



News Release

AT&T Invests Nearly \$50 Million Over 3-Year Period to Boost Local Networks in Rhode Island

Providence, RI, August 7, 2019 — At [AT&T](#)¹, we've invested nearly \$50 Million in our Rhode Island wireless 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.

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 second quarter 2019 results from tests taken with Speedtest® and analyzed by Ookla®. ²

In 2018, AT&T made 117 wireless network upgrades in Rhode Island, including:

- LTE bandwidth expansions
- LTE capacity adds

The AT&T LTE network covers more than 400 million people in North America.

We're now speeding up our wireless build out plans in Rhode Island with tens of millions of dollars dedicated to improving our mobile network," said Brooke Thomson, president of AT&T Rhode Island. "This investment will also pave the path to 5G mobile services in the years ahead."

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 Rhode Island, 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 Newport and Providence. 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.
- Rhode Island 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.³
- 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.

To learn more about our wireless coverage in Rhode Island, 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](#).

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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.



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**Based on analysis by Ookla® of Speedtest Intelligence® data average download speeds for Q2 2019.

***GWS OneScore, September 2018.

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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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