



# Board Referral #2021.08 Progress Update

November 16, 2021

## Board Directions on July 20, 2021

- On July 20, 2021, Board directed ITD to close the "Addressing the Digital Divide" Referral # 2020.25, and mark it completed;
- ITD will report to Board quarterly on the community broadband project progress through its presentation on Board referral #2021.08 on Broadband JPA;

### Regional Broadband Task Force

- In response to Board referral #2021.08, ITD discussed with regional partners on community broadband governance, and presented its recommendations on July 20, 2021, with subsequent Board approval;
- ITD kicked off its first regional broadband Task Force meeting on September 10, 2021. The Task Force will develop a shared vision on regional broadband effort, appropriate governance structure and develop a strategic plan;

#### Broadband RFP

- In June 2021 Board approved \$1.935 million in ARPA funds for FY 21-22 for broadband development;
- A Request for Proposal was released on September 23, 2021;
- A Pre-bid meeting was held on October 8, 2021 with Q&A released in addenda;
- Contractors' responses are expected by November 12, 2021.
  Announcement of Contractor selections will be around December 2021;

## Golden State Connect Authority JPA

- On September 12 2021, ITD submitted a Board Resolution to adopt the Golden State Connect Authority JPA agreement, and to join the JPA as a Member County;
- Initial areas of focus for broadband work will include:
  - Foundational Readiness: Ensure all member counties have broadband strategic plans

## Golden State Connect Authority JPA - Cont'd

- Capacity Building: Equip rural counties with information and resources about innovative models and approaches to broadband deployment
- Demonstration Projects: Implement open-access municipal broadband projects

#### Public Wi-Fi

- ITD completed public Wi-Fi implementation in September 2021
  - a) 22 County buildings are equipped with public Wi-Fi that benefits nearby County residents within 328 feet beyond building perimeter;
  - b) Within a 30-day period, there were 1666 unique devices connected to the new Wi-Fi system, utilizing 3.2 TB of data;