



AC ACTION BRIEF

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AMERICA'S COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

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ACA CONNECTS: KEY DEVELOPMENTS



Addressing Gaps in Broadband Infrastructure Availability and Service Adoption

A Cost Estimation & Prioritization Framework

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE REPORT](#)



U.S. Can Address Pressing Broadband Needs with Proposed Infrastructure Funds, Report Shows

ACA Connects and Cartesian develop detailed analyses to help policymakers prioritize broadband infrastructure funding

PITTSBURGH, June 10, 2021 — A new report from ACA Connects and business consulting firm Cartesian shows that policymakers can make gigabit broadband available to 19 million locations that lack access to high-quality service and subsidize broadband adoption for five years with funding under consideration by President Biden and the U.S. Congress.

The report, Addressing Gaps in Broadband Infrastructure Availability and Service Adoption: A Cost Estimation & Prioritization Framework, uses the most recent and comprehensive deployment data available and provides a rigorous analytical cost model and framework to assist policymakers in determining how to expand broadband availability and increase broadband adoption across the United States based upon various

definitions of success.

Using this data, cost model and analytical framework, the report illustrates that with a budget between \$61-118 billion, the federal government could make gigabit broadband available to all locations with less than 100/20 Mbps service not included in the FCC's recent Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I program and substantially increase broadband adoption for up to half of the 33 million Lifeline-eligible households over five years by offering a \$50 monthly subsidy. It also shows that certain more ambitious goals would require broadband infrastructure funding amounts to be set at higher levels than what has been thus far proposed. For instance, building future-proof networks to all locations with less than 100/100 Mbps service would cost approximately \$106-179 billion. [Read more.](#)

ACA CONNECTS: NEWS



John Higginbotham



Jim Holanda

ACA Connects Proudly Recognizes Astound Broadband CEO Jim Holanda, ACAC EVP & COO John Higginbotham, Members and Friends on Their Entry into the Cable TV Pioneers

PITTSBURGH, June 11, 2021 – Twenty-four new members have been selected for the Cable TV Pioneers 55th Annual Induction, including Astound Broadband CEO Jim Holanda and ACA Connects EVP & COO John Higginbotham for their vision, service and leadership at the highest levels of the cable and broadband sector for many decades.

“It is such a privilege for our association to work with Jim Holanda and his great team at Astound,” said ACA Connects Chairman Patty Boyers of BOYCOM Vision in Poplar Bluff, Mo. “By God, our members lead the way, and Jim is one of those leaders who gets the job done. Our board and association are fortunate to count on Jim to share his deep knowledge of the industry and strategic direction making us all better.”

John Higginbotham joined the ACAC organization in February 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic delivered a devastating blow to millions of Americans. John worked tirelessly not only to help ACA Connects members respond to the unique challenges posed by the health crisis but also to coordinate their activities with local, state and federal regulators.

Before joining ACA Connects, John was Assistant General Manager of Telecommunications from 2014 to 2017 at the Frankfort Plant Board in Kentucky, a municipal utility created to provide electric, water and cable/telecommunications services to more than 18,000 residents in Franklin, Woodford and Shelby counties. John was employed at the Frankfort Plant Board for 23 years. [Read more.](#)

ACA CONNECTS: FILINGS

ACA Connects has been actively representing independent cable in many other ways and on many issues in Washington, D.C. Those efforts are described in the filings, letters, and testimonies linked below for your review:

6/21: [FCC Reply Comments \(w/ NCTA\) re Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2021](#)

ACA CONNECTS CLOSEUP: STACEY LEECH

ACACloseup Videos: You work with us every day and talk via phone, Zoom and email, but what do you really know about your **ACA Connects Team**? Here's the chance to meet us "close up."

We'll post a new ACACloseup video in our **ACAction Brief**, our **Daily Media Sweep** and on social media, giving you insight into the background, experience, favorite teams and fun things about your **ACA Connects Team Members**. We had fun doing these videos for you, and we're glad to tell you more about us!

You can find all our ACACloseup videos on our [ACAConnects website](#)

ACACLOSEUP

STACEY LEECH



In this video, meet **Stacey Leech, ACA Connects' Senior Director Meetings & Industry Affairs**, who started with the organization as its third employee about 22 years ago. Stacey has a big, time-consuming job that includes planning and organizing ACA Connects' major events, including the **ACA Connects Summit** and **the Independent Show** with NCTC as well as ACA Connects' quarterly Board meetings. Understandably, COVID-19 travel restrictions, lockdowns and quarantines disrupted Stacey's day-to-day activities to a considerable degree last year. She's "cautiously optimistic" that things will return to normal later in 2021. Away from the office, Stacey and **husband Paul** have two daughters, **Maressa and Madison**, and both are out of college. She's now an empty nester with a lot of more time to keep a close eye on her favorite college football team, the University of Tennessee.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

ACA CONNECTS: NEWS HEADLINES

[GCI Named Alaska's Fastest ISP By PCmag.com](#) (Release, 6/18)

Anchorage, Alaska – For the sixth-straight year, GCI has been named Alaska's fastest ISP by PCMag.com. GCI set a record high PCMag Speed Index (PSI) score of 149.0 this year, improving on its 2020 score by 15 points. GCI's PSI score places it well above national providers like Comcast Xfinity, Cox, and Spectrum, which scored 139.6, 116.7, and 101.1, respectively.

[Ohio GOP Close To Near-Total Ban On Muni Broadband](#) (Ars Technica, 6/17)

Ohio's Republican-controlled legislature is on the verge of imposing a state law to dramatically restrict the rights of cities and towns to build and operate municipal broadband networks. The Ohio Senate on June 9 approved a budget bill that contains an anti-municipal broadband amendment.

[How Roku Used the Netflix Playbook to Rule Streaming Video](#) (CNBC, 6/18)

If Netflix had held, its Roku stake would be worth nearly \$7 billion today. Roku has been one of the pandemic's big winners. Shares have gained more than 480% from March 17, 2020, as the media world shifted to focus on streaming video. Today, Roku's market capitalization is more than \$45 billion.

[Beta Survey: Discovery Big With Cord-Cutters, Streamers](#) (Next TV, 6/16)

Discovery Channel was the most in-demand cable network among people who can't get it because they are either non-cable TV subscribers or cord cutters, according to a new survey by Beta Research. Discovery was also the top-ranked basic cable network among non-cable TV subscribers who are heavy viewers of streaming networks.

[TiVo Signs Deal with NCTC to Preserve MobiTV](#) - (Fierce Video, 6/15)

TiVo has signed a new "Master Services Agreement" with National Cable Television Cooperative to preserve MobiTV's deal with the organization. The agreement -- which will give NCTC members the opportunity to continue receiving the MobiTV IPTV service -- covers TiVo's implementation and management of the IPTV service that it recently acquired from MobiTV.

[Shentel Expands its Glo Fiber Network to Lynchburg, Va.](#) (Release, 6/15)

Glo Fiber, powered by Shenandoah Telecommunications Co., announced availability of its fiber-optic network in the city of Lynchburg, Va., to residential and business customers. With the addition of Lynchburg, Glo Fiber's expansive regional network now reaches more than 42,000 households and growing.

[TDS Telecom Drops AMC Networks](#) (Next TV/6/10)

TDS Telecom said that it failed to reach an agreement with AMC Networks and has dropped the programmer's channels from its lineup. TDS had told customers earlier this month that it would drop the AMC Networks channels -- AMC, BBC America, BBC World News, IFC, Sundance TV and WE TV -- on June 10 in part because of the programmer's practice of shifting original programming to its streaming service AMC Plus. But talks with the network resumed on June 8.

ACA CONNECTS: ACTION BRIEF TOP THREE

Most-Clicked Links From June 8, 2021 ACAAction Brief:

1. **[Charter's Broadcast TV Fee Going Up 9%](#)** (Desert Sun, 5/29)
2. **[U.S. Cable To Face Stiffer Fiber Competition](#)** (Light Reading, 6/3)
3. **[Gray Raises Meredith Bid After Rival Offer Emerges](#)** (Next TV, 6/3)

ABOUT ACA CONNECTS

Across this vast country, small and rural markets participate in the digital revolution by receiving video, broadband, and phone services from more than 600 small and medium-sized independent operators represented by ACA Connects - America's Communications Association.

ACA Connects' members -- cable, phone, and fiber-to-the-home operators and municipalities -- deliver affordable basic and advanced services to nearly 8 million households and businesses. ACA Connects members operate in every state, offering high-definition television, next generation Internet access, and digital phone service.



Access to advanced communications is not a luxury but a critical necessity for consumers and companies, schools and hospitals. America's economic prosperity in smaller markets and rural areas depends on the growth and success of ACA Connects members, who believe a connected nation, is a united nation.

ACA Connects asks lawmakers and regulators to ensure fair treatment so that small and medium-sized independent operators may continue to supply affordable video, broadband, and phone services to Main Street America. Through active participation in the policymaking process, ACA Connects members and leaders advocate for the interests of their customers, their companies, and their communities to help ensure the continued viability of their way of life in hometown America.

For more information, visit www.acaconnects.org, or contact:

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