

## Delta Regional Authority Launches Delta Broadband Mapping Project to Support Increased Access to Digital Infrastructure in Louisiana

*The free, anonymous Delta Speed Test will measure internet capabilities; detect areas lacking access and affordability.*

**CLARKSDALE, MS** – The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) announced today the launch of the Delta Broadband Mapping Project, an initiative aimed at strengthening broadband infrastructure that supports telehealth, distance learning, and remote work throughout the 252 counties and parishes of the eight-state DRA region.

The initiative encourages residents to participate in the free, anonymous Delta Speed Test, conducted through an innovative crowd-sharing platform that collects and analyzes data in real time. The gathered information will inform and support strategic investments in critical infrastructure that will expand the availability of high-quality internet access across the region.

“Broadband is essential infrastructure that is often lacking, especially in rural areas of the Delta region,” said **DRA Spokeswoman Shawna Blair**. “The Delta Broadband Mapping Project allows our state partners to accurately identify digital divides and ultimately obtain state and federal resources dedicated to broadband expansion projects. In less than one minute, Louisianans can take the Delta Speed Test and help state and local leaders understand the internet capabilities within their communities.”

Louisiana residents are encouraged to participate in the Delta Speed Test by visiting [dra.gov/speedtest](https://dra.gov/speedtest). In addition to seeing their own upload and download speeds, participants will help policy makers identify gaps in high-quality, affordable internet access in the region.

“I want to thank the DRA for its partnership in this project that will be an anchor step towards addressing the challenges and identifying solutions to substantially reducing the digital divide not only in our state but across the entire eight state Delta region,” **Gov. John Bel Edwards** said. “This vital step will help accelerate the efforts of the newly created Broadband Development and Connectivity office that I recently announced and continue the momentum my administration is driving to increase broadband access and affordability. The data generated from this mapping effort, in partnership with the citizens of Louisiana, DOTD, La Planning and Development Districts, and the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana Commission, will be used in a variety of ways to provide new economic development opportunities in healthcare, agriculture, education and many other sectors.”

The Delta Speed Test can be taken from any device that has an internet or cellular connection to your home Wi-Fi signal. The test takes less than one minute to complete, and no personal information will be collected. To participate, a device must be connected to your home internet service and disconnected from a virtual private network (VPN) that may be connected to a workplace or school. For the most accurate results, ensure that no one else connected to your home internet is using a substantial portion of the internet bandwidth for activities such as streaming video or gaming during the test.

Individuals without internet access in their home can visit their local library or other locations such as stores and restaurants that offer free internet access to submit the address of a home with no available service.

DRA is partnering with geospatial engineering firm GEO Partners LLC to obtain actionable data.

To see images of the Delta Speed Test in-progress, visit [dra.gov/research/broadband-mapping/](https://dra.gov/research/broadband-mapping/).

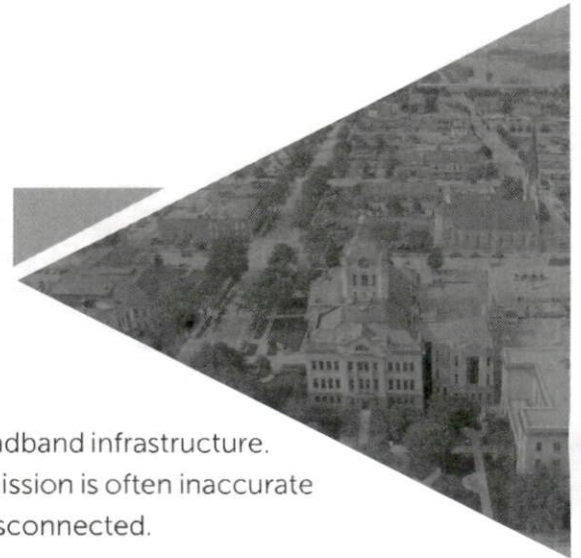
For more information about the Delta Broadband Mapping Project, visit [dra.gov/speedtest](https://dra.gov/speedtest).





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Accurate connectivity data is the foundation for investments in broadband infrastructure. Connectivity data provided to the Federal Communications Commission is often inaccurate and inflated – leaving many rural communities overlooked and disconnected.

“TestIT” is a free iOS/Android mobile app designed by Measurement Labs (MLabs) to collect broadband speeds across the country from app users. With the press of a single button, users are able to test their broadband speed from anywhere.

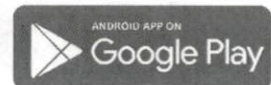
*No personal information will be collected through this mobile app.*

Your help identifying gaps in our nation's broadband coverage is critical to making substantive changes to the process for reporting broadband service. We hope you will help shed light on this critically important issue and encourage your friends, family and constituents to join in the efforts as well!

For more info,  
visit [NACo.org/TestIT](http://NACo.org/TestIT)

## Get Started!

1. Locate the iOS/Android App Store on your phone



2. Search for “TestIT” in your mobile app store



3. Download TestIT mobile app

4. Open TestIT mobile app and click:  
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