



News Release

AT&T Invests Nearly \$2 Billion Over 3-Year Period to Boost Local Networks in North Carolina

RALEIGH, North Carolina, July 1, 2019 — At AT&T¹, we've invested nearly \$2 billion in our North Carolina wireless and wired networks during 2016-2018. These investments boost reliability, coverage, speed and overall performance for residents and businesses. We've also improved critical services that support Public Safety and first responders using the FirstNet communications platform. And, we've helped meet the needs of customers in largely rural areas through our participation in the FCC's Connect America Fund.

AT&T's wireless network covers more than 99% of all Americans and has become the fastest wireless network in the nation, according to the first quarter 2019 results from tests taken with Speedtest® and analyzed by Ookla®. ²

During 2016-2018, AT&T made the following investments in its North Carolina wireless and wired networks:

- More than \$475 million in the Charlotte region,
- More than \$500 million in the Triangle region,
- More than \$190 million in the Triad region, and
- Nearly \$850 million across other areas of the state.³

In 2018, AT&T made 1,891 wireless network upgrades in North Carolina. These include 12 new wireless towers, 11 Distributed Antenna Systems and more than 1,400 projects to increase network capacity and speed.

"North Carolina's policymakers have, over many years, carefully and consistently built a public policy environment that encourages private investment," said Trey Rabon, president of AT&T North Carolina. "As a result, we're now speeding our next generation wireless technology build out plans in North Carolina with millions of dollars dedicated to improving the customer experiences on our mobile network. This investment will also pave the path to 5G mobile services in the years ahead."

"In today's globally-connected society, robust communication networks are vital to bringing new, 21st Century jobs to North Carolina and growing our overall economy," said NC Department of Information Technology Secretary Eric Boyette. "Advanced broadband connectivity is critical to ensuring North Carolinians have the access to jobs, educational opportunities and healthcare they need for a high quality of life."

By building out our 4G LTE network, we're boosting network speeds and capacity, as we continue to expand the availability of our network and upgrade our technology.



Additionally, for the 5th consecutive year we've landed on *Fortune* magazine's list of the "World's Most Admired" companies. It's also the 6th year in a row we've appeared on the Global Top 50 list – no other telecom company made the Top 50.

Transforming Public Safety Communications

FirstNet is Public Safety's dedicated, nationwide communications platform. It is for all first responders – career and volunteer, urban or rural. It's bringing public safety communications into the 21st century with new, innovative capabilities, helping first responders connect to the critical information they need – every day and in every emergency.

Building upon our current and planned investments in North Carolina, we continue to extend the reach and increase the capacity of the FirstNet communications platform:

- Deployed Band 14 spectrum in more than 600 markets nationwide, including Burlington, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Hickory, Jacksonville, Raleigh-Durham and Wilmington. Band 14 is high-quality spectrum provided by the First Responder Network Authority. Its signal covers larger geographic areas with less infrastructure to better support rural communities, and it can better reach in-building in more urban areas as compared to higher-MHz spectrum.
- North Carolina first responders enjoy the fastest overall experience on FirstNet, compared to any commercial network in the nation, thanks to the specialized capabilities enabled by the physically separate and dedicated FirstNet network core, like always-on priority and preemption.⁴
- Public safety agencies subscribed to FirstNet have 24/7 [access](#) to a nationwide fleet of 75 deployable network assets. These assets can either be deployed for planned events or called upon in emergencies to help first responders stay connected and operate faster, safer and more effectively when lives are on the line.

FirstNet is built with AT&T in a public-private partnership with the [First Responder Network Authority](#) – an independent agency within the federal government. This helps ensure that the FirstNet communications platform and service offerings meet the short- and long-term needs of the public safety community.

Our commitment to rural America

Through our participation in the FCC's Connect America Fund universal service program, AT&T has been helping to meet the connectivity needs of customers in largely rural areas and to expand the opportunities enabled by internet access. By the end of 2020, AT&T will have used funds from this FCC program to help deploy, maintain and offer internet access and voice services to more than 1.1 million mostly rural homes and small business locations in FCC-identified areas. By the end of 2018, we offered high-speed internet access to over 7,800 locations across North Carolina in mostly rural areas through technologies like Fixed Wireless Internet.



Our internet offerings

We now market a 1 gigabit connection⁵ on our 100% fiber network to more than 12 million locations across 85 major metro areas nationwide. In the North Carolina area, we market our internet service powered by AT&T Fiber to more than 775,000 customer locations.

We plan to reach about 14 million locations across at least 85 metro areas by mid-2019 for consumers.

We are the largest U.S.-based provider of fiber for business services. There are over 500,000 U.S. business buildings lit with AT&T fiber, and we're adding thousands more each month.

Within those buildings, AT&T now enables high-speed fiber connections to over 2.2 million U.S. business customer locations. And if you count businesses near our fiber network, that number quadruples. Nationwide, more than 8 million business customer locations are on or within 1,000 feet of our fiber.⁶

To learn more about our wireless coverage in North Carolina, or anywhere in the U.S., visit the [AT&T Coverage Viewer](#). For updates on the AT&T wireless network, please visit the [AT&T network news page](#).

¹ AT&T products and services are provided or offered by subsidiaries and affiliates of AT&T Inc. under the AT&T brand and not by AT&T Inc.

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³ Totals may not agree due to rounding.

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⁵ Actual customer speeds may vary. Download speeds are typically up to 940Mbps due to overhead capacity reserved to deliver the data.

⁶ The over 2.2 million U.S. business customer locations, which AT&T provides high-speed fiber connections, is included within the 8M U.S. business customer locations on or within 1,000 feet of our fiber.

Cautionary Language Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

Information set forth in this news release contains financial estimates and other forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially. A discussion of factors that may affect future results is contained in AT&T's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. AT&T disclaims any obligation to update or revise statements contained in this news release based on new information or otherwise.

***About AT&T Communications**

We help family, friends and neighbors connect in meaningful ways every day. From the first phone call 140+ years ago to mobile video streaming, we innovate to improve lives. We have the nation's fastest wireless network.** And according to America's biggest test, we have the nation's best wireless network.*** We're building [FirstNet](#) just for first responders and creating next-generation mobile 5G.



With [DIRECTV](#), [DIRECTV NOW](#) and [WatchTV](#), we deliver entertainment people love to talk about. Our smart, highly secure solutions serve nearly 3 million global businesses – nearly all of the Fortune 1000. And worldwide, our spirit of service drives employees to give back to their communities.

AT&T Communications is part of AT&T Inc. ([NYSE:T](#)). Learn more at att.com/CommunicationsNews.

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**Based on analysis by Ookla® of Speedtest Intelligence® data average download speeds for Q1 2019.

***According to America's biggest test as announced by Global Wireless Solutions last fall.

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To define a market, we rely on the Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA), as established by the United States Office of Management and Budget. Minor differences, if any, between annual totals reflect annual updating of market boundaries in our record systems.

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