

## STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI ON THE IP TRANSITION PRESENTATION

Over a year ago, I proposed that the FCC move ahead with an All-IP Pilot Program.<sup>1</sup> My rationale was simple: American consumers are already driving the transition away from the monopoly-dominated copper networks of the past and toward the competitive IP networks of the future. If we want to promote the deployment of infrastructure—if we want more consumers to benefit from advanced technologies—we must change our rules accordingly. And controlled experiments could inform how we should change them.

This past January, the Commission decided on a unanimous, bipartisan basis to expedite the IP Transition by moving forward with an All-IP Pilot Program. I'm grateful that we decided—together—to allow *all* stakeholders to suggest how to “resolv[e] the operational challenges that result from transitioning to new technology and that may impact users.”<sup>2</sup>

In turn, I am glad that AT&T has volunteered to participate with its proposals for Carbon Hill, Alabama, and West Delray Beach, Florida. Given that no major carrier has ever transitioned a wire center to all-IP, it's no surprise that these trials are still in the early stages. As we've heard, there remain operational challenges to be resolved. I look forward to working with my colleagues, outside parties, and the public to resolve them in a fact-based, forward-looking manner.

One last thing. Some have suggested that participating in a service-based trial is now the only means by which carriers can move forward with the IP Transition—for example, that we silently suspended our copper retirement rules in January. Not so. To the contrary, we all agreed then that “[n]o provider will be forced to participate in an experiment,”<sup>3</sup> and we emphasized that our framework for service-based trials did not alter preexisting law.<sup>4</sup> As I said at the start, consumers are increasingly embracing the IP Transition. It would be a shame if our efforts to accelerate that transition were twisted into an excuse to delay it further.

---

<sup>1</sup> Remarks of FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai, “Two Paths to the Internet Protocol Transition” (Mar. 7, 2013), *available at* [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-319334A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-319334A1.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *Technology Transitions; AT&T Petition to Launch a Proceeding Concerning the TDM-to-IP Transition; Connect America Fund; Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Numbering Policies for Modern Communications*, GN Docket Nos. 13-5, 12-353, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 13-97, CG Docket Nos. 10-51, 03-123, Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, 29 FCC Rcd 1433, para. 25 (2014).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at para. 31.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at para. 28 (“The conditions and presumptions we set forth below shall not have specific binding legal or policy effect outside the context of the experiments except insofar as the Commission subsequently determines otherwise.”).