



# News Release

## **AT&T Invests Nearly \$35 Million Over Three-Year Period to Connect Customers in Hickory, Lenoir, Morgantown**

Hickory, North Carolina, June 29, 2021- [AT&T\\*](#) is proud to connect customers across the country by continuing to grow the nation's best network<sup>1</sup>. From 2018-2020, we expanded coverage and improved connectivity in more communities by investing nearly \$35 million in our wireless and wireline networks in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morgantown region.

AT&T's commitment to communities across the country continues and spans all layers of our network—from fiber to 5G to [FirstNet®](#). These investments are essential to connecting our customers with their family, friends and colleagues by increasing the network's speed, reliability, coverage and overall performance.

We recently announced that AT&T will invest \$2 billion over the next 3 years to help address the [digital divide](#) nationwide. AT&T further improved critical communications for North Carolina's first responders and improved public safety with [FirstNet®](#) – America's public safety network.

"Advanced communications technologies are vital in today's connected society and economy," said State Senator Dean Proctor, District 42. "Announcements like this are important because they highlight the commitment of private industry to continue investing to provide the services which make a difference for North Carolina."

"AT&T's investment in the foothills region confirms our commitment to expanding coverage and helping to boost the local economy," said AT&T State President Trey Rabon. "We hope to keep area residents connected to their loved ones and their work, while helping to ensure the efficiency of their local public safety personnel."

More details about our wireless coverage in Hickory-Lenoir-Morgantown, 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](#).

### **Bringing fast, reliable, secure AT&T 5G to more Americans**

AT&T is unlocking the power of 5G for consumers, businesses and first responders:

- **AT&T 5G**, delivered over sub-6 spectrum sets us up to offer a better wireless experience with greater capacity to enable faster responses on capable devices. AT&T offers fast, reliable and secure 5G to 240 million people in 14,000 cities and towns nationwide including Hickory.

To learn more about AT&T 5G, visit our [AT&T 5G site](#).

### **FirstNet: Dedicated to America's First Responders**



We are committed to improving public safety infrastructure. As a part of that commitment, we have invested and built FirstNet in public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) – an independent agency within the federal government. FirstNet is the *only* nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built for America’s first responders and the extended public safety community.

- **Expanding to serve:** FirstNet focuses on where first responders need connectivity. We’ve moved quickly to deliver more coverage, boost capacity and drive new capabilities for first responders. Using all AT&T LTE commercial spectrum as well as high-quality Band 14 spectrum, FirstNet covers **2.71 million square miles nationwide**. And we’re actively extending the reach of FirstNet in North Carolina to give agencies large and small the reliable, unthrottled connectivity and modern communications tools they require.
- **First responder-centric 5G:** FirstNet subscribers in parts of 38 cities and more than 20 venues now have access to AT&T 5G+. Our **approach to 5G** for public safety is unlike anything else. We’ve upgraded the dedicated FirstNet network core to enable 5G connectivity that is being built to intuitively optimize the experience for America’s first responders. First responders maintain voice communications with *always-on* priority and preemption on LTE, while the FirstNet network determines the best route for data traffic with compatible devices, whether that’s 5G+ or LTE spectrum.

The FirstNet network is providing Hickory-Lenoir-Morgantown public safety with truly dedicated coverage and capacity when they need. These advanced capabilities enable FirstNet to help fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel save lives and protect their communities.

FirstNet and the FirstNet logo are registered trademarks and service marks of the First Responder Network Authority. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

<sup>1</sup> GWS awarded AT&T Best Network OneScore 2020. GWS conducts drive tests for AT&T and uses the data in its OneScore analysis.

#### **\*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 @ATT innovate to improve lives. AT&T Communications is part of AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T). For more information, please visit us at [att.com](http://att.com).

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