

Broadband For Chatham

Progress and Choices

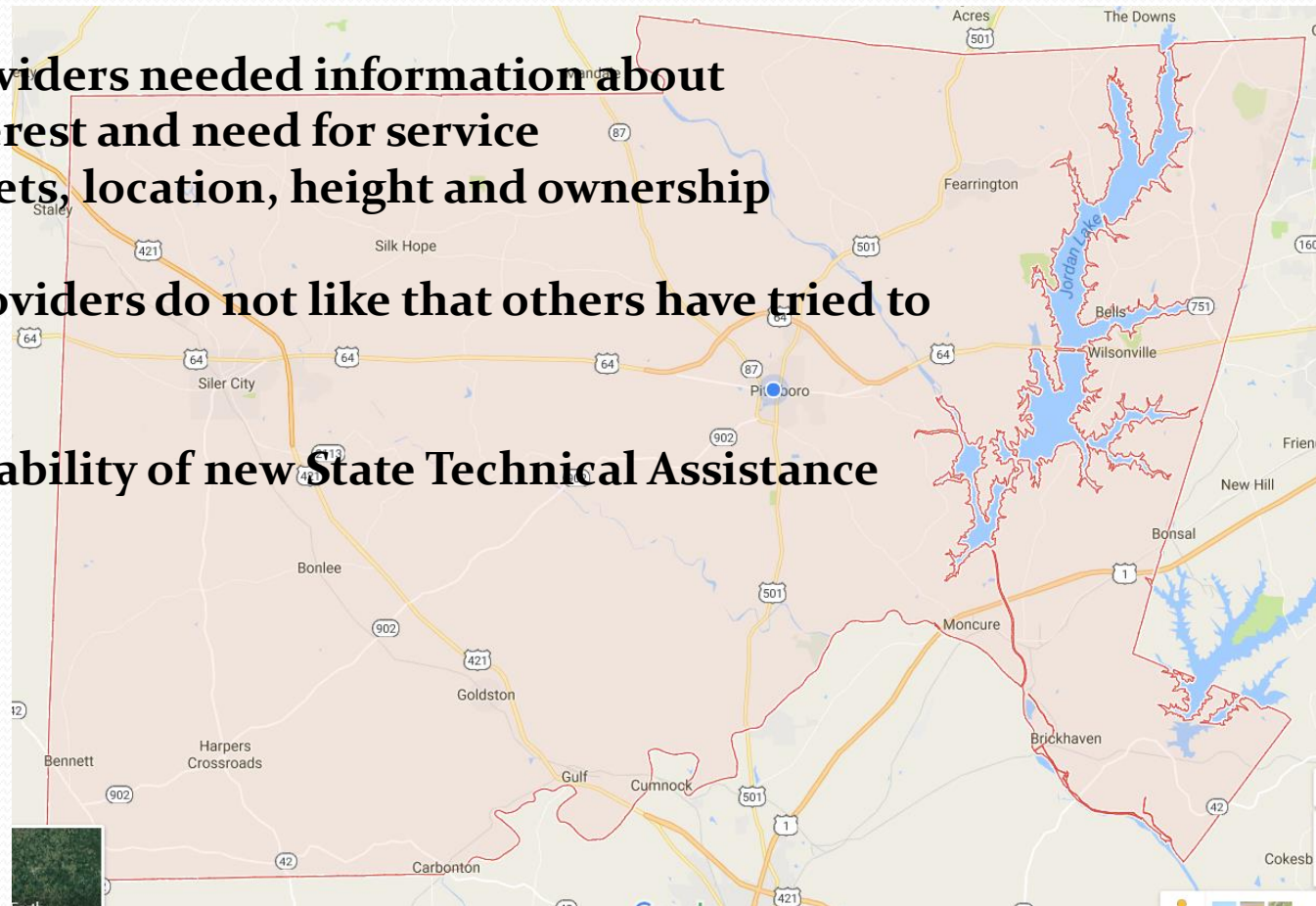
By Darlene Yudell, Nick Haffele & Kyle Touchstone

February 19, 2018

Broadband For Chatham – Where We Were

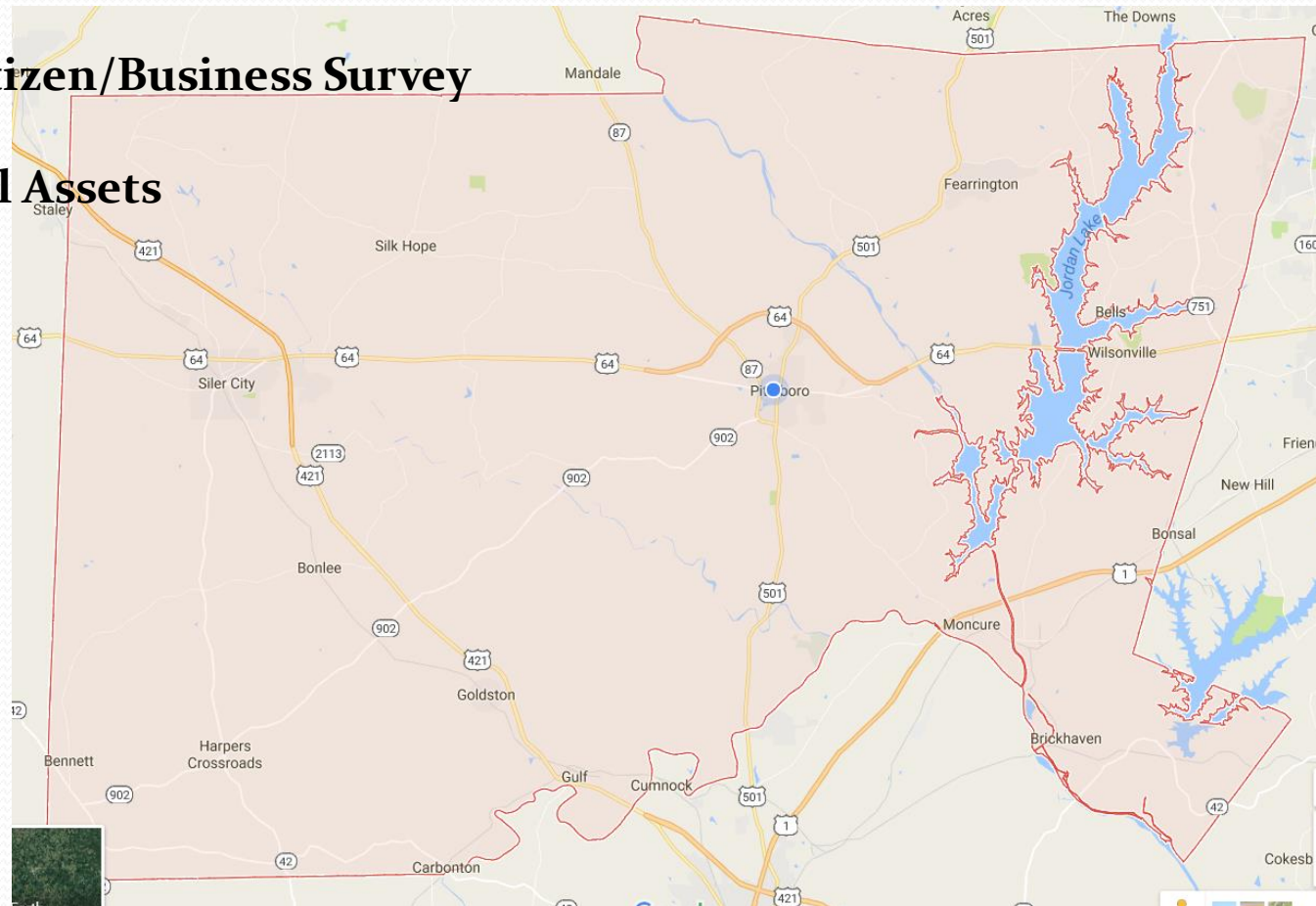
As of September 2016 our efforts had resulted in learning:

- **that service providers needed information about**
 - **Citizen interest and need for service**
 - **Vertical assets, location, height and ownership**
- **what service providers do not like that others have tried to pursue**
- **And of the availability of new State Technical Assistance**



Broadband For Chatham – What We Did

- **Enlisted technical assistance from the State Broadband Office**
- **Conducted a Citizen/Business Survey**
- **Mapped Vertical Assets**
- **Issued RFI**



Broadband For Chatham – *Enlisted Technical Assistance*



Broadband
Infrastructure
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

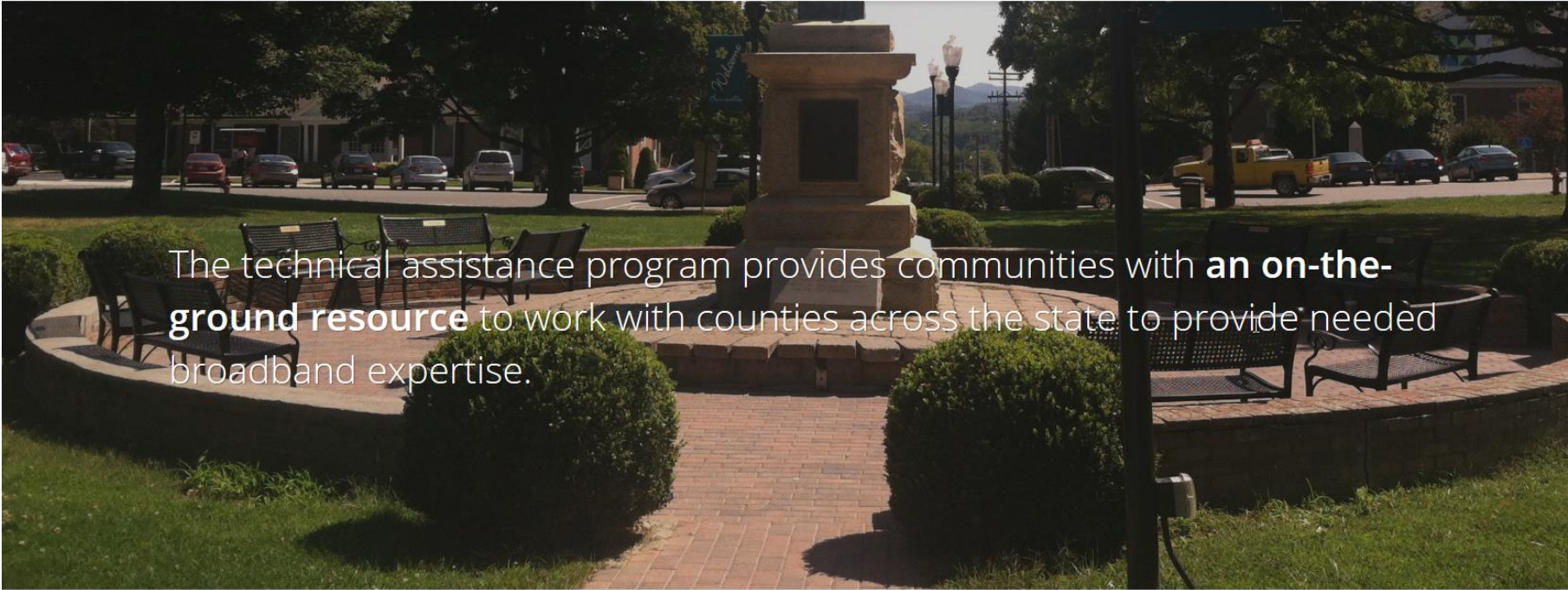
HOME

ABOUT BROADBAND IO

BLOGS & STORIES

CONTACT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A photograph of a park area with a central stone monument, several black metal benches, and a brick path. In the background, there are trees, a street with parked cars, and a yellow utility truck.

The technical assistance program provides communities with **an on-the-ground resource** to work with counties across the state to provide needed broadband expertise.

<https://ncbroadband.gov/technical-assistance/>

Broadband For Chatham – Technical Assistance

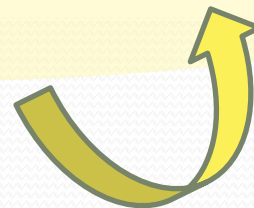
Technical Assistance Program

High-speed internet, or broadband, is universally recognized as an essential asset to attract and retain businesses, prepare a digitally ready workforce, and improve government efficiency. However, significant challenges in broadband deployment and adoption remain for many in North Carolina's cities and counties.

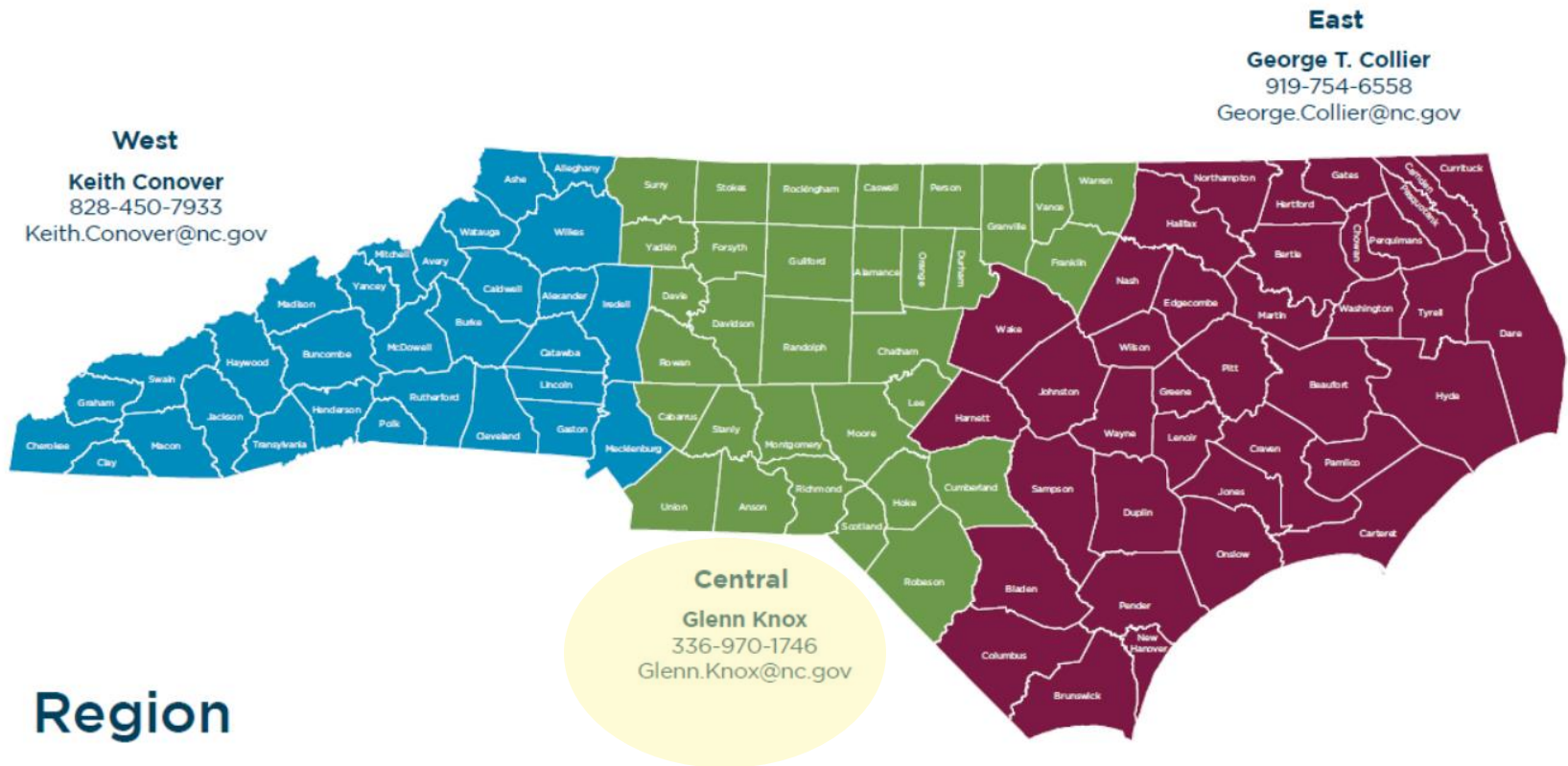
To address these local challenges, NC Broadband's Technical Assistance Program provides communities with an on-the-ground technical support team to work with communities across the state to provide needed broadband expertise. Specifically, the Technical Assistant Team partners with willing communities to develop local objectives and plans in order to do the following:

- Understand current broadband availability
- Locate unserved and underserved businesses and residents
- Identify assets relevant to broadband deployment
- Build partnerships with broadband service providers; and
- Identify opportunities to leverage assets, reduce barriers and help make the business case

This service is provided through State and federal funding at no cost to the counties.



Broadband For Chatham – Technical Assistance



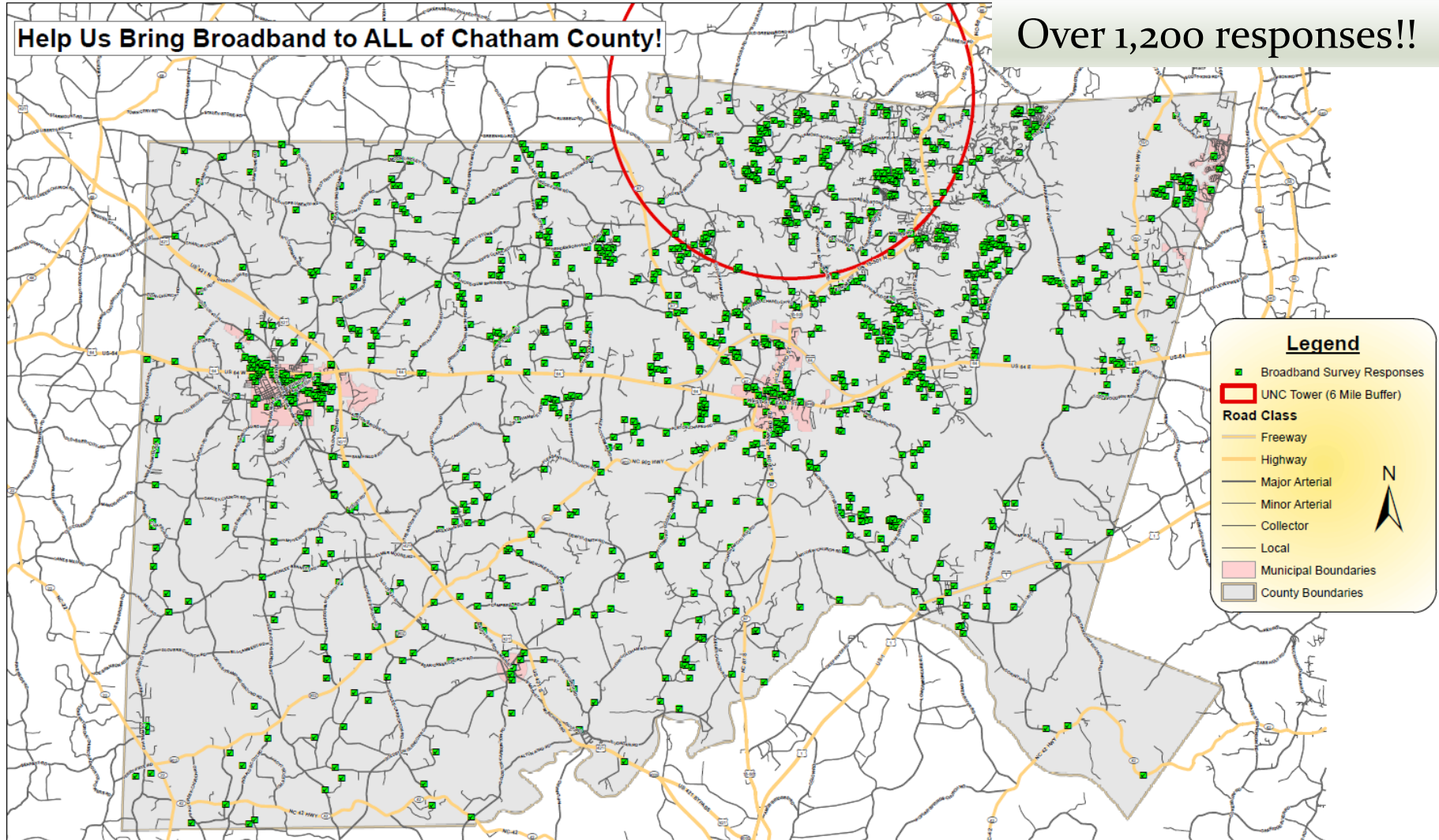
Region



Broadband For Chatham – *Citizen/Business Survey*

Help Us Bring Broadband to ALL of Chatham County!

Over 1,200 responses!!



Broadband For Chatham – *Vertical Asset Mapping*

- Identified and mapped county owned properties, buildings, fiber infrastructure, and towers
- Utilized FCC & FAA data to identify and map private, municipal, state, & federally owned towers
- Towers were given height and ownership attributes
- GIS data was included in web mapping application and provided to parties interested in responding to RFI
- GIS web mapping application was utilized in RFI response meetings to identify possible areas of need for the providers to focus on

[Chatham County Fiber Mapping Application](#)

Broadband For Chatham – *RFI*

- Issued in late 2017
- Received five responses
- Responses varied to include wired and wireless providers
- Responses varied to include companies already providing services within the County and others who are not

The RFI was a worthwhile effort that has revealed possibilities to consider!

Broadband For Chatham – What Is Coming?

Responses received through the RFI process have generated many specific ideas for consideration that would result in expanded internet services.

These ideas are being further scrutinized in order to select those that have the highest probability for success.

As the questions and details of these are considered, we expect to reach a consensus on recommendations to make to the County Manager and Board.

Broadband For Chatham – Remember What is Legal



Counties in NC **cannot** initiate or provide broadband service
(P3 Act, NCGS Section 143-128.1cc)

Counties in NC **can** participate in privately initiated
broadband by

- 1 – providing grants to enable service to unserved
- 2 – freely provide assets such as access to towers,
conduit, dark fiber, other vertical assets, etc

During the upcoming budget process, we will be
considering a ‘Small Grant Process’ to be used as
considerations for options are made.

Broadband For Chatham

Lastly, services are growing in the County.

The Silk Hope area, which a year ago had no offerings, have recently seen a new service offering begin.

The service gaps are closing, but too slowly and **we remain committed** to finding solutions to move them along and to make a difference.



Thank you for your time today!

