

7:15AM	Registration Opens, sponsored by Millennium	
7:15AM – 8:00AM	Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors, sponsored by Gfiber	
8:00AM – 8:05AM	Welcome & Introduction Evann Freeman, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, EPB, FBA Board and Jessica Koch, Industry Associations and External Affairs Senior Manager, Calix	
8:05AM – 8:15AM	Fiber Broadband: Leaving No Community Behind Gary Bolton, President & CEO, Fiber Broadband Association	
8:15AM – 8:20AM	Platinum Sponsor Welcome & Introductions Ashley Brown, Senior Director, Field Marketing, Adtran	
8:20AM – 8:45AM	Opening Keynote: Resilient Growth: 2025 Texas Economic Outlook Pia Orrenius, PhD, Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas	
8:45AM – 9:20AM	A Case in Point: It Takes a Town: How an Underserved Community in Texas Got Fiber Years ago, Lampasas, Texas, the seat of the eponymous County, had a single fiber line into town from a major provider, and no fiber connectivity to local residents. When that single line went down every communication in the town went down, including 911 and public safety services. City leadership found this unacceptable and embarked on a feasibility study to bring redundant connectivity into town. What unfolded was a relationship between the city, an equipment distributor, and a growing fiber to the home provider to work together to bring future-proof connectivity to the small central Texas town. Moderator: Patrick Luttrell, Regional Sales Manager, AFL Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erin Corbell, City Manager, City of Lampasas Claude Aiken, Chief Strategy Officer, Nextlink Internet 	
9:20AM – 9:45AM	Fireside Chat: Governor's Broadband Development Council Plans and Priorities Bill Hetherington, CEO, Bandera Electric Cooperative and Broadband Development Council Member with Evann Freeman, Vice President Government and Community Relations, EPB, FBA Board	
9:45AM	Breakfast Sponsor Remarks	
9:45AM – 10:30AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors, sponsored by TAK Broadband	
10:30AM	Networking Break Sponsor Remarks Heather Burnett Gold, Vice President, External Affairs, TAK Communications	

- 10:30AM – 11:10AM Fiber Economics: Enabling an Industry at Scale**
Over the next five years, more fiber broadband will be deployed than has been deployed in the previous 20 years. Federal funding and private equity will play a role in delivering the capital required to plan and build fiber networks, programs like FBA's OpTIC Path and others will help train the needed workforce, and digital literacy programs are in development in each state. Critical issues such as regulatory compliance, supply chain, and distribution need to be addressed and resolved. This panel will discuss will examine these topics, as well as other key areas of the network ecosystem that will need to scale to meet the demands of the opportunity ahead.
Moderator: Heather Burnett Gold, Vice President, External Affairs, TAK Communications
Panelists:
- Joe Baeumel, Vice President, Business Development and Partner Strategy, KGPCo
 - John George, Senior Director, Solutions Engineering, OFS
 - Shelly Botkin, Executive Director, Texas Broadband Association
- 11:10AM – 11:50AM The Community Connection: How Fiber Impacts Economics and Opportunity**
As the fiber broadband industry moves to close the Digital Equity Gap, what does this mean for local stakeholders in terms of economic impact and opportunity? What role does fiber play in improving GDP, creating job opportunities, and new business development. What impact can it have on education, community services and home prices, and does fiber present the best catalyst for growth as local operators decide what technology to leverage with BEAD funding? At the heart of it is, does an option other than fiber equate to a decision to potentially leave a community behind?
Moderator: Jeff Brown, Senior Director, Segment Marketing, Calix
Panelists:
- Charlie Cano, General Manager and CEO, Etext Telephone Coop, Inc.
 - Roger Timmerman, Executive Director and CEO, Utopia Fiber
 - Sarah Davis, Vice President of Market Development, Consolidated Communications
 - Robert Griffin, Broadband Manager, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- 11:50AM – 12:15PM Fireside Chat: Texas Broadband Priorities**
Greg Conte, Director, Texas Broadband Development Office with Ash Brown, Senior Director, Field Marketing, Adtran
- 12:15PM Lunch Sponsor Remarks**
Scott Jackson, National Market Manager, Graybar
- 12:15PM – 12:45PM Networking Lunch, sponsored by Graybar/Fujitsu**
- 12:45PM – 1:30PM Networking Dessert with Exhibitors**
- 1:30PM – 2:10PM Local Focus: Permit Me to Deploy Fiber**

One of the biggest challenges facing new broadband networks is the paperwork, specifically the environmental reviews, locates, and permitting approvals needed before construction can start. Given that most networks will likely be deployed across a combination of state, federal, and privately owned land, and possibly Tribal-owned land, or access to railways, bridge/overpass infrastructures, poles or towers, ducts or conduits or federal and state highways, the number of federal, state, and local agencies an operator must work with can be overwhelming.

Moderator: Luke Stenzel, Business Development, BHC

Panelists:

- Carsi Mitzner, Government Affairs and Public Policy Director, Brightspeed
- Walt Donovan, Vice President, Strategic Partnership, DYCOM
- Jason Bone, Head of Metro Tech Ops, GFiber

2:10PM – 2:30PM

Afternoon Keynote: Factors Driving Broadband Affordability: Demographics, Choice and Policy Implications

Colby Humphrey, Ph.D., Research Officer, The Pew Charitable Trusts' Broadband Access Initiative

2:30PM – 2:35PM

*Sip & Stretch Coffee and Snack Break, sponsored by
TAK Broadband*

2:35PM – 2:40PM

Networking Reception Sponsor Remarks

Chad Kerr, Director Carrier Network Sales, Corning



2:40PM – 3:20PM

Deployment Challenges and Opportunities: Overcoming Challenges Where Everything is Bigger

Texas has it all – mountain ranges, deserts, Gulf Coast beaches, islands, mesas, farmland, universities, cities, and suburbs. This varied topography and demographics creates challenges for operators looking to deploy services across the region and state, both in terms of the outside plant conditions and the local city and country requirements network operators will face as each look to expand network footprint and reach homes previously unconnected. This panel will discuss the realities of deploying fiber broadband networks in such a diverse outside plant environment as Texas offers.

Moderator: Brendan O'Boyle, National Sales Manager- Communications Markets, PLP

Panelists:

- Rusty Moore, General Manager and COO, BBT
- William Graves, Fiber Network Operations Manager, MidSouth Energy Co-Op
- Adam Cavazos, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Hilliary Communications

3:20PM – 3:25PM

Closing Remarks

Evann Freeman, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, EPB, FBA Board and Jessica Koch, Industry Associations and External Affairs Senior Manager, Calix

3:25PM – 4:30PM

Networking Reception, sponsored by Corning

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