

NEW STUDY: UTILITY POLE ACCESS KEY TO SPEEDING BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, CREATING BILLIONS IN NEW ECONOMIC GAINS

A study released by Western Carolina University Professor of Economics Edward J. Lopez and noted pole attachment expert Patricia D. Kravtin highlights the economic benefits of providing improved access to utility poles to bring high-speed broadband connectivity more quickly to unserved homes and small businesses across the country.

Broadband expansion would create up to \$314 billion in new economic gains

THE PROBLEM

Too many rural Americans still lack access to reliable, high-speed broadband. While recent public and private investments in broadband will play a significant role in helping bridge our country's digital divide, we must now ensure that these funds are used most efficiently and effectively to bring connectivity to our rural friends and neighbors. One obstacle to efficient broadband deployment is the outdated process of attaching broadband infrastructure to poles.

Third-party groups across the political spectrum understand the critical role that pole access plays in bridging our nation's digital divide.



Barriers to broadband deployment are jeopardizing many rural communities in this country. Imp. study discusses why utility pole reform is key. Getting this policy right is critical to livelihood of many rural Latino farmers & ranchers & local businesses.



Internet Innovation
@IIABroadband

CTF report urges policymakers to revise state & federal pole attachment policies to address "unchecked" & "problematic behavior" by utility pole owners that are reducing possible economic gains that could result from closing #digitaldivide by \$491 million-\$1.86 billion per month.

Free State Founda
@FSFthinktank

6:22 PM · Dec 6, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Consistent with @fsfthinktank's recent blog, a new academic study affirms that utility poles represent a critical input in speeding broadband deployment to rural areas. SEE THE STUDY: bit.ly/3EjICzf

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NPR Chamber of Commerce
@NPRChamber

New study amplifies what we all know: expanding #broadband access will expand GDP, improving business opps and enhancing lives. In fact, this study points to a \$314 billion improvement!

Per the authors, 1 way to get us on the right path is to reduce utility pole barriers/regs.

Connect The Future @CTF

A recent study conducted by Patricia Kravtin highlighted the as a result of our nation's out policymakers to take action o



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I know it isn't the most glamorous of topics, but pole attachment/replacement issues are still a major barrier to broadband deployment. New report suggests these delays are costing Americans billions every year. connectthefuture.com/wp-content/upl...

10:08 AM · Dec 3, 2021 · Twitter Web App

BROADBANDBREAKFAST

Pole Access Delays Cost Americans Millions a Month, Report Claims



The Center Square

Report says onerous pole attachment regulations significantly harm broadband growth

International Business Times

Why Reforming Pole Policy Is Key To Unlocking Economic Gains Across The Country



LAW360

Pole Access Delays Cost Millions Monthly, Report Says

POLICYMAKERS CAN

- Utilize government funding to help reimburse costs required to replace poles.
- Ensure broadband providers have timely access to poles by standardizing timelines and expediting dispute resolution.