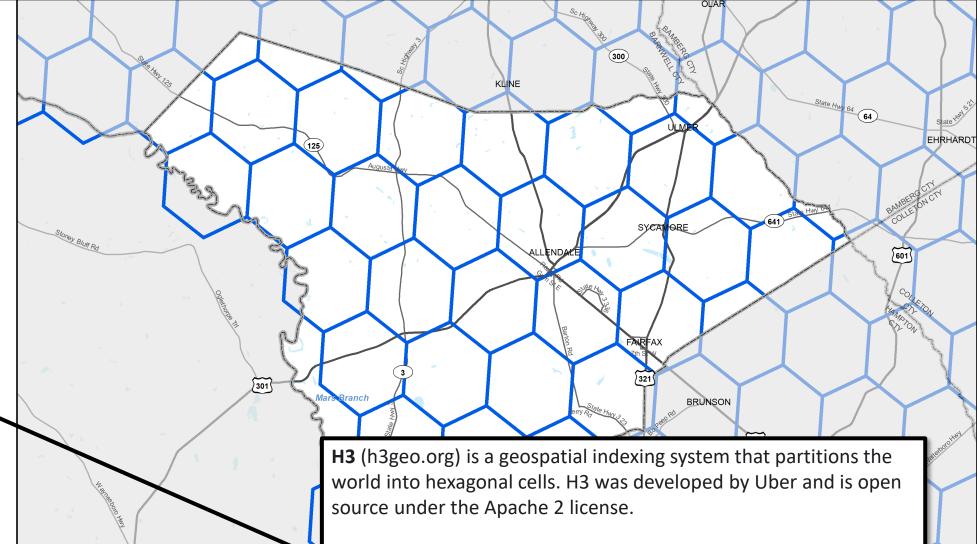
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OFFICE

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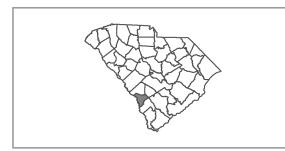
The FCC includes an H3 Res 9 index with every BSL and uses H3 to analyze cellular services.

The big advantage is that every H3 hexagon at a given resolution is identical in size (versus census blocks) and can be utilized globally.

Allendale County

South Carolina

Construction Dashboard



H3 Resolutions (square meters / acres)



Managed Investment



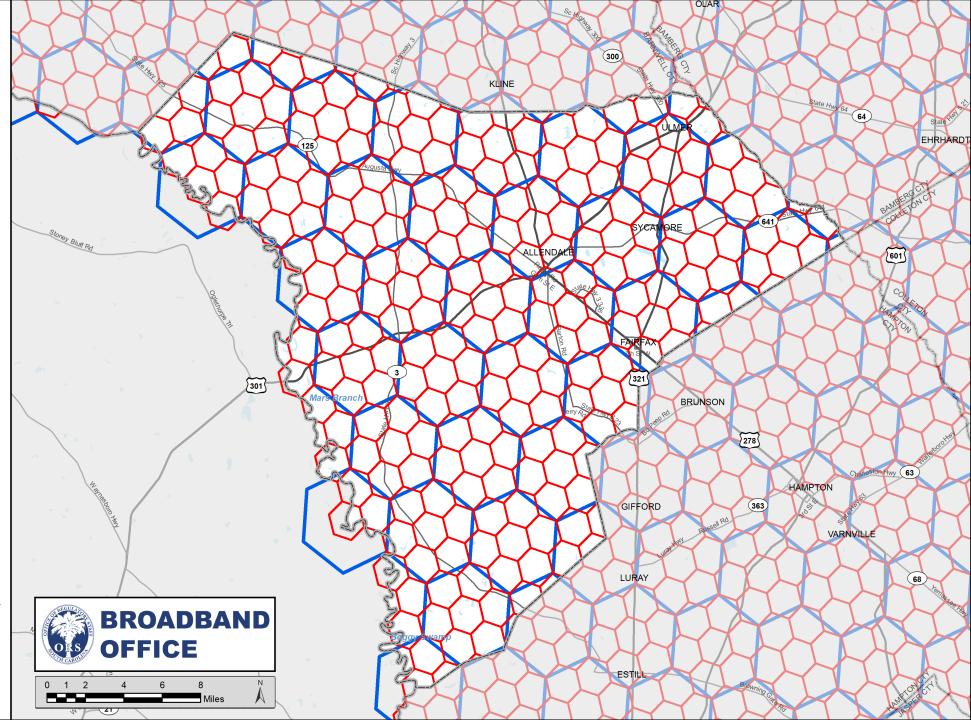
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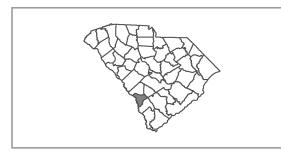
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Allendale County

South Carolina

Construction Dashboard



H3 Resolutions (square meters / acres)



Managed Investment



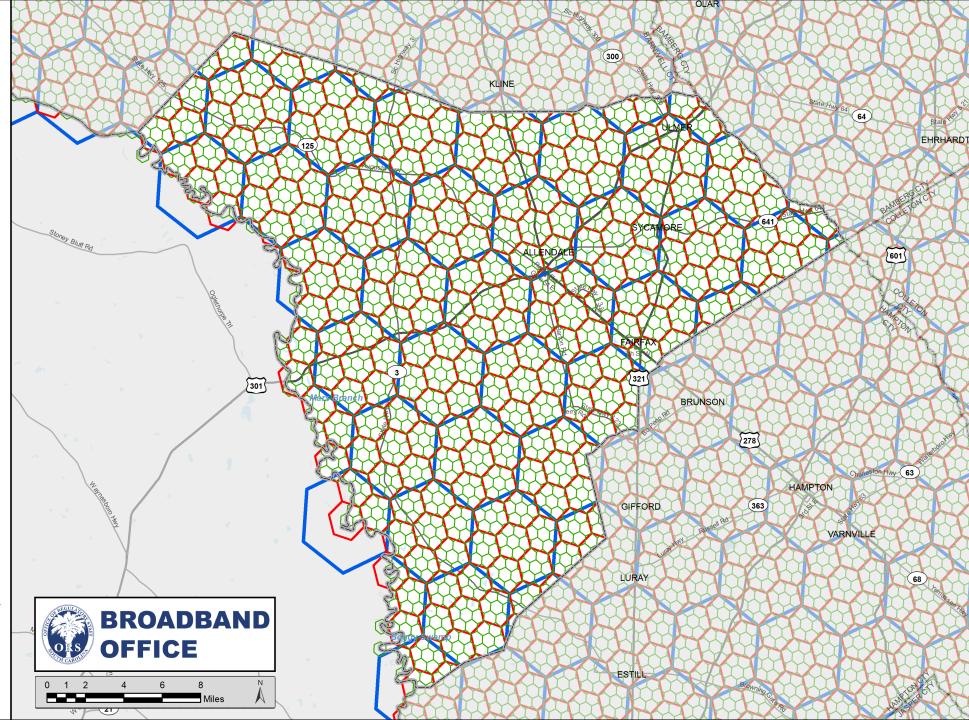
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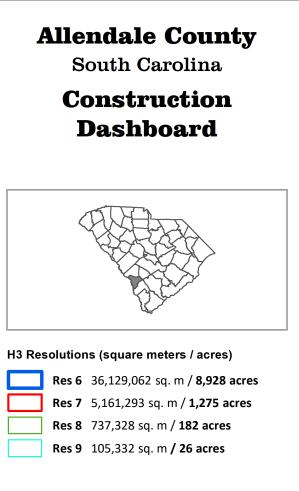
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ISP A GRANT AGREEMENT - APPENDIX

Location ID	Street Address	Other BSL Attributes	H9 Index
1010827461	714 Sample Lane		8944d14b403fff
1010827463	726 Sample Lane		8944d14b403fff
1010827465	730 Sample Lane		8944d14b403fff
1030897265	427 Broadband St.		8944d14b417fff
1030897267	435 Broadband St.		8944d14b417fff

Provider	H9 Index	Funded BSL Count
ISP A	8944d14b403fff	3
ISP A	8944d14b417fff	2



Managed Investment



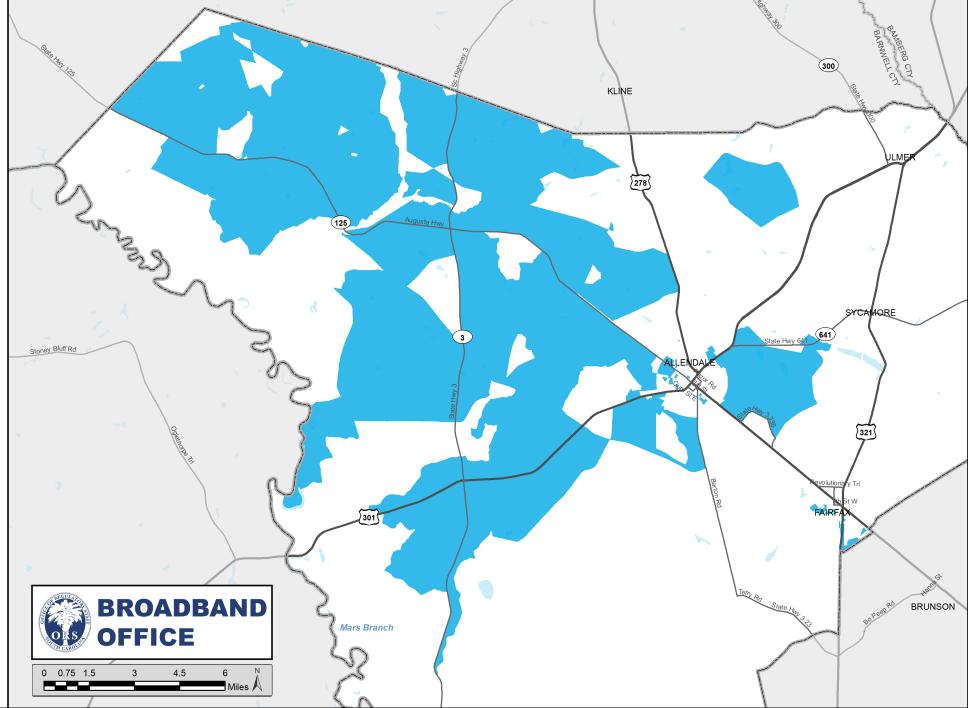
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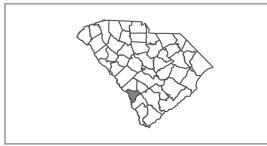
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South Carolina

Construction Dashboard



H3 Resolutions (square meters / acres)



Managed Investment



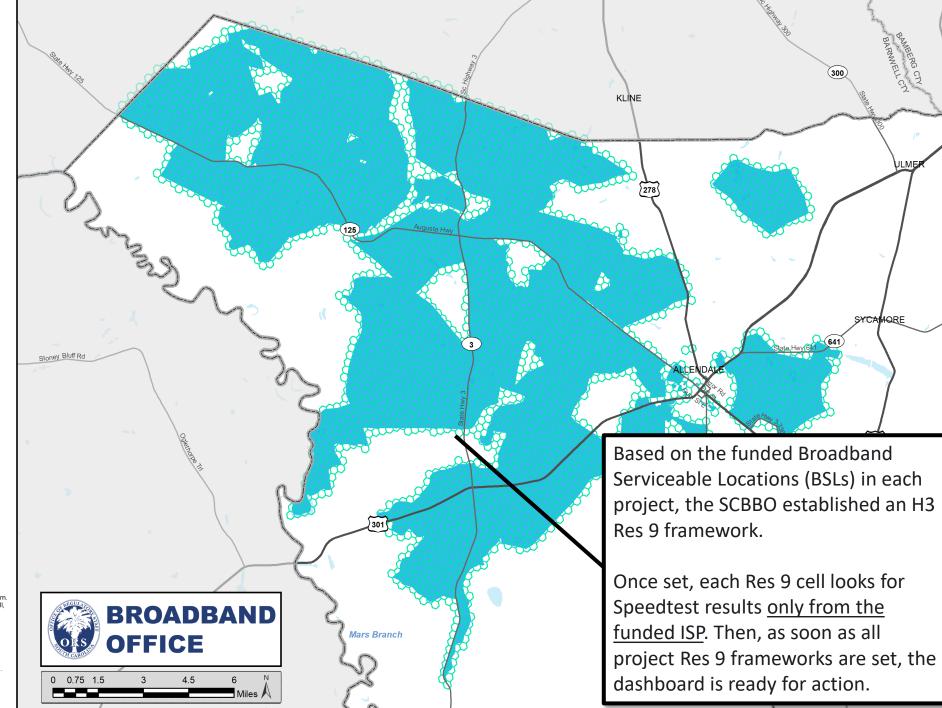
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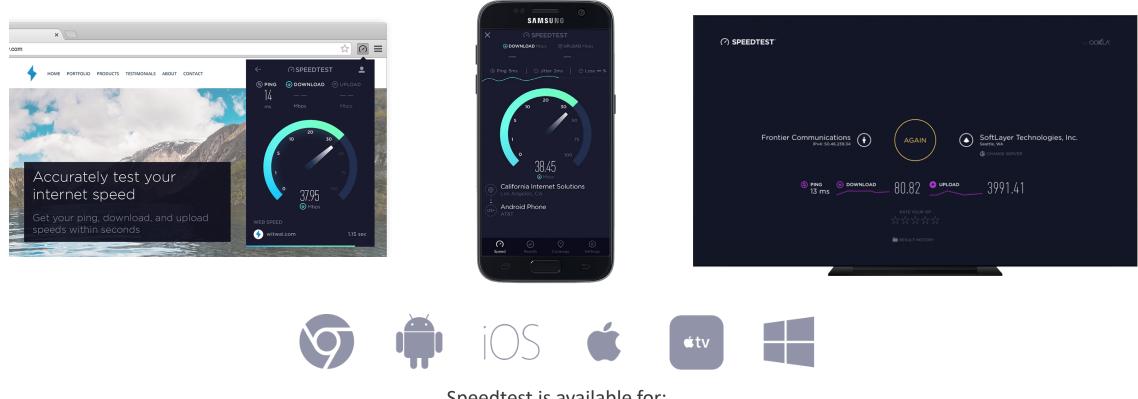
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⑦ SPEEDTEST[®]

Ookla's mission is to make the internet better, faster and more accessible for everyone



Speedtest is available for: Web, Android, iOS, macOS, Windows, AppleTV, Chrome



FILTER / FORMATTING / GEOPROCESSING:

- SCBBO Blacklist Applied
- Download Speed >= 100 Mbps
- Comes from GPS-equipped device
- Location Accuracy < 500m
- Geocoded for H3 Res 6, 7, 8 & 9

STEP 2

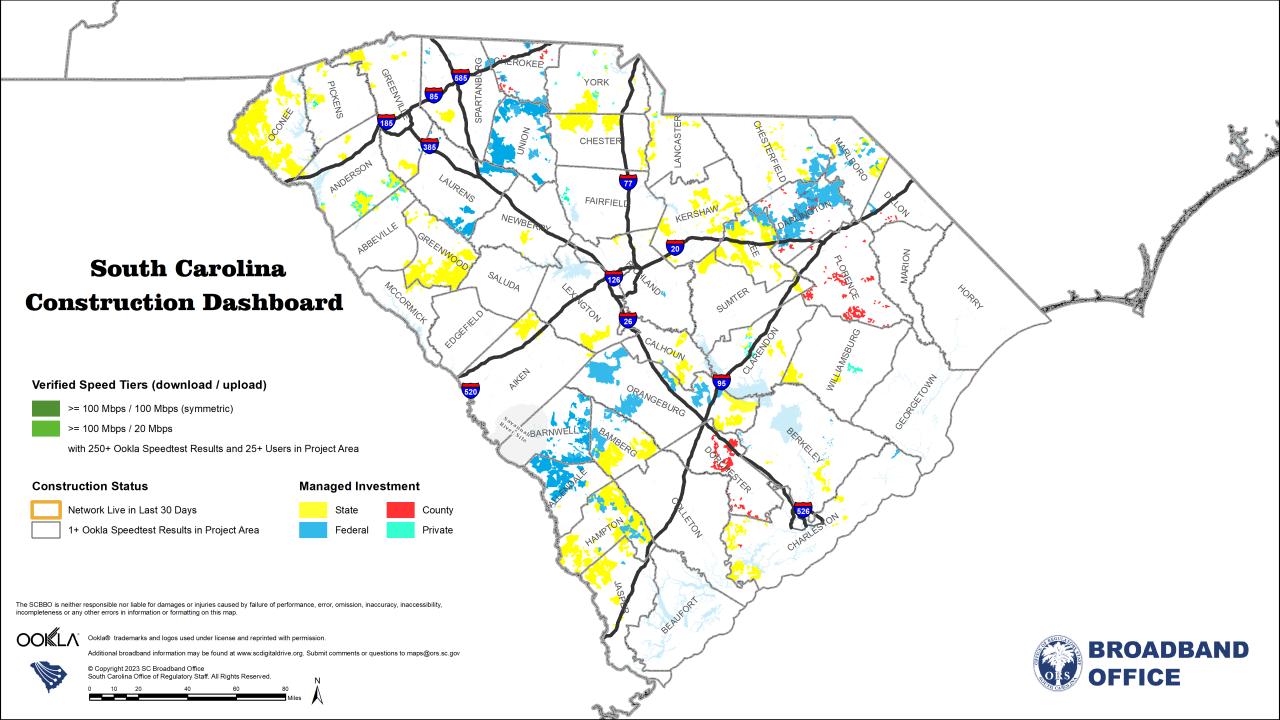
STEP 3

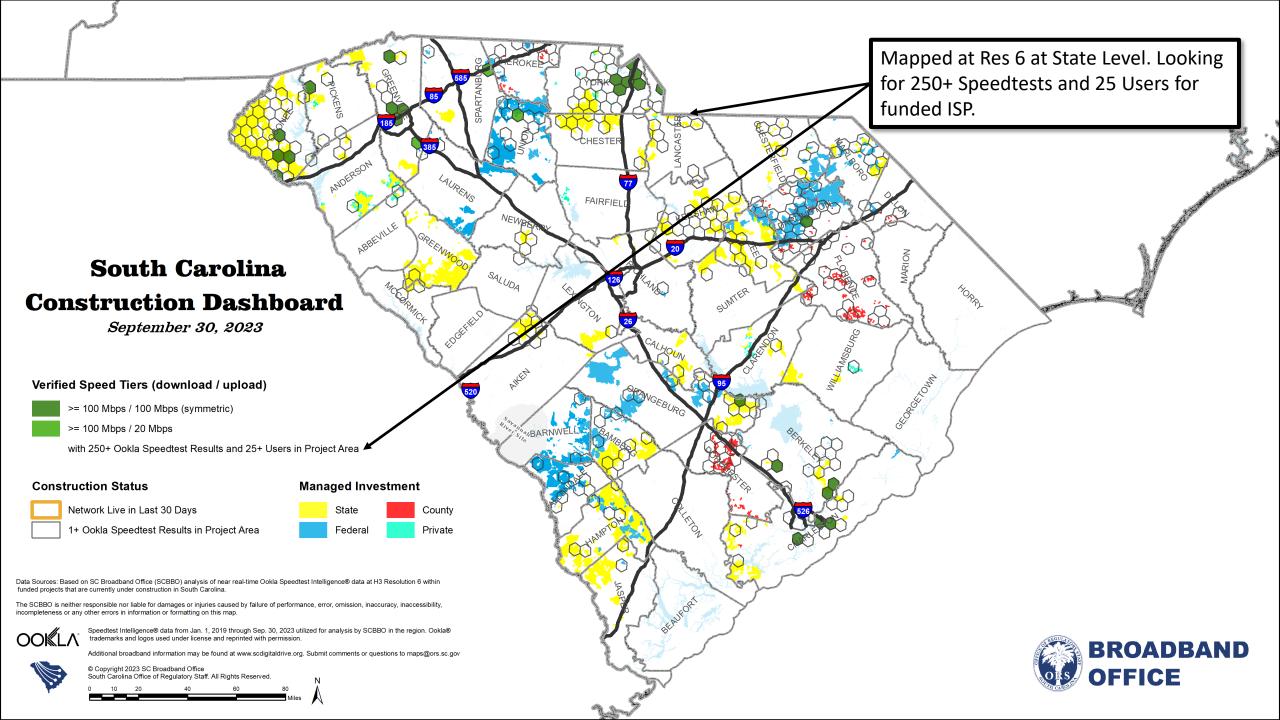


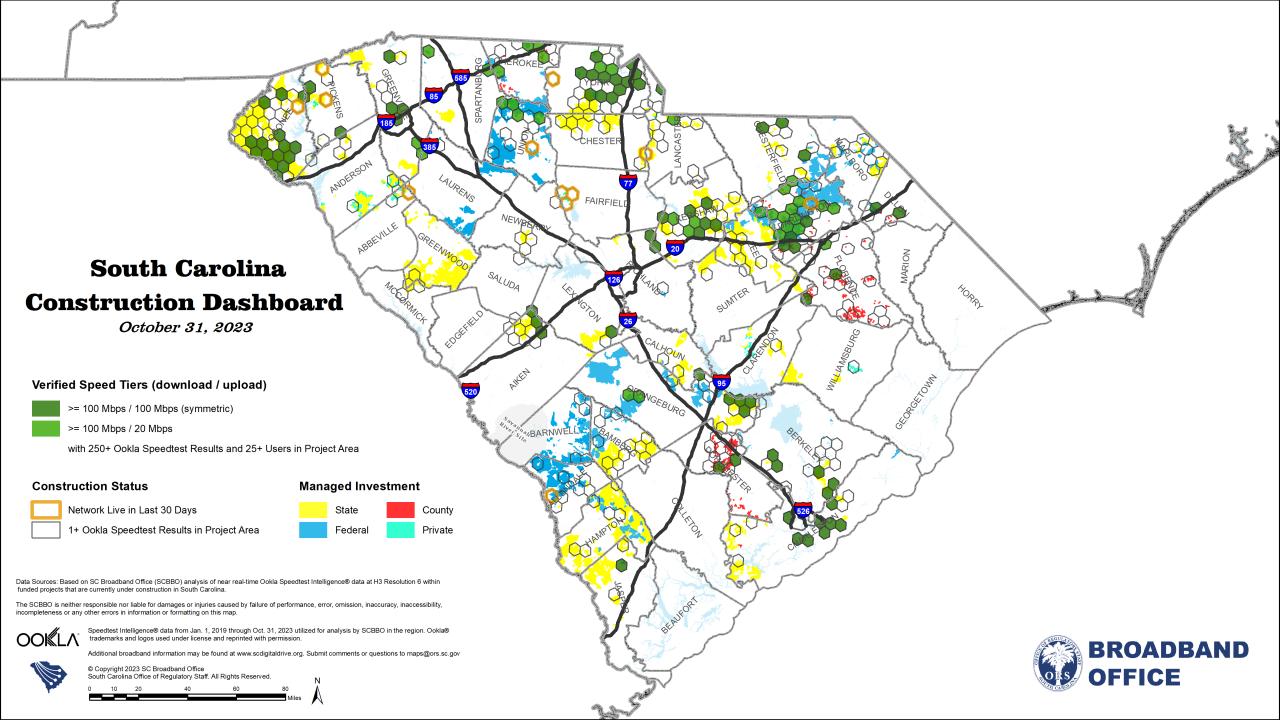
FIXED WIRELINE CUMULATIVE JAN. 1, 2019 through APR. 7, 2024:

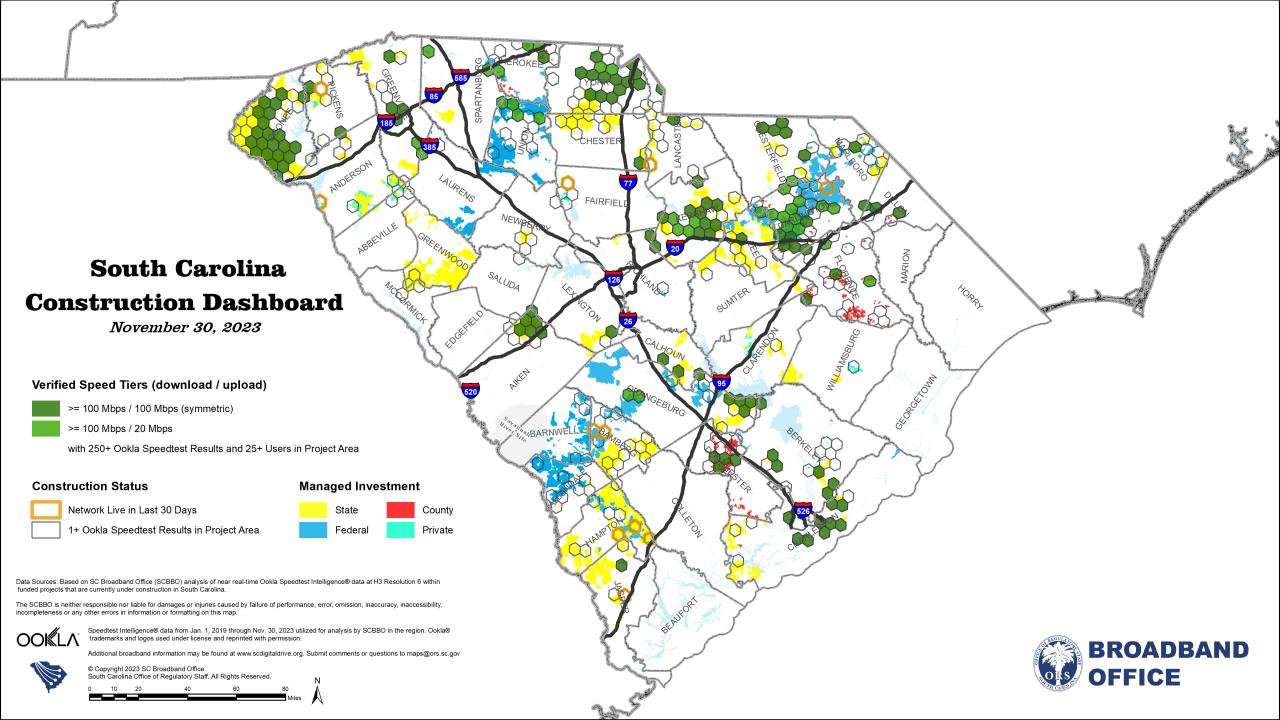
4,098,514 Speedtest Results

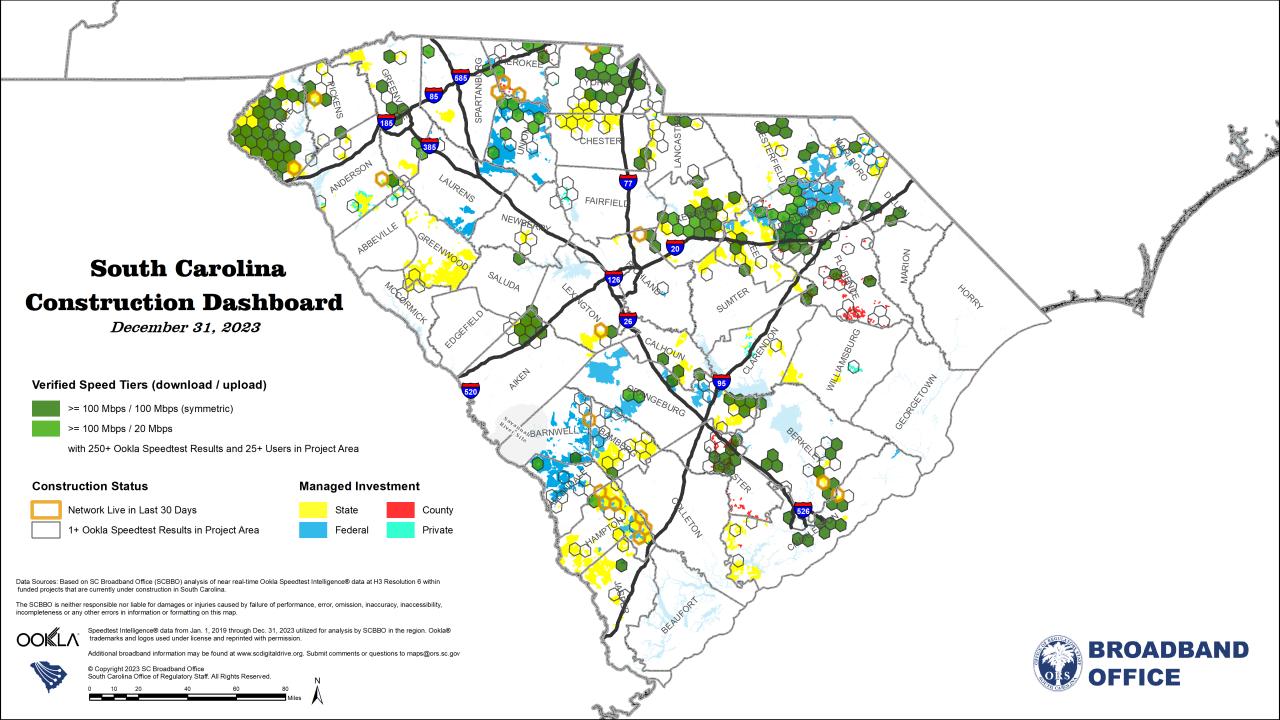
Receive ~2,000 to 3,000 new tests daily

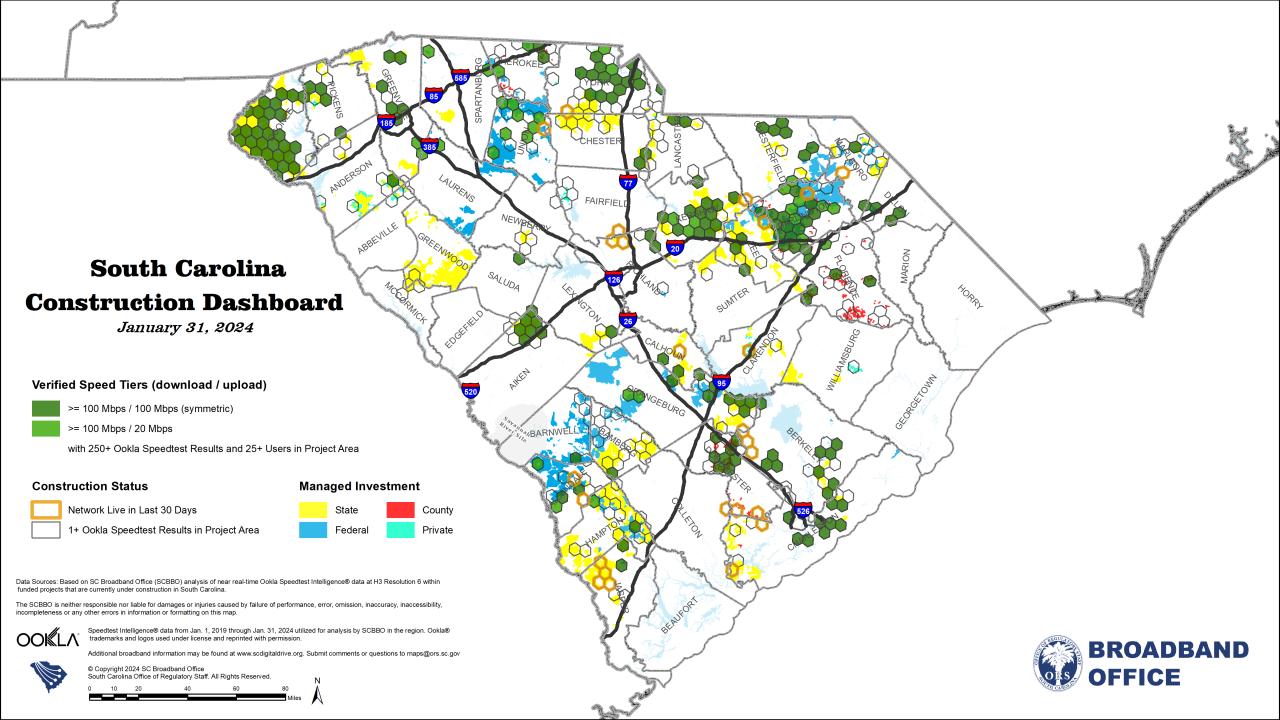


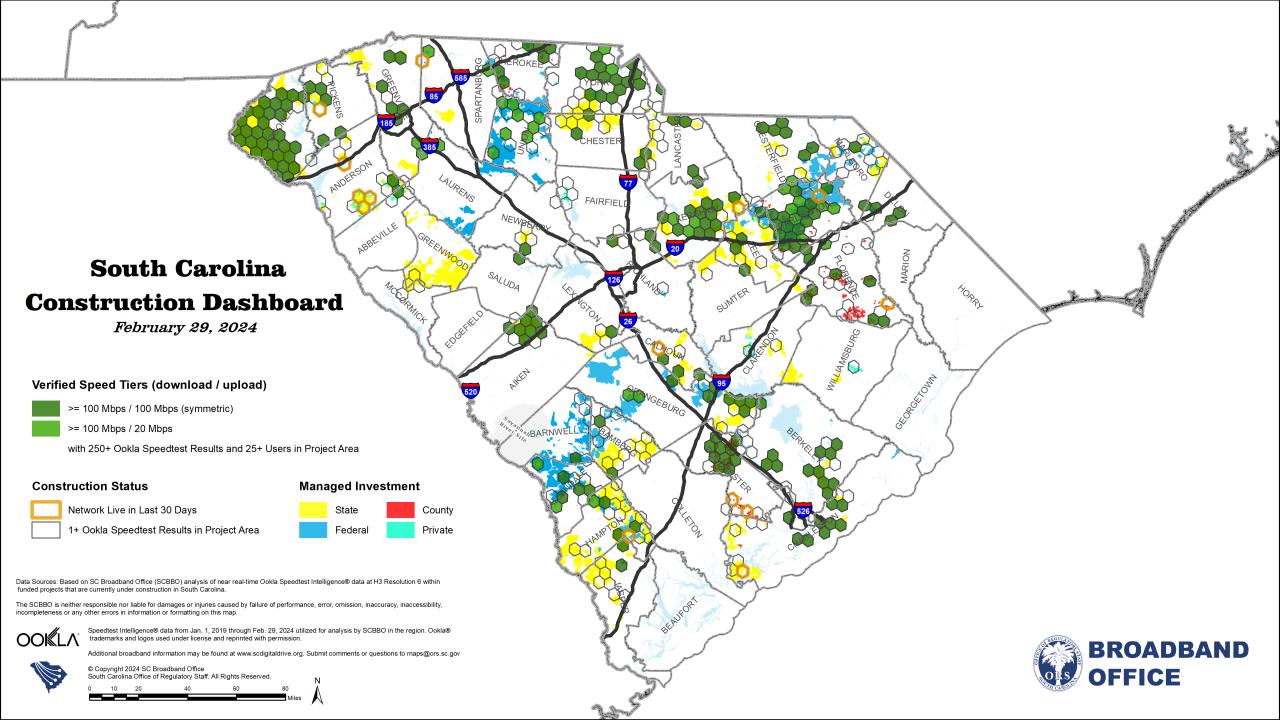


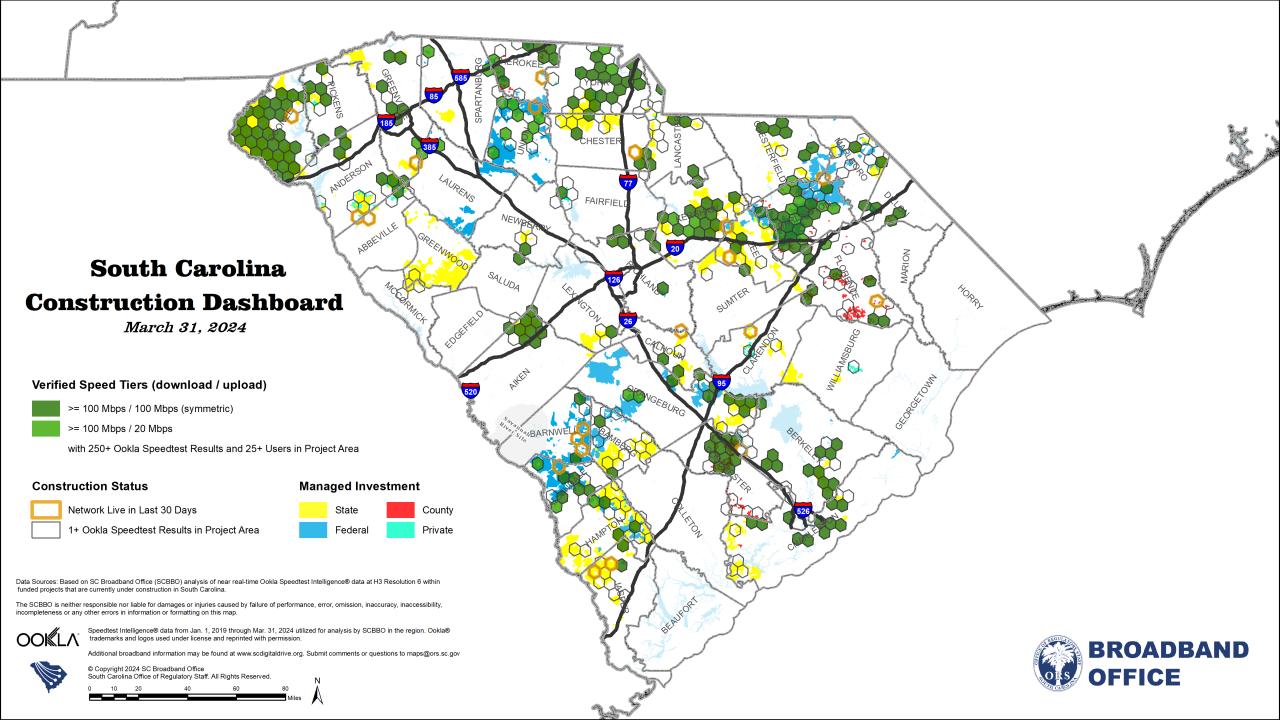


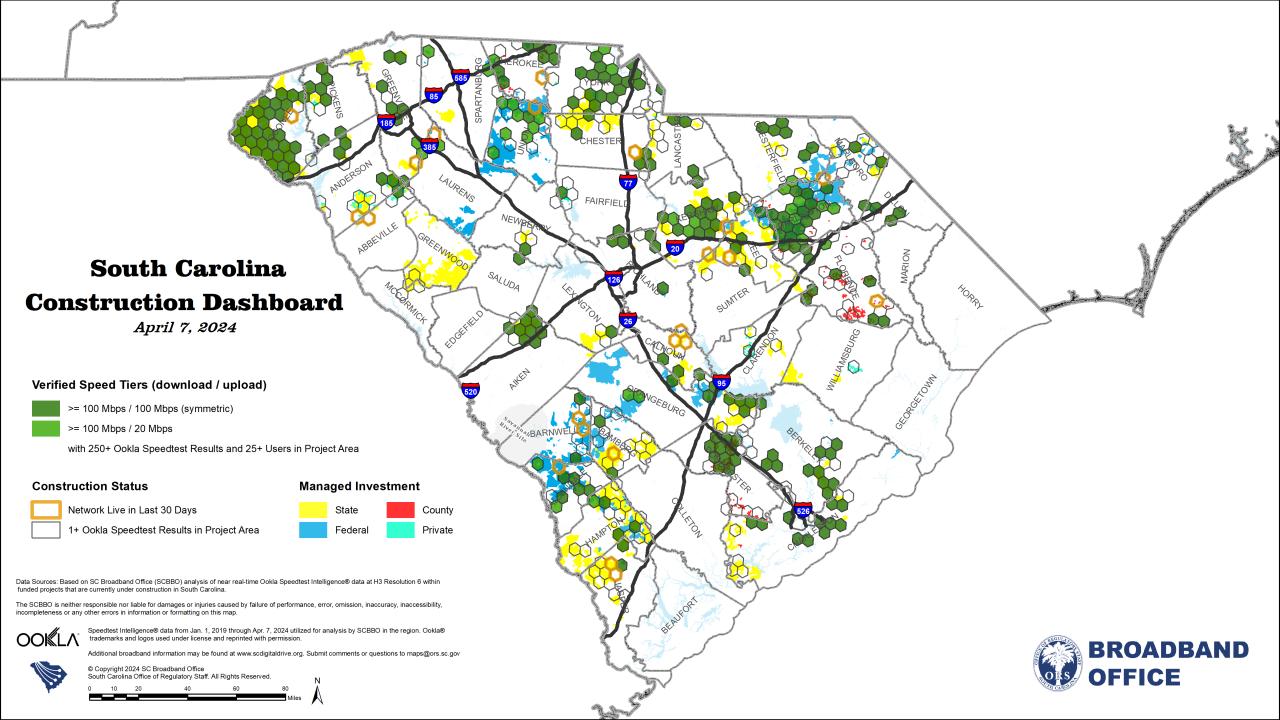


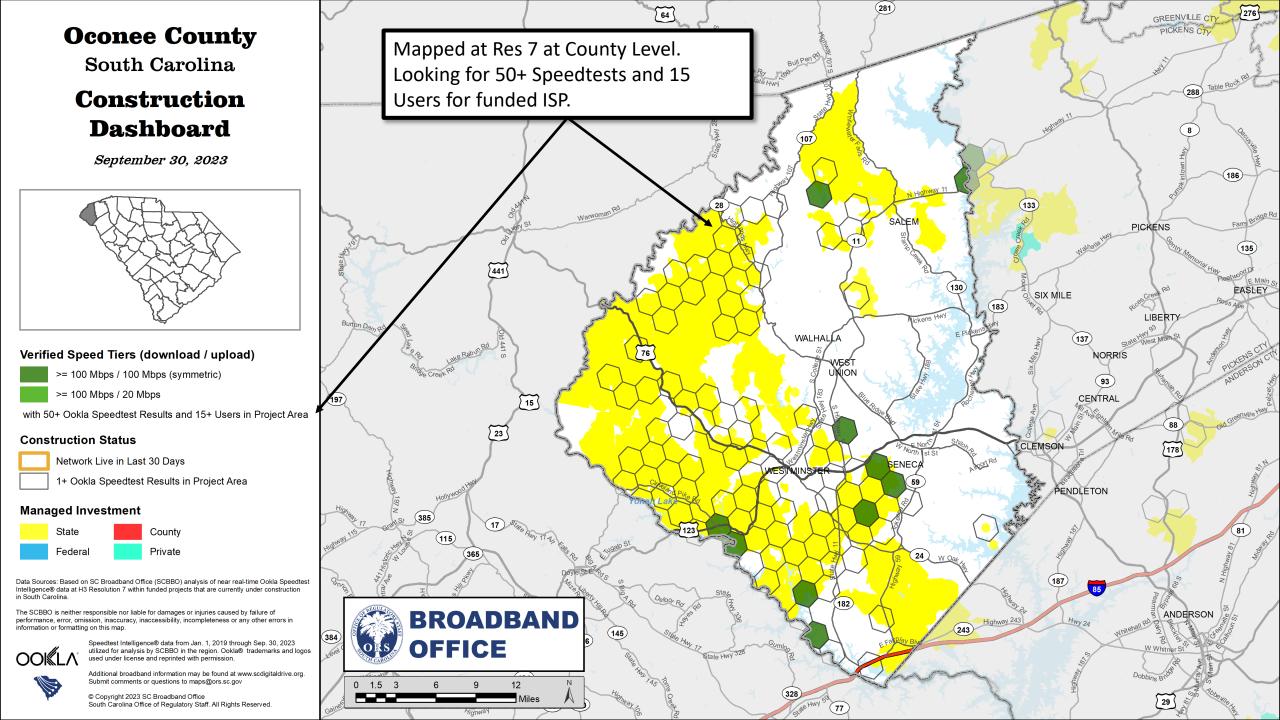


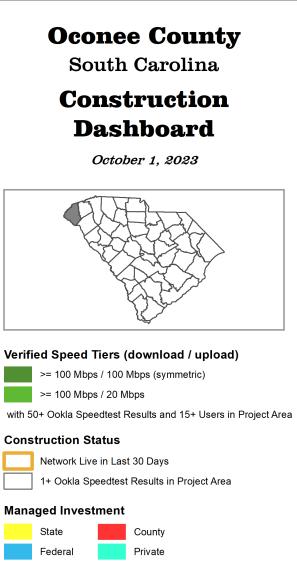












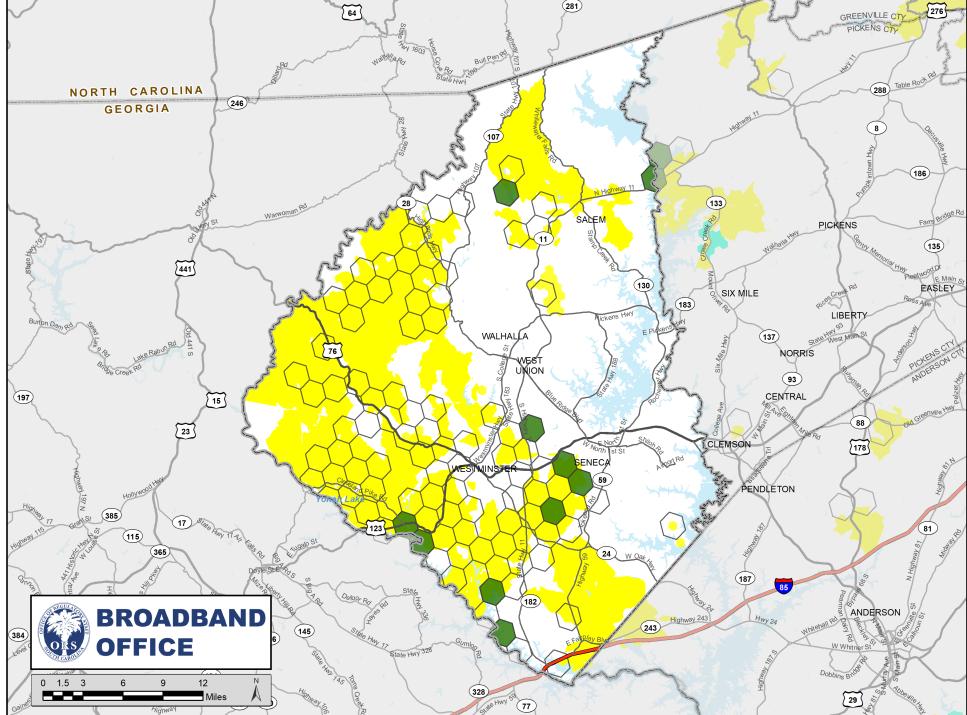
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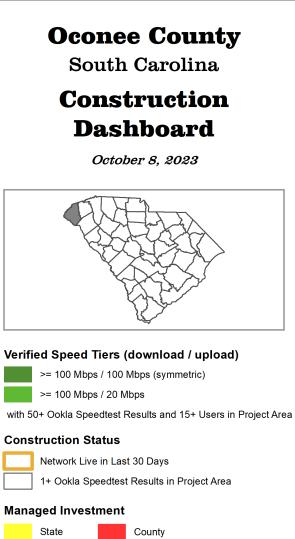


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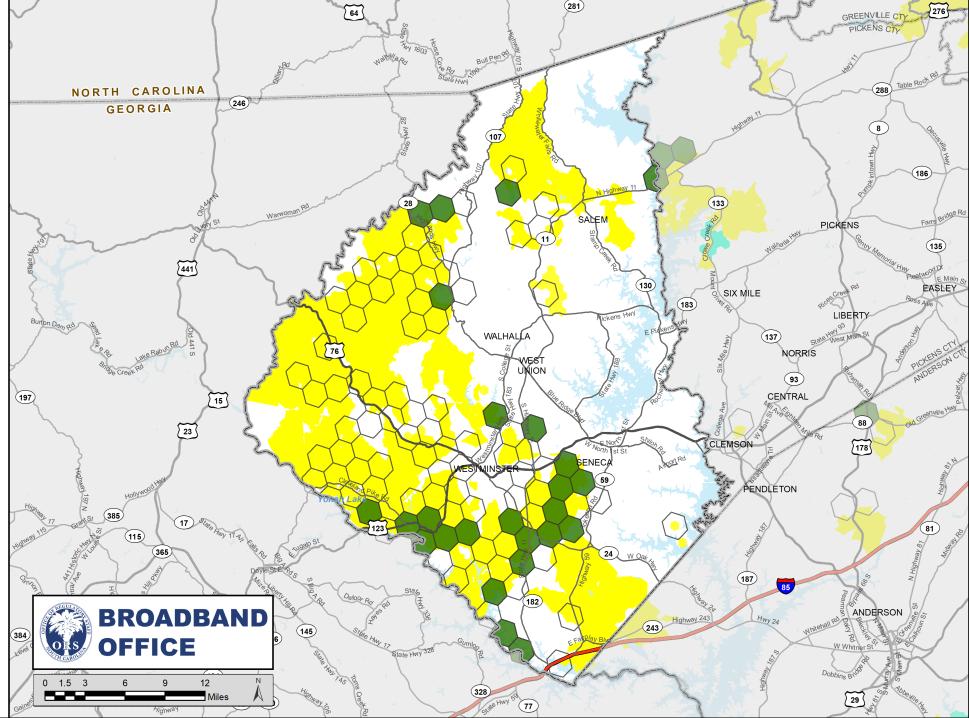
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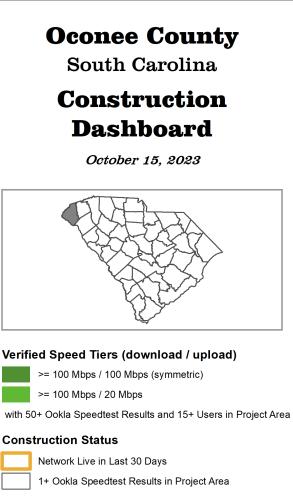


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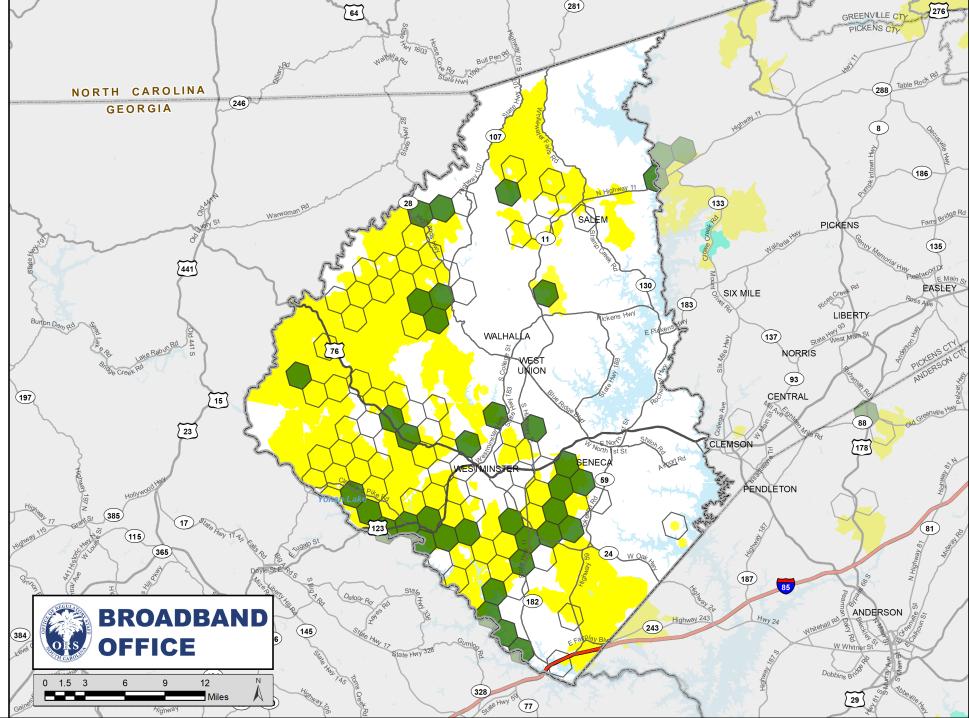
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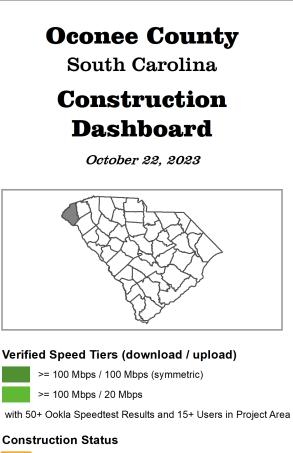
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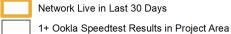


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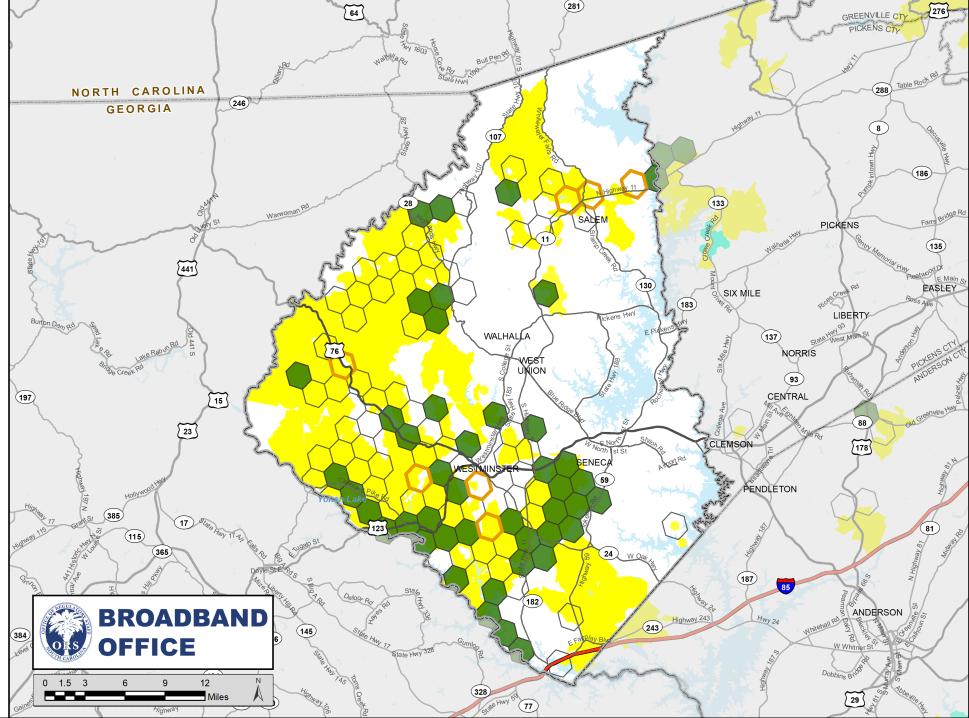
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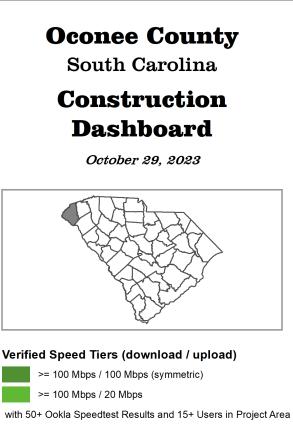
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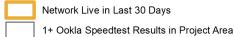
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Construction Status



Managed Investment



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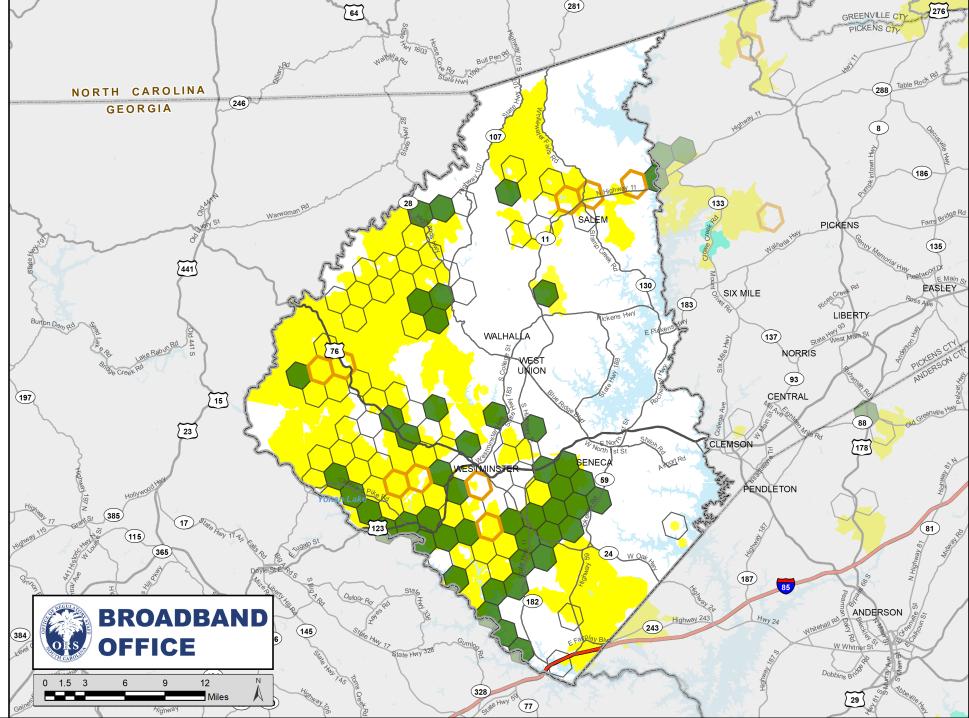
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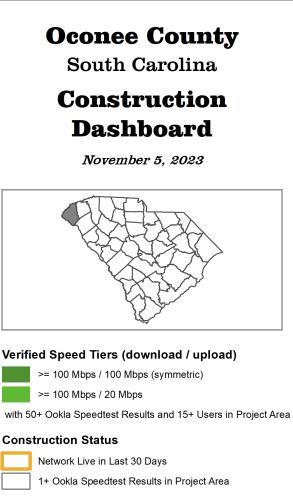


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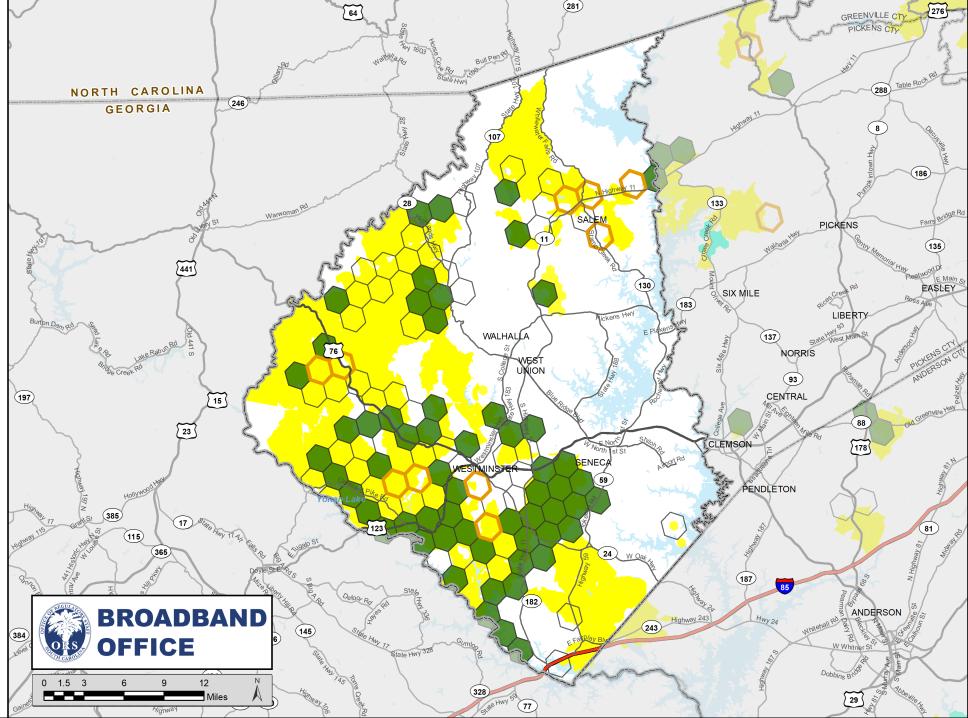
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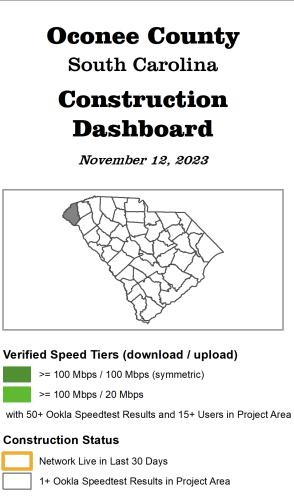
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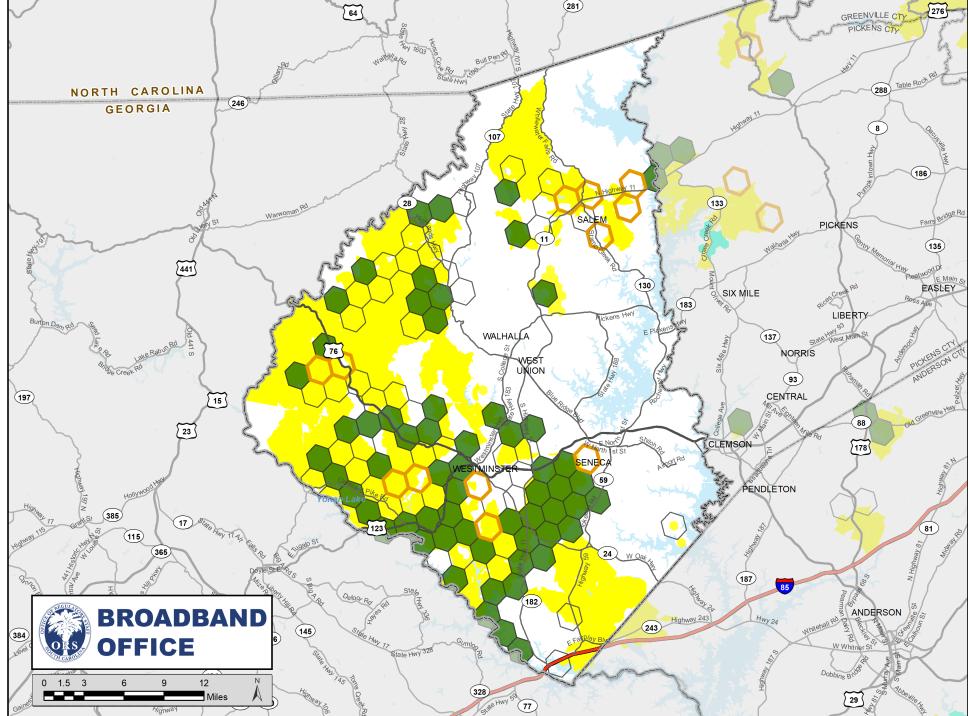
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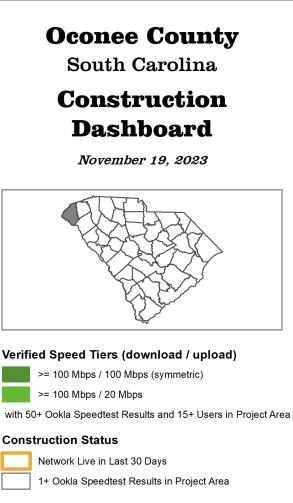
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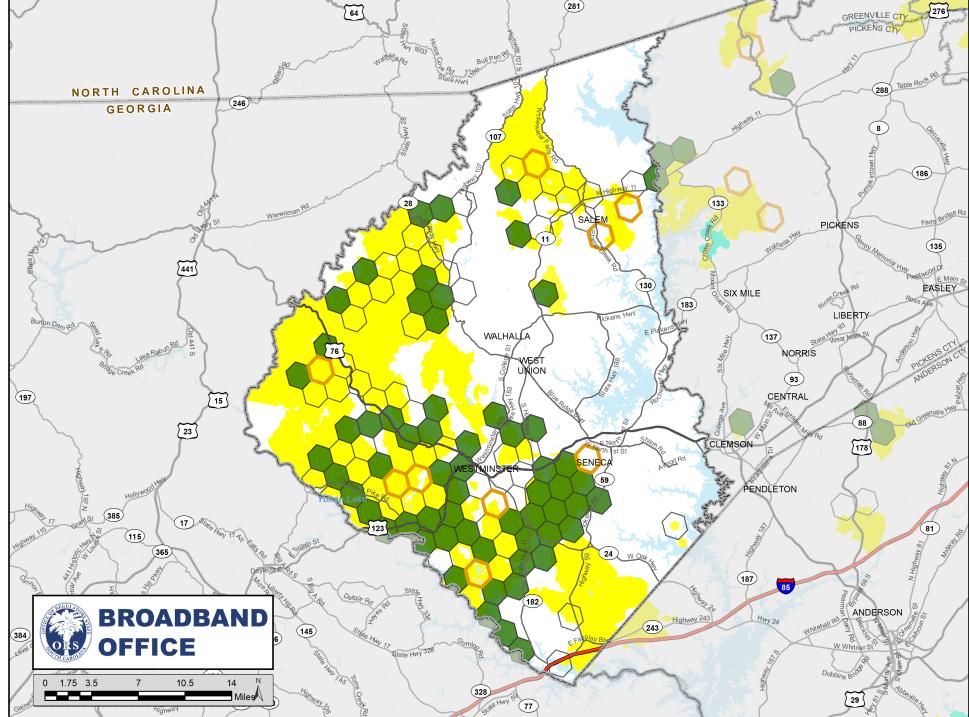
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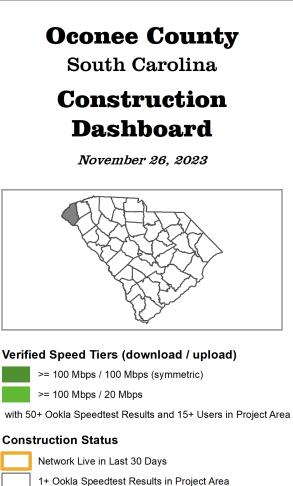
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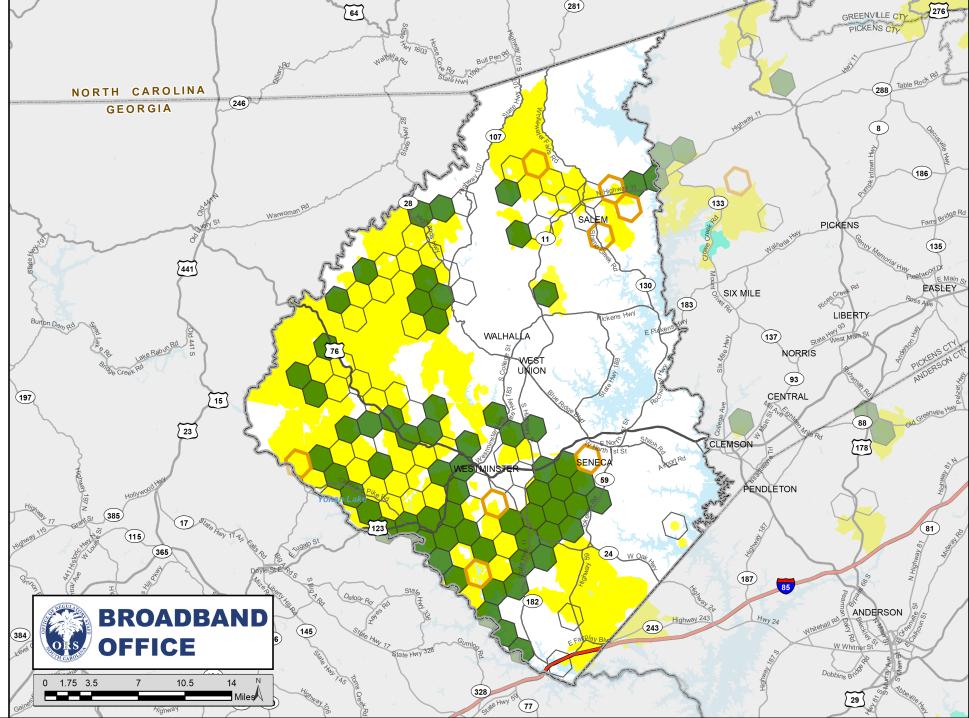
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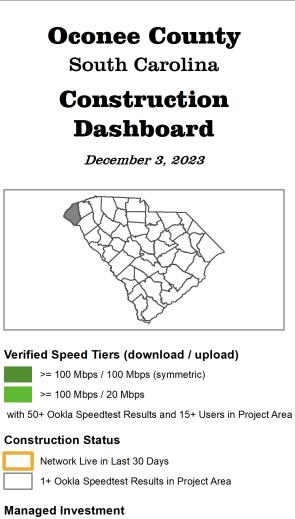
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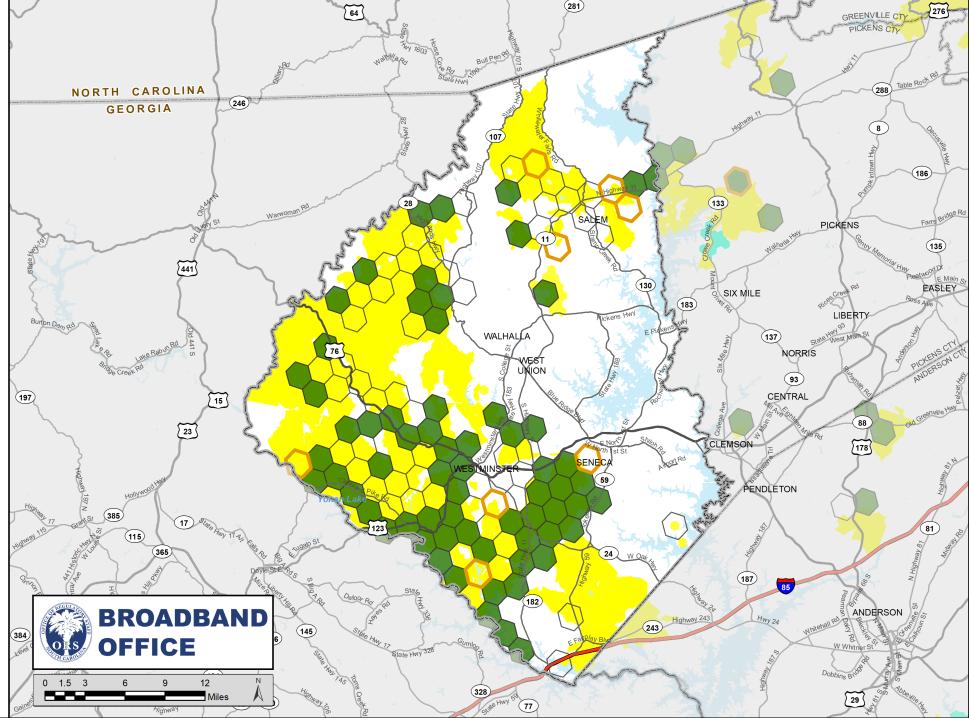


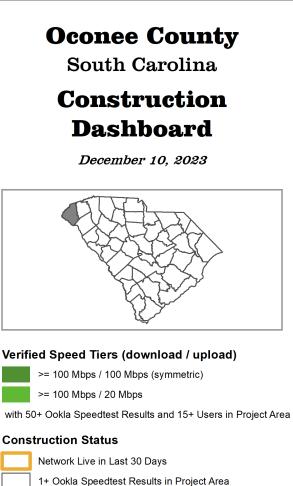
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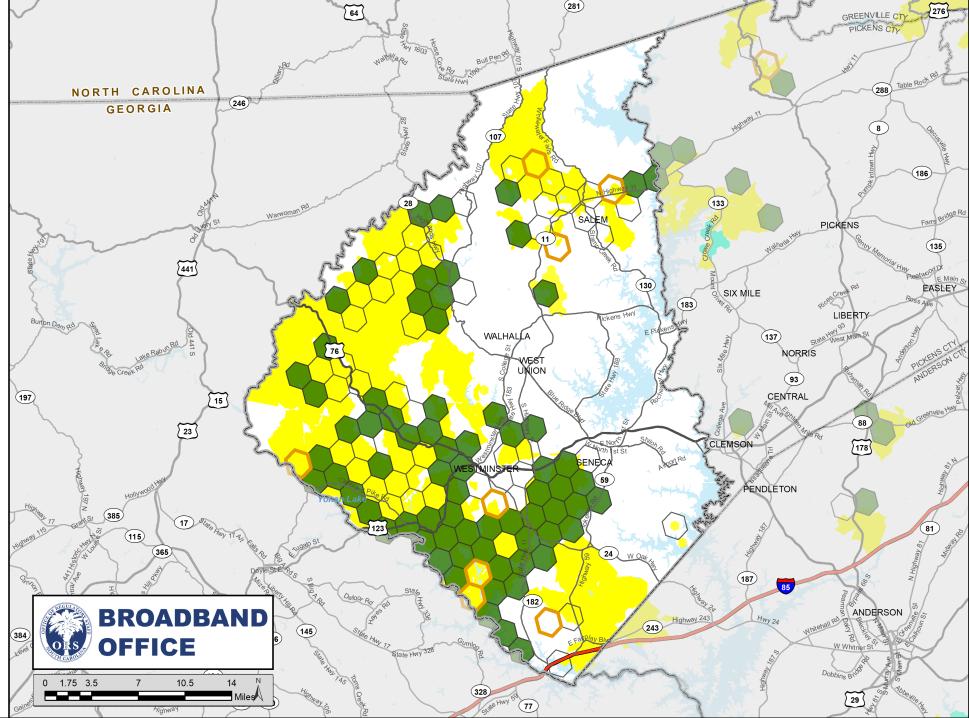


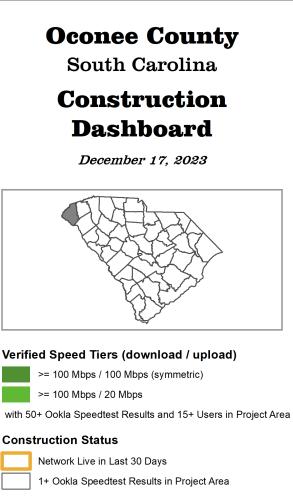
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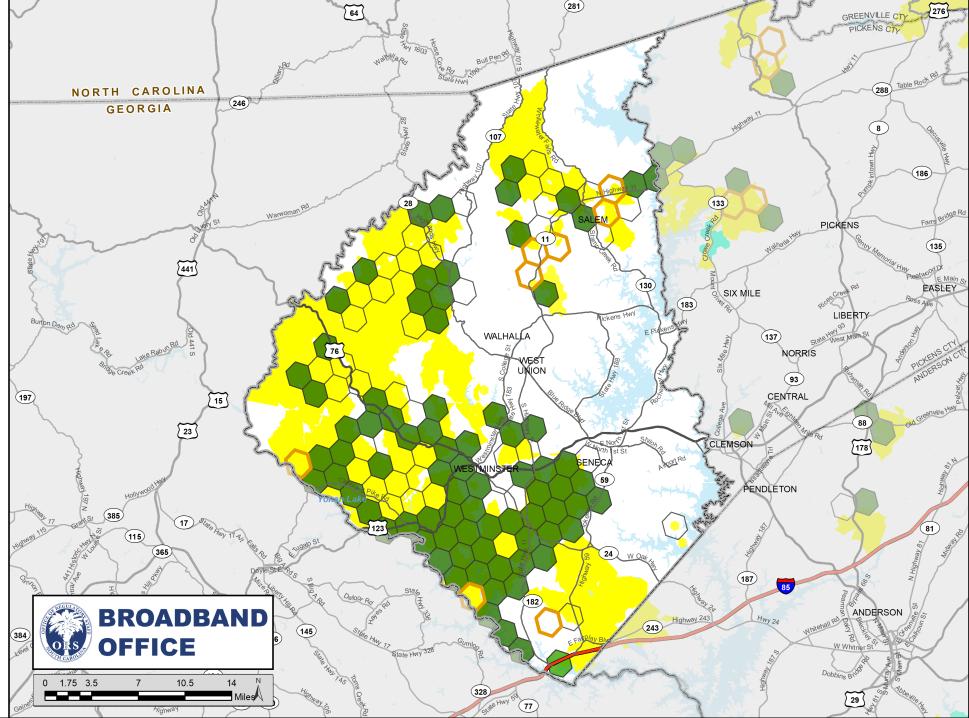
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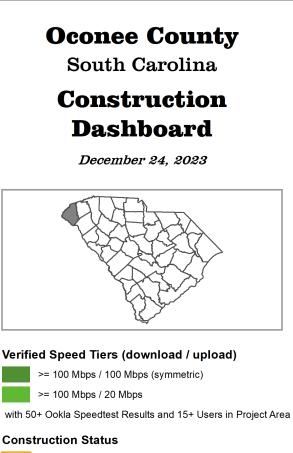
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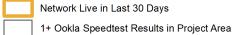


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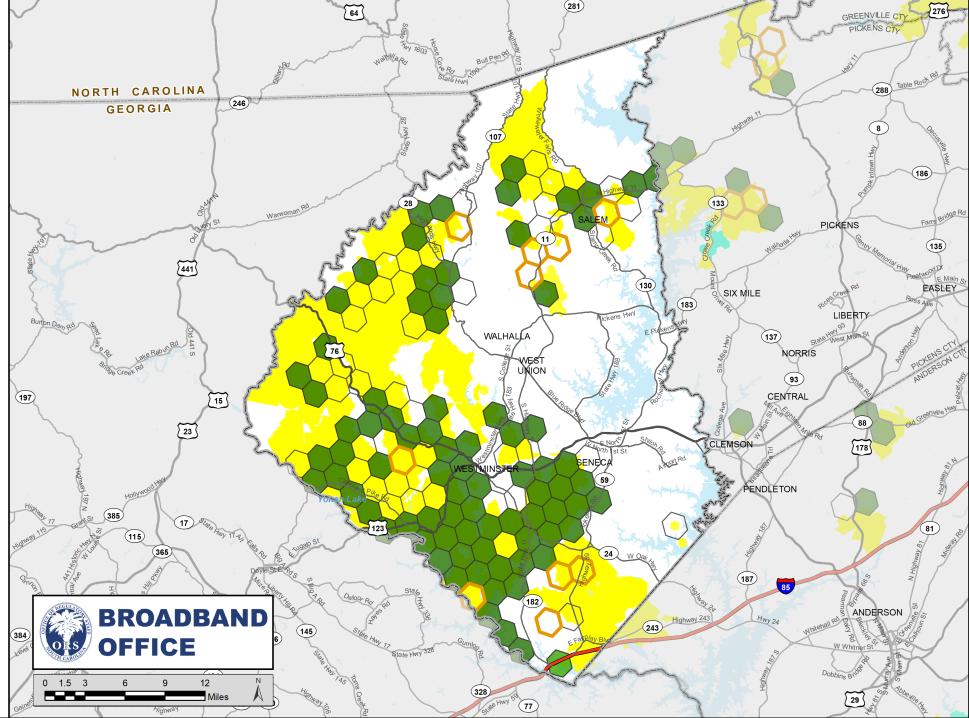
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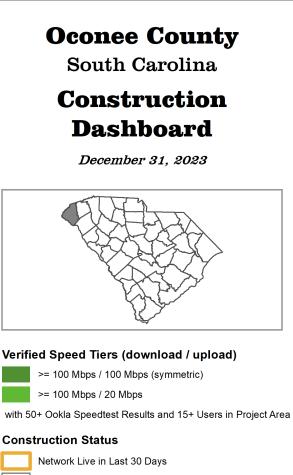
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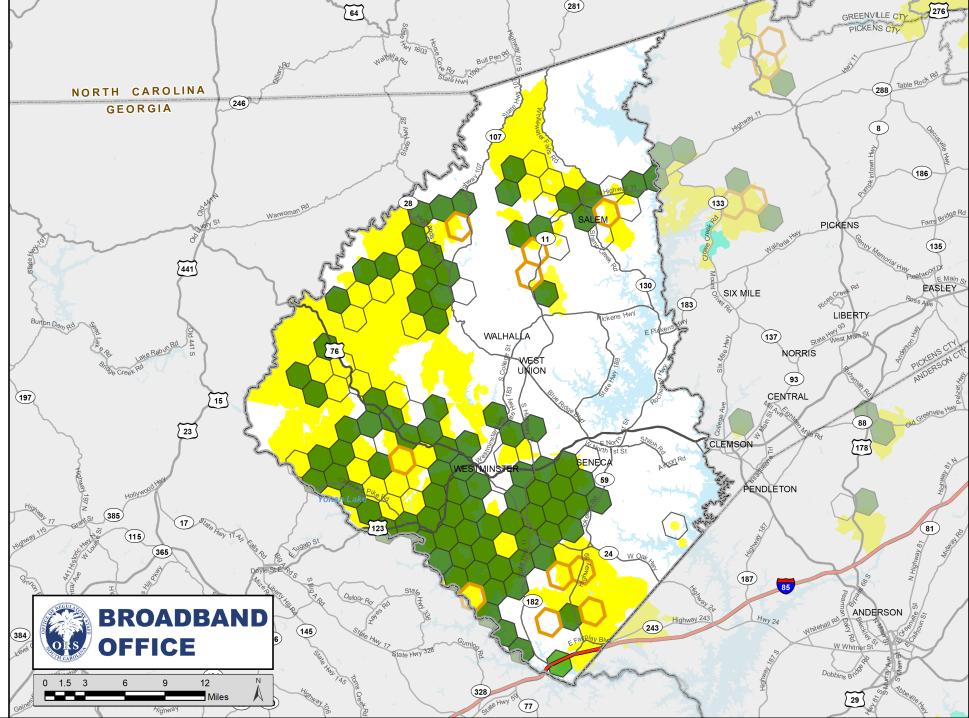
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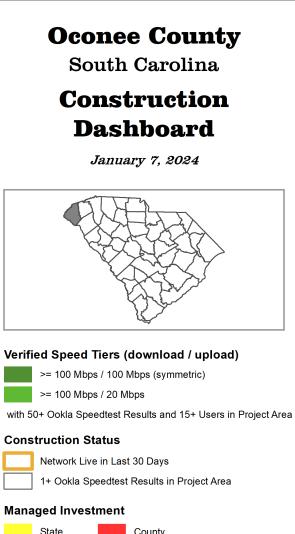
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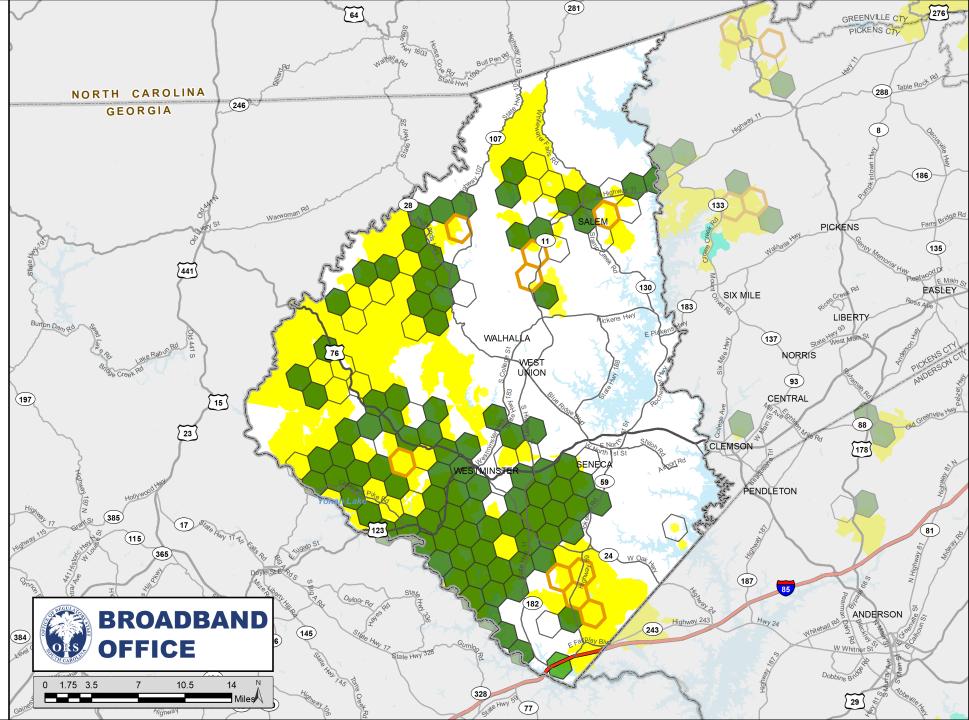
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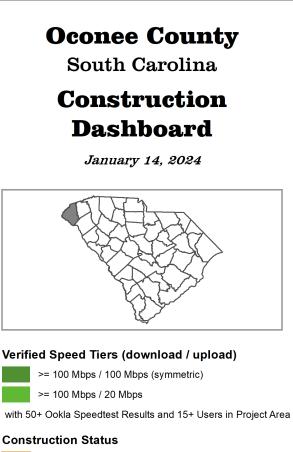


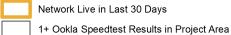
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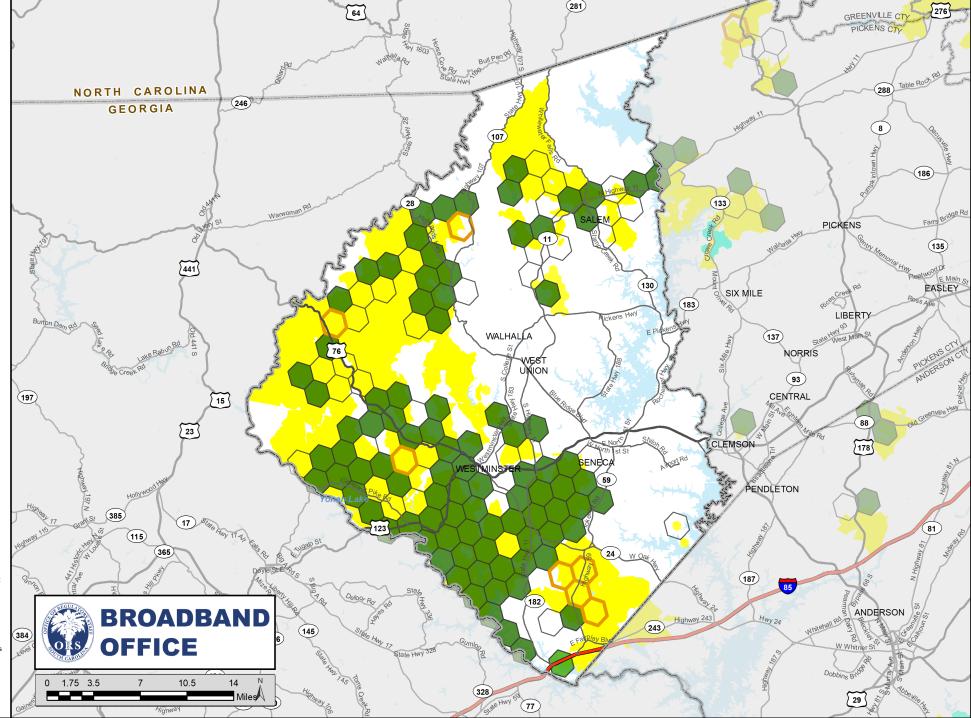
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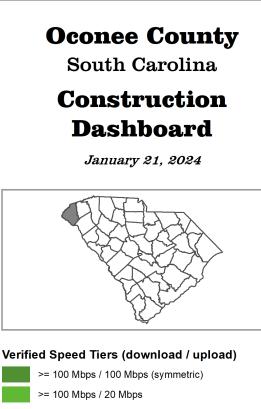
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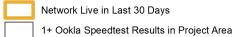
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with 50+ Ookla Speedtest Results and 15+ Users in Project Area

Construction Status



Managed Investment



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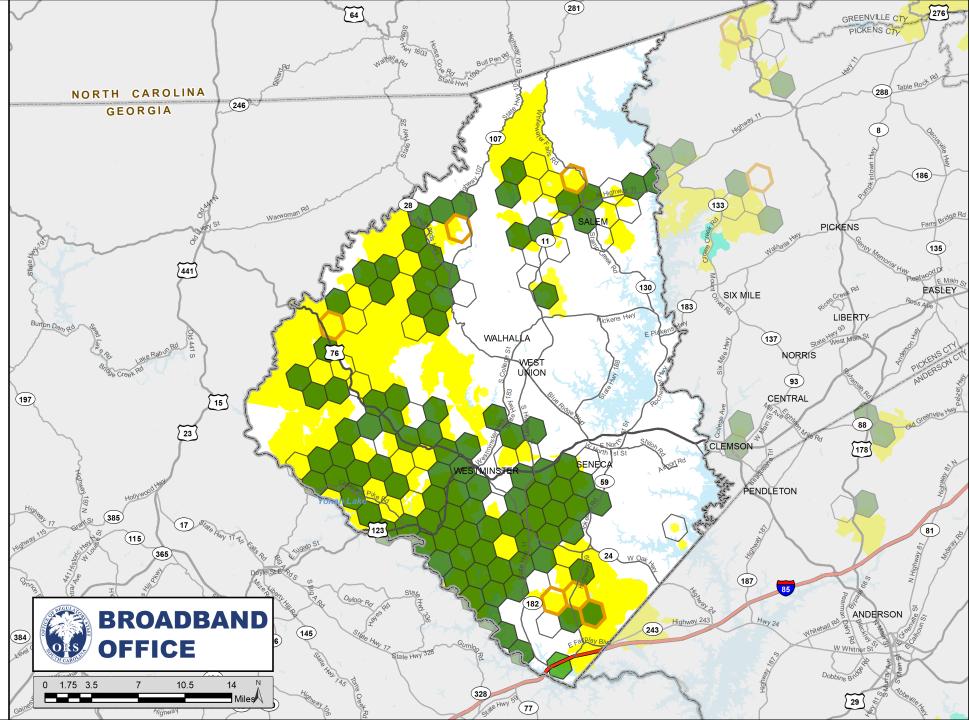
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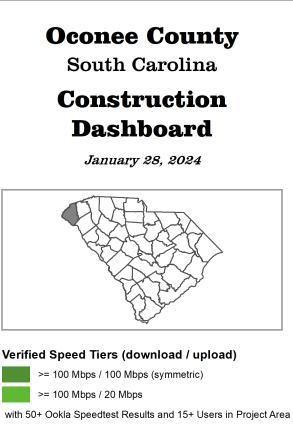


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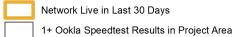


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Construction Status



Managed Investment



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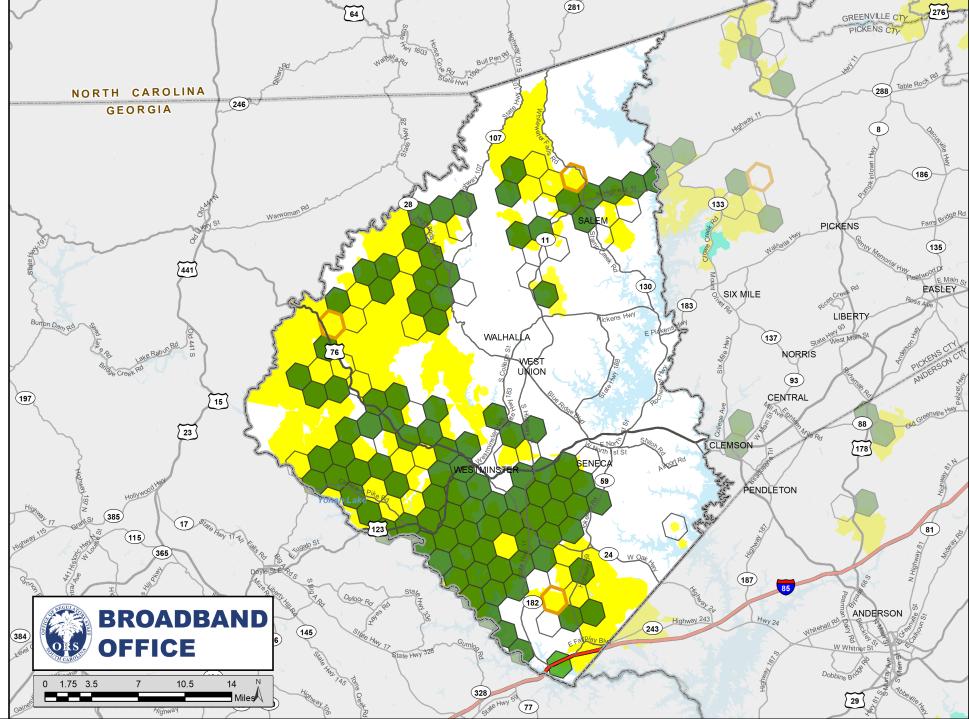
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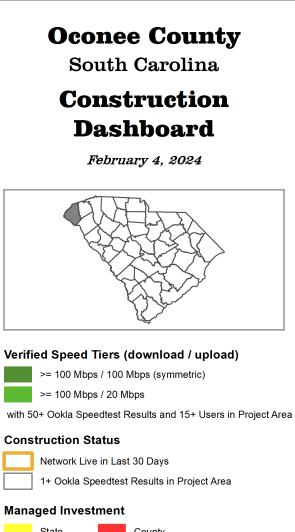


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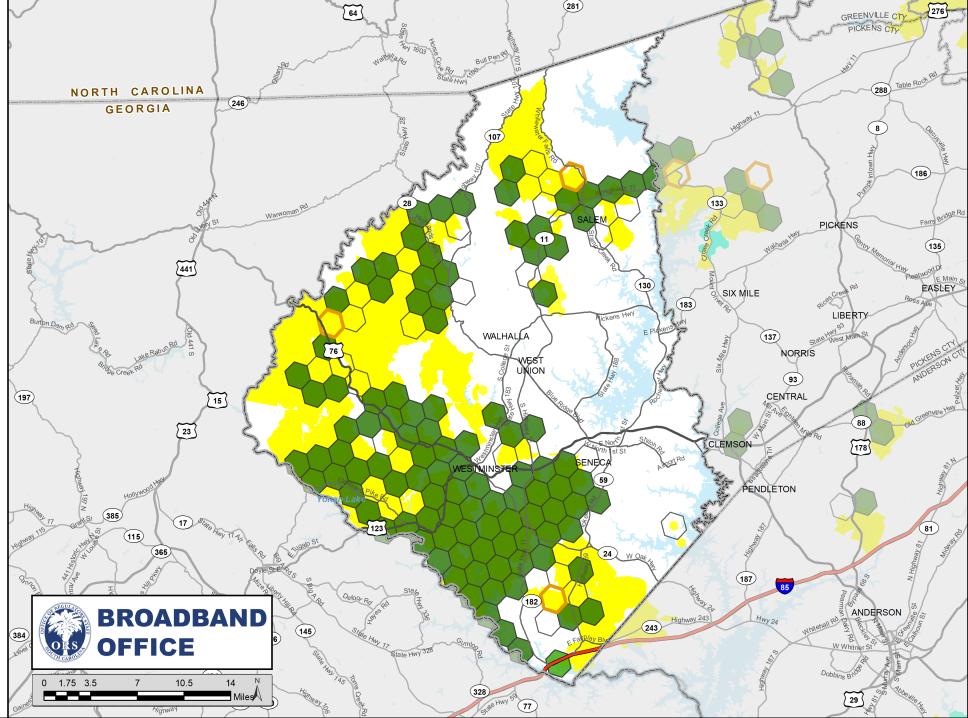
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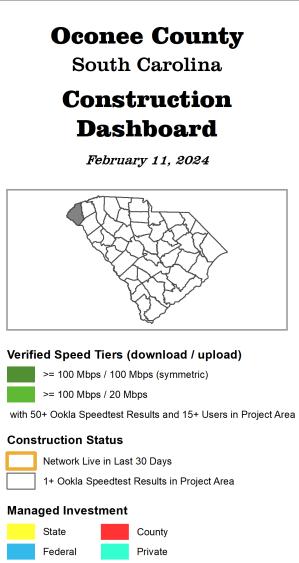


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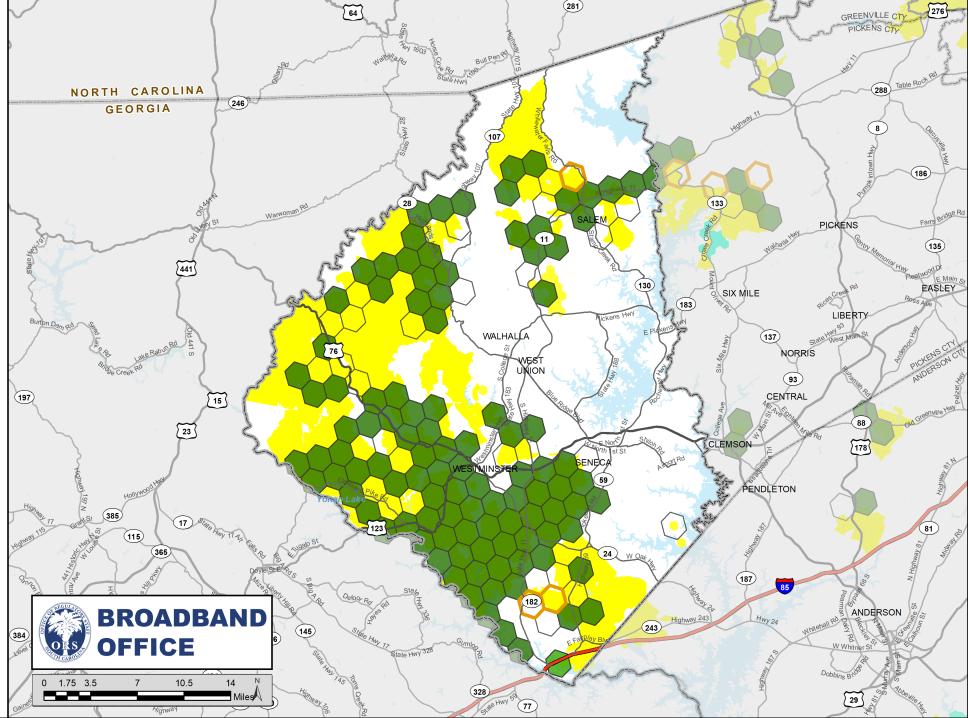


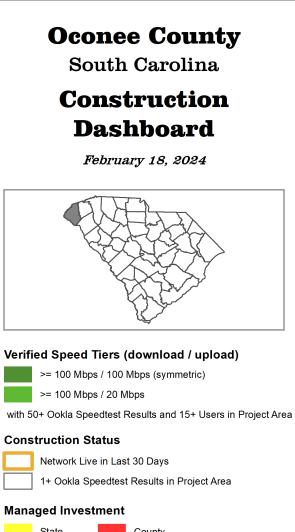
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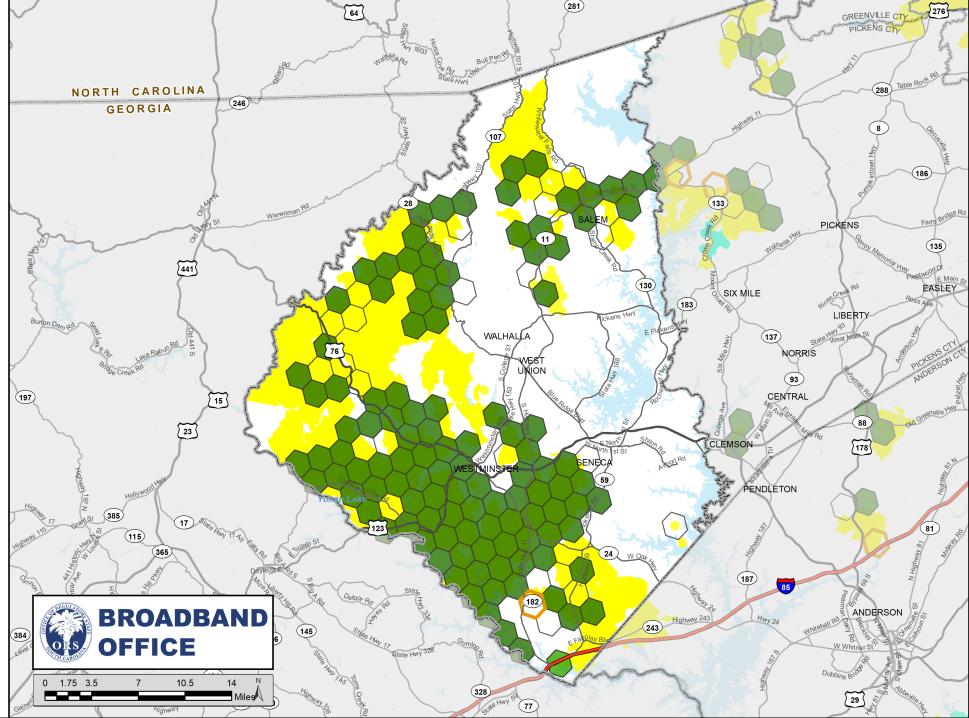


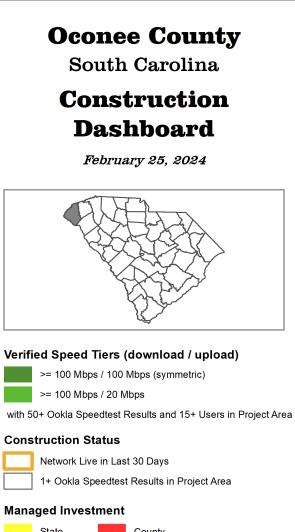
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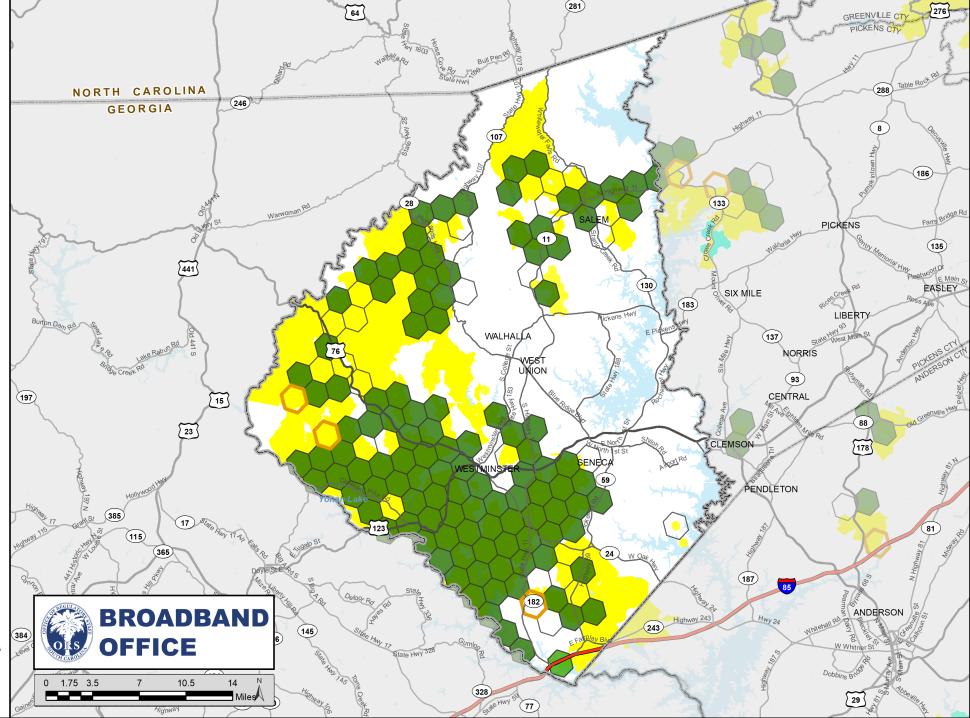


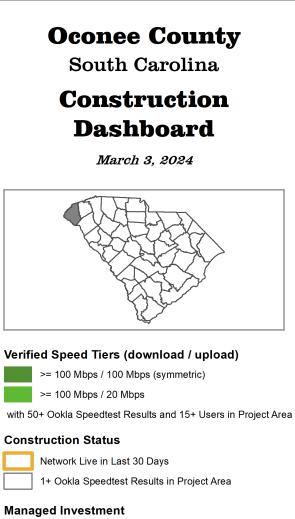
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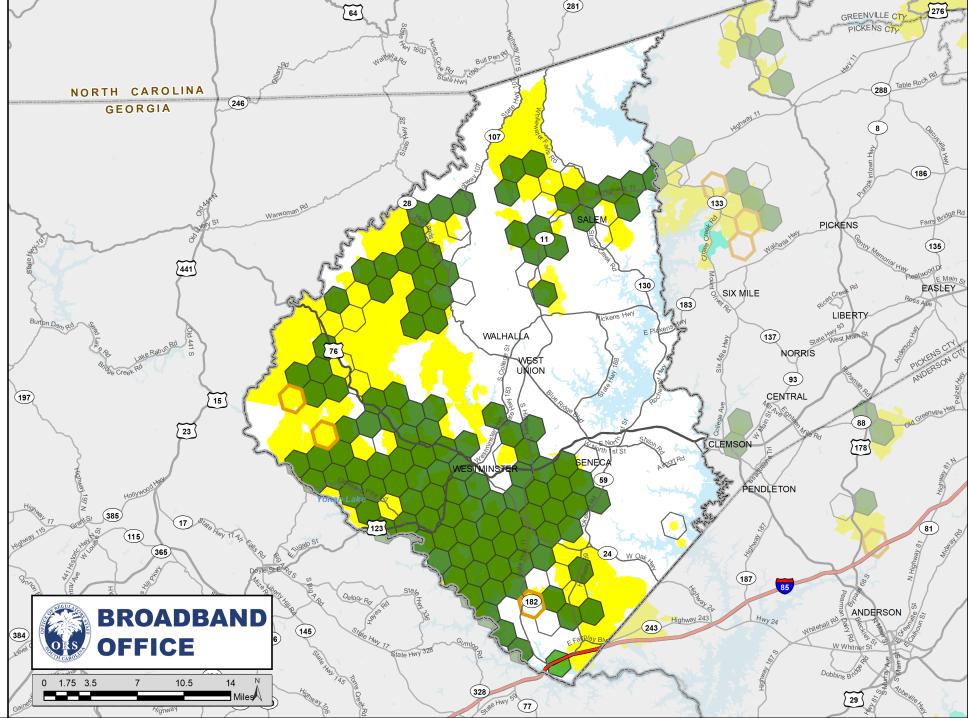
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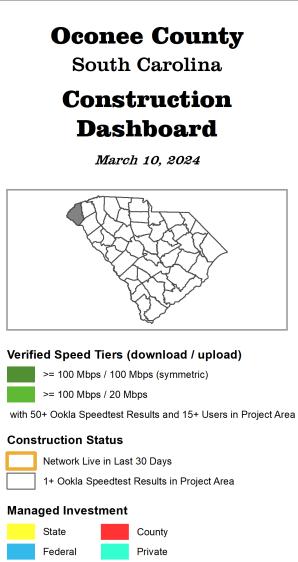


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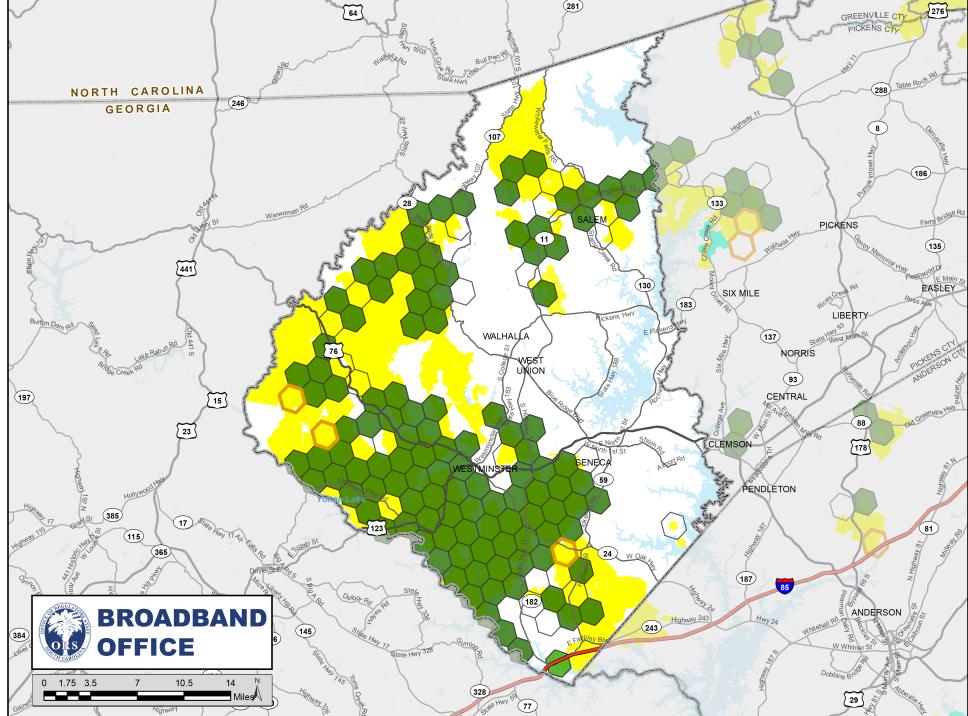


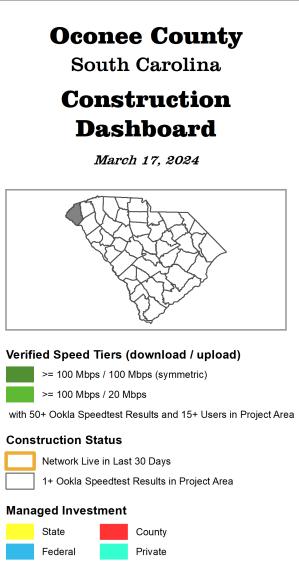
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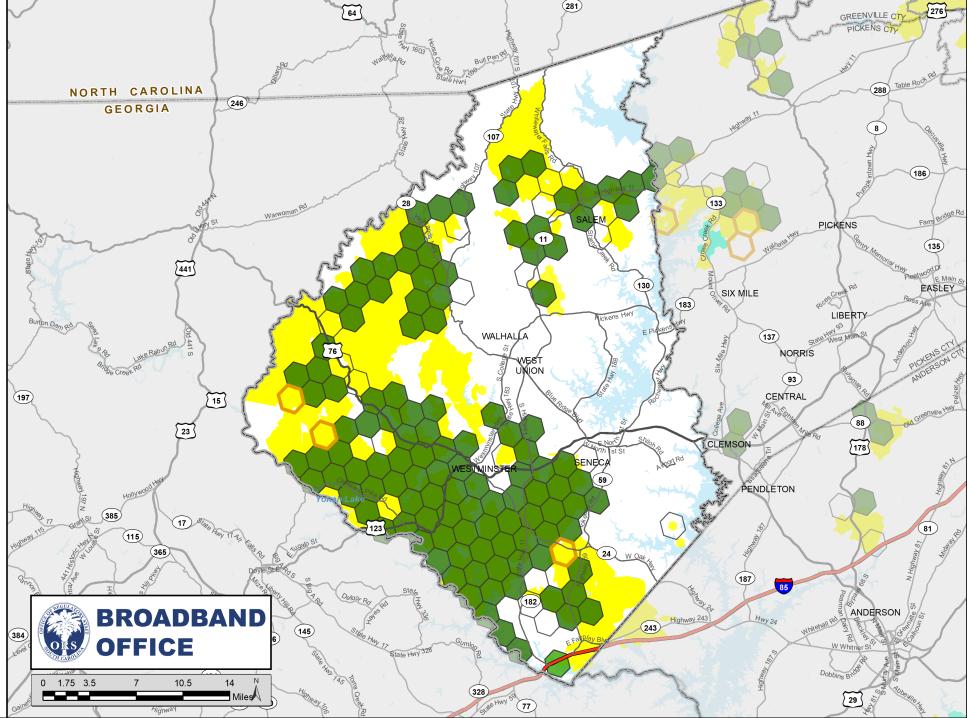


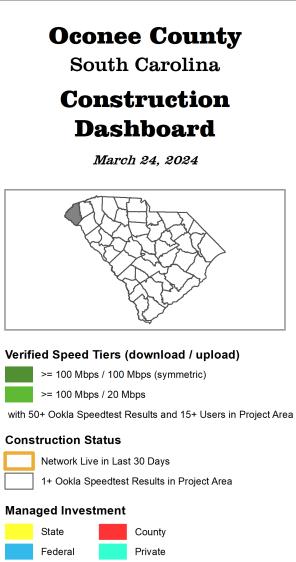
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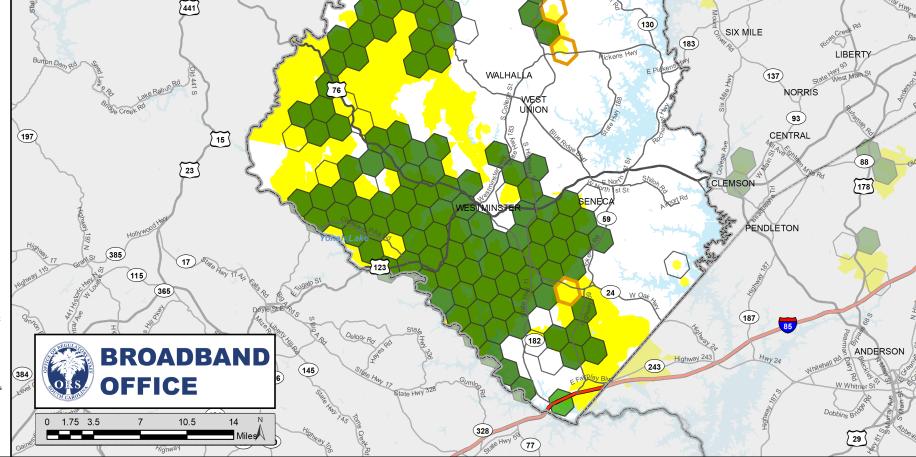


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28

NORTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA

(246)

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(133)

107

276

(186)

dge R

(135)

E Main

EASLEY

81

GREENVILLE CT

288

PICKENS

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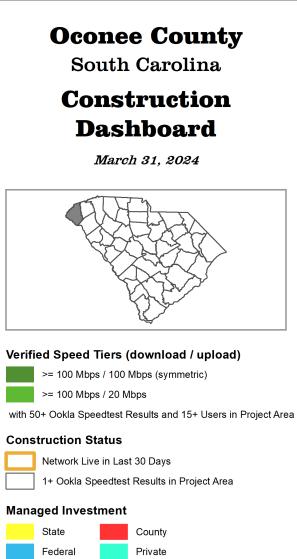
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OOKLA

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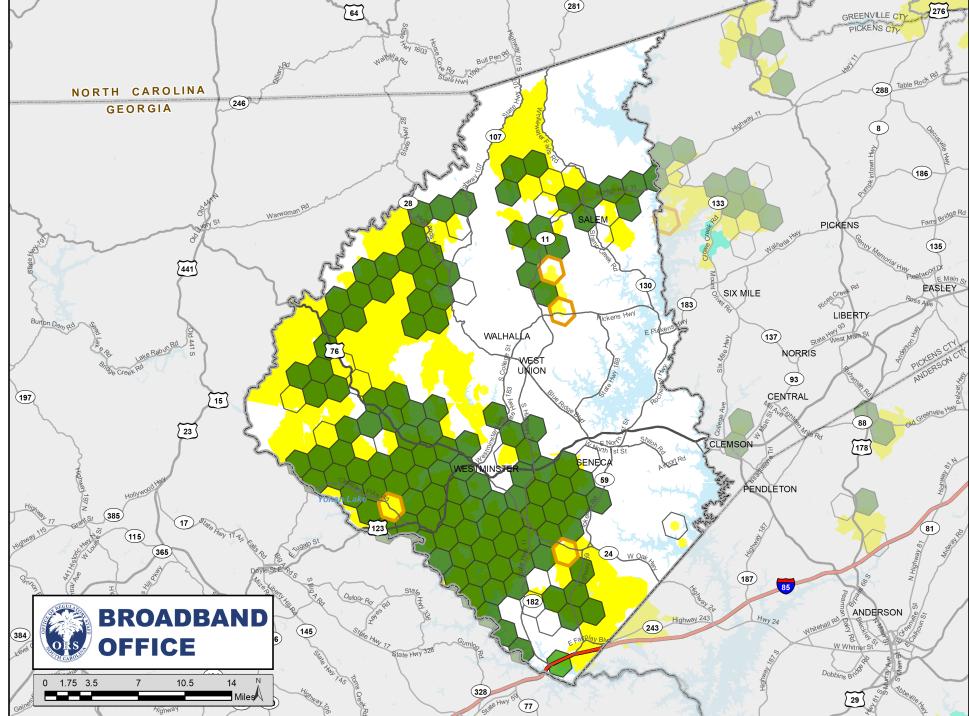


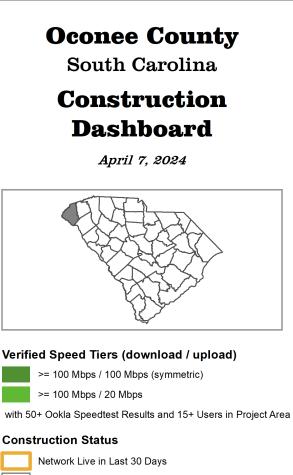
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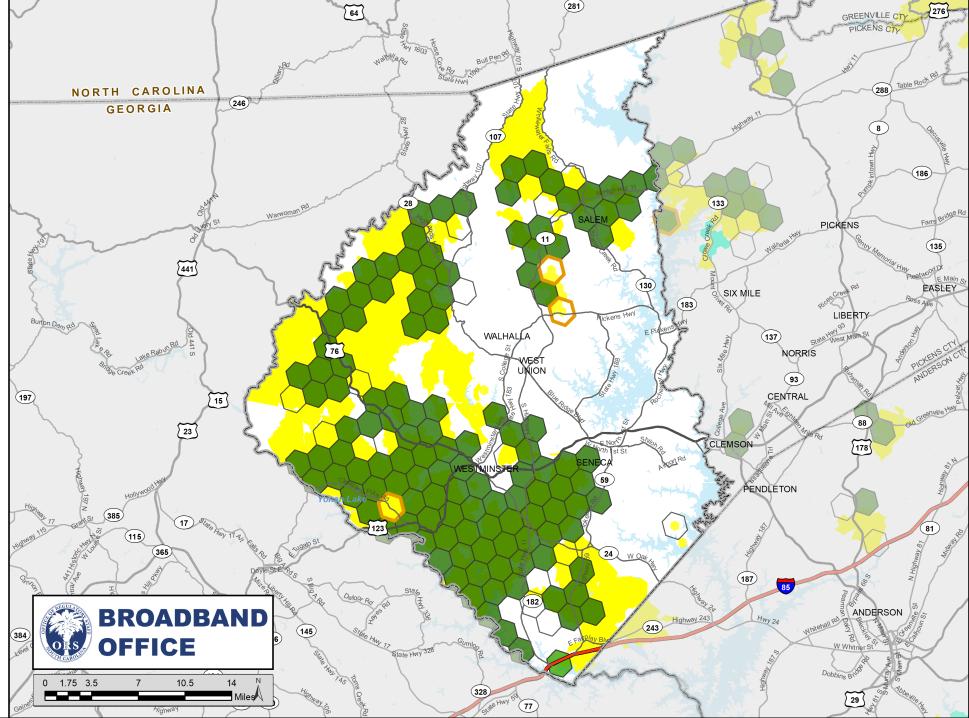
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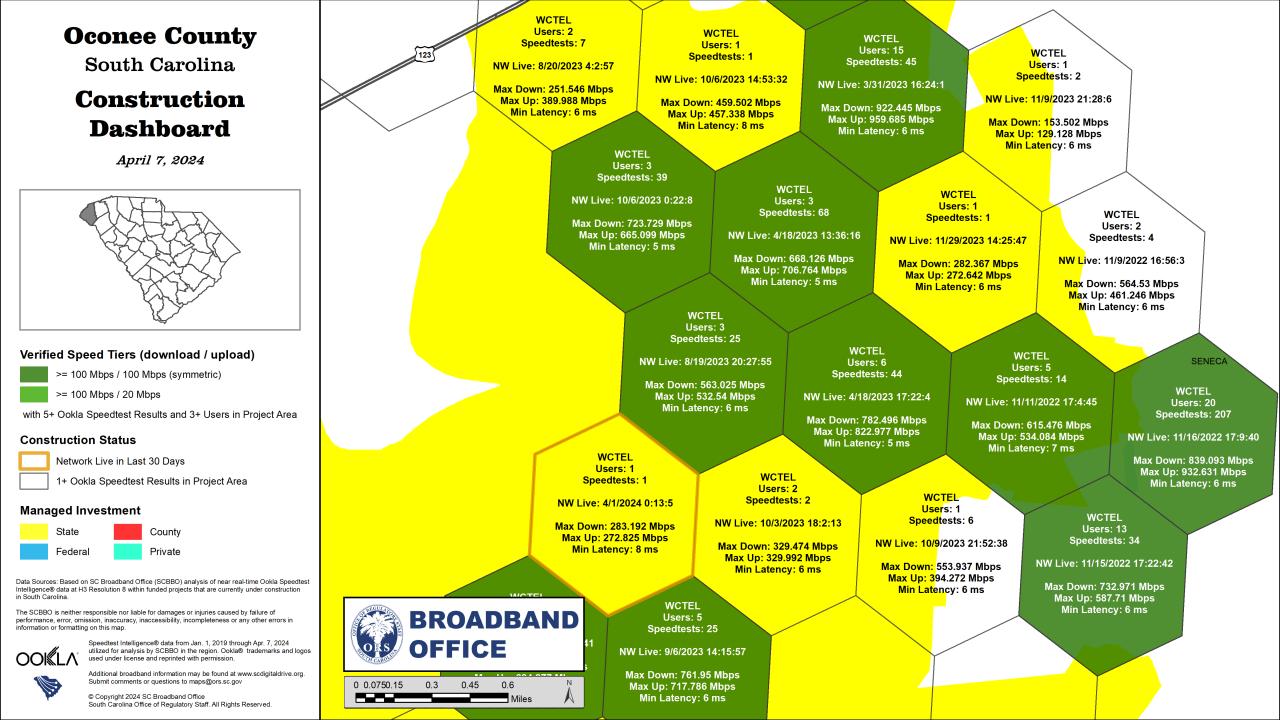


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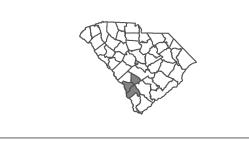
NORTH AUGUSTA

WINDSOR

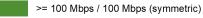
South Carolina

Construction **Dashboard**

September 30, 2023



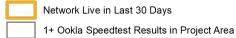
Verified Speed Tiers (download / upload)



>= 100 Mbps / 20 Mbps

with 50+ Ookla Speedtest Results and 15+ Users in Project Area

Construction Status



Managed Investment



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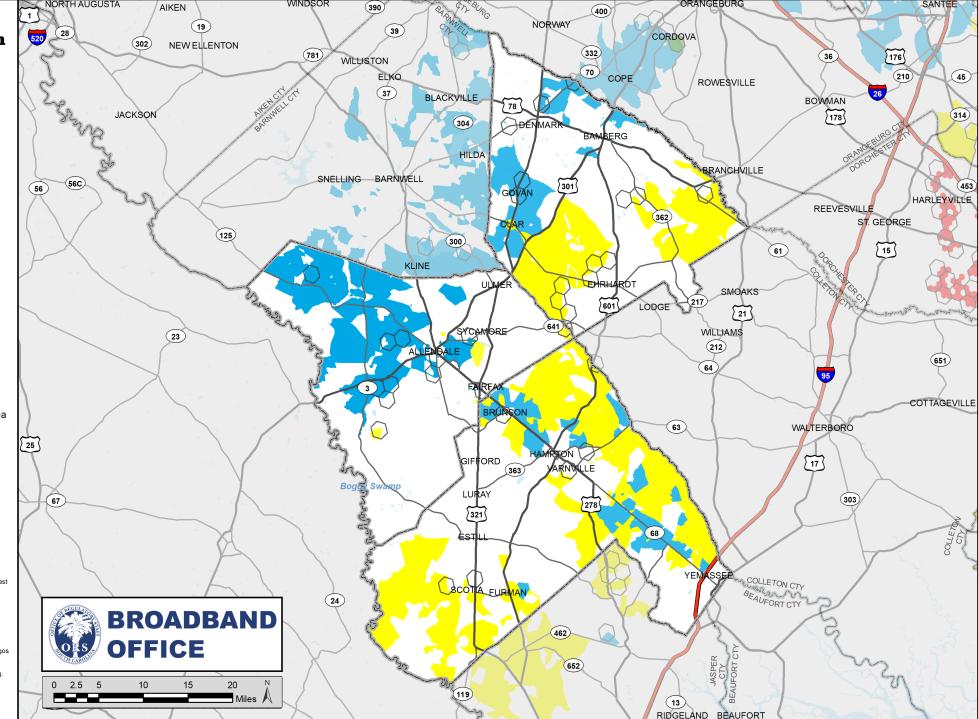
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ORANGEBURG

SANTEE

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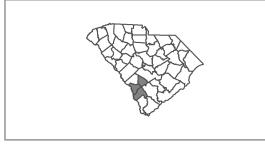
NORTH AUGUSTA

WINDSOR

South Carolina

Construction **Dashboard**

October 31, 2023



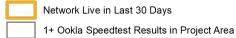
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Managed Investment



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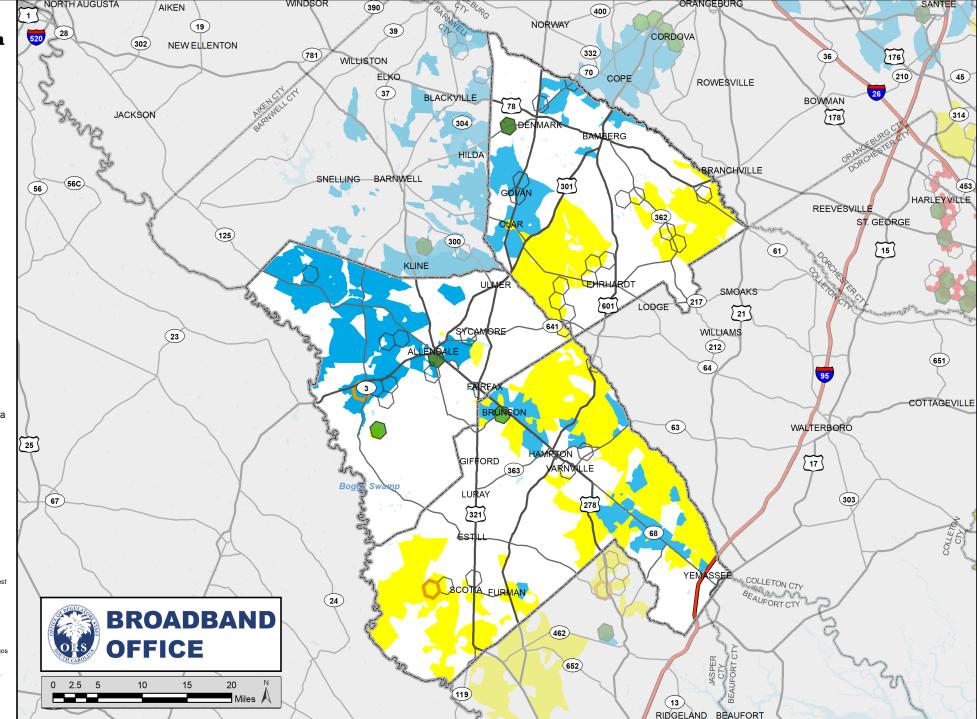
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SANTEE

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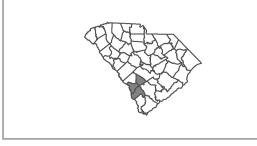
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WINDSOR

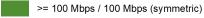
South Carolina

Construction **Dashboard**

November 30, 2023



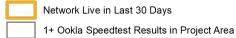
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Managed Investment



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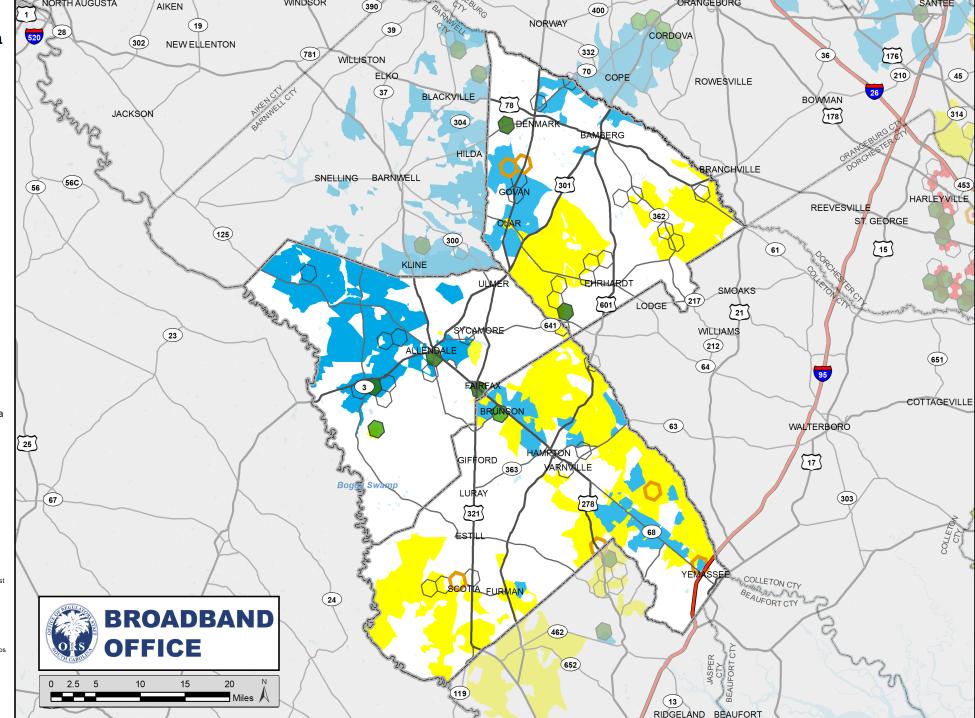
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SANTEE

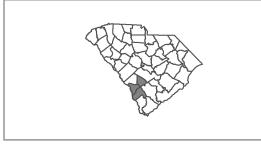
NORTH AUGUSTA

WINDSOR

South Carolina

Construction **Dashboard**

December 31, 2023



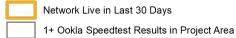
Verified Speed Tiers (download / upload)



>= 100 Mbps / 20 Mbps

with 50+ Ookla Speedtest Results and 15+ Users in Project Area

Construction Status



Managed Investment



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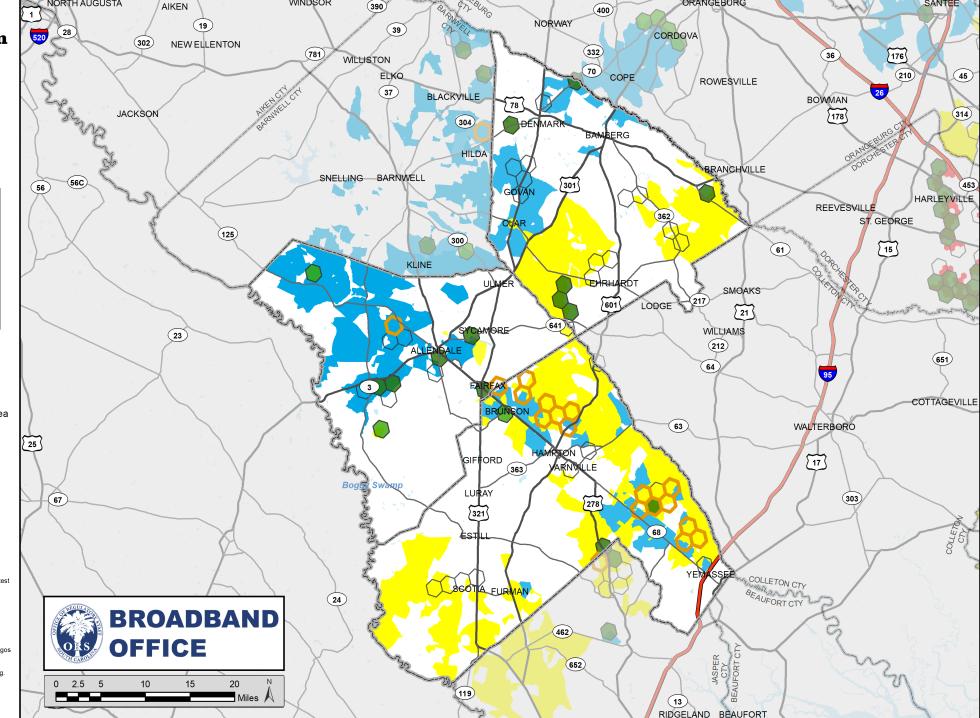
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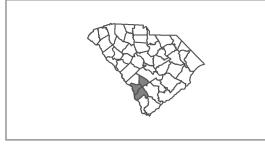
NORTH AUGUSTA

WINDSOR

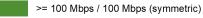
South Carolina

Construction **Dashboard**

January 31, 2024



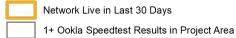
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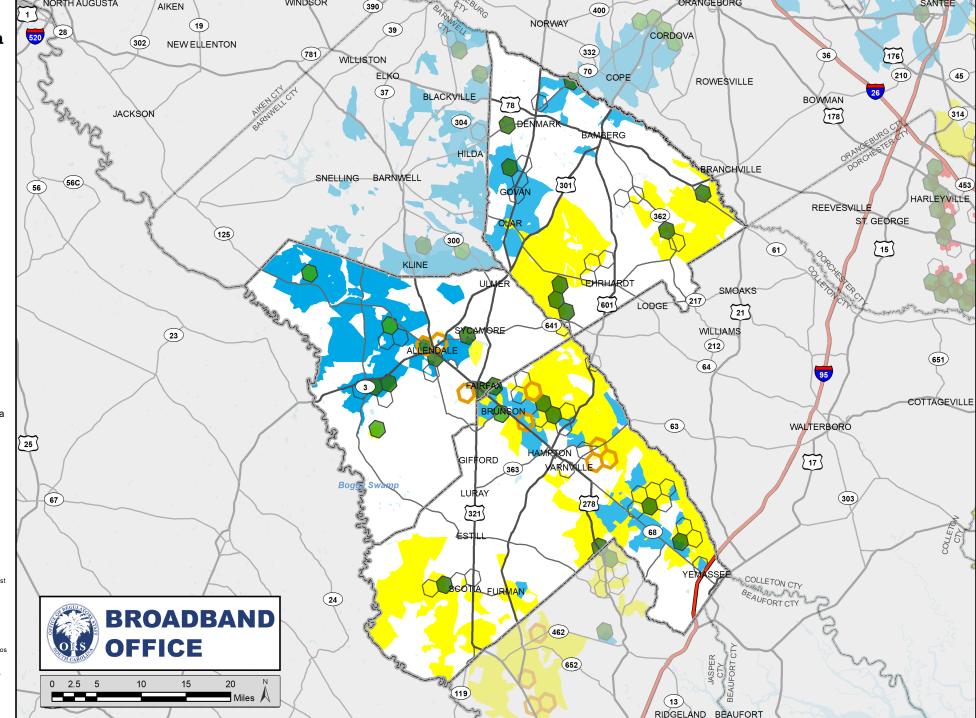
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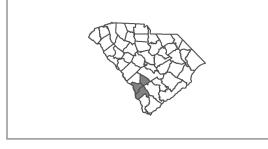
NORTH AUGUSTA

WINDSOR

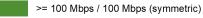
South Carolina

Construction **Dashboard**

February 29, 2024



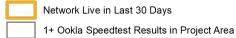
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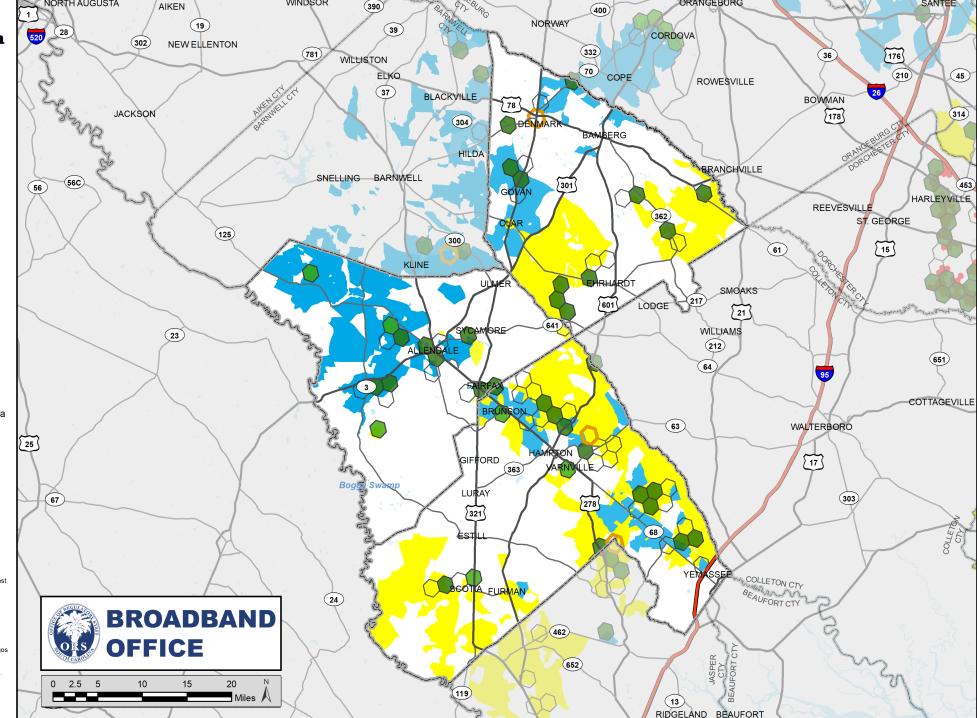
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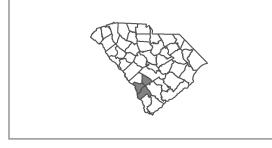
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WINDSOR

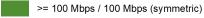
South Carolina

Construction **Dashboard**

March 31, 2024



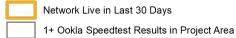
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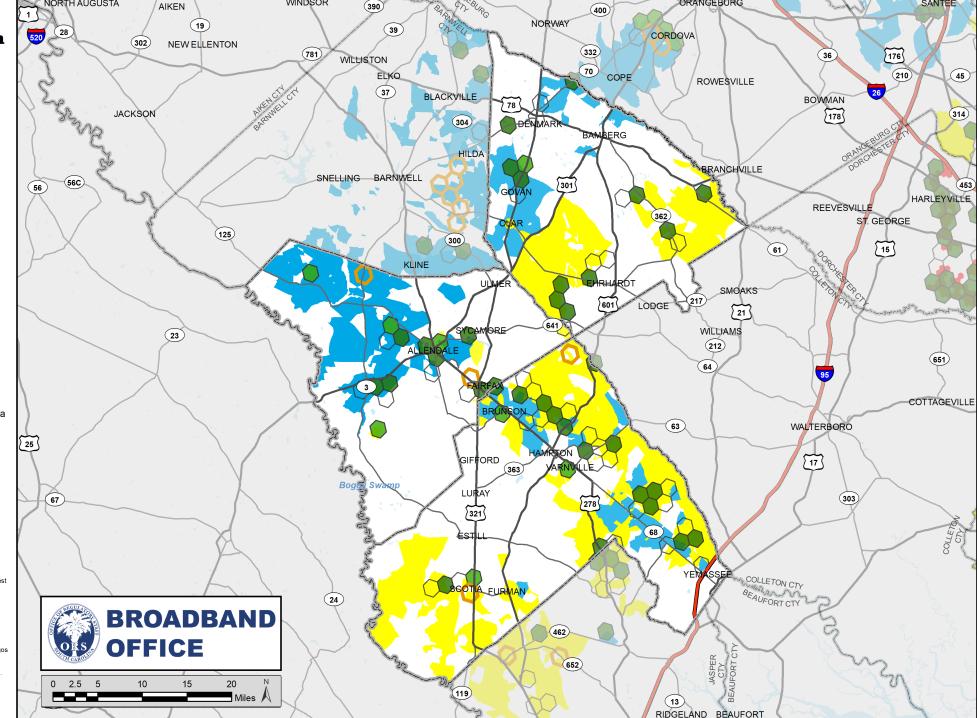
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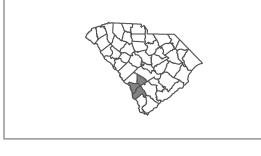
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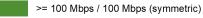
South Carolina

Construction **Dashboard**

April 7, 2024



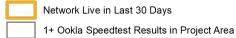
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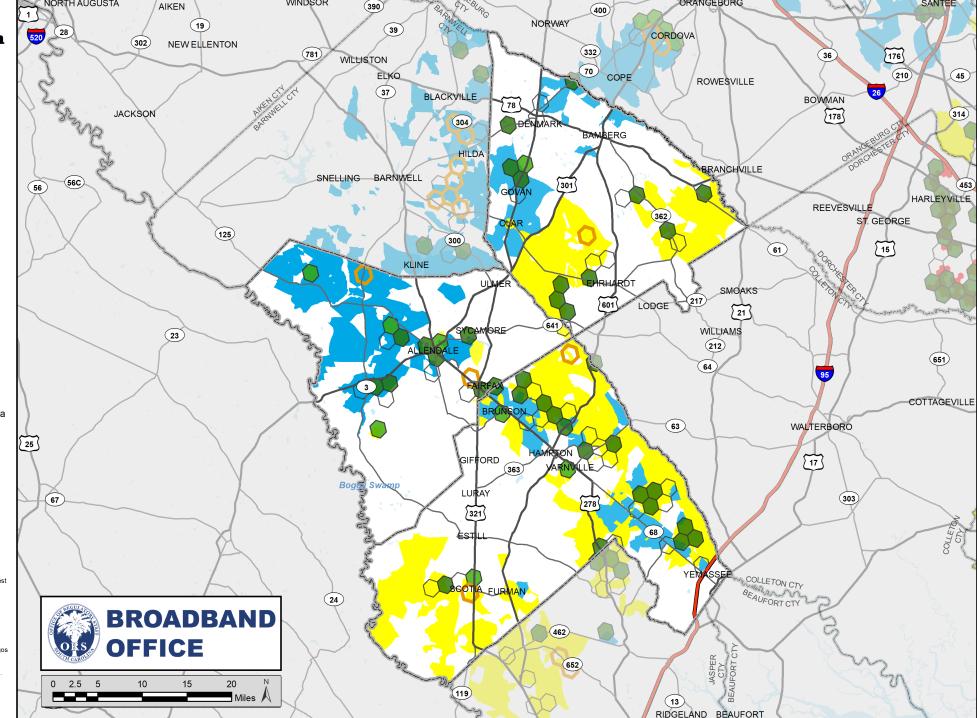
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Thank you!

Jim Stritzinger Director, SC Broadband Office jstritzinger@ors.sc.gov

Office: (803) 737-0825 Mobile: (803) 606-6398







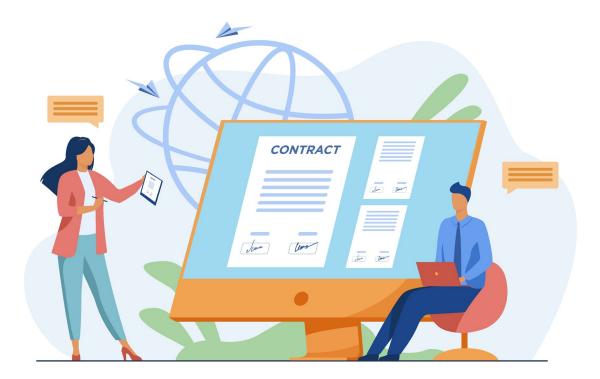


SC Broadband Advisory Council Digital Opportunity Department

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff | April 9, 2024

DOD Vision

All South Carolinians have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet and the necessary skills to benefit from this technology.





How does the DOD accomplish the vision?

The Digital Equity Plan identifies goals for Digital Opportunity in SC as well as the steps to achieve them.



DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff: Digital Opportunity Department



Covered Populations

- Low-income individuals
- Aging individuals
- Racial/ethnic minorities
- Rural residents
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with a language barrier
- Incarcerated individuals

Based upon guidance by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the DOD will focus on assisting several target populations.





Digital Equity Implementation Plan



Goal 1: Broadband Affordability

Objective: All households and businesses in South Carolina can subscribe to Broadband service at an affordable rate



Goal 2: Online Accessibility and Inclusivity

Objective: Every resident of South Carolina has access to reliable highspeed Broadband service in their home and business.



Goal 3: Digital Literacy

Objective: Every resident of South Carolina has access to education and training necessary to use Broadband to advance their personal goals and increase South Carolina's technology workforce competitiveness.



Goal 4: Online Privacy and Cybersecurity

Objective: Every resident of South Carolina can safely and securely utilize Broadband services.



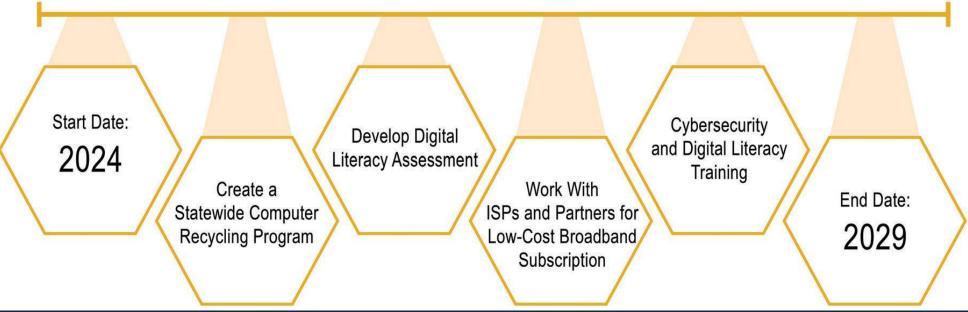
Goal 5: Device Availability and Affordability

Objective: Every resident of South Carolina can access a desktop or laptop computer at home or in an accessible location.



Timeline

- October 2023 ORS received DOD
- December 2023 Submitted DE Plan for Public Comment
- January 2024 Public Comment period ended
- February 2024 Submit FINAL DE Plan to NTIA
- March 2024 NTIA "Curing"





Next Steps

Share the plan with the community

- Invite us to speak or listen
- Materials available to share
- Cyber Security Week October 2024!
- Plan approved by NTIA on April 2, 2024
- Capacity Grant NoFO on March 29, 2024
 - SC DOD eligible for over \$12 million
 - Sub-Grants to community groups to meet the goals of the Plan
- Broadband Advisory Council

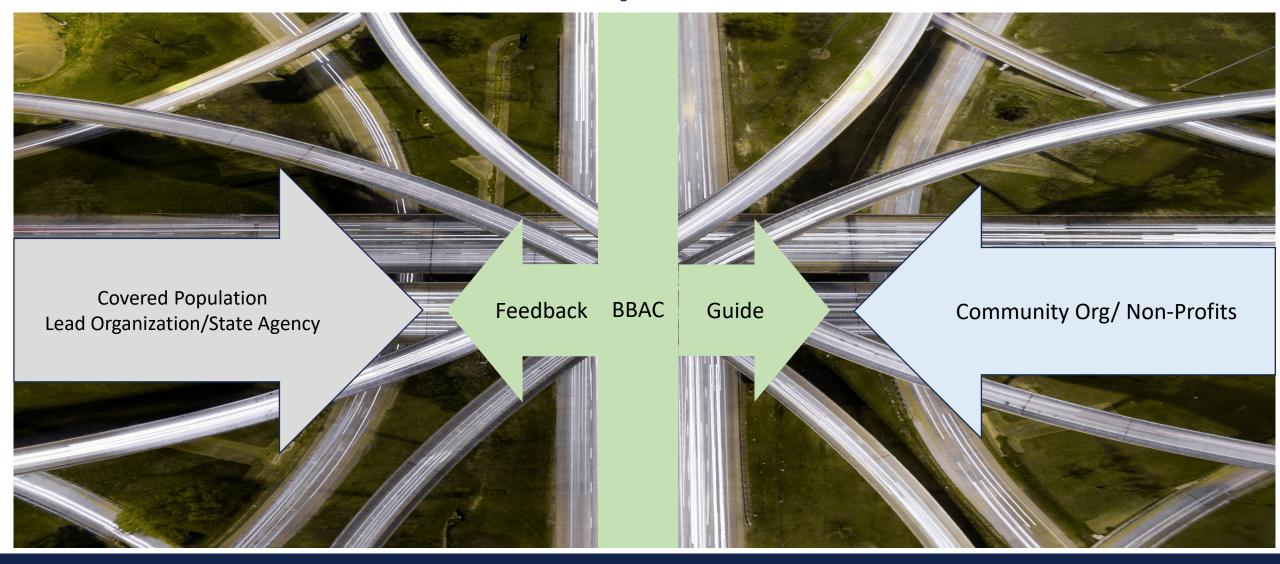


Putting It All Together: Implementation

- 1. Identify leaders from covered populations to engage.
- 2. Identify effective tools and outreach strategies to implement (i.e. survey, social media, community meetings, etc.).
- 3. Create and execute a strategic outreach and engagement plan to measurably increase digital literacy.



DOD – BBAC – Covered Population Stakeholders Relationship Interaction







Digital Opportunity Department



South Carolina Broadband Advisory Council Transition Plan



BBAC Transition Plan

Step 1: Focus Change:

Adjust focus from broadband infrastructure development to digital equity needs of covered populations. BBAC transitions to a working group sharing knowledge from covered populations in their community and bringing knowledge back to covered populations in their community.

Step 2: Covered Population Stakeholder Identification:

Digital Opportunity Division staff will build a robust list of grassroots and formal efforts to serve covered populations.



Covered Populations

Based upon guidance by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the DOD will focus on assisting several targeted covered populations by working with grassroots community organizations, established nonprofits, municipalities, and state agencies.

Definitions and survey results are provided under State DE Plan section 3.2.1

- Low-income individuals (State DE Plan Needs Assessment Section 3.2.1.1)
- Aging individuals (State DE Plan Needs Assessment Section 3.2.1.2)
- Racial/ethnic minorities (State DE Plan Needs Assessment Section 3.2.1.3)
- <u>Rural residents</u> (State DE Plan Needs Assessment Section 3.2.1.4)
- Veterans (State DE Plan Needs Assessment Section 3.2.1.5)
- Individuals with disabilities (State DE Plan Needs Assessment Section 3.2.1.6)
- Individuals with a language barrier (State DE Plan Needs Assessment Section 3.2.1.7)
- Incarcerated individuals (State DE Plan Needs Assessment Section 3.2.1.8)



BBAC Restructuring Plan









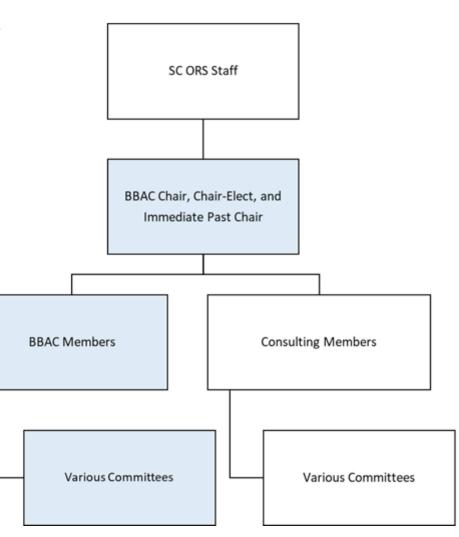


Effective July 1, the BBAC will include two stakeholder groups: BBAC Members: Representative from a state agency, nonprofit or other stakeholder serving a Covered Population

<u>Consulting Members:</u> No formal seat or vote on the Council. Key partner for data and outreach to covered populations Subcommittees made up of BBAC and Consulting Members will engage stakeholders to gather data, develop programs, perform outreach, provide services and support the grantmaking process. BBAC assists with prioritization of covered populations and timeframes for implementation of the Digital Equity Plan (Section 5.2).



BBAC Org Chart





BBAC Structure

- Two-year terms for group membership and one-year terms for leadership positions
- Composition: cross-matrix of special populations, region, expertise
- A staff member of ORS always holds seat on the advisory council
- Founding Chair becomes Immediate Past Chair (Anna Berger)
- Tom Allen serves as Chair for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and then serving one year as Immediate Past Chair.
- Chair-Elects serve from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 before becoming Chair.
- New Chair Elects need to be appointed/elected by June 30, 2025.
- Chair Elects nominated in the third fiscal quarter/first calendar quarter (Jan Mar 2025)



BBAC Meeting Schedule and Focus

Meet in August, October, February, and April from 1:00pm until 3:00pm:

- April 2024 Final legacy BBAC Meeting
- May/June 2024 Virtual BBAC Reorganization Update
- August 2024
- October 2024
- February 2025

Meeting Focus Areas:

<u>Q2 (May/June)</u>: On Boarding - Mission, Meet and Greet

Q3 (August): Pilot programs for grants and Cyber Security Week

<u>Q4 (October)</u>: Device recycling programs and digital navigator programs

Potential Meeting Sites: Rotate regionally and host at sites where BBAC can tour digital equity implementation at work



BBAC Digital Equity Action Items

- BBAC members observe and collect Identifying key insights (concerns, feelings, understanding, etc.) among Covered Populations in their professional and personal community experience
- Acknowledge feedback from Covered Populations and developing ongoing communications tools
- Provide meaningful updates regarding the infrastructure process and Digital Equity resources
- Conduct periodic short surveys or "pulse checks" among the Covered Populations to continually gauge the degree to which their awareness of the infrastructure process and the Digital Equity resources are growing in reach
- Support Pilot Programs and share best practices with Covered Populations from these programs
- Build a publicly accessible map of state and national subsidies on the digital equity website and issue related public information
- Create/support mobile computing labs
- Support a "train the trainer" Digital Navigator program



BBAC Digital Equity Action Items (cont)

- Support establishment of Digital Device Refurbishing Program
- Launch Cybersecurity Week and participate in activities
- Support Survey and data collection efforts to track internet adoption and Goals 1 thru 5
- Regular reporting from stakeholders, non-profits and community organizations
- Annual convening to allow stakeholders to gather and share best practices and receive updates on BEAD and DEA implementation and to present Digital Equity Community Awards
- Align DEA and BEAD Goals And Strategies, ensuring they complement and build on each other
- In collaboration with the Broadband Office create and implement a BEAD telecommunications workforce plan



5 Strategies for Building Long-Term Support for South Carolina's Digital Equity Program

1. Awareness: Awareness efforts must include the positive impacts of digital inclusion solutions—sharing stories of programmatic *and* individual success.

2. Partnerships & Coalitions: When those who recognize the necessity of digital equity form relationships, partnerships, and <u>digital inclusion coalitions</u>, their messages and programs are more powerful.

3. Meaningful Data and Analytics: Survey data needs to do more than explain the digital divide. Now the challenge is demonstrating how the hard work being accomplished each day on the ground – from broadband service sign ups to device distribution.

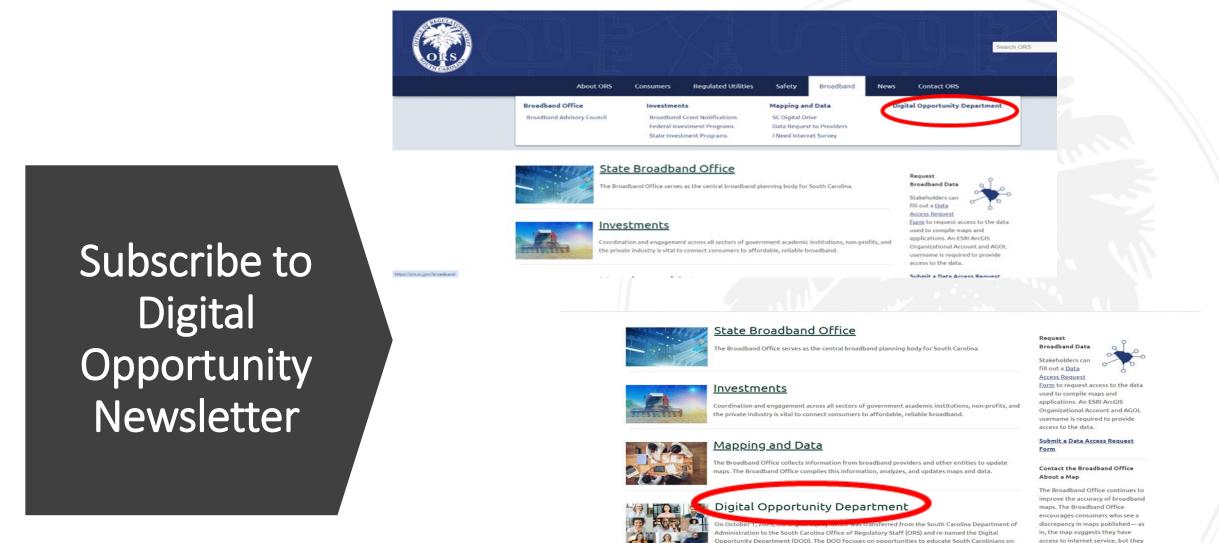
4. Layer Digital Inclusion with Other Programs: Digital Inclusion cannot stand alone. Intentionally weaving digital equity into health, finance, education, housing, workforce, and other social programs will increase the lasting impact of investments.

5. Keep Growing an Inclusive Community: Diverse voices and people who bring a range of perspectives, lived experiences, and professional skills make the digital equity movement powerful.



Where can I find more information?





https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/digitalopportunity

ORS.SC.GOV

do not- to contact the ORS.

now broadband access and adoption can enhance the State's workforce and individual's lives.

Tom Allen

Chief Technology Officer South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff *TAllen@ORS.SC.GOV* (803) 737-0974 (o) (803) 622-5308 ©

Questions?