



FCC Looks to Streamline Deployment for Modern, High-Speed Wireline Infrastructure

Proposals Would Ensure Consistent Rules of the Road for Permit Reviews and Fees

WASHINGTON, June 25, 2026—The Federal Communications Commission today proposed new rules to ensure consistent, reasonable state and local regulations for the deployment of modern, high-speed wireline infrastructure. This rulemaking aims to cut red tape and excessive fees imposed by some state and local governments in the public rights-of-way for wireline deployments.

State and local statutes, regulations, and legal requirements that prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of wireline telecommunications services are unlawful under Section 253 of the Communications Act. The Notice adopted today proposes and seeks comment on rules that would:

- **Limit excessive processing times** by establishing a presumption that state and local governments have effectively prohibited the provision of wireline telecommunications services if they do not process authorization applications within 120 days;
- **Limit fees** to a reasonable approximation of the government’s actual, direct costs of managing the rights-of-way with respect to a particular authorization application and establish safe harbor fee levels;
- **Count in-kind compensation** demanded by state and local governments toward any safe harbor fee levels; and,
- **Prohibit the imposition of additional requirements** on wireline telecommunications infrastructure deployments on the grounds that they may also be used to provide other services.

For a provider to build out wireline infrastructure and provide services to customers, they must obtain authorizations from state and local governments. This can be an onerous process that ties up applications in months or even years of protracted reviews. This can also increase deployment costs through excessive fees and demands for other forms of compensation. As a result, providers have chosen to walk away from investments in certain deployments or scale them back to minimize losses, leaving American consumers underserved. These state and local government hurdles also waste federal resources when they inhibit or raise the costs of federally supported deployment projects.

In September 2025, the Commission began an inquiry into whether state and local requirements were effectively prohibiting the provision of wireline telecommunication services in violation of Section 253. Today’s action advances Chairman Carr’s Build America Agenda by proposing rules to ensure consistent regulations for wireline deployments and to prevent some bad actors from imposing excessive delays, fees, and other barriers to deployments.

Action by the Commission June 25, 2026 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 26-40).
Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty approving and issuing separate statements.

WC Docket No. 25-253

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