

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**POST OFFICE BOX 1529
LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32056-1529**

**Local Technology Planning Team
971 West Duval Street**

AGENDA

**July 19, 2022
5:30PM**

- (1) Update from FAC Conference
- (2) Suwannee Valley Electric Co Op – Smart Grid & Fiber to the Home Project for Rural Florida
- (3) Florida Dept. of Economic Opportunity – Strategic Plan for Broadband
- (4) Tri-County Electric - Madison County
- (5) Committee and Public Comments

Broadband Meeting Update

All, I apologize for not being able to attend as I have a reelection rally I must speak at tonight. I did not want to cancel our efforts and lose progress.

A few updates and questions:

I attended the broadband workshop at FAC.

Takeaways..... Funding will be tied to having established committees such as ours as well as the survey we are doing. 400 million is available this year and they are currently in rule making for how it will be dispersed.

It is time to reach out and bring providers to the table to see if they can help address deficient areas.

I along with county staff will be attending an event at Suwannee Valley where they will announce a new fiber project on 7/26. Hopefully more co-ops will get on board with this concept.

I did speak with a consulting firm that specializes in bringing broadband companies to the table and identifying and overseeing projects..... Should we look at outside consulting help?

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and I apologize for not being able to attend.

Thanks,

Toby Witt

Ellen Snyder

From: David Kraus
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 12:05 PM
To: Staz Guntek; Todd Manning; Lawrence Wilson; Toby Witt
Cc: Ellen Snyder
Subject: FW: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Submits Strategic Plan for Broadband

Staz, Todd and Lawrence;

Please review the State plan so that we can discuss at next meeting

Ellen;

Please attach copy to Agenda for next Broadband meeting. Remind everyone of date of meeting.

Thank You
David

From: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity <deo.info@deo.myflorida.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:24 AM
To: David Kraus <david_kraus@columbiacountyfla.com>
Subject: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Submits Strategic Plan for Broadband

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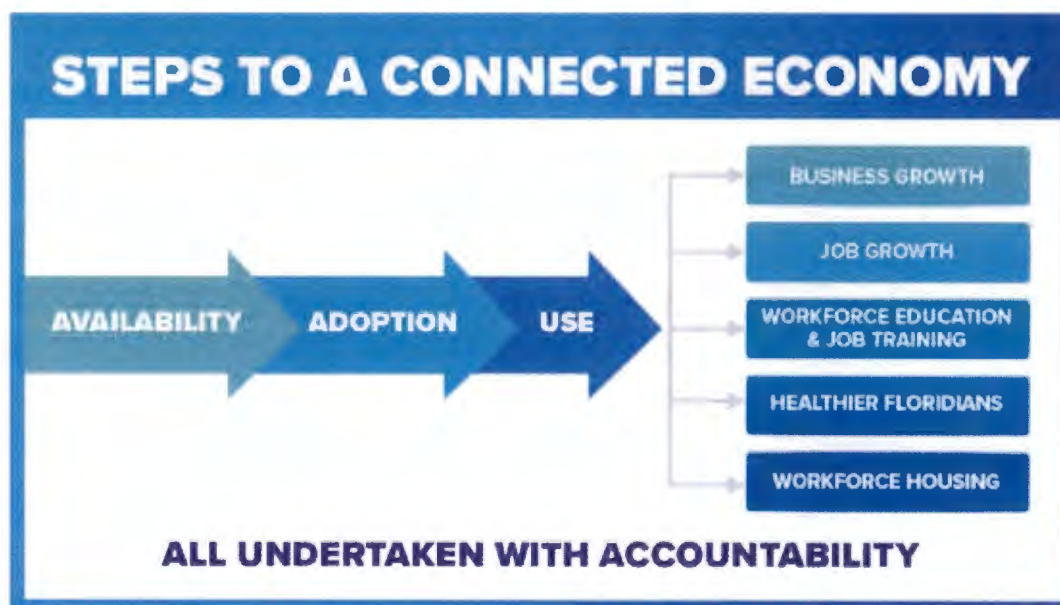
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Submits Strategic Plan for Broadband

A Historic Milestone to Fully Realize Broadband Internet Connectivity in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) submitted the [Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband](#) to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senate President Wilton Simpson, and House Speaker Chris Sprowls detailing the goals and strategies to improve and expand broadband Internet connectivity in the State of Florida.

DEO's Office of Broadband will lead Florida's efforts to accountably ensure that [broadband Internet availability](#), adoption, and use are sustainable in every community and rural area for a resilient Florida future.

The Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband outlines a three-step approach to forge a connected economy—one that yields a more robust workforce, enhanced educational opportunities, and healthier Floridians. The plan also promotes economic growth, workforce education and job training, and workforce housing, particularly in rural, unserved, and underserved areas of the state.



"The submission of Florida's Strategic Plan for Broadband is a historic milestone and, under Governor DeSantis' leadership, DEO is proud to lead our state's mission to accountably expand broadband access to all Floridians," **said DEO Secretary Dane Eagle**. "Florida communities, especially rural communities across the state, will greatly benefit from broadband Internet infrastructure investments that will support their efforts to diversify their economies, increase job opportunities, and improve access to quality health and education services."

DEO developed the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband with coordination, input, participation, and support from industry leaders, partners, stakeholders, and Floridians across the state, including:

- Florida Department of Education
- Florida Department of Health
- Florida Department of Management Services
- Florida Department of State
- Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Florida
- Florida Association of Counties
- Florida League of Cities
- Florida Regional Councils Association
- Florida Small Counties Coalition
- Various Internet service providers

To assist in the efforts to expand broadband Internet for Floridians, DEO is creating and facilitating [Local Technology Planning Teams](#) to assess broadband Internet needs in their communities, as well as build partnerships with Internet service providers, locate unserved and underserved businesses and residents, and leverage assets and reduce barriers to the deployment of broadband Internet services in their communities. DEO developed a [Broadband Planning Toolkit](#) to help Local Technology Planning Teams be successful in carrying out their mission.

Assessing the needs of unserved and underserved communities across the state has been a driver in the state's development of the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband. Thus, DEO developed [Florida's Broadband Availability Map](#) and [Internet Speed Test](#) to generate more extensive data about the state's current broadband Internet service availability. The anonymous, one-minute speed test and survey may be completed on any device, from any location, to help identify opportunities for expansion of broadband services in Florida, including areas that are currently unserved. All Floridians are encouraged to take the test [here](#).

To learn more about the state's broadband initiatives, visit www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband.

About DEO

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity combines the state's economic, workforce, and community development efforts, expediting economic development projects to fuel job creation in competitive communities and promote economic resiliency. For more information, including valuable resources for employers and job seekers, please visit www.FloridaJobs.org.

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Florida Department of Economic Opportunity 107 E. Madison Street Tallahassee, FL 32399 | 850.245.7110

Connect with us



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Unsubscribe_david_kraus@columbiacountyfla.com

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Sent by deo.info@deo.myflorida.com



**YOU'RE INVITED TO AN EVENT ANNOUNCING A SMART GRID &
FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT FOR RURAL FLORIDA**

Please join us to learn how Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative is working to expand the "self-healing" properties of its electric system and bring high-speed internet to every farm, home, and business it serves.

Tuesday, July 26 at 9:00 a.m.

**Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative
11340 100th Street
Live Oak, FL 32060**

Please RSVP by July 24 to communications@svec-coop.com

This e-mail and any data or files transmitted with it are confidential, belong to Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivering the email to the intended recipient, then you have received this email in error and any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email or the transmitted data or files is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately.

SVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Fiber to the Home (FTTH)

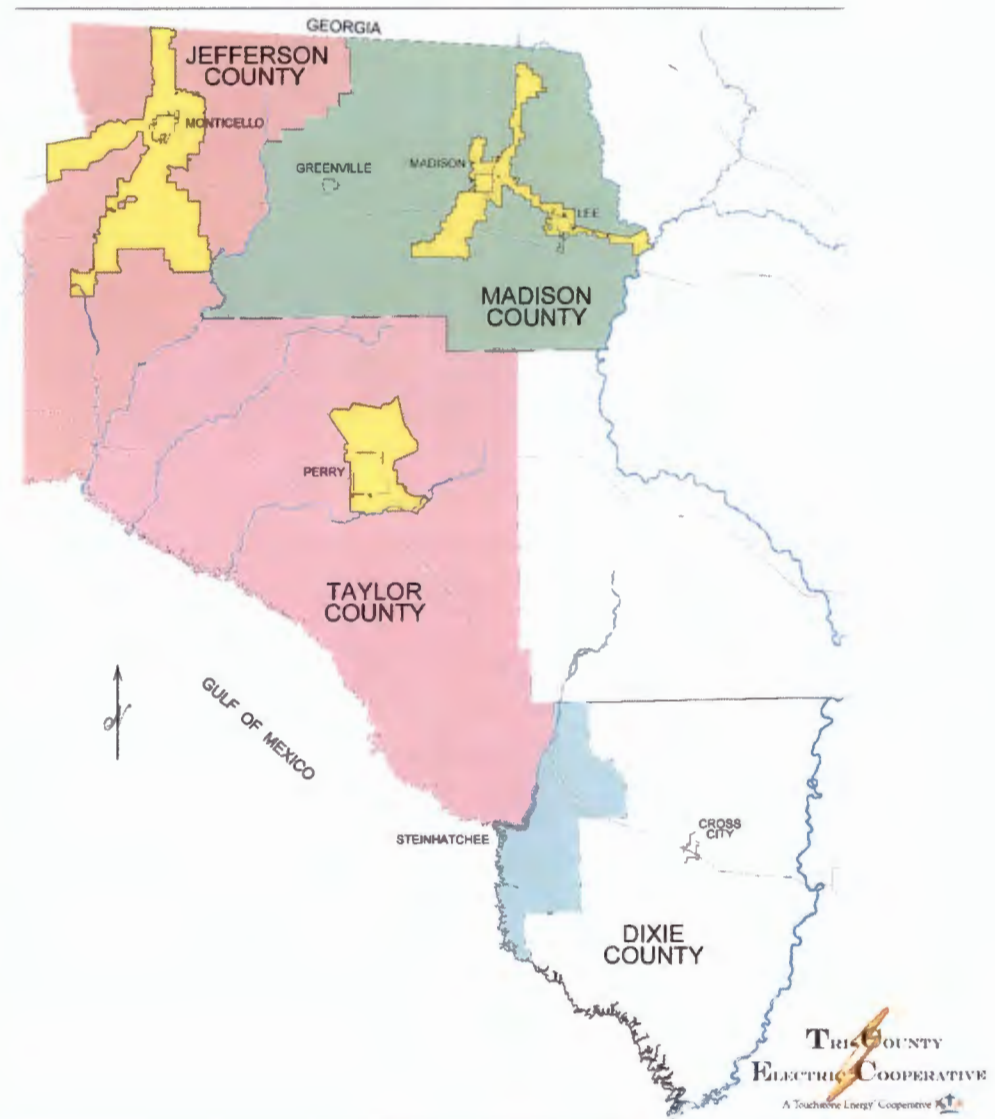
Tri County Electric Cooperative

Employees 68

Meters 19,700

Miles of Electric Lines 3,100

Local Offices 5



FAST SMART GRID COMMUNICATIONS NEEDED



Power Line Carrier



Cellular



Fixed Wireless



Fiber



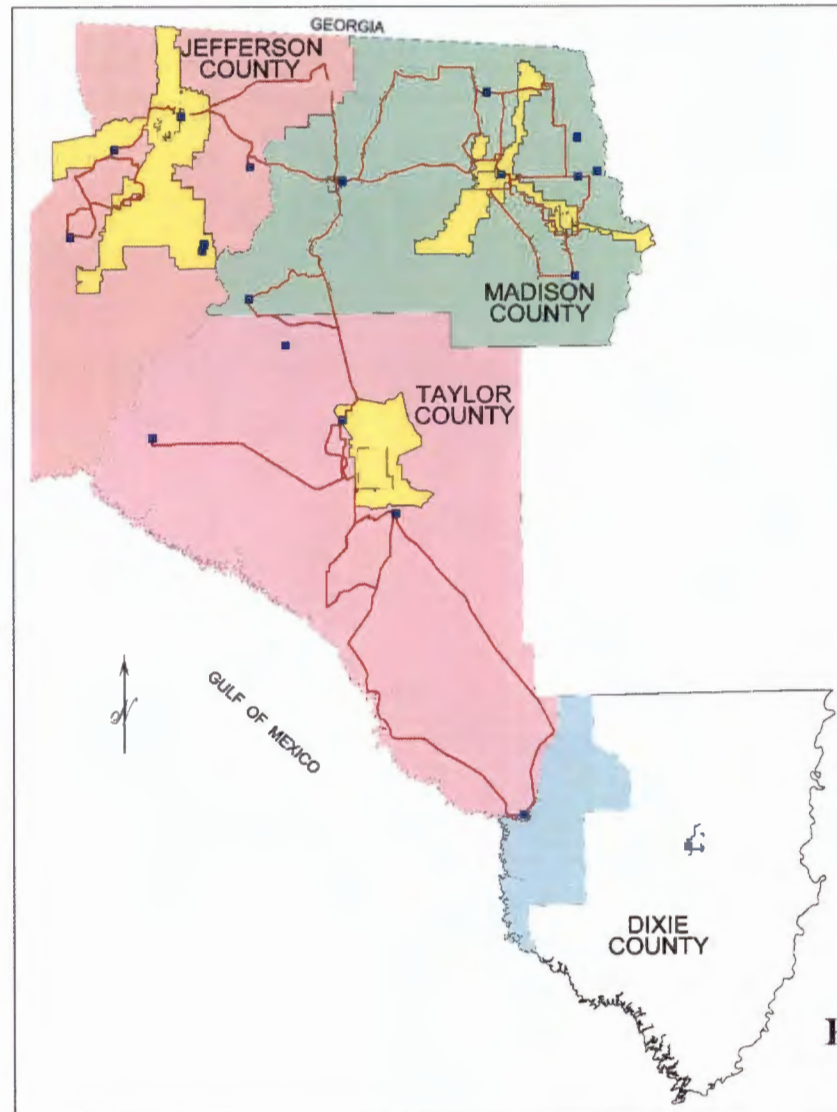
What If Dark Fiber Was Available?

Plans for a fiber ring to substations

Large unserved/under served areas

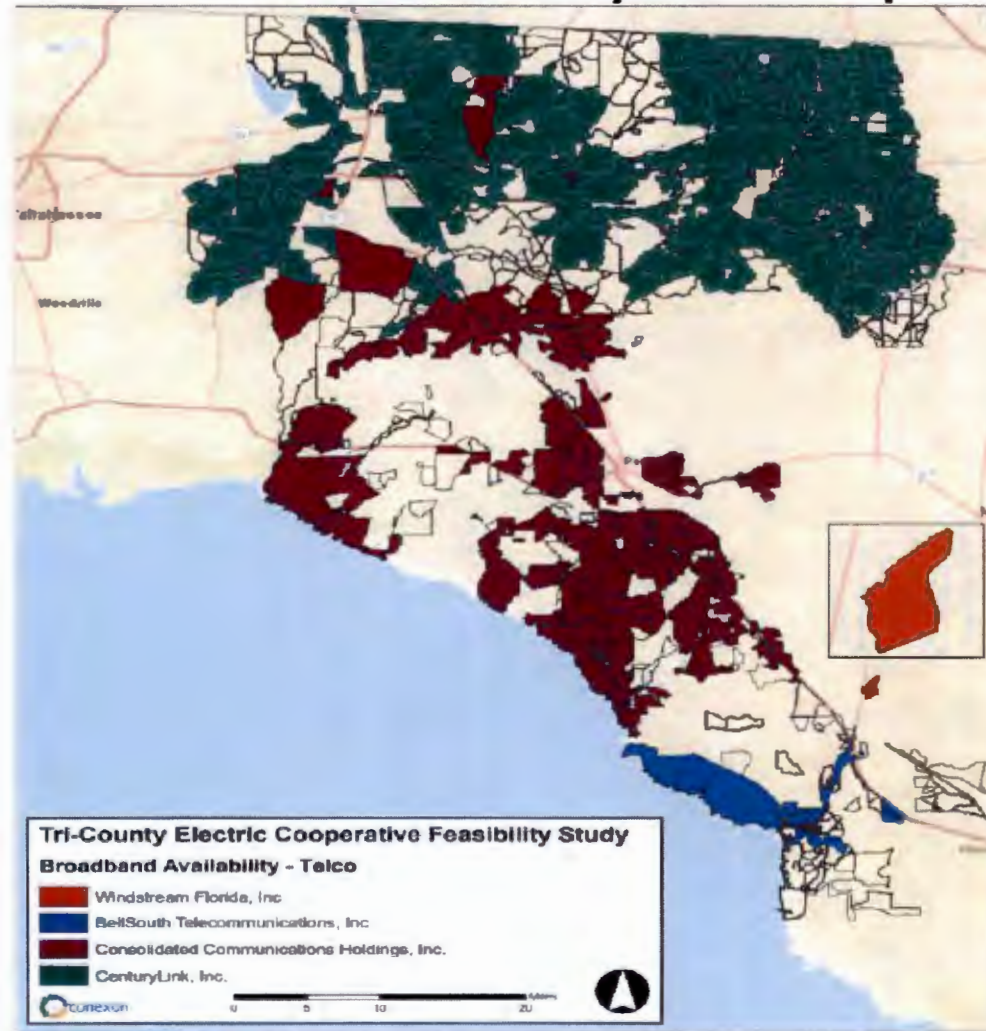
Funding opportunities are emerging

Fiber Ring

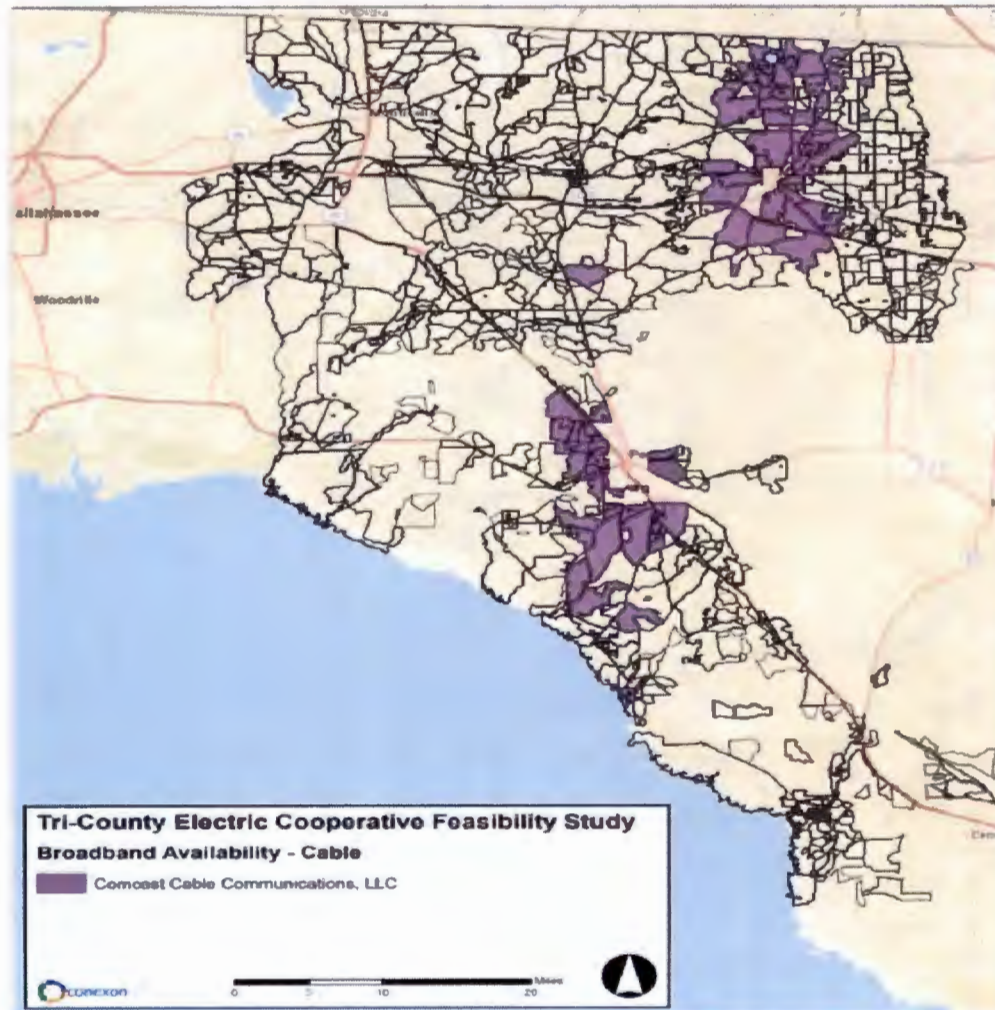


TRI-COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

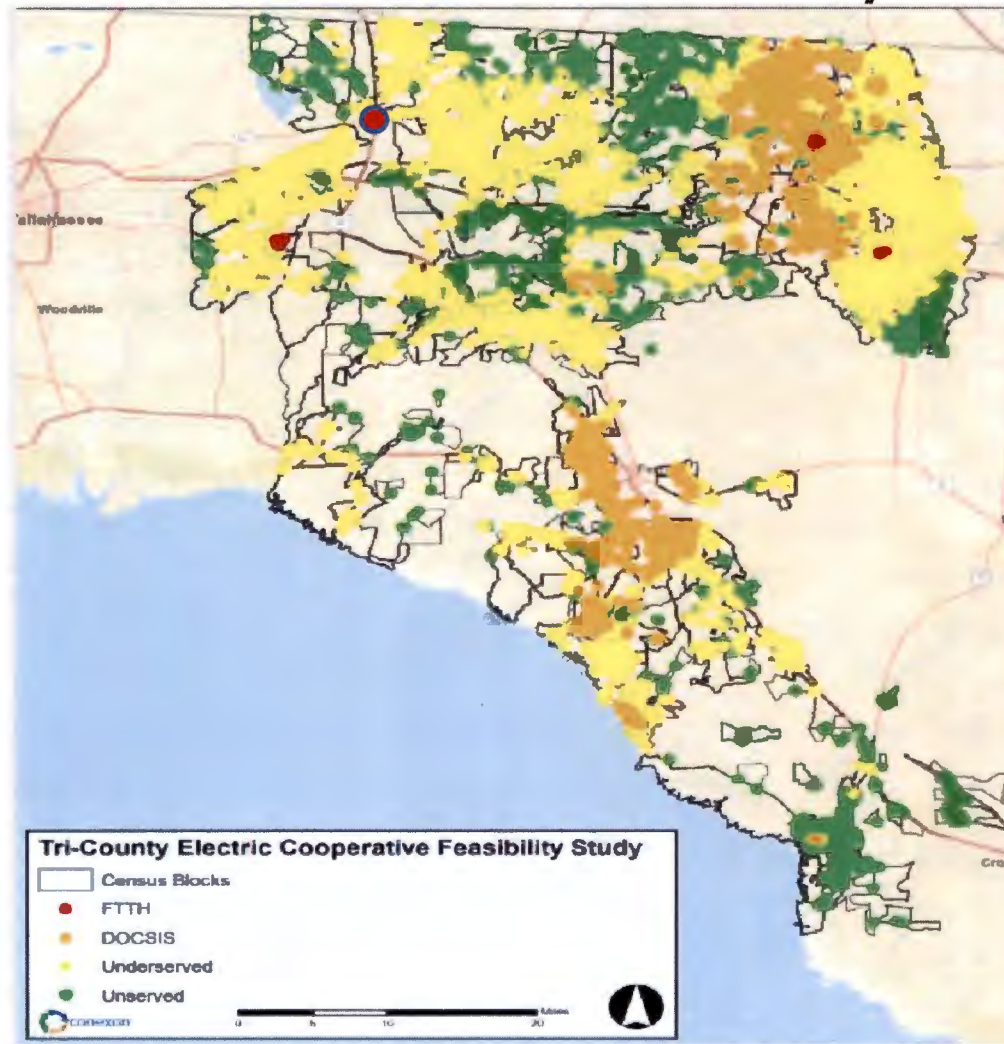
Internet Availability - Telephone



Internet Availability - Cable



Internet Availability



Stages

Conexon
Agreement
approved
February 2022

Co-op Owns the
Fiber (\$65M)

Conexon Leases
Fiber



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGES

- Local Accountability
- Commitment to serve every electric member
- Concerns for the whole community
- Cooperative financing options



Final Thoughts

Each electric cooperative situation is different

Select the most future proof technology available

Strong partners available

Don't get left behind