



BROADMAPSM
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South Dakota Broadband Mapping Project: Product Release White Paper

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OVERVIEW

This white paper highlights the **Submission Summary** for this deliverable, as well as describes the **Data Gathering, Data Integration, Data Validation and Verification** and **Quality Control** processes used to create the Broadband Mapping Project’s October 1st, 2013 data submission. To support varying levels of technical and program knowledge, both a **high-level summary** and a **detailed process review** are supplied.

SUBMISSION SUMMARY

PROVIDER DETAILS

PROVIDER PARTICIPATION

- Provider Participation Statistics Summary

Summary	Count
Total Valid Broadband Providers	57
Non-Responsive/Non-Cooperative Providers	11
Number of Providers - Supplied Updates for this Submission	25
Number of Providers – Waiting for data	4
Number of Providers - Confirmed No Updates	17

- Providers – Supplied Updates
 1. Alliance Communications Cooperative
 2. AT&T MOBILITY
 3. CenturyLink (SD)
 4. Data Truck
 5. Fibercomm L.C.
 6. Frontier Communications (Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC)
 7. Golden West Communications (GoldenWest Cablevision)
 8. Hughes Network Systems
 9. Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative
 10. Kennebec Telephone Company
 11. Midcontinent Communications
 12. Midstate Communications
 13. Mitchell Telecom (Sancom, Inc. dba Mitchell Telecom)
 14. Northern Valley Communications
 15. Northern Wireless
 16. RC Technologies, Inc.
 17. Sprint
 18. Triotel / McCook Cooperative
 19. Valley Telecommunications Cooperative



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20. Valley Telephone
21. Venture Communications
22. Verizon Wireless
23. West River Cooperative
24. West River Telecommunications Cooperative
25. Western Telephone Company

- Providers – Confirmed No Updates
 1. Beresford Municipal Telephone
 2. Cable One, Inc.
 3. Celerity
 4. Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
 5. Consolidated Telecom
 6. Faith
 7. Long Lines
 8. Mediacom Communications Corporation
 9. RC Communications
 10. Roberts County Telephone Cooperative
 11. Santel Communications
 12. SDN Communications
 13. Sioux Valley Wireless
 14. Skycasters
 15. StarBand Communications Inc.
 16. Swiftel Communications
 17. ViaSat, Inc.
- Providers – Waiting for data
 1. Echelon Internet Services
 2. Evertex
 3. Fort Randall
 4. Native American Telecom
- Non-Responsive Providers/Non-Cooperative Providers
 1. James Valley Telecommunications
 2. KeyOn Communications Inc.
 3. MNW Wireless
 4. Nates Net
 5. New Edge Network, Inc.
 6. Speedconnect/DigitalBridge Communications (BridgeMaxx)
 7. Timber Lake Broadband
 8. Wescomm Wireless
 9. Wirefree USA
 10. WOW! Internet, Cable, and Phone
 11. Zayo
- Providers researched and identified as non-broadband providers can be viewed within the table at the end of this document.



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COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION (CAI) DETAILS

OVERALL STATISTICS

Community Anchor Institution - Categories	Overall Count	CAIID Counts	Broadband Subscriber (Yes)	Trans Tech	Advertised Speed Down	Advertised Speed Up
Category 1 - School K through 12	653	640	591	567	567	567
Category 2 - Library	154	154	45	0	37	37
Category 3 - Medical/Healthcare	217	0	58	51	43	41
Category 4 - Public Safety	417	0	75	60	33	32
Category 5 - Universities/Colleges	28	0	28	28	28	28
Category 6 - Other: Government	380	0	380	380	380	380
Category 7 - Other: Non-Government	33	0	20	13	12	12
Total	1882	794	1197	1099	1100	1097



HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY

DATA GATHERING

BROADBAND SERVICE AREAS, MIDDLE MILE AGGREGATION POINTS AND BROADBAND SERVICE OVERVIEW

The collection of Broadband Service Areas, Middle Mile Aggregation Points and Broadband Service Overview information is handled through the following Provider Outreach Process:

- Build and maintain an inventory of Broadband providers through currently known providers and research.
- The inventory and everyday interaction with providers is tracked using the Provider Catalog (PCat). Below are some examples of the web application, which has a shared access between our team and mapping partner (BroadMap).

Company Information		Edit Clone History AAD	
Provider Name	acmetech (All)	Source Name	acmetech
Company Address		Source Description	
Company PO Box		Layer Name	TBD
Company House Number	12345	Source Usage Type	Tracking
Company Street Name	Acme Avenue	Source Provider Type	BroadMap
Company City Name	Portland	Source Content Type	
Company Suite		Source Restrictions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Company Postal Boundary		Source Restriction Description	
Company State		TT Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --None-- Asymmetric xDSL Symmetric xDSL Other Copper Wireline Cable Modem-DOCSIS 3.0 Cable Modem-Other Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User Satellite
Company Website	http://www.acmebroadband.com		
Source ID	4999		
Child Source	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Parent URL			
Parent Source ID	0		
User Name			
Password		Addr Level Data Provided	<input type="checkbox"/>
Form 477 Interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preferred Contact Method	
Provider Portal Trained	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Contacts			
Type	Name	Preferred	Phone 1
P	Sourcing		
			Phone 2
			Email
			Position
FRN Info			
Provider Name	DBA	FRN Number	



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Confidence				New
TI Type	Confidence	Last Modified	Comment	
Status Tracking				
Non Facilities Based Provider	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Business Only Provider	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Reseller	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non Responsive Provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
NDA Review - Internal	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non Cooperative Provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
NDA Review - External	<input type="checkbox"/>		Source Closed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Provider Details				
BroadMapper	--None--		BroadMap Status	Unassigned
Initial State Outreach Date			Initial Contact Vehicle	
Provider Origin			Member Association	
			Initial State Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>
			NDA Status	--None--
Provider Packet Exchanged	<input type="checkbox"/>		NDA Not Required	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provider Packet Info Sent			NDA Requested	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provider Meeting Status	--None--		NDA Exchanged	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical Meeting Requested	<input type="checkbox"/>		NDA Exchange Date	
Technical Meeting Scheduled	<input type="checkbox"/>		NDA Signed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of Subscribers			NDA Signed Date	
			Date Loaded	
			Source Closed Date	

BDIA Delivery 0412		Edit
Status	--None--	Provider Data Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/>
Outreach Date		Provider Data Reviewed Date
Initial Response		FootPrint
Meeting Date		MiddleMile
No Update Date		Subscriber
Waiting For Data Date		Provider Login <input type="checkbox"/>
Data Received Date		Provider Login Date
Data Accepted Date		
Source Ingested		Source Ingested Date
Additional Data		
Notes		
Next Steps		
Inactive	<input type="checkbox"/>	Owner briordan
Created By	briordan 2011-06-13 12:06:35	Last Modified By krousseau 2012-03-16 13:41:58

- Update provider material that describes the data requirements and logistics for data transfer.
- Update Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) for use in the project, where applicable.
- Maintain multiple protocols for the provider to submit data, including Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) technology when desired.
- Conduct one-on-one informational discussions with each provider to communicate the following:
 - Requirements of this project;
 - Broadband data required to support the product data model;
 - Submission protocols available;
 - Capability to validate how the supplied data is aggregated.
- Download/receive provider data.
- Establish a repeatable process with provider. Maintain provider communication, transaction and data handling records throughout the project (dates contacted, data received, etc.).



COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION (CAI)

The collection of CAI information is handled through the following CAI Collection Process:

- Collect and maintain inventory of CAIs through currently known CAIs, data mining, and research.
- Upload web-based data to Core Database for standardization.
- Perform internal cleansing, such as removing duplicate records, identifying gaps in broadband attribution and verifying category.
- Geocode CAI locations.
- Translate Core Database data to deliverable-ready format.
- Continue engagement with non-responsive institutions.

DATA INTEGRATION PROCESS

The data integration and processing mechanisms currently used allows for multiple types of inputs and result in a standardized output that meets the NTIA deliverable requirements. This flexible process supports data model changes and project-requested enhancements.

- Receive inputs from providers via submission protocols; upload into Sourcing Database and catalog with provider information.
- Review provider-supplied data for completeness and for potential discrepancies that require resolution prior to processing and flag as necessary.
- Categorize input into data-type category (addresses, block lists, paper maps, etc.).
- Standardize input based on data type within Staging Database.
- Create Compact Polygons (CP)—(internal methodology for generating area-based feature for coverage in Staging Database).
- Apply broadband attribution to CP; apply metadata to CP.
- Perform quality analysis of the CP against the source supplied to identify any completeness or accuracy issues.
- Request additional information from the provider if elements of coverage are missing or contain discrepancies. This is a second manual quality check to ensure data is complete.
 - Process coverage area to build the required NTIA data model layers.

With the deployment of the Provider Portal last round, the data collection and later validation process was streamlined allowing both activities to occur within a secure web application. The majority of the providers used this methodology as it supplies them with more visibility into how their data is being represented and gives them knowledge and ownership of their coverage representation. Below are some bullet points and supporting screen shots on how the portal is used.

- Each provider is assigned credentials with a strong password to ensure security measures are taken into consideration

Login

Username

Password

Login



- Collection and confirmation our contact, as well as the company’s DBA Name and FRN accuracy

Contact and Provider Information

Please enter contact information and change provider information if incorrect:

Contact name: * Kristin Rousseau

Contact E-mail: * kris.rousseau@broadmap.com

Contact Phone: * 603-448-4475

Doing Business As (DBA) Name: * lacmetech

FCC Registration Number (FRN): * 22222222

Please note the following:

- Contact info will only be stored when a record is saved
- Provider info will be applied to all service areas

- Capability to review and request changes to the coverage footprint

Service Area	Transmission Technology	Max. Adv. Download Speed	Max. Adv. Upload Speed	Typical Download Speed	Typical Upload Speed	Data Cap	Feedback	Contact Name	Contact Email	Contact Phone	Date
Union County	Other	not applicable	<= 100 mbps and < 1 gb	<= 1.5 mbps and < 1 mbps	<= 100 mbps and < 1.5 mbps	<= 100 mbps and < 1.5 mbps	Unlimited				
Union County	Other	not applicable	<= 100 mbps and < 1 gb	<= 100 mbps and < 1 gb	<= 25 mbps and < 50 mbps	<= 25 mbps and < 50 mbps	Unlimited				

- The provider can Add/Remove portions, or all, of the footprint requesting that their footprint be increased or refined.





- File upload functionality to support providers that would prefer a shapefile, spreadsheet, PDF, KMZ/KML file be used to reflect changes for the data round



Welcome

1 Choose a file to upload: *Uploading a new file with the same name as an existing file will overwrite the existing file

Uploaded Files

2 Please click here to auto-notify BroadMap of your uploads, thanks.

3 Logout

- Once the provider has reviewed completed changes to their coverage, they can then validate them by signing off that everything is accurate.

RF PROPAGATION – PREDICTIVE MODELING

For this data submission, we have used EDX to perform RF propagation analysis and create predictive modeling of wireless coverage based on available tower data. The analysis performed thus far has not required us to make significant adjustments to the provider submitted shapefiles; however we are working with providers to collect further tower information, as well as potential extra signal strength that may be gained from repeaters.



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DATA VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION

To ensure the data collected and processed is as accurate and as comprehensive as possible, South Dakota broadband verification encompasses many efforts. The methodologies employed are documented below:

BROADBAND PROVIDER VALIDATION—PROVIDER PORTAL APPLICATION

First and foremost, all providers are given access to, and are trained in the use of, a web application we call the “provider portal”. After each data collection and ingestion of provider data, representatives from the provider are able to review the polygons, segments, speeds, technologies, and other attribution that our GIS teams have developed based on the submitted data. Providers are given the opportunity to make changes to the data’s attributes (speeds, technology, spectrum, etc...) as well as add/change/move/delete coverage areas. The requested changes are delivered to the GIS teams for full ingestion in our broadband database. This process is repeated until the provider representatives confirm that all aspects of the coverage areas are accurate and complete.

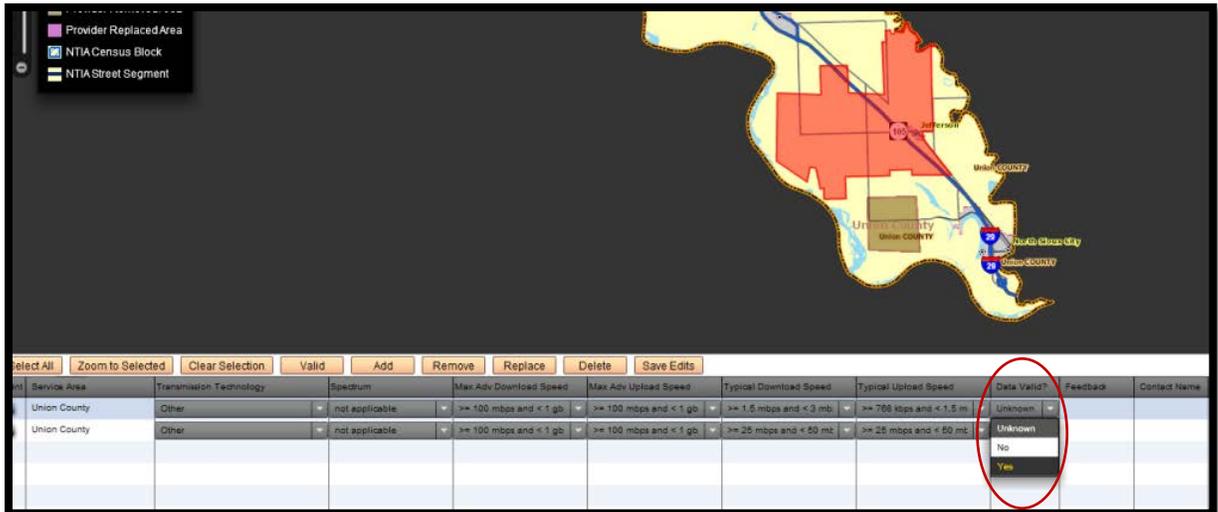
This portal is available 24/7/365 for providers to utilize, allowing those companies without GIS or mapping staff access to those technologies and benefits for review, presentations, and other business opportunities. This process has proven both successful and popular in the provider community.

- Coverage validation can be done on one record/footprint at a time or by selecting footprints and selecting the ‘Valid’ button. The provider could also print off or download their coverage for their own tracking purposes.

Service Area	Transmission Technology	Spectrum	Max Adv Download Speed	Max Adv Upload Speed	Typical Download Speed	Typical Upload Speed	Data Valid?	Footprint	Contact Name
Union County	Other	not applicable	>= 100 mbps and < 1 gb	>= 100 mbps and < 1 gb	>= 1.5 mbps and < 3 mb	>= 750 mbps and < 1.5 m	Unknown		
Union County	Other	not applicable	>= 100 mbps and < 1 gb	>= 100 mbps and < 1 gb	>= 25 mbps and < 60 mb	>= 25 mbps and < 60 mb	Unknown		



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All validation results are tracked internally through our Validation Table, which also improves the overall **Confidence Value** as mentioned below.

FURTHER BROADBAND PROVIDER VALIDATION

Following the completion of each data submission, maps are supplied to each provider in PDF format for them to perform further validation and review with their staff. These maps are also utilized as marketing material for their websites, internal communications, etc., which further fosters participation.

Any feedback or changes received following the delivery of these maps are incorporated into the overall broadband map and reviewed again with the provider.

PEER REVIEW

The BroadMap Team takes the time to sit down together and visually inspect the data for any abnormalities that need to be discussed.

INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE – SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

South Dakota’s technology and telecommunications businesses are highly consolidated, with the State of South Dakota often being the largest consumer of services in the state. Given that, relationships and partnerships often already exist between the State of South Dakota and the broadband providers, giving a first-hand look at the services offered and where they are offered. In addition, the South Dakota broadband team has ready access to industry experts within the SD Public Utilities Commission, telecommunications association’s boards, and technology industry experts in the fields of telecommunications and data networking.

Our office has met and consulted with these experts regarding provider data as issues were found. Examples of these consultations are the review of provider coverage areas against telecommunications exchange areas with the Public Utilities Commission and against known technological capabilities. Any anomalies or questioned material is relayed to the providers for review.



FIELD VERIFICATION

A number of field verification efforts have taken place during the last six months.

- For newly discovered fixed wireless providers, we send remote office staff out to document and photograph the tower infrastructure reported by the provider.
- For mobile wireless providers, broadband staff and other team members have completed over 40,000 miles of drive testing utilizing mobile wireless phones collecting information on coverage and broadband performance. This drive testing has collected over 1.86 million data points across the state that confirm the availability of wireless broadband signal at a geographic location by coordinates, with the data collected every 10 seconds during the drive testing. Tower location information and wireless speed test results were also collected during this drive testing, with over 25,000 test results collected. This gives us a total of 175,000 speed test results with the information collected during our field verification efforts and the Ookla mobile data.

An important point to note is that with the development of an automated toolset that allows team members to start data collection upon entering the vehicle and not need any further intervention, a number of staff members have been volunteering time to drive untested roads and territories of the state during vacations, other state business, or leisure time at no cost to the program.

Due to the nature of our organization being a centralized IT group for government and education, we are uniquely positioned to request field verification by our remote office staff. As technicians travel the state, they have performed speed tests at businesses, homes, and government offices, as well as surveyed remote office staff on availability of coverage areas at their homes.

THIRD-PARTY DATA VERIFICATION

The South Dakota broadband team has collected data from the FCC CBT and Mobile tests, the FCC dead zone reporting tool, FCC ASR datasets, our own hosted speed test application, provider speed test results, census data, provider exchange boundaries and commercially available datasets from Ookla to confirm the availability of broadband service. Of particular interest to our program were datasets that tied a specific address to the broadband data, as we have found other location-based services (IP geolocation) to be woefully inaccurate in our state.

Collected third-party data is overlaid against provider coverage areas for comparison. Most valuable has been our hosted speed test server (speedtest.sd.gov). This test collects specific address location information and provider details, while providing consumers the ability to directly provide more accurate location information via a clickable map in the event that their address is not geocoded correctly. This provides benefits to our verification effort as well as our Improved Address Files grant program.

Recently added to our verification efforts have been more accurate provider exchange boundaries and 2010 Census information on population density. Provider coverage areas are compared against known exchange boundaries, and census population density information is used to explain any possibly gaps in coverage.



CROWD SOURCING

In addition to our Crowd sourced speed test system, our state broadband website offers consumers the ability to report broadband dead zones, take surveys on available broadband and related topics, report inaccuracies in our online static/interactive maps, as well as any other relevant feedback about the broadband environment of South Dakota. This feedback is compared against provider coverage areas, with relevant information reported to the providers for comments and/or correction.

Website Hyperlink: <http://broadband.sd.gov/>

CURRENCY OF OVERALL PROCESS

This is a review of providers who sent updated coverage area data to BroadMap, or were at least cooperative, reporting no updates or changes for this round of submission.

SOURCING QC GEOMETRY AND ATTRIBUTION

This is a review that providers whose coverage areas submitted through the portal or via shapefile, met standards for the following:

- Format correctness;
- Table and field structure;
- Valid values, including default values, where applicable;
- Geographic extent and topology errors.

INTERNAL QC SCRIPTS

Internal QC scripts were run to check that data input into the attribution of the coverage areas matched the data in the internal Provider Catalog. This included attributes such as FRN number, source id # and Provider Name.

NTIA SUBMISSION CHECK

Prior to data submission, another quality control script supplied by NTIA is run. This script, SBDD_CheckSubmission.py, creates an output in text form that is required to be submitted along with the final deliverable. All errors must come up clean, unless otherwise specified by NTIA.

CONFIDENCE VALUES

All verification, validation and manual quality review results are tracked by provider/technology type and stored and maintained within a Validation spreadsheet. A confidence value is assigned, based on internal assessments of the collected information, to highlight the provider coverage areas and/or attributions that would benefit from further investigation and/or enhancements.

The confidence value is calculated from the provider meeting the Quality Control checks listed below (and outlined in detail above):

- Provider Validation
- Peer Review



- State Review / Subject Matter Expert Review
- Third Party Data Verification
- Crowd Sourcing
- Currency of Overall Process
- Sourcing QC Geometry and Attribution
- Internal QC Scripts
- NTIA Submission Check

With the continued efforts on provider validation, 3rd party verification and the release of the public interactive map with feedback collection functionality, the confidence values will be utilized further to identify specific areas in need of attention.

QUALITY CONTROL

Following collection, processing and analysis of the provider and CAI data, the product is checked manually and algorithmically against the NTIA data model. These items are outlined above in the [Sourcing QC Geometry and Attribution](#) and [Internal QC Scripts](#) and [NTIA Submission Check](#) under [Data Validation and Verification](#).

DETAILED PROCESS REVIEW

To review the detailed process, please review the attached object:



BMap_ProcessDetail_2013_10_1.docx

PROVIDERS RESEARCHED

Below is a list of providers that were researched and contacted, but identified as non-broadband providers and didn't require inclusion within the data submission. Some may be due to different naming conventions or inaccurate FRN/DBA names and were therefore considered a closed source.



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SLINX Enterprises, Inc.
Airespring, Inc.
Apptix, Inc.
Aptela, Inc.
Bandwidth.com, Inc.
Birch Communications Inc.
Broadvox Go!, LLC
BullsEye Telecom, Inc.
Cause Based Commerce Inc.
CommPartners Holding Corporation
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
DigitalBridge Communications Corp.
Evertek, Inc.
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company (MN & SD)
Fionda VoIP, LLC
Granite Telecommunications, LLC
Great Plains Communications, Inc.
GreatCall, Inc.
Hickory Tech Corporation
iCore Networks, Inc.
InPhonex.com, LLC
Kosmaz Technologies, LLC
Level 3 Communications, LLC
Local Link
LY Holdings, LLC

Matrix Telecom, inc.
Megapath, Inc.
Metropolitan Telecommunications Holding Company
Millicorp
Minnesota Valley Television Improvement Corporation
Mitel Netsolutions Inc.
MobilePro Corp.
Nates Net
Native American Telecom
NextWave Wireless Inc.
nexVortex, Inc.
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company
NOS Communications, Inc.
OrbitCom, Inc
PaeTec Corporation
Phone.com, LLC
Proximiti Technologies, Inc.
Siouxland WISP
Timber Lake Broadband
Trans National Communications International, Inc.
tw telecom inc.
VoIP360, Inc.
VoIPStreet, Inc.
Vonage Holdings Corp.
Wave2Wave Communications, Inc.