

**Draft Amendment to  
Carroll County Comprehensive Plan  
Regarding Broadband Services**

The following amendments to the Carroll County Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 2018, are proposed regarding Broadband Services:

1. Article I. Introduction, Section E, SWOT Analysis, Subsection “Threats:” is amended to add “Limited Broadband and Cell Coverage.”

2. Article II. Needs and Opportunities, Section C, Key Economic Development Needs, is amended to add a new Paragraph 5, which reads: “5. Expansion of broadband into needed areas.”

3. Article IV. Policies, Section C, Economic Development Goals, Objectives, and Policies, is amended to add a new Paragraph ED-1i which reads: “Support efforts of local broadband providers to bring broadband to the rural areas of our community in order to provide internet availability to residences and businesses within the county.”

4. Article V. Policies, Section D, Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, and Policies, is amended to add a new Paragraph CF-1d which reads: “Utilize resources such as the DCA Broadband Deployment Initiative to promote increased access to broadband within the community.”

5. Exhibit 2: Key Implementation Strategies, is amended to add a new Task #19 as follows:

**Exhibit 2: Key Implementation Strategies**

Task Number	Action Description	Tool	Priority Schedule	Initiating Entity	Policy References
19	Expand broadband capabilities	Ordinance adoption and administrative procedures	1	Community Development	ED-1i, CF-1d

6. Add ~~an~~ a new Appendix —E: Broadband Services Element: in the form attached hereto.

## Appendix E: Broadband Services Element

Within Carroll County, the deployment of quality broadband services is key to creating an environment which sustains a high quality of life for the residents and its support businesses.

Citizens in a number of areas in our community are unable to take advantage of a variety of goods, services, and information due to lack of access to broadband internet services. According to the Georgia Broadband Initiative maps, a copy of which is attached hereto (also available at <https://broadband.georgia.gov/maps/gbdi-unserved-county>), 23% of Carroll County residential and business locations, or 12,830 locations, are unserved, primarily in rural areas of Carroll County. These statistics are based on a fixed, terrestrial broadband definition of 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up, and where the broadband service is available to more than 80% of locations in a Census block. The attached map shall be added to Exhibit C of the Comprehensive Plan.

The following goals and associated strategies will help promote ~~this effort~~ the deployment of quality broadband services:

**GOAL #1:** Essential telecommunications services for all residents, businesses, and local government agencies (especially the Public Safety and Emergency Services) are reliable.

### Strategies:

- Engage telecom providers in direct dialog to address telecom reliability and diversity/redundancy issues.
- Engage with the Georgia Public Services Commission (GPSC) in proceedings on relevant telecommunications issues.
- Request incumbent providers to share critical information with high-level county public safety officials on points of vulnerability in county networks, such as communities where facilities are non-redundant/diverse.
- Document any major telecommunication outages, and use such documentation to engage providers, GPSC, and policymakers at the local, state, and national level for corrective action.
- Work with willing providers, the GPSC, and other entities to develop methods to document and correct ongoing individual landline outages which lead to loss of 911 services for residents.

**GOAL #2:** All residents should have affordable high speed broadband access in their homes.

### Strategies:

- Work with all willing providers to identify barriers and solutions to deployment.
- Work with all willing providers to expand broadband and mobile networks.
- Support and work with all willing communities to organize and develop last-mile connectivity plans. The last mile refers to the portion of the telecommunications network chain that physically reaches the end-user's premises. Leverage any opportunities to provide home

access for K-12 students (as promoted by the Board of Education to unlock 24/7 educational opportunities), and for college students to enable online educational opportunities.

- Assess ground truth broadband availability for then number of unserved and underserved households in the county.
- Share federal and state grant information for deployment opportunities with providers and organizations. Encourage and support appropriate pilot projects and applications.
- Advocate locally, regionally, and nationally for appropriate policies and programs for expanded last mile broadband deployment.
- Increase the number of public access computers and Wi-Fi hotspots in libraries and other public spaces.
- Reduce economic barriers for access through support for low-income access programs.
- Increase broadband options through the promotion of digital literacy programs in schools, libraries, and nonprofits.

**GOAL #3:** Competitively priced high speed broadband infrastructure throughout the county is development to attract, retain, and develop internet reliant businesses.

Strategies:

- Research and consider alternative models for broadband investment and infrastructure development, such as public-private partnership models.
- Collaborate with the Three Rivers Regional Commission and other neighboring counties and cities for resources to launch the implementation of joint broadband infrastructure projects.
- Break down broadband funding silos by cooperative relationships and enhanced communications between schools, colleges, libraries, healthcare facilities, communities, local governments, public safety, and providers.
- Support appropriate state and federal legislation for funding of broadband programs and projects. Oppose detrimental state “pre-emption” legislation that takes away local control.
- Encourage high speed work centers until this necessary infrastructure is fully developed for economic development.

**GOAL #4:** Local government takes leadership in broadband issues, adopts policies to facilitate broadband deployment, and seeks ways to leverage existing assets.

Strategies:

- Adopt the DCA’s Broadband Model Ordinance to reduce obstacles to broadband infrastructure investment.
- Apply to become designated as a Broadband Ready Community by the DCA and take all actions necessary and appropriate to maintain this status.
- Carroll County identifies and considers adopting policies that facilitate broadband deployment, such as appropriate streamlined project permitting, a county “dig once” policy, or master lease agreements that allow the installation of broadband on county owned infrastructure.
- Carroll County uses its leadership position to elevate the broadband conversation at local level, state level, and national level.

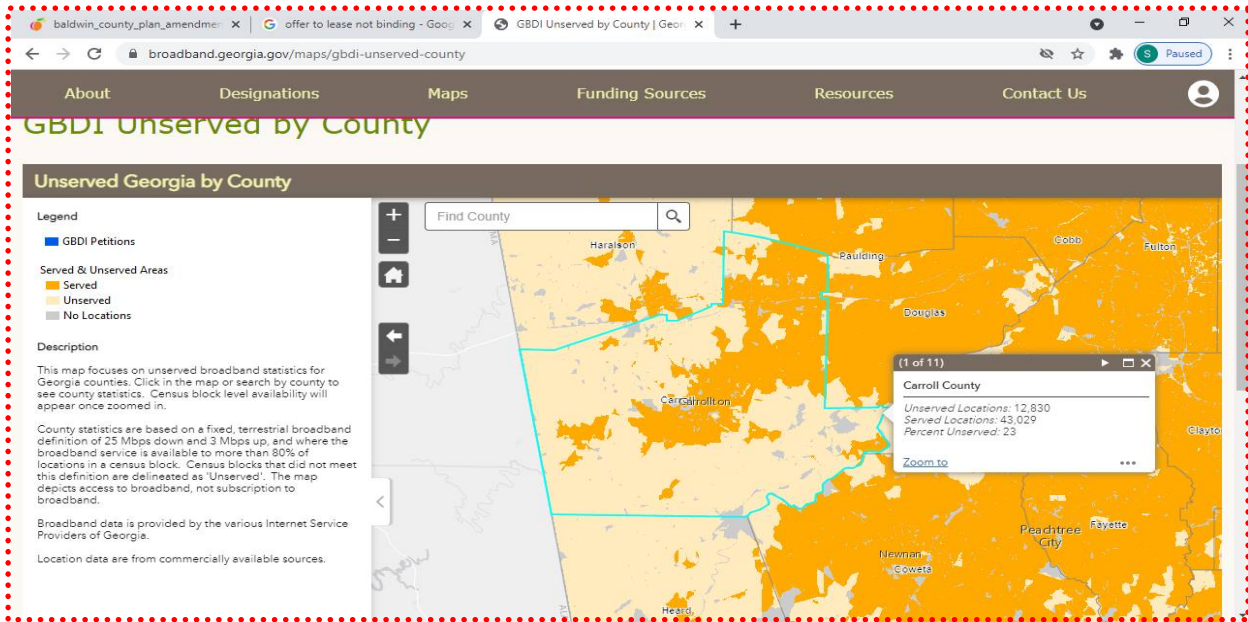
- Carroll County advocates for open access broadband infrastructure wherever feasible.
- Carroll County improves how goods and services are delivered by aspiring to offer all government services as web based.
- Carroll County encourages other groups (nonprofits, Chambers of Commerce, etc.) to elevate the broadband conversation and highlight broadband obstacles and successes in their outreach.
- Carroll County encourages all departments to include broadband access as a priority. Departments identify ways in which they can facilitate deployment of broadband, reduce barriers, or possibly even make funding available for broadband.
- Carroll County encourages all departments to create an inventory of existing county assets which could be leveraged for broadband deployment inventory (such as buildings and Rights of Way) and cross-communication facilitated between broadband stakeholders.
- Carroll County's website will include broadband resources and information and/or links to other websites.

**GOAL #5:** Carroll County develops a comprehensive broadband plan.

Strategies:

- A Broadband Plan will be development from the most current Broadband Goals and Strategies identified in the Comprehensive Plan.
- The plan should address how to best get all residents and businesses online so that the network can be used to drive economic growth and social progress.
- The plan should be adaptable and reviewed regularly to consider changing needs, broadband metrics and consumer usages.
- The plan should be a model for other local governments to adopt.




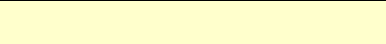

**BROADBAND ELEMENT**  
**MAP OF UNSERVED AREAS OF CARROLL COUNTY**



**Credit to: <https://broadband.georgia.gov/maps/gbdi-ununserved-county>**

Document comparison by Workshare 10.0 on Monday, April 12, 2021 9:42:37 AM

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