

BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT SUBJECT BRIEF

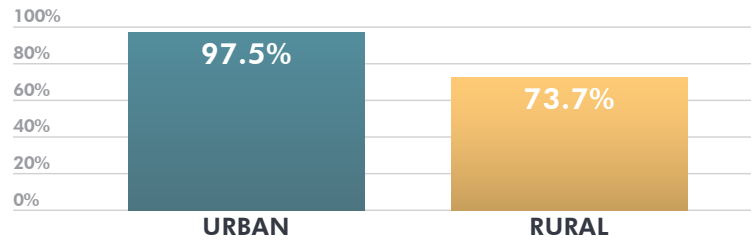


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

What is Broadband?

Broadband is a high-speed data transmission via technologies such as cable, fiber, wireless radio-based, or satellite-based networks to allow access to the Internet. It refers to any **high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access**. While broadband is widely available in Florida, a **“digital divide” in broadband access between urban and rural areas persists.**¹

PERCENT OF RESIDENTS WITH BROADBAND ACCESS IN FLORIDA COUNTIES (MAY 2022)



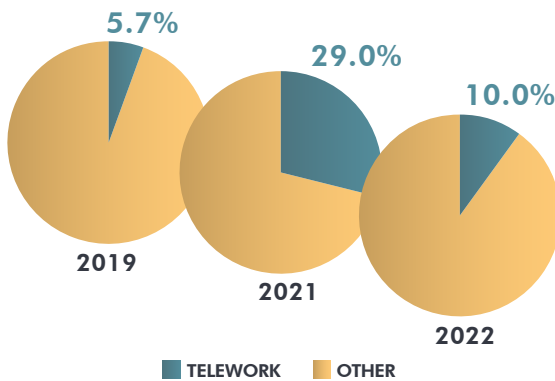
Source: Broadband Now. <https://broadbandnow.com/Florida>.

Why Is Planning for Broadband Important?

Broadband service is essential for accessing a growing range of services and goods. While e-commerce, online learning, and telemedicine have existed since the 2000s, the rate at which people participated in these activities accelerated dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several experts predict that, while many have returned to in-person activities, the digital space will represent a larger share of jobs, education, health care, and other essential goods and services moving forward.

TELEWORK

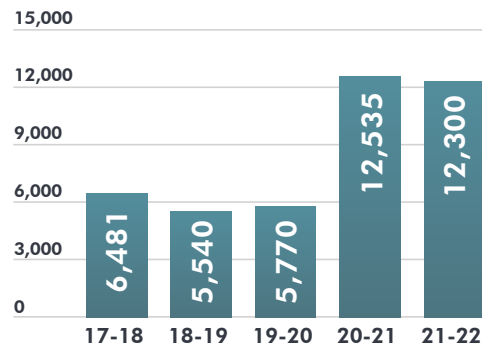
U.S. TELEWORKING SHARE



Source: U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey June 23- July 5 2021. US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Population Survey. March 2022.

EDUCATION

FLORIDA VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL FULL-TIME STUDENT ENROLLMENT



Source: Florida Virtual High School. District Enrollment Summary by Year.. 2021-2022 enrollment is preliminary.

HEALTHCARE

IN 2019, FLORIDA AUTHORIZED **OUT-OF-STATE PROVIDERS** TO PRACTICE TELEHEALTH IN FLORIDA WITHOUT OBTAINING FLORIDA LICENSES, MAKING IT **EASIER** FOR FLORIDIANS TO **ACCESS TELEHEALTH**

AS OF FEBRUARY 2021 **TELEHEALTH SERVICES REPRESENT 17.0%** OF ALL U.S. OUTPATIENT CLAIMS.

Sources: National Law Review 2019. McKinsey 2021.

The expansion of broadband has implications both for how people will travel in the future and which transportation services will be available. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O), and automated and connected vehicles rely on **broadband service in roads, traffic signals, transit vehicles, and other systems** to access data on roadway conditions, traffic volumes, and other critical factors that influence how they operate. All of these emerging technologies can improve the safety and efficiency of Florida’s transportation system.

¹ Broadband access is a measurement of the percentage of residents who live in an area that receives broadband service, defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as high-speed internet with 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download speeds and 3 Mbps upload speeds. It is not a measurement of the percentage of people who actually have or use broadband service.

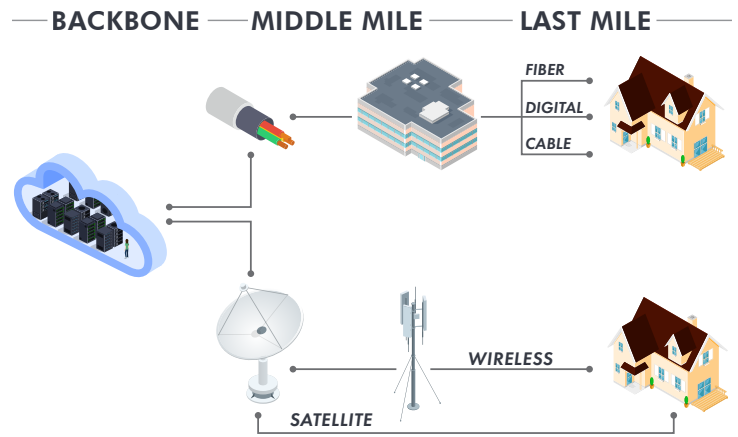
What Is FDOT's Role in Broadband Deployment?

Since state-owned transportation corridors connect population centers, installing broadband in the right of way often allows **broadband service to "follow the road"** to the people or businesses that lack access. These may include:

- Major trunkline or backbone connections between regions;
- Middle mile connections from the trunkline to key population or economic activity centers; and
- Last mile connections to local homes and businesses.

Coordination between FDOT and broadband providers can significantly reduce infrastructure costs using a **"dig-once"**

approach. At the time of construction or major maintenance projects, conduits for broadband cables can be installed in the highway right of way, either underground or on utility transmission lines. This may include empty conduit or "dark fiber" reserved for future use.



Coordinating broadband deployment with roadway construction can reduce installation costs by 25 to 33%

Source: U.S. Government Accountability Office, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-12-687r.pdf>

FDOT's long-range transportation planning process also provides opportunity for public and private sector partners to collaborate on where infrastructure should go. These partners can support the installation effort to build the connections they need for remote learning, online commerce platforms, or other broadband-enabled activities.

What Is FDOT Doing to Advance Broadband Deployment?

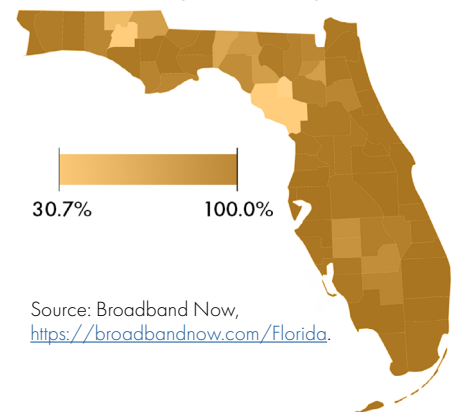
FDOT is supporting the identification of broadband needs for non-transportation broadband projects that intend to use FDOT roadway facilities. To comply with a 2021 Federal Highway Administration rule on broadband coordination, FDOT has established a designated broadband coordinator as a point of contact for broadband providers. FDOT alerts broadband providers when the State Transportation Improvement Program, which contains projects planned for implementation over the next four years, is published to help the providers identify opportunities for "dig-once" project planning.

What Resources are Available for Broadband Deployment?

In 2020, the Florida legislature created the **Florida Office of Broadband** within the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to facilitate broadband expansion. The DEO Office of Broadband is developing a strategic plan to increase broadband access and has created a broadband planning toolkit to expand coverage in local communities.²

The Federal government has maintained numerous grant programs to support broadband deployment and improve broadband affordability, including the FCC's High Cost Program and Rural Health Care Programs and the USDA's Community Connect Grant Program.³ In recognition of broadband's growing role, the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided \$65 billion for broadband investments. These investments include over \$42 billion in formula grants to states to expand broadband access to unserved or underserved homes and businesses.⁴ Additionally, the Florida legislature added to this funding expansion in the FY22-23 state budget, providing \$400 million for DEO to support rural broadband expansion.

FLORIDA BROADBAND COVERAGE BY COUNTY (MAY 2022)



Source: Broadband Now, <https://broadbandnow.com/Florida>.

² Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/broadband/office-of-broadband>.

³ National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Broadband USA. <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/federal>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/fact-sheets/2021/11/fact-sheet-department-commerces-use-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-funding>.

Where Can I Learn More?

[Broadband Service in Florida](#)

[Florida DEO Office of Broadband](#)

[Federal Highway Administration – Dig Once Policy Brief](#)



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