

Additionally, the GBDI team, leveraging GTA's subject matter expertise, is monitoring technological advances that may be eventually factor into the rural broadband equation.

## Analysis of State Assets for Broadband

GTA is assisting the State Properties Commission (SPC) in conducting an analysis of state assets that might be used to expand broadband availability in unserved areas. Leveraging GTA's resources and relationships, combined with SPC's consolidated database of real property assets, this assessment is designed to identify potential property options, essential requirements, and recommendations for potential implementation.

Currently, a Request for Information is under development that might inform next steps in state property analysis. The purpose of the RFI is to develop market insight such as supply and demand related to potential broadband deployment using state properties (e.g., land and buildings). The assessment will examine both wired and wireless deployment alternatives and should be complete by December 2019.

## Broadband on State Rights-of-Way

GDOT currently has in place a permitting process to allow the installation of fiber, broadband, wireless small cell, and other telecommunications infrastructure on non-limited access state rights-of-way. The permitting process is outlined in the Department's Utility Accommodation Policy and Standards Manual which can be found at [http://www.dot.ga.gov/PartnerSmart/utilities/Documents/2016\\_UAM.pdf](http://www.dot.ga.gov/PartnerSmart/utilities/Documents/2016_UAM.pdf)

GDOT is currently pursuing a Public Private Partnership project to allow the installation of broadband infrastructure on limited access interstate rights-of-way. Limited information is currently available on this project as it is under active procurement. Publicly available information on this project is posted at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Innovative/P3>.

## State Broadband Plan

In addition to progressing on the initiatives highlighted in this Broadband Plan, GBDI aims to refine this document to highlight State priorities such as access to quality healthcare, enhanced educational capabilities, economic development and growth of small business, and basic quality of life issues that require high-speed internet access.

### **Investments in Unserved Areas**

The goal of the project is to identify, evaluate and recommend investment options which can be implemented by governments and providers. The test of any recommendation is whether its results will have a measurable impact on the number of unserved locations that can become served.

Broadband infrastructure investment decisions are business-case based. They must provide a sustainable and positive ROI for providers to expand into unserved areas. The broadband planning team will partner with local governments and provider partners on a plan to address unserved areas. Recommended strategies or policies must either lower broadband investment costs or provide financial assistance to broadband in unserved areas so that they can be served and become economically self-sustaining. While the project team implements the initial broadband plan set forth in the legislation, it is also listening to