

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number  
48-50-M09064

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)  
09-13-2010

1. Recipient Name  
Connected Nation, Inc - Texas

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:  
Texas

3. Street Address  
1020 College Street,

8. Final Report?  Yes  No  
9. Report Frequency  
 Quarterly  
 Semi Annual  
 Annual  
 Final

5. City, State, Zip Code  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-2137

7. Project / Grant Period  
Start Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)  
01-01-2010

7a. End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)  
12-31-2014

8. Reporting Period End Date:  
(MM/DD/YYYY)  
09-30-2010

9a. If Other, please describe:  
N/A

**10. Broadband Mapping**

10a. Provider Table

Number of Providers Identified	Number of Providers Contacted	Number of Agreements Reached for Data Sharing	Number of Partial Data Sets Received	Number of Complete Data Sets	Number of Data Sets Verified
187	187	129	3	151	151

10b. Are you submitting the required PROVIDER DATA by using the Excel spreadsheet provided by the SBDD grants office?  Yes  No

10c. Have you encountered challenges with any providers that indicate they may refuse to participate in this project?  Yes  No

10d. If so, describe the discussions to date with each of these providers and the current status  
281 Communications: Provider stated it was not comfortable with the data request and reaffirmed decision to not participate.

Anvil Communications: Provider indicates no benefit and other companies overlap his coverage.

Buford Media Group: Mapping agent receives email stating, "To my knowledge this program is not mandatory; therefore, I cannot move it to our highest priority."

Broadwaves: Provider indicates no benefit in participating.

CKS Wireless: Provider sent email stating they would not participate.

East Texas Cable Company: Provider indicates they are still not interested in participating.

Fiberlight, LLC: Provider refused to provide backhaul information and sees no reason to give up confidential information.

Gecko Inter.net: Provider stated they do not have any interest to participate.

Internet America Wireless Internet Access: Mapping agent leaves voice mail indicating assumption that position of refusal to participate still stands.

Kentucky Data Link, Inc.: A company representative stated that they are "electing not to contribute at this time."

LSC Web.com: Provider email stated "I run a private network and will not be participating in this project.

Star-NET Online Systems: email from provider mentioning compensation for the amount of time required on this project; conducted numerous attempts to contact provider.

TEXAS I.S.P.: In conversation again, the provider indicated that Texas ISP is not interested with participation. Currently, down to six subscriber in the field.

Xanadoo, LLC: A company representative stated via phone call they will not be participating because they feel they are not required to do so.

Indian Creek Internet Services, VRFuturenet, ELP Networks, Inc, Bee Creek Communications, Pathwayz Communications, Inc and Texas Communications: Outreach continues with multiple attempts to contact the provider during the 3rd quarter.

Yipes Enterprise Services, Inc.: provider decision of not participating still stands.

10e. If you are collecting data through other means (e.g. data extraction, extrapolation, etc), please describe your progress to date and the relevant activities to be undertaken in the future

We have not collected any data through extraction programs.

10f. Please describe the verification activities you plan to implement

ESRI is deploying and hosting Connected Nation's BroadbandStat (BBStat) web application. ESRI will house the customized BBStat application in their highly-available, monitored and managed environment. The scope of services includes setting up a staging environment for data verification and compatibility as well as a production environment for client access.

Connected Nation also collects consumer feedback in the form of broadband inquiries. These inquiries represent any type of communication received from the public regarding broadband service. Once broadband inquiries are received across the state, this information is overlaid with the broadband availability information which was collected through the SBDD program. This allows for a real-world comparison of the broadband landscape to the information received from broadband inquiries. Broadband inquiries are able to provide three types of information: 1) residents who do not have broadband but want it; 2) residents who have broadband but want a different provider; and 3) residents who do not have broadband, but the broadband inventory maps indicate that they do. If residents within a region state that they are without broadband, but the broadband inventory maps show otherwise, this allows Connected Nation to approach the providers within that area in an effort to trim down their coverage to more accurately represent real-world availability on the ground.

Before December 31, 2010 Connected Nation will target an additional 11 randomly selected companies in order to achieve a total field validation rate equal to or exceeding 20%.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities?  Yes  No

10h. If yes, please describe the status of your activities

BroadbandStat is publicly available on the Connected Texas website and received a total of 2,245 visits between July 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010.

During the quarter, the Connected Texas project has received a total of 108 broadband inquiries. Additional information received through e-mail from consumers that can also be used for verification purposes totaled 36 for this quarter.

187 broadband providers (which meet NTIA's criteria for voluntary participation) in 254 counties have been identified and, as such, data validation is of paramount importance.

In order to engage and involve the broadband provider community and the residents of the state, meetings have been held with the Texas Broadband Task Force, the Texas Association of Regional Councils, and the Texas Geographic Information Council (in addition to on-site meetings with numerous broadband providers).

Site validation testing of 56 broadband providers (representing 156 test points and/or 29.95% of the provider universe in Texas) has been completed in the following locations: South Padre Island, Port Isabel, Laguna Vista, Brownsville, Laguna Madre, Point Isabel, San Pedro, Chireno, Lindale, Tyler, Lufkin, Huntington, Bedford, Dallas, Chandler, Colleyville, Canton, Van, Dell City, Buffalo, Smithville, Nacogdoches, Henderson, Mesquite, Flatonia, Fayetteville, Rutersville, Reimer, Gonzales, Shiner, Harwood, Hallettsville, Schulenburg, Franklin, Giddings, Santa Ana, Paige, Franklin, Lohne, Coleman, Voss, Goldthwaite, Mullin, San Saba, and Corsicana. One instance has been identified where broadband coverage was reported to exist (Chireno, TX) but, in fact, did not. In that case, the Connected Texas staff contacted the broadband provider and discovered that the provider's engineers had initially reported coverage in an area in which a build-out was underway but had not yet been completed. Accordingly, the data has been revised and the coverage map has been amended to depict the revised status.

10i. If verification activities have not been initiated please provide a projected time line for beginning and completing such activities

N/A

### **Staffing**

10j. How many jobs have been created or retained as a result of this project?

8.59

10k. Is the project currently fully staffed?  Yes  No

10l. If no, please explain how any lack of staffing may impact the project's time line and when the project will be fully staffed

N/A

10m. When fully staffed, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs do you expect to create or retain as a result of this project?

8.59. Please note that we use functional job titles and these titles may be staffed by multiple individuals. Their hire dates vary so for the purposes of uploading a complete report, we have used a hire date of 1/1/2010 to signify various hire dates.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Associate Counsel	4	01/01/2010
Business Programmer Analyst	1	01/01/2010
CAI Data Analyst	10	01/01/2010
CAI Data Manager	3	01/01/2010
ETS Analyst	100	01/01/2010
ETS Analyst	100	01/01/2010
ETS Analyst	40	01/01/2010
ETS Manager	13	01/01/2010
General Counsel	9	01/01/2010
GIS Analyst	52	01/01/2010
GIS Intern	52	01/01/2010
GIS Services Manager	6	01/01/2010
Outreach & Awareness Manager	6	01/01/2010
Outreach & Awareness Specialist	15	01/01/2010
Project Coordinator	24	01/01/2010
Project Management Director	8	01/01/2010
Project Manager	98	01/01/2010
Provider Relations Manager	12	01/01/2010
Provider Relations Specialist	8	01/01/2010
Research & GIS Analyst	32	01/01/2010
Research Analyst	100	01/01/2010
Research Analyst	46	01/01/2010
Research Manager	9	01/01/2010
State Services Associate	97	01/01/2010
State Services Manager	11	01/01/2010
State Services Specialist	1	01/01/2010
State Services Sr. Specialist	2	01/01/2010

Add Row

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**Sub Contracts**

10o. Subcontracts Table

Name of Subcontractor	Purpose of Subcontract	RFP Issued (Y/N)	Contract Executed (Y/N)	Start Date	End Date	Federal Funds	In-Kind Funds
Eastern Research Services	Research Surveys	Y	Y	02/08/2010	02/07/2012	\$57,360	\$0
ESRI	GIS Consultants	N	Y	09/21/2009	12/31/2009	\$73,819	\$0

Add Row

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**Funding**

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,012,195 10q. How much Remains? \$7,013,805

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$335,845 10s. How much Remains? \$1,767,434

10t. Budget Worksheet

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Personal Salaries	\$2,861,710	\$651,821	\$3,513,531	\$251,918	\$44,489	\$296,407
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$613,836	\$175,076	\$788,912	\$65,318	\$16,715	\$82,033
Travel	\$436,998	\$0	\$436,998	\$46,450	\$582	\$47,032
Equipment	\$178,963	\$0	\$178,963	\$79,979	\$0	\$79,979
Materials / Supplies	\$86,035	\$0	\$86,035	\$25,205	\$0	\$25,205
Subcontracts Total	\$926,612	\$175,690	\$1,102,302	\$292,013	\$202,057	\$494,070
Subcontract #1	\$156,939	\$0	\$156,939	\$29,692	\$0	\$29,692
Subcontract #2	\$73,819	\$0	\$73,819	\$19,271	\$0	\$19,271
Subcontract #3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$167,571	\$911,067	\$1,078,638	\$4,628	\$42,430	\$47,058
Total Direct Costs	\$5,271,725	\$1,913,654	\$7,185,379	\$765,511	\$306,273	\$1,071,784
Total Indirect Costs	\$2,754,275	\$189,625	\$2,943,900	\$246,684	\$29,572	\$276,256
Total Costs	\$8,026,000	\$2,103,279	\$10,129,279	\$1,012,195	\$335,845	\$1,348,040
% Of Total	79	21	100	75	25	100

## Hardware / Software

10u. Has the project team purchased the software / hardware described in the application?  Yes  No

10v. If yes, please list

Hardware/software purchases for the project to date include the following:

- BroadbandStat
- ESRI ArchInfo/ArcGIS Software
- ESRI Software Maintenance
- Computers
- Ookla Net Metrics Speed Test Software
- Spectrum Analyzer
- GPS Unit

10w. Please note any software / hardware that has yet to be purchased and explain why it has not been purchased

Remaining purchases may include SQL server for mapping geodatabase, SQL server software, multiple dedicated storage servers, security application, additional backup replication solution, computers, GPS units BroadbandStat maintenance, ESRI ArchInfo/ArcGIS maintenance, and speed test updates as well as computers and software maintenance.

10x. Has the project team purchased or used any data sets?  Yes  No

10y. If yes, please list

N/A

10z. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?  Yes  No

10aa. If yes, please list

\* Connected Texas was awarded \$4,997,835 by the NTIA under the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program to extend broadband data collection activities for an additional three years, to assess current programs and regulations that can be used to overcome impediments to broadband adoption, to conduct local and state broadband research, and to establish regional or local strategic planning teams

\* Maintained and updated the budget/finance cost model for Connected Texas

\* Revised the project schedule and work breakdown structure (WBS) with the revised SBDD timeline

\* Continued to process speed tests, technology assessments, and broadband inquiries from the Connected Texas website

\* Produced and distributed weekly status reports, data collection activity log, website statistics, and broadband inquiries to the Connected Texas project team

\* Updated the project communications plan and outreach strategy

\* Participated in several media articles regarding the broadband environment in Texas

\* Briefed several in-state organizations on the project to gain assistance in the mapping and data validation effort

\* Continued to identify and collect data from Community Anchor Institutions within the state of Texas

\* Distributed and executed NDAs with the broadband provider community

\* Continued to solicit broadband coverage datasets from the provider community

\* Distributed broadband coverage datasets to the GIS Mapping team for processing

\* Conducted field validation tests of broadband provider data in and around several Texas communities

\* Updated the Texas BroadbandStat instance with the latest data layers and broadband maps

\* Conducted several demonstrations of the Texas BroadbandStat application

\* Reviewed and edited the survey methodology employed in conducting broadband surveys

\* Conducted a business broadband survey and initiated the analysis process of the raw data

\* Submitted quarterly project reports and mapping data updates to the NTIA

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

Time continues to be of essence. We continue to assign resources to the extent practical in order to meet the predetermined deadline.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

September 27, 2010 Connected Texas received notice of a grant award extending SBDD mapping and planning activities an additional three years. The project plan is being revised to include these new activities. Details of the new plan will be reported in the fourth quarter.

## 11. Broadband Planning

11a. Please describe progress made against all goals, objectives, and milestones detailed in the approved Project Plan. Be sure to include a description of each major activity / milestone that you plan to complete and your current status

On behalf of the state of Texas (TX), Connected Nation (CN) is working with subcontractors to collect and analyze demand-side data through statistical telephone surveys. The surveys collect data on broadband and computer use and barriers to use among residents

by demographic and businesses by size and industry sector. CN provided an initial overview of the residential survey results to the state in Q2, 2010, with a more comprehensive report scheduled to be released Q4, 2010. In addition, CN designed the 2010 TX business survey, which was conducted by Eastern Research in Q2-Q3, 2010. Analysis of this data commenced in Q3, 2010, with results to be released in Q4, 2010. Updates to the residential and business surveys are scheduled to occur in Q1, 2011 and Q3, 2011, respectively.

This data was analyzed along with supply-side broadband data gathered through the TX SBDD mapping grant. The primary tool for this ongoing analysis is BroadbandStat, an interactive, web-based GIS application that offers location-based consumer feedback on the accuracy of the map, as well as an interactive tool for data analysis, planning, and decision-making.

Connected Texas, in coordination with the Texas Department of Agriculture, will complete an initial planning report for the state during Q4, 2010. This report will serve as a preliminary assessment of broadband infrastructure and adoption in Texas. The purpose of its development and release is to provide a detailed review of the current state of broadband in Texas and spark discussion across multiple broadband stakeholders in the state on key policy and strategies to expand and enhance broadband services. The report will be released publicly within the state during Q1, 2011. It will also be available for public review and comment on the Connected Texas website.

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

Connected Nation has been working closely with the Texas Department of Agriculture to ensure that our work exceeds expectations. During Q3, 2010, there were no significant obstacles during the planning process.

11c. Does the Project Team anticipate any changes to the project plan for Broadband Planning?  Yes  No

11d. If yes, please describe these anticipated changes. Please note that NTIA will need to approve changes to the Project Plan before they can be implemented

On September 27, 2010, Connected Texas received notice of a grant award extending SBDD mapping and planning activities an additional three years. The project plan is being revised to include these new activities. Details of the new plan will be reported in the fourth quarter.

## Funding

11e. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$0

11f. How much Remains? \$0

11g. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$0

11h. How much Remains? \$0

### 11i. Planning Worksheet

Planning Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Personal Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontracts Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
% Of Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Additional Planning Information

11j. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?

None at this time.

11k. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the Project Team is employing

Connected Nation has been relying heavily on Texas's recommendations to ensure that our work, as well as the work of our subcontractors, exceeds expectations. During Q3, 2010, there were no significant obstacles during the planning process.

11l. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

All planning costs have been combined with the mapping costs and reported in the mapping section above.

12. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purpose set forth in the award documents.

12a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official

Bernie Bogle

12c. Telephone  
(area code, number, and extension)

12d. Email Address

bbogle@connectednation.org

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

12e. Date Report Submitted  
(Month, Day, Year)

10-26-2010

Performance Progress Report  
OMB Approval Number: 0660-0034  
Expiration Date: 08/31/2010