

SHOW ME BROADBAND

Dedicated to ensuring that every home, farm, and business in Missouri has fast, reliable, and affordable internet.

January 2026

SHOW ME 
BROADBAND

AGENDA

- BJ Tanksley, Director, Missouri Office of Broadband and Staff
 - MO FINAL BEAD PLAN IS APPROVED – DETAILS UPDATE
 - What's Next
- Representative Louis Riggs
 - Current proposed legislation
 - HB 2886 - <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1924533>
- Drew Garner, Benton Institute
 - Non Deployment Funds (left over BEAD Funds) –What are we hearing Nationally
 - Other National Policies
- Janie
 - Honorable Arielle Roth, Assistant Secretary of Commerce invitation to visit MO [WE HEARD FROM THE INVITE – Hear the results

BJ Tanksley, Director Missouri Office of Broadband & Staff

- MO Final Plan approved by NTIA
 - Not a huge change from submitted plan
 - 81% fiber followed by LEO, fixed wireless and hybrid
 - Total of about 11,000 locations removed by NTIA from eligible locations
 - MO OBD appealed these removals but lost the appeal
- Now need NIST approval
 - Expect in 30 days or mid-March
- Timeline – Deployment
 - Get through NIST approval
 - Then 6 months to get through awardee agreements
 - Nepa (environmental reviews will take some time)
 - 4 years to finish or 2030
 - DO NOT BREAK GROUND UNTIL TOLD TO BE OBD
- OBD have a few more claims of challenges of existing service to get through
- Join regular OBD call on January 30 and will have more details to share

Representative Louis Riggs, State Representative

HB 2886 - <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1924533>

- **Main provisions**
 - Extend sunset date for the office of broadband to June 30, 2030
 - Raises minimum speed requirements to 750/750 for underserved and 500/500 for unserved
 - Clarifies that LEO satellites, fixed wireless or cable will not be considered as broadband for the purpose of the program
 - Introduces a right of first refusal that were second placed finishers in previous federal broadband fund applications to accept defaulted funds recovered by the state

BEAD Non-Deployment Overview

Drew Garner, Benton Institute

- Background
 - Non-deployment funds refer to BEAD funds that are left over after a state meets BEAD's infrastructure deployment requirements.
 - Eligible uses include:
 - Connecting CAIs, data collection, broadband mapping, MDU Wi-Fi infrastructure, broadband adoption programs, affordable device programs.
 - Any use determined necessary by the Assistant Secretary to facilitate the goals of the BEAD Program.
- Missouri is set to have over **\$940 million** in non-deployment funds once its BEAD final proposal is approved.

Current Status of Non-Deployment Debate

Drew Garner, Benton Institute

- **On 10/28** Asst. Sec Roth [stated](#) that NTIA is “operating under the assumption” that the non-deployment funds will be available to the states, but that no final decision has been made.
- **On 12/11** President Trump signed an [executive order](#) that instructs NTIA to withhold non-deployment funds from states with “onerous” AI laws.
- **Bills and Letters:** release the funds to the states, mixed ideas on how it should be used.
 - **On 11/18** a bipartisan group of over 160 state legislators [urged](#) NTIA and the Dept. of Commerce to follow the law and release non-deployment funds to the states.
 - **On 12/16** a bipartisan group of US Senators sent a [letter](#) to NTIA urging NTIA to follow Congress’ original intent with non-deployment funds
 - **On 12/17** NC Governor, Josh Stein, sent a [letter](#) to Sec. Lutnick and Asst. Sec. Roth describing how NC would use non-deployment funding.
 - **On 12/18** Senators Wicker and Capito introduced a [bill](#) to change the BEAD statute to allow non-deployment funds to be used for:
 - “Workforce development targeting initiatives related to broadband deployment, emerging technologies/AI, cybersecurity and electrical sectors.”

Janie, Show Me Broadband

- Dec 10 letter of invite to Arielle Roth, Asst. Secretary of Commerce
- Jan 8 response – would be happy to visit the state
- Asked for proposed dates – I sent
- Have discussed with OBD the where and agenda
- IF they follow through with the visit we will let you know.
 - Need LOTS of attendees
 - Need any input you might have on the event and agenda
 - May have Show Me Broadband planning call IF we receive firm confirmation

SHOW ME BROADBAND

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