

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COMCAST PLANS TO EXPAND BROADBAND SERVICES IN GRANTVILLE IN 2021

*Grantville residents among 100,000 rural Georgians who stand to benefit from technology upgrades*

**(Grantville, Georgia)** – November 19, 2021 – Comcast, through testimony filed in a docket at the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC), has committed to expanding the reach of its high speed broadband network to 3,650 new homes and businesses in the City of Grantville and surrounding areas of Coweta and Troup County should the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) align the state’s electric membership cooperatives’ (EMCs) pole rental rates and conditions to national standards.

This opportunity to incentivize private broadband expansion comes as a result of the Georgia Broadband Opportunity Act, which was adopted by the Georgia General Assembly and signed by Governor Kemp earlier this year.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for broadband to support distance learning, remote workers, digital commerce and a basic quality of life for those in Grantville,” said Mayor Doug Jewell. “Internet access is a necessity, not a luxury. We can’t afford to wait and see if there is a better option in the future.”

While Coweta County Schools has transitioned to tablets and notebooks for their teachers and students, it is an exercise in futility for the residents of Grantville with their very spotty broadband internet service. Without reliable and viable broadband internet service, our residents are being denied opportunities afforded to others in Coweta County and elsewhere. Although served by AT&T and others in our area, residents and businesses are told that no additional connections are available and they do not plan to add anymore. Likewise, without quality broadband access, our economic development efforts are stifled. The first question received from any new business or industrial prospect is always about our connectivity or broadband services. Although our nearby fire station, City Hall, elementary school and library branch have internet services, the majority of Grantville is underserved.

“I’m proud to say that should the PSC align pole rental rates and conditions for Georgia’s EMCs to national standards established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Comcast will extend its network to 20,000 homes and businesses in Georgia over the next 3 years,” said Jason Gumbs, Senior Vice President of Comcast’s Big South Region. “The City of Grantville is among 10 rural broadband expansion projects Comcast has proposed to complete upon the Georgia PSC’s adoption of the Georgia Cable Association’s (GCA) proposed pole attachment reform.”

Other cable broadband providers are also ready to grow in rural Georgia and have committed under in writing, under oath to the Georgia PSC to serve a total of up to 35,000 homes and businesses in the next three years with the adoption of the GCA’s proposed pole reform.

Mayor Jewell and the members of the City Council encourage local residents to help make high-quality broadband a reality by visiting <https://georgiansforbroadband.com/> today to learn more about these pro-broadband expansion policies and to make their voices heard at the PSC.

“If the PSC determines current EMC pole attachments rates are excessive and sets a new cost-based formula consistent with the national standards proposed by our expert witnesses, our cable broadband providers are ready to reinvest savings in rural broadband expansion in Georgia,” said Michael Power, Executive Director at the Georgia Cable Association. “This is what’s best for Georgia – private broadband providers are best positioned to deliver broadband to the most homes, in the least amount of time, at the best value for our citizens and taxpayers.”

Comcast has a long history in Georgia with more than 4,500 in-state employees and \$2.9 billion invested in its technology and infrastructure since 2011 to build the fastest, most reliable online experience. The company operates a 53,000-mile network in Georgia and is building 900 new network miles in the state each year. They currently double the capacity of their network every 18 months.

With this local broadband expansion, more than 3,650 homes and businesses here in our community will have access to Comcast’s entire suite of [Xfinity](#) residential services including data, video, voice and mobile. [Comcast Business](#) products would include data, voice and video services

Comcast’s expansion would also provide families with access to Comcast’s [Internet Essentials](#) program, the nation’s largest and most successful broadband adoption initiative for low-income families. Since 2011, Internet Essentials has helped connect 480,000 low-income individuals to the internet in Georgia.

The PSC will issue its decision by December 15.

**Grantville is a small city of approximately 3300 residents and limited financial resources in the southern portion of Coweta County. Vastly unserved with broadband access and internet connectivity, it is stifled in educational opportunities and economic development.**

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