

BIG CITY MAYORS

January 6, 2023

Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Alan Davidson
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: 60-Day Deadline Extension on Proposed National Broadband Map

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel and Assistant Secretary Davidson:

The Texas Big City Mayors, a bipartisan coalition of mayors from Texas' most populous cities urge the Federal Communications Commission to extend the deadline for states and stakeholders to file challenges to the national map by 60 days, from January 13, 2023, to March 14, 2023. Additionally, we request the federal government postpone release of the final map by 60 days, from May 15, 2023, to July 14, 2023.

Several Texas cities are currently reviewing the proposed national map to provide accurate information on the availability of broadband in our communities, particularly in urban communities to ensure an equitable allocation of funds using reliable, accurate data. We appreciate the federal government's efforts to provide substantial resources to expand broadband access across the nation; however, there are several inaccuracies in the proposed maps ranging from service providers overstating the coverage they provide in certain zip codes to federal partners assuming public spaces like schools, parks, and libraries have access.

Given the concerns of Texas cities, we request the following actions for communities seeking to receive federal and state broadband funding include:

1. Revising Broadband Data Collection Rules to Extend the Challenge Submission Deadline and Final Map Release Date by 60 Days
2. Extending Announcement of BEAD Allocations by 60 Days and Using Updated FCC Maps
3. Balancing and Coordinating Award of BEAD Funding and Updated Broadband Maps
4. Providing Technical Assistance and Clear Communication During this Process
5. Increasing the Minimum Standard Broadband Speed from 25/3 Mbps to 100/20 Mbps

We appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Texas' cities understand the urgency and importance of this landmark investment in our nation's broadband infrastructure. As a united coalition of bipartisan mayors, we are committed to working with local leaders and stakeholders around the state to identify inaccuracies through the challenge process to ensure accurate maps and equitable allocation of funds to areas lacking service.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jim Ross
City of Arlington, Texas



Mayor Trey Mendez
City of Brownsville, Texas



Mayor Paulette Guajardo
City of Corpus Christi, Texas



Mayor Mattie Parker
City of Fort Worth, Texas



Mayor Ron Jensen
City of Grand Prairie, Texas



Mayor Sylvester Turner
City of Houston, Texas



Mayor Rick Stopfer
City of Irving, Texas



Mayor George Fuller
City of McKinney, Texas



Mayor John Muns
City of Plano, Texas



Mayor Ron Nirenberg
City of San Antonio, Texas