

CONNECT PIMA

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Connect Pima's mission *is to ensure that everyone in Pima County has affordable, reliable high-speed internet and the tools they need to successfully participate in our society and economy.*

Connect Pima uses a three-pronged approach to improve digital inclusion by guiding:

- The development of broadband infrastructure.
- The implementation of digital literacy initiatives.
- Increased access to devices and tools for connectivity throughout Pima County.

WHAT IS CONNECT PIMA?

Data from The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) shows large swaths of Pima County and metro-Tucson with **broadband rates below** the Federal Communications Commission minimum standard.

According to a June 2021 report:

- 85% of Pima County households had broadband of some type.
- 12% had no internet access.
- 8% had no computer, smartphone or tablet.

Connect Pima: Household Poverty and Internet Access by Block Group

ACCESS IN PIMA COUNTY

Digital Inclusion *refers to the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).*

This includes five elements:

1. Affordable, robust broadband internet service.
2. Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user.
3. Access to digital literacy training.
4. Quality technical support.
5. Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration.

WHAT IS DIGITAL INCLUSION?



Digital divide is the issue.
Digital equity is the goal.
Digital inclusion is the work.

-- digitalinclusion.org

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Pima County awarded grant to increase broadband's reach

The U.S. Commerce Department announced June 16, 2023, that Pima County will receive a \$30.3 million grant to expand high-speed internet infrastructure and increase internet access for residents in unserved or underserved areas.

The five-year grant from the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) will fund the creation of a 134-mile open access fiber ring around the county.

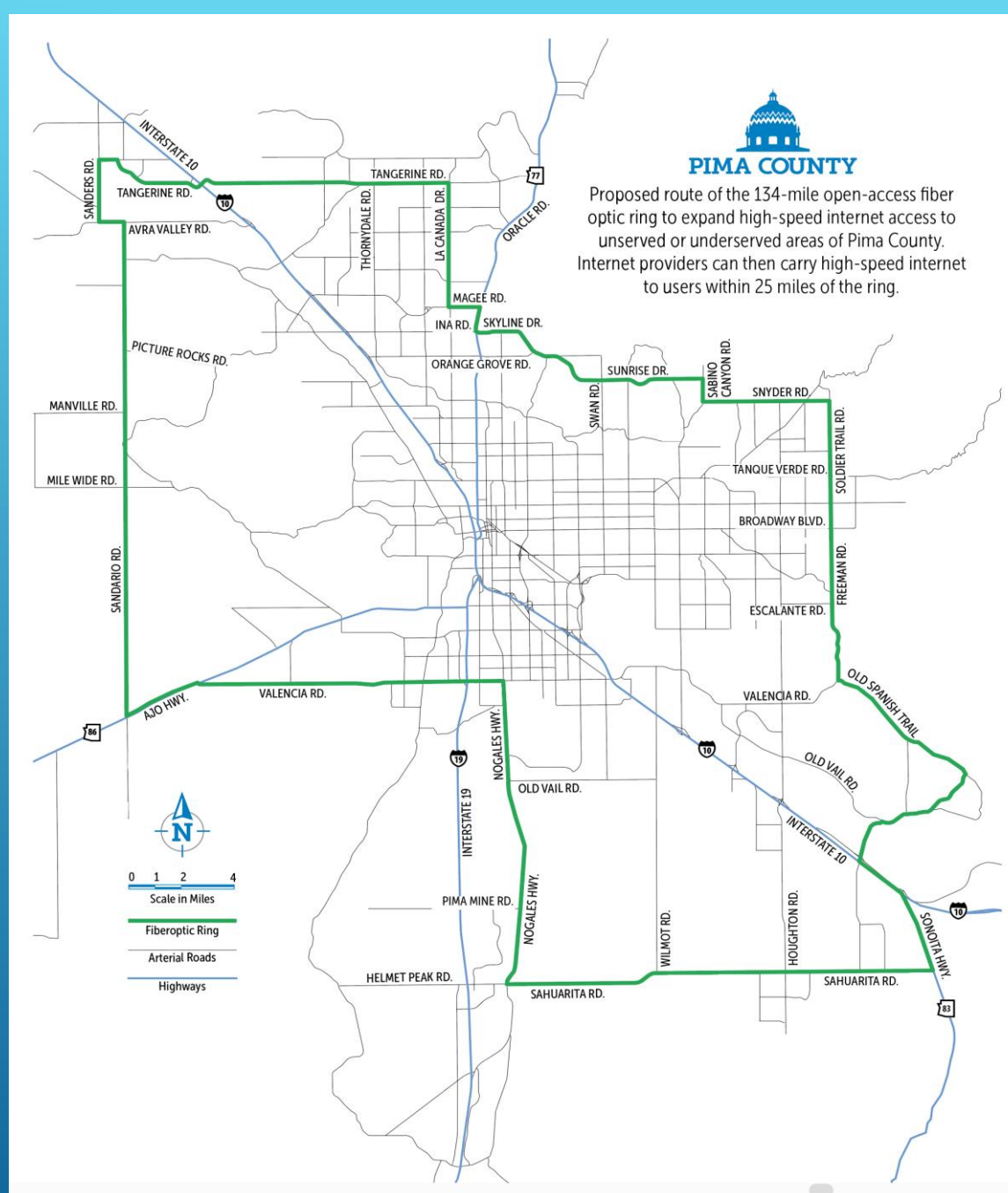
The grant requires the County and local partners to contribute nearly \$13 million in local funds or in-kind contributions, bringing the total budget for the project to more than \$43 million.

ENABLING MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AWARD

- ▶ 5-year project starting July 1, 2023.
- ▶ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements must be met before construction.
- ▶ Requests for proposals will be issued for subject matter experts for environmental assessments and construction/management of the fiber ring.

PROJECT TIMELINE AND REQUIREMENTS

134-MILE FIBER RING



Once in a lifetime opportunity to improve connectivity.

“We live in a digital age, and if you want to grow and prosper as a community, everyone in the community needs to have access to the tools that bring opportunities for success.”

-- County Administrator Jan Leshner

“When it comes to education, we shouldn’t have a system of haves and have nots, and that’s the part of this grant that has me the most excited because it will give struggling families access to tools that a lot of us take for granted.”

-- District 1 Supervisor Rex Scott

COUNTY VOICES

QUESTIONS??

