

## **State of Alaska Broadband Mapping Program**

### **Executive Summary of the Denali Commission and Connected Nation**

Alaska Governor Sean Parnell designated the Denali Commission (Commission) as the entity to apply for federal mapping and planning funds from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The Commission applied for \$1,420,811 to cover mapping activities for the first two years of this program, as well as \$492,044 for broadband planning.

The Governor and State of Alaska recognize the unique nature of the Commission and its successful track record in addressing similar challenges and, therefore, the Commission is designated to lead the effort to map and plan broadband in Alaska. The Commission is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1998 to address the infrastructure, training and economic development needs of Alaska's remote and distressed communities.

The state intends to be an active participant and major partner in this proposed mapping and planning effort with direct involvement by the Commission State Co-Chair and appropriate state agencies. The Commission will employ the services of broadband mapping leader, Connected Nation, to perform the mapping activities requested. Connected Nation will conduct these mapping activities under the name Connect Alaska.

With the planning funds requested, the Commission will support the creation and management of a Broadband Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will be the first of its kind in Alaska and will be comprised of state, federal, non-profit agency participants, as well as state of Alaska telecommunications providers. In addition to providing guidance for the two year mapping effort, the steering committee will produce annual reports on broadband development, plan research related to broadband adoption, and produce an annual work plan for broadband expansion to unserved and underserved areas.

The mapping work will employ industry-standard Geographic Information System (GIS) toolsets and experienced personnel to deliver comprehensive and accurate broadband mapping data, develop state-level broadband maps, and aid in the development and maintenance of a national broadband map. The Connect Alaska suite of deliverables will include datasets as required by NTIA as well as web-based, interactive broadband maps to inform state and local government officials, consumers, broadband providers, community development organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders. This interactive website will be critical to ensure accessibility of the broadband data, but will also be key to increasing awareness of the mapping program and the benefits of broadband. The website will also play an important role in ensuring local verification of mapping data. Connect Alaska will facilitate the mapping project in partnership with Alaska's broadband providers under the strictest of secure protocols for data collection and analysis.