



*43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alaska Resources Conference*

# Connecting Alaska's Resources

*November 17, 2022*





## *Deployment/Operation of Networks Difficult in Rural Alaska*

- Vast distances, rugged terrain, harsh climate, and tough permitting regime
- High cost of deployment and operations
- Small, dispersed communities

## *GCI/Other Carriers Made Substantial Progress over Past 15 Years with Federal/State Support*

- Terrestrial broadband launched in 85 western Alaska communities
- Mobile wireless service deployed throughout rural Alaska

## *Modern Business Requires High Bandwidth*

- Video-conferencing
- Cloud-based applications
- Business IOT (e.g. fleet/inventory management)
- Remote monitoring and troubleshooting
- Employee morale services



## *Engage in Long Term Planning Efforts*

- GCI's Rural Connectivity Initiative sets long term strategy to meet future connectivity needs in rural Alaska
- Better planning of resources = more effective deployments, on time and on budget

## *Move Beyond Incremental or Short-term Service Improvements*

- Wherever possible, deploy sustainable, *transformational* fiber solution that can last for a generation
- Where fiber not feasible, use latest microwave and satellite technology
- Build the solution around a sustainable business plan that generates revenue needed to operate, maintain, and upgrade the solution – no hothouse solutions that quickly fade in the real world

## *Leverage Once-in-a-Generation Funding Opportunity*

- NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
- RUS ReConnect Program
- Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program (BEAD) Program





# Alaska United Aleutian Fiber Project

***\$58 million project***  
***\$25 million USDA RUS grant***





## Aleutians Fiber project



- 7,300 Alaskans served
- 6 communities
- 2 gig residential Internet
- Current service: satellite
- Turn-up in Unalaska next month!



# AU-A2 Aleutians Extension Project

*Partnership with Native Village of Port Lions  
\$29M NTIA TBCP Application*





## *Partnerships with Alaska Carriers to expand Impact*

- Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative – leverages GCI fiber to improve services in Dillingham and surrounding communities
- Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative – leverages GCI fiber to improve services in Naknek/King Salmon

## *Wireless Upgrades*

- Completed LTE upgrades in 2021 of Dillingham and surrounding villages
- 2023-24 upgrades of Unalaska and Naknek/King Salmon

## *Intelsat Partnership*

- Multi-year, \$150MM deal that nearly quadruples GCI's available satellite capacity
- Helps meet expanded demand in satellite locations
- Bridge to terrestrial middle mile builds and reliable LEO/MEO services







Thank you  
Billy Wailand  
[wwailand@gci.com](mailto:wwailand@gci.com)

