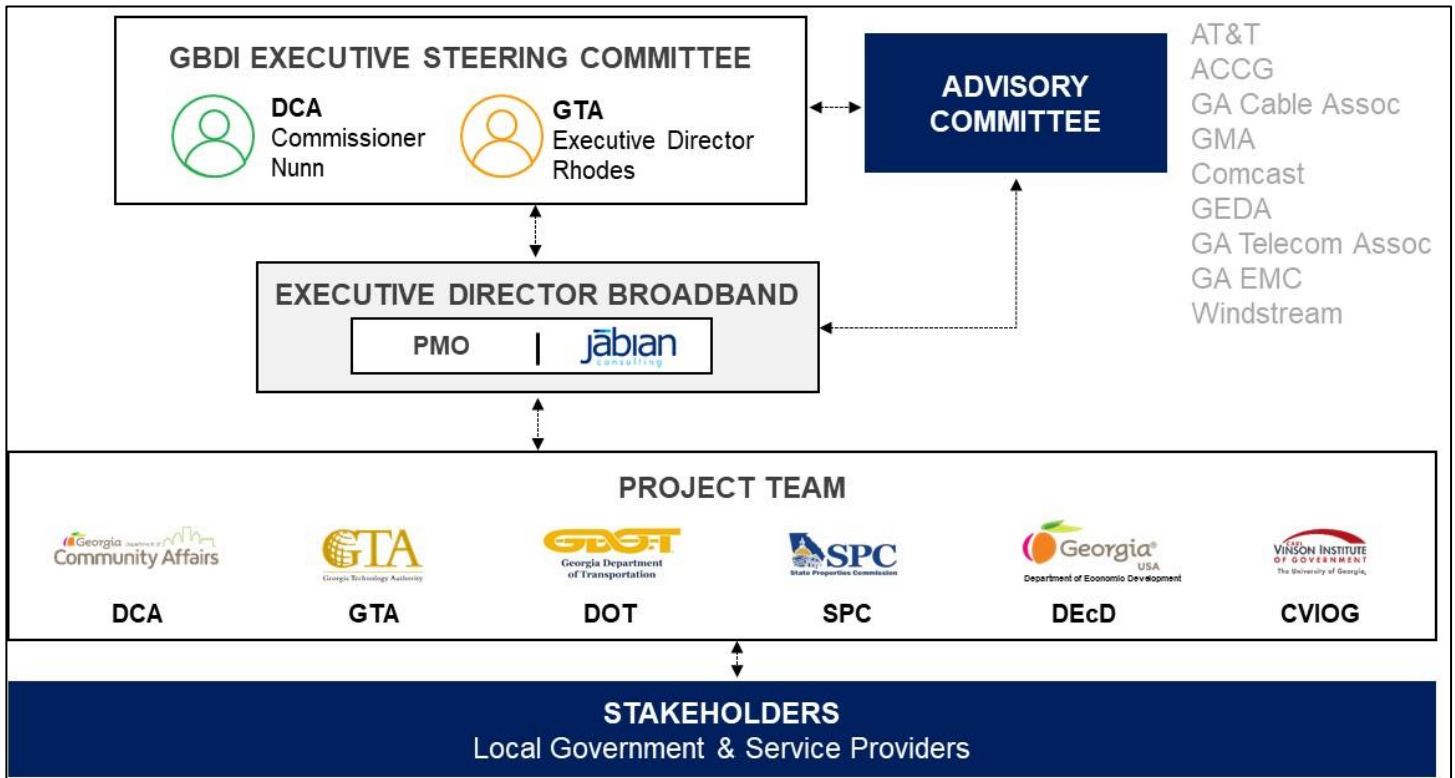


Executive Summary

The basic framework of the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative is rooted in Senate Bill 402, which was enacted in 2018. A progress report of GBDI activity is highlighted in the following pages. To ensure progress towards the ultimate objective of serving unserved Georgians, this Broadband Plan will be revised and honed going forward to highlight state objectives and priorities. A primary focus of the State Broadband Plan is to identify, evaluate and recommend options which can be implemented by governments and providers.

Through the leadership of an Executive Director, GBDI is coordinating activity among 5 state agencies to implement 13 projects directed by legislation. The governance structure, which includes oversight from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Georgia Technology Authority (GTA), is designed to engage key stakeholders and leverage their expertise while balancing a variety of interests. This offers stakeholders a voice in the process and a channel to provide feedback on the methods, processes, and regulations intended to improve broadband services in rural Georgia.

Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative Governance Framework



In addition to engaging key stakeholders and state agency partners, the GBDI team has actively engaged with broadband offices in other states, federal agencies (including US Department of Agriculture, Federal Communications Commission, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Appalachian Regional Commission), as well as other subject matter experts.