



## Connected Tennessee Seeks Input from Tennessee Communities to Ensure Accuracy of Broadband Availability Map

**Contact:** Mandy Hale  
615-242-9508  
[mhale@connectedtn.org](mailto:mhale@connectedtn.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 9/7/10**

*BroadbandStat Seeks to Offer Consumers a Comprehensive Look at the Status of High-Speed Internet in Tennessee*

**Nashville, TN** – Connected Tennessee is calling on Tennessee communities to assist with creating a more accurate picture of broadband availability in Tennessee, using Connected Tennessee’s cutting-edge mapping tool, BroadbandStat. The input from consumers will be used to ultimately increase private investment into unserved and underserved areas by broadband providers.

So how can Tennesseans participate? Citizens are asked to go to <http://bit.ly/TNBBStat>, click on the blue pushpin, and enter their address. A list of broadband providers will be shown. If the resident believes the list is incorrect or service is being reported in an area where none exists, they can share the results using Connected Tennessee’s online form at: <http://bit.ly/TNBBInquiry>.

“We are excited to work together with Tennesseans sharing a common goal to ensure the most accurate portrayal of broadband availability possible,” says Connected Tennessee’s Executive Director, Michael Ramage. “We will be able to utilize this data to inform broadband providers and community leaders about unserved areas, population density, and existing service; all with a goal of bringing broadband to the communities in Tennessee that are on the wrong side of the digital divide. We welcome your feedback and look forward to continuing to connect Tennesseans with all the benefits afforded by a high-speed connection.”

For those who cannot access the web-based map, Connected Tennessee is standing by and ready to help at 1-866-881-9423.

The BroadbandStat tool is a multi-functional, user-friendly way for local leaders, policymakers, consumers, and technology providers to devise a plan for the expansion and adoption of broadband. BroadbandStat uses geographic information system (GIS) technology to enable a user to build and evaluate broadband expansion scenarios that incorporate data such as education and population demographics, current broadband speeds and availability, and research about adoption barriers. Results are displayed on a web-based interactive map. The broadband-related data can be used for grant writing, broadband investment and economic development, and it gives the public the ability to find information about broadband providers, down to the street level.

Twelve U.S. states and the territory of Puerto Rico will be using BroadbandStat to organize the results of data they are currently collecting on available broadband services. This activity is supported by State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program funds made available through the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for improving broadband accessibility across the nation.

BroadbandStat was developed by Connected Tennessee's parent company, Connected Nation, in conjunction with ESRI, a market leader in GIS software.

# # #

***About Connected Tennessee:*** *As a public-private partnership, Connected Tennessee partners with technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities to accelerate technology in the state. The work of Connected Tennessee is made possible by support from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. For more information about what Connected Tennessee is doing to accelerate technology in Tennessee's communities, visit [www.connectedtn.org](http://www.connectedtn.org).*