



AT&T Invests More Than \$825 Million Over Three-Year Period to Keep South Carolina Connected

COLUMBIA, S.C., June 16, 2020 – AT&T* is proud to have the nation’s best and also fastest wireless network,¹ as well as the largest network in North America.² From 2017-2019, we invested more than \$825 million in our wireless and wireline networks in South Carolina to expand coverage and improve connectivity in more communities.

These investments include:

- More than \$120 million in the Charleston region;
- Nearly \$200 million in the Columbia region;
- Nearly \$175 million in the Greenville-Spartanburg region; and
- More than \$300 million across other areas of the state.¹

That investment has increased reliability, coverage and overall performance for residents and businesses, which is essential for connecting our customers with family, friends and colleagues – no matter the distance. It’s also improved critical communications services for South Carolina’s first responders using the [FirstNet](#) network.

Today, our 4G LTE network covers more than 330 million people.³ That’s more than 2.61 million square miles and over 99% of all Americans.⁴

“We know that our continued investment in South Carolina is vital to keeping people connected – from public safety personnel during a crisis to friends, family and loved ones on a daily basis,” said Jane Sosebee, president, AT&T South Carolina.. “We’re committed to keeping you connected when and where you need it most. We show up for our customers and communities. That’s what we do. It’s who we are.”

More details about our wireless coverage in South Carolina, and anywhere in the U.S., can be found on the [AT&T Coverage Viewer](#). For updates on the AT&T wireless network, please visit the [AT&T network news page](#).

FirstNet: Transforming Public Safety Communications

We’re honored to work with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) to build and manage FirstNet – the *only* nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built for America’s first responders and the extended public safety community. And we take our responsibility to deliver FirstNet seriously.

Building upon our current and planned investments in South Carolina, we continue to extend the reach, and [increase the coverage](#), capacity and capabilities of the FirstNet network:

¹ Totals may not agree due to rounding



- **Purpose-built network enhancements** – Across South Carolina, we’ve boosted the network with high-quality Band 14 spectrum in communities such as Greenville, Charleston, Columbia and Florence. Band 14 is nationwide, high-quality spectrum set aside by the government specifically for FirstNet. We look at Band 14 as public safety’s VIP lane: in an emergency, this band – or lane – can be cleared and locked just for FirstNet subscribers.
- **Public safety-specific advanced capabilities** – FirstNet is providing South Carolina public safety with dedicated access when they need it, as well as an entire communication ecosystem with unique benefits like mission-centric devices, certified applications, *always-on* priority and preemption and high-quality Band 14 spectrum. These advanced capabilities enable FirstNet to perform faster than any commercial network⁵ and bring its subscribers the unthrottled connectivity they need.
- **Unparalleled emergency support** – South Carolina agencies on FirstNet also have 24/7 access to a nationwide fleet of 76 deployable network assets. These assets can either be deployed for planned events or called upon in [emergencies](#) at no additional charge to help first responders stay connected and operate faster, safer and more effectively when lives are on the line. FirstNet Response Operations – led by a group of former first responders – guides the deployment of the FirstNet deployable assets based on the needs of public safety.
- **Free Smartphones for Life for Public Safety Agencies** – We have a responsibility to public safety unlike any other wireless carrier. That’s why South Carolina agencies spanning law enforcement, fire, EMS, healthcare, hospital emergency departments, emergency management and 911 operations on FirstNet can stay up-to-date with [smartphones for life](#) at no additional cost.⁶ This means first responders across agencies of all sizes will have affordable access to *their* network.

The FirstNet network expansion across South Carolina is being done with direct feedback from state and public safety officials. This helps ensure FirstNet meets the short- and long-term needs of the public safety community.

Go [here](#) for more FirstNet news. Or check out [FirstNet.com](#) to learn more about the program.

Our commitment to South Carolina

In addition to the programs mentioned above, AT&T’s commitment to South Carolina includes programs like:

- **The Connect America Fund** – Through our participation in the FCC’s Connect America Fund universal service program, we have 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 2019, we offered high-speed internet access to over 24,300 locations across South Carolina in mostly rural areas through technologies like Fixed Wireless Internet.



- **Believe SC** – An extension of AT&T BelievesSM, a company-wide initiative which aims to create positive change in local communities, Believe SC is designed to help tackle the problem of hunger across the state. As part of Believe SC, AT&T and the AT&T Foundation are donating more than \$165,000 to local foodbanks and other organizations to help provide nourishing food for those in need.

This is all made possible by our talented, dedicated AT&T team members who are committed to being there and are the driving force behind our efforts to expand wireless connectivity both in South Carolina and across the country. That’s why we believe in investing in our employees and workforce. In 2019, *Fortune* and Great Place to Work named us one of the [Best Big Companies to Work For](#).

¹ Best Network based on 2019 GWS OneScore. Fastest based on analysis by Ookla[®] of Speedtest Intelligence[®] data median download speeds for Q1 2020. Ookla trademarks used under license and reprinted with permission.

² Based on comparison of carrier owned & operated networks. No AT&T on-net coverage in select countries, including Canada.

³ Coverage includes non-AT&T network areas covered by roaming agreements with third parties.

⁴ Based on overall coverage in U.S. licensed areas. Coverage not available everywhere. AT&T’s 4G LTE coverage is not equivalent to its overall network coverage.

⁵ Based on AT&T analysis of Ookla[®] of Speedtest Intelligence[®] data median download speeds for Q1 2020. Ookla trademarks used under license and reprinted with permission.

⁶ Available only to FirstNet first responder public safety entities for Primary Agency Paid User lines of service. Requires a new FirstNet Mobile - Unlimited for Smartphone line or eligible upgrade on a two-year service agreement or AT&T installment 30-month agreement. For two-year agreement, upgrade your smartphone with a new eligible smartphone every two years at no additional cost for as long as your service plan is in effect and in good standing. Pay \$.99 for eligible smartphone at purchase, credited back within three billing cycles. Upgrade requires new two-year agreement. For AT&T Installment 30-month agreement, upgrade your smartphone with a new eligible smartphone every time you satisfy your current AT&T Installment agreement and sign a new one for no additional cost for as long as your service plan is in effect and in good standing. For both plans, tax on full discount price (two-year agreement) or full retail price (AT&T Installment agreement) due at sale. Activation and other fees, taxes, charges and restrictions apply. See firstnet.com/agencyoffers for offer details.

***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 a range of TV and video products, 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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***GWS OneScore, September 2019.

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