



# Tribal Digital Village (TDV) Improvement & Expansion Strategy



Borders Committee | Item 4  
Michael Terlep, Regional Planner  
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## LATA Partnership

### Primary Project Partners

- *Grant Execution* - SCTCA's TDV Team
- *Project Management Support* - SANDAG

### TDV Improvement and Expansion Strategy

- \$471,509 Local Area Technical Assistance (LATA) grant award
- Administered by California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

### Project Goal

Setting the stage for the future growth and development, advancing the Tribal Digital Village Network to support SCTCA's member Tribes with their future communications needs.

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## Tribal Digital Village



- TDV is a tribal-owned and operated broadband service and network provider



- To date, TDV had laid over 650 miles of network to support households and public buildings



### Current Challenges

- Low speeds (5 to 15 Mb/s)
- Small bandwidth at each tower location
- Outdated fixed wireless infrastructure

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## What We've Heard

- Many households still lack **reliable service**.
- Where service exists, it is **often costly and inconsistent**.
- **Geography and aging infrastructure** make expansion difficult.



### Connectivity is not a luxury.

It enables education, healthcare, emergency response, community connection, and economic opportunity.



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## Opportunities

We are starting from a place of momentum and vision:

- Some tribes are **exploring opportunities to expand internet** to households
- There's broad **excitement and demand** for enhanced and more reliable internet service
- Communities **understand and embrace** the value of connectivity



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## Project Deliverables

- **Broadband Infrastructure Existing Conditions Analysis**  
Current system and its challenges
- **TDV Network Modernization Design**  
Blueprint to reach FCC broadband standards
- **TDV Implementation Strategy**  
Roadmap for funding, governance, and risk management



These deliverables will serve as **tools** to support SCTCA and Tribes to **compete for funding** through State and federal programs

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## Network Improvements

### Future Upgrades

- Upgrade towers to **increase customer capacity and speeds**
- Purchase and install modern wireless hardware
- Upgrade power infrastructure
- Utilize incoming fiber infrastructure

### Strategic Implementation Approach

- Target low-hanging fruit for **immediate impact**
- Execute phased rollout that **balances quick wins with long-term goals**



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## Partnership and Flexibility

### When the State's middle-mile broadband network was cut back, TDV and partners responded:

- Advocated with the State to reinstate priority middle-mile infrastructure
- Revised the project's approach, timeline, and budget in response to state changes
- Final design intended to provide affordable, redundant, and reliable internet access without relying on the State's middle-mile

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# Looking Ahead

## TDV Improvement and Expansion Strategy

Final deliverable (Nov 2025): Strategy to expand affordable broadband, strengthen resiliency, and connect tribal communities

## Solutions

Positions SCTCA and Tribes to compete for upcoming discretionary broadband programs.

## Outcome-Oriented Partnership

SANDAG and TDVnet will partner to grow regional broadband that reflects Tribal community needs and priorities.


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[pmiranda@sctdv.org](mailto:pmiranda@sctdv.org)



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