



Permitting Roundtables Implementation Guide

January 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

Permitting has been identified as a critical challenge to the timely implementation of the historic \$65 billion federal investment from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to expand affordable and reliable high-speed Internet access to everyone in America. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has provided a range of technical assistance and resources to support the streamlining of permitting processes. A key priority in NTIA's permitting strategy is to improve coordination and communication by strengthening relationships at the federal, state/territory, and local levels. NTIA has conceptualized Permitting Roundtables to promote early and ongoing coordination and multi-lateral communication in support of permitting for broadband projects at the state and territory level.

Per the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program [General Terms and Conditions Section 13D](#), each state and territory will establish Permitting Roundtables and/or working groups of relevant federal, state, local, Tribal, and industry representatives to meet regularly to facilitate resolution of permitting delays. This guide provides additional resources and guidance if states and territories elect to establish Permitting Roundtables to meet this requirement.

WHAT ARE "ROUNDTABLES"?

*The term "round table" originated in Middle English and is coined from King Arthur's legendary gathering of knights. In the 1980s, the concept of "roundtables" evolved as a **consensus-building strategy to convene decision-makers and other stakeholders** to identify problems and seek solutions. The historical reference to the round shape of the table reflects that no participant sits at the head, and everyone seated has equal stature.*

NTIA first proposed the Permitting Roundtables concept in the *Federal Permitting Coordination Strategy for Telecommunications* in 2022. After receiving comments from potentially affected permitting agencies, NTIA developed a comprehensive list of federal real estate and environmental staff across the country and convened meetings to discuss potential implementation. The participating federal agencies agreed that routinely scheduled Permitting Roundtables could provide a valuable forum to promote collaborative dialogues with permitting partners and resolve challenges. NTIA has also initiated discussion of state- and territory-based Permitting Roundtable implementation with State and Territory Broadband Offices (SBO/TBO). NTIA has also begun engagement with local permitting entities to address challenges around broadband deployment by identifying problems, providing technical assistance, and disseminating best practices for efficient permitting.

This guide provides resources to assist SBOs/TBOs in efficiently launching Permitting Roundtables and leveraging federal interagency collaboration to facilitate broadband permitting.

1.1 PURPOSE OF PERMITTING ROUNDTABLES

The purpose of establishing Permitting Roundtables is to develop an ongoing forum at the state or territory level to enhance communication between local, state/territory, Tribal, and federal partners and resolve specific permitting issues for projects funded by NTIA's grant programs.

As the primary administering agencies for the BEAD program, states and territories serve as joint lead agencies with NTIA to comply with Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) obligations.¹ Successful

¹ Recipients of NTIA funding must comply with all applicable legal requirements in constructing a project, including obtaining all necessary permits and approvals. For Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD), states and territories act as "joint lead agencies" for NEPA. In this capacity, [BEAD General Terms and Conditions Section 13B](#) establishes the responsibility to "certify the sufficiency of all Subgrantee NEPA documentation, either by preparing such documentation or by supervising Subgrantees' preparation of draft documents, independently reviewing those drafts, and verifying that draft documents meet the requirements of NEPA prior to transmittal to NTIA."

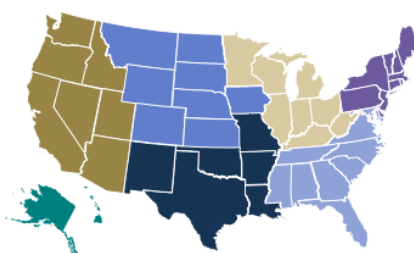


Permitting Roundtables can support the swift resolution of issues that could otherwise delay permitting and EHP review processes for critical broadband projects.

The main goals of the Permitting Roundtables are to:

1. **Resolve project-specific permitting issues** at the lowest possible level and the earliest possible time, to reduce project delays and preserve staff bandwidth.
2. **Promote early coordination and improve communication** among local, state/territory, Tribal, and federal stakeholders with private entities.
3. **Proactively engage permitting agencies** to streamline programmatic processes and encourage consistent decisions.
4. **Enhance NTIA's project-specific support** for permitting across all NTIA programs.

NTIA has been working to prepare federal land and resource management agencies to efficiently process broadband permits and resolve project-specific issues. Since 2023, NTIA has held regional interagency broadband permitting meetings to share key program information and deadlines and to foster interagency dialogue on broadband permitting and Permitting Roundtables. (Note: NTIA's regions have changed as of February 2026)



Regions:

- September 2023: **Northern Plains**
- October 2023: **Midwest**
- November 2023: **West**
- December 2023: **Northeast**
- January 2024: **Southeast**
- February 2024: **Southwest**
- March 2024: **Alaska/Territories**

Figure 1: Regional Interagency Permitting Meetings

In 2024, NTIA convened [an interagency summit where broadband permitting agencies provided information](#) to ensure BEAD program success. In 2026, NTIA held a [follow-up session](#) with federal participants to discuss changes to the permitting process

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

The *Permitting Roundtable Implementation Guide* serves as a resource to support the establishment and execution of Permitting Roundtables across every state and territory. Permitting Roundtables will serve as critical forums for NTIA, SBOs/TBOs, subgrantees, and federal, state, local permitting authorities to better understand, support, and resolve permitting issues.²

The implementation of Permitting Roundtables will vary across SBOs/TBOs. SBOs/TBOs should customize Permitting Roundtables to fully integrate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approach the SBO/TBO has taken to fulfill its joint lead agency responsibilities. The Implementation Guide can provide a starting place that offers significant flexibility for adaptation and resources to support implementation.

SBOs/TBOs should review [NTIA's Permitting Roundtables Overview Resource](#). For additional support, SBOs/TBOs can refer to [NTIA's Additional Resources](#) for more information on NTIA's permitting guidance & best practices and [Permitting Roundtables case studies & supporting materials](#).

² Permitting Roundtables can be leveraged across NTIA's programs. The *Permitting Roundtables Implementation Guide* will refer to project teams as subgrantees due to the structure of the BEAD program, however this may include grantees from other NTIA programs such as Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), Middle Mile, or Bipartisan Infrastructure Program (BIP). Throughout this guide, subgrantee in this document refers to the project team that is related to a permitting issue.



CASE STUDY

Throughout this document, NTIA highlights case studies sourced from other examples of Permitting Roundtables across the federal government (see [Appendix D](#)), insights from the Regional Interagency Permitting Meetings and State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) sessions, and additional research.

2. PLAN FOR PERMITTING ROUNDTABLES



Section Overview:

This section provides additional considerations for planning the launch of Permitting Roundtables. Key steps include:

- Set Permitting Roundtable Direction: *Section 2.1*
- Define Roles and Responsibilities: *Section 2.2*

2.1 SET PERMITTING ROUNDTABLES DIRECTION

SBOs/TBOs will initiate Permitting Roundtables and/or similar working groups, leveraging federal relationships fostered by NTIA. Each state and territory should tailor Permitting Roundtables to their unique needs and circumstances.

SBO/TBO PLANNING MEETING

SBOs/TBOs may wish to hold a planning meeting, including the agency's NEPA experts, NEPA consultants supporting the state/territory as NEPA Specialists, and NTIA contacts, to customize an approach for Permitting Roundtables. SBOs/TBOs can also consider hiring specialized expert permitting contractors for support. [Appendix C](#) includes information on **Contractor-Facilitated Permitting Roundtables**.

The planning meeting can help identify the needs of the state or territory and establish consensus on the roles, responsibilities, and commitments key to implementing successful Permitting Roundtables through a series of key questions.

KEY QUESTIONS: STATE AND TERRITORY BACKGROUND

- How many broadband infrastructure deployment projects are anticipated within the state or territory?
 - What proportion of expected projects are funded through NTIA's grant programs?
- What relationships or steps to initiate relationships exist between the SBO/TBO and permitting stakeholders, including:
 - Federal permitting agencies
 - State/territory agencies
 - Local agencies (e.g., League of Municipalities, county associations, etc.)
 - Private entities (e.g., utility pole owners, railroads, etc.)
- What existing internal or external forums are already established for partner engagement? (E.g., town halls, broadband ready communities, working groups, etc.)
- What communication channels or engagement formats have proven most effective for reaching and collaborating with key partners (such as government agencies, broadband providers, local organizations, and community leaders)?

- How have previous outreach efforts to permitting partners gone, and what lessons can be drawn from these experiences to improve future engagement?
- How effective has the SBO/TBO been in past interactions with permitting stakeholders in their jurisdiction?
- What permitting concerns or challenges are priorities for the state/territory? (E.g., significant anticipated volume of broadband permits, competing permitting priorities, high percentage of federal lands.)
- Are there any lessons learned or best practices at the SBO/TBO with experience of past or current federally funded broadband projects in the state/territory with permitting?

KEY QUESTIONS: SCHEDULE AND TIMING

- When would Permitting Roundtables be most beneficial for BEAD deployment? What collaboration has the SBO/TBO initiated with permitting agencies and stakeholders? For example, has the SBO/TBO initiated a Permitting Taskforce?
- Where is the SBO/TBO in their proposal and subgrant process? What meeting cadence (quarterly, monthly, ad-hoc) fits the current needs of the state or territory? How could that change as BEAD progresses?
- When are subawards anticipated? What steps has the SBO/TBO taken to prepare subgrantees for broadband permitting (e.g., has the state or territory incorporated the Permitting and Environmental Information Application grantee proposal process?)
- What current NTIA projects have been funded in the state/territory? Are these projects encountering permitting challenges? What is the nature of the challenges, if so?
- Where past permitting issues have arisen, what lessons have been learned? What proactive steps have been taken to avoid the same issues?

KEY QUESTIONS: MEETING IMPLEMENTATION

- What meeting format (virtual or in-person) will work best?
- Are there any metrics that should be tracked to consider meeting effectiveness or permit timeliness?
- Should these meetings provide a venue for pre-application meetings for federal permitting?
 - *Consider factors such as office capacity, number of federal land and resource management agencies present in the state/territory, if a single federal field office will process a multitude of applications associated with grantees, etc. See section 3.1 for additional information on pre-application meetings.*
- Are there any project specific issues or policy or program considerations that need to be immediately discussed and resolved to avoid future project-specific issues?
- How should agendas be set and projects or issues prioritized for Permitting Roundtables?
 - Initial intake of projects or issues for agenda consideration
 - Criteria and screening for inclusion on an agenda
- Who are the key local partners in the state/territory (e.g., municipal governments, community organizations)?
- What is the current processing capacity and timeline of local permitting agencies for broadband infrastructure projects?
- Will the SBOs/TBOs use ESAPTT's Permitting Tracking functionality? (see callout box below)

Answering these questions should provide a plan for the first Permitting Roundtable meeting that includes a schedule for next steps and consensus on roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for issue prioritization and tracking.



LEVERAGING DATA FROM PERMITTING TRACKING IN ESAPTT (IF APPLICABLE)

NTIA developed the [Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool \(ESAPTT\)](#) to support NEPA compliance and permitting progress for the BEAD program.

NTIA strongly encourages Eligible Entities to use ESAPTT's Permitting Tracking functionality, which can validate subgrant NEPA milestone schedules and support the management and escalation management of permitting issues to Permitting Roundtables. For more information, please refer to NTIA's Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) Overview

In ESAPTT, each Permitting Tracking Record tracks the progress of obtaining necessary permit authorizations and provides a performance schedule milestone estimation. Permitting Tracking is an optional tool NTIA created to support SBOs/TBOs efforts to organize, track, and estimate timelines for permits required for BEAD projects. Features include:

1. **Centralized Permit Platform:** Records all permitting milestones from submission, acceptance, to authorization within a single system.
2. **Automated Timeline Calculations** (*federal permits only*): Auto-generates notional schedules for common federal permit types based on the federal permitting performance schedules.
3. **Inform Permitting Roundtables:** Grantees can gather and monitor that status of permits to inform Permitting Roundtable discussions.
4. **Early Identification of Delays:** Dashboarding tools can help to identify permit delays earlier for early intervention.

2.2 DEFINE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Depending on the approach to Permitting Roundtables, specific state/territory permitting landscapes, and staffing capacity, every SBO/TBO may choose to delegate roles and responsibilities differently. In this section, NTIA outlines suggested roles for SBOs to share responsibility with NTIA, as needed.

SBO/TBO STAFF AND/OR CONTRACT SUPPORT

Role & Responsibilities of the SBO/TBO:

The SBO/TBO will plan, execute, and coordinate follow-up from Permitting Roundtables. SBOs may choose how their organization will staff and facilitate Permitting Roundtables, leveraging their NEPA expertise and/or permitting expertise (see [Appendix C](#) for a sample contract template for contractor support.)

Key Permitting Roundtable responsibilities include:

- Coordinating with NTIA to prepare for Permitting Roundtables, including establishing cadence, setting agendas, managing logistics, and determining follow up responsibilities.
- Tracking sub-award Milestone Schedule progress for NEPA and permitting and identify within the SBO/TBO and to the FPO project specific permitting issues as they arise.
- Serve as points of contact and primary coordination for all state and local permitting agencies and any associated state and local level staff.

Within the organization, consider who will be responsible for logistics, including:

- Creating and hosting the virtual meeting platform or live event?
- Sending invitations and reminders?

- Supporting any technical or administrative meeting aspects?
- Facilitating discussion between subgrantees and permitting partners?
- Recording notes and action items?

NTIA STAFF

NTIA will maintain the responsibility for inviting federal partners, conducting government-to-government consultation with Tribes, and referring issues for interagency escalation. Various NTIA staff members, including NTIA Federal Program Officers (FPO), Environmental Program Officers (EPO), and Permitting Coordinators can support convening key stakeholders and providing direction during Permitting Roundtable meetings.

- **FPOs** will be the primary NTIA point of contact for SBOs/TBOs for Permitting Roundtables and the SBO/TBO's point of project specific escalation. SBOs/TBOs could consult with the FPO on responsibilities such as issue prioritization, identifying and contacting the appropriate participants, and agenda finalization.
- **EPOs** serve as NTIA's regional environmental support for the BEAD program. In the event that an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required or additional environmental & historic preservation issues arise, an EPO may support issue resolution at Permitting Roundtable meetings.
- **Permitting Coordinators** can provide expertise for project-specific issues in the permitting portfolio, which may include, but is not limited to, NTIA's applicable interagency agreements and programmatic environmental review tools (e.g., Program Comments or Determination Keys) and other permitting issues. Permitting Coordinators may be invited to a Permitting Roundtable meeting when federal permitting issues may require interagency escalation.



CASE STUDY: CONVENING FEDERAL PARTNERS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) monthly Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) Permitting Roundtables series in the State of Indiana offers an example of how the convening federal agency can successfully conduct interagency outreach to invite and ensure federal partner participation. For the WEP Roundtables, the USDA State Director took the lead in identifying and inviting the federal agency representatives to the table to provide Indiana program applicants with the opportunity to discuss their issues with the appropriate stakeholders. FPOs can play a similar role in their state or territory, building on contacts NTIA established in holding Federal Broadband Regional Interagency Permitting Meetings in each BEAD region between September 2023 and April 2024.

See [Appendix D.1](#) for additional details on this case study.

3. EXECUTE PERMITTING ROUNDTABLES



Section Overview:

This section covers how to support the execution and follow-up of Permitting Roundtables including how to identify who to invite to the first Permitting Roundtable, how to select initial topics, how to approach facilitation and establish an issue resolution process. Key steps to execute Permitting Roundtables include:

- Prioritize Agenda Issues: *Section 3.1*
- Invite Partners: *Section 3.2*
- Facilitate an Effective Meeting: *Section 3.3*
- Support Issue Resolution: *Section 3.4*

Please see [Appendix B](#) for sample templates and meeting facilitation resources to support effective Permitting Roundtables.

3.1 PRIORITIZE AGENDA ISSUES

Permitting Roundtables are designed to help the SBO/TBO implement BEAD by supporting subgrantees in addressing specific permitting challenges, and to provide a venue that can similarly support NTIA's non-BEAD grant recipients as necessary.

Each project's unique deployment methods, geographical location, jurisdictional authorities, complexities, and subgrantee team talents will influence the types of permitting issues that the SBO/TBO may include in Permitting Roundtables. SBOs/TBOs should prioritize projects where convening decision makers and stakeholders is necessary to clarify problems and/or identify solutions because traditional steps have not been effective.

Permitting Roundtables can serve either as issue resolution forums, or as pre-application meeting venues.

PERMITTING ISSUE RESOLUTION FORUM

Permitting Roundtables can serve as issue resolution forums. As such, they are identified in NTIA's Federal Permitting Coordination Strategy for broadband. The overall goal of this strategy is to identify permitting problems at the earliest time and resolve them at the lowest level possible. SBOs/TBOs should consider whether a permit applicant has attempted to directly resolve their issue with a permitting agency when evaluating a project for inclusion on the Permitting Roundtable agenda.

Permitting Roundtables can provide a venue for the subgrantee and any relevant permitting partners to discuss and seek resolution. Prior to discussion at the Permitting Roundtable, subgrantees will work directly with the relevant federal permitting, land, and/or resource management agency to attempt to reach a resolution.

Permitting agencies and authorities may have different requirements, review timelines, or methods of communication. Also, many subgrantees will need to obtain multiple permits for a single deployment. Permitting Roundtables can serve as a forum for the SBO/TBO and NTIA to support subgrantees in navigating these challenges and collaboratively bringing parties together to resolve issues that require discussion. Subgrantees will initiate permit applications and work directly with the relevant permitting, land, and/or resource management agency to attempt to resolve problems.

To support the development of Permitting Roundtable agendas and meeting preparation, SBOs/TBOs may develop a variety of tracking and intake mechanisms, such as:

- **Milestone Schedule:** BEAD's [General Terms and Conditions](#) require Eligible Entities to obtain each subgrantee's Milestone Schedule for NEPA and permitting. SBO/TBOs can use the Milestone Schedule to proactively track a project's permitting progress against typical timelines for broadband permitting.

- **Intake Forms:** The SBO/TBO could set up an intake form (such as an online web-based form, like Google Forms, or using a grants portal) for subgrantees to self-report issues. [See Appendix B.5.](#)
- **Registration Forms:** The SBO/TBO could develop a registration form to allow a subgrantee (or other stakeholders) to request Permitting Roundtable inclusion.



CASE STUDY: ISSUE PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Portland District and the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) jointly hold regularly scheduled interagency pre-application meetings, known as “Kaizen,” for prospective applicants for Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 and Oregon Removal-Fill permits. Applicants are encouraged to use a screening matrix and associated User Guide to analyze the project complexity and impact potential before requesting a pre-application meeting.³

Sample Template Derived from ACE/Oregon Matrix:⁴

Regulatory Environment <i>(i.e., number of reviews needed)</i>	<i>Low impact potential, extensive regulatory review</i>	<i>High impact potential, extensive regulatory review</i>
	Preapplication meeting highly recommended with relevant agencies	Preapplication meeting highly recommended with all agencies and technical specialists
	<i>Low impact potential, minimal regulatory review</i>	<i>High impact potential, low regulatory review</i>
	Preapplication meeting encouraged, but not necessary	Preapplication meeting recommended with technical specialists
Project Impact Potential <i>(i.e., sensitive resources, deployment scale)</i>		

SBO/ TBO can develop a similar matrix and instructions for applicants to use in understanding the urgency and importance of a pre-application meeting for their projects.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

The routine cadence and collaborative spirit of Permitting Roundtable meetings can also support early engagement between the subgrantee, permitting agencies, and other stakeholders as pre-application meetings. Agencies participating in the [NTIA/BLM Federal Interagency Broadband Permitting Summit](#) emphasized that pre-application meetings can vastly improve the permitting process for both federal partners and permit applicants. These pre-application meetings can be used to provide process orientation, distribute necessary contacts, and explain permitting requirements to applicants.

SBO/TBOs can consider using Permitting Roundtables as a venue for “pre-application meetings” to support subgrantees in introducing permitting authorities to their project scope and learning about permitting requirements and information needs. Some federal agencies may require pre-application meetings for certain permit types; Permitting Roundtables may be able to supplement and/or provide a forum for those meetings.

³ See <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Documents/PreAppMatrixGuide.pdf>

⁴ See <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Documents/PreAppMatrix.pdf>





CASE STUDY: EARLY COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES

In the State of Oregon, the Department of State Lands, the Department of Environmental Quality, and The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) collaborate to host rotating pre-application meetings for complex projects related to removal-fill or 404/401 Water Quality Certification.⁵ The host agencies routinely invite other state, federal, and city agencies as needed to support discussions with applicants.

By coordinating pre-application meetings, the state and federal agencies streamline their efforts to assist the applicant in understanding both permitting processes early. Applicants are able to clarify application requirements, and more informed applicants reduce permitting delays by improving application quality. This example illustrates how a collaborative model similar to Permitting Roundtables can support both applicants and agencies and improve permitting. See [Appendix D.2](#) for additional details on this case study.

3.2 INVITE PARTNERS

To maximize the success of Permitting Roundtables, organizers should understand the unique role of participants in the permitting processes and potential goals for their participation in a Permitting Roundtable.

SBOs/TBOs can use the Invitation Templates in [Appendix B](#) as a starting point to invite the relevant partners to Permitting Roundtables.



Figure 2: Overview of Potential Permitting Roundtable Participants

Partner	Goal	Responsibilities
Subgrantee⁶	Subgrantees should aim to inform agencies of their projects and learn about permitting application processes and requirements in the pre-application stage, provide additional project details for ongoing applications in a timely manner when requested, and seek to resolve permitting delays ahead of implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtaining all permits and authorizations required to construct their project Communicate their current project-specific permitting issues and data
Federal Land Management and Resource Agencies⁷	Agencies should aim to coordinate and manage their permitting processes in accordance with applicable regulations and statutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide application review updates Request additional information from subgrantees

⁵ See <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/wetlands-waters/Pages/pre-app-meetings.aspx>

⁶ Note: Subgrantee in this document refers to the BEAD Subgrantee project team. Project teams from other NTIA programs may also raise issues and should be considered “subgrantees” throughout this document.

⁷ See [Appendix E](#) for a list of agencies and authorizations that are commonly required for broadband projects.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pre-application scoping conversations
State or Territory Land and Resource Management Agencies	State- or territory-level partners should support issue resolution of the permitting, environmental, or cultural resources reviews for a project within their jurisdiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, approval, and distribution of permits to subgrantees for projects that involve state/territory land and infrastructure/facilities • State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) administer historic preservation programs for their state/territory
Local Partners	Local agencies should support the approval and distribution of permits to subgrantees for projects that involve local land. Each locality may have a unique permitting process, including specific forms, review requirements, and timelines for review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate specific permitting application timeline issues and may request additional information or encourage application revisions
Tribal Partners	Tribal partners may be invited to Permitting Roundtables in a variety of capacities including as Tribal government representatives for projects crossing Tribal lands, a grant recipient for the TBCP, or as a representative of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) or Tribal consulting parties for Section 106 when a project may impact historic properties of Tribal cultural or religious significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent Tribal Interests as a part of the Section 106 reviews of projects on Tribal lands or projects with potential impacts to historic properties of Tribal significance that may be located beyond Tribal lands <p>Note: If a Tribe identifies historic property concerns, NTIA will conduct consultation on a government-to-government basis.</p>
Other Partners	Private land or property owners may attend a Permitting Roundtable to coordinate with subgrantees about right-of-way (ROW) permits expectations and timelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek issue resolution of a private ownership permitting issue, such as a railroad ROW permit or utility pole access agreement



CASE STUDY: 811 “CALL BEFORE YOU DIG” COLLABORATION

811 is a nationwide service that assists constructing projects with avoiding existing underground utilities. While 811 is not a permitting agency themselves, underground utility services can support efforts to maximize the efficiency of permitting.

Permitting Roundtables may benefit from the participation of state 811 teams and other public/private utility locating services. 811 and underground utility experts offer important local knowledge and resources which can be useful for high-speed Internet deployment. For example, Arkansas 811 has closely collaborated with the Arkansas SBO to support planning for deployments across the state’s 75 counties. SBOs/ TBOs should build connections and look for opportunities to collaborate with 811 services, including inviting their participation at Permitting Roundtable events.



[The Common Ground Alliance](#) provides an online clearinghouse with information on underground utility laws processes and laws in each state. Additionally, SBOs/TBOs can consider partnership with groups such as [The United States Infrastructure Corporation \(USIC\)](#), who operates a network of public and private underground utility locating service affiliates across 1,400 utilities and municipalities in 48 states.



CASE STUDY: COORDINATION WITH LOCAL PERMITTING AUTHORITIES

Local permitting authorities face high permitting demands and may operate on low budgets with limited staffing, paper-based systems, and other barriers. These challenges may hinder their ability to quickly facilitate the issuance of permits related to broadband grant funding, such as NTIA's grant programs.

Local Permitting Challenges include:

- **Resource Constraints:** Local governments often operate under tight budgets with limited personnel. This can limit their ability to invest in new technologies or hire additional staff to expedite the permitting process.
- **Technological Limitation:** Many local governments rely on paper-based systems for permits, which can be outdated or cumbersome. For them to transition to a digital system that is integrated across departments can be costly and complex, particularly for smaller jurisdictions.
- **Workload Increase:** With the influx of new permitting requests due to federal infrastructure programs, local governments will have to manage an increased workload. They will have to respond to increased pressure from project teams and outside agencies to meet permitting deadlines and expedite their processes.

Note: In some cases, local governments may be limited by federal and state regulations such as 47 USC § 224, 253, and 332, and the related Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and orders regarding ROW regulations.⁸

Local partners can incorporate strategies and proven practices to streamline processes and reduce barriers to broadband deployment.

Local Permitting Streamlining Strategies include:

- **Increase Communication:** To support well-resourced, effective, and timely permit processing, local governments should provide regular and proactive communication with project teams to explain permit requirements and encourage mutual transparency.
- **Consolidate Permits:** Local agencies that consolidate permits can increase the efficiency and speed of permitting review processes. For example, municipalities can create one 'general permit' to address duplicative permits.
- **Allow E-Permitting:** Some counties have already implemented online/e-permitting to streamline the process which allow applicants to fill out applications online, track them, and correct them if necessary. E-permitting helps applicants understand all requirements up front, which can reduce applicant confusion.
- **Automate Processes:** To alleviate staffing and capacity constraints, local agencies should consider how to automate internal and external processes. Digital permitting and robotic process automation are some of the strategies local governments have adopted to minimize impacts from staffing limits.

For more information, review the following resources:

- [Local Permitting Importance, Challenges, and Strategies](#)

⁸See <https://www.benton.org/sites/default/files/permitting-success.pdf>

- [Local Permitting for Fiber Network Project: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly](#)
- [Benton Institute for Broadband & Society's report on Local Permitting](#)

3.3 FACILITATE AN EFFECTIVE MEETING

The SBO/TBO should consider whether to hold Permitting Roundtables as in-person, virtual or hybrid meetings. Virtual meetings can lower travel costs and facilitate the participation of stakeholders in multiple locations provided that all parties have sufficient broadband access to participate. Hybrid meetings can accommodate both virtual and in-person participation but may require dedicated technology and IT support.

To plan an effective in-person, virtual, or hybrid meeting that is productive, secure, and professional, consider the following best practices:

1. **Disseminate Information:** Prior to the meeting, distribute essential details, such as meeting objectives, a structured agenda, and list of attendees to all participants. For hybrid or in-person meetings, ensure that all participants know where and when to arrive. For those joining virtually, communicate clear instructions for accessing the virtual meeting and a point of contact for technical support. Notify all parties if meetings are recorded.
2. **Build a Strategic Agenda:** Divide the meeting into sessions to help maintain participants' attention. Sessions should last 30 to 60 minutes at most and should have a clearly defined topic. Invite partners to the sessions that cover topics that are relevant to jurisdiction, expertise, and involvement. Consider giving permitting partners and subgrantees a set time window in the meeting agenda to maximize use of time. For virtual meetings, consider how interactive features may be used such as break-out rooms, polls, and chats to encourage participation.
3. **Delegate Roles:** Align on team member roles in advance of the sessions, such as presenter, facilitator, and note-taker. This organization helps achieve meeting objectives, minimizes distractions, and adheres to the agenda.
4. **Establish Meeting Expectations:** Begin all meetings by communicating meeting objectives, explaining the agenda, and presenting ground rules for participation. For virtual meetings, establish how online participants engage (verbally, chat function, raising a hand) and when (during the presentation or in Q&As). For hybrid meetings, confirm that there is good audio communication between the attendees in the room and the attendees online.
5. **Practice Time Management:** Be mindful of the allocated time of each session as per the agenda.

The roots of the Roundtable concept lie in consensus building and resolution, informed by the following values:

1. **Consensus-based Decisions:** Decisions are formed on agreement among diverse stakeholders, which results in collective ownership and commitment to outcomes.
2. **Reciprocal Listening:** Active listening ensures that all participants feel heard and valued, which enhances collaboration and the quality of decision-making.
3. **Respect:** The meeting maintains professionalism and is attentive to all perspectives.
4. **Accountability:** All participants are responsible for coming prepared to meeting, being active in discussions, accomplishing tasks between sessions, and fostering a supportive and professional environment.



Figure 3: Values of Permitting Roundtables

3.4 SUPPORT ISSUE RESOLUTION

SBOs/TBOs should consider what follow-up actions are needed to support the resolution of issues raised at Permitting Roundtables. SBOs/TBOs should assign responsibilities for post-meeting tasks, such as sharing meeting materials, tracking action items, and developing an action or escalation plan to address persistent agency-specific issues. See [Appendix B.4](#) for a sample follow up email.

FPOs can escalate issues that remain unresolved to Permitting Coordinators and the Regional EPO to consider next steps. BEAD Regional Directors should also be notified of any outstanding project-specific permitting issues.



CASE STUDY: VERMONT'S STRATEGY FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND MEETING TRANSPARENCY

The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), tasked with developing policies and programs to achieve universal, affordable high-speed internet, showcases effective stakeholder engagement and transparency. This approach is particularly vital as the state prepares for project deployment and transitions towards project-level meetings.

VCBB hosts a monthly 4-hour hybrid meeting that is open to the public. VCBB meetings can be attended in person or accessed virtually through the board's website.⁹ The VCBB website also shares a library of important resources for stakeholder engagement and transparency. Available resources include meeting logistics (location and links), agendas, approved meeting minutes, copy of presentations, and meeting recordings. The broadband stakeholders and the public can access meeting materials and recordings for all meetings dating back to August 2021.

VCBB's commitment to stakeholder engagement and transparency serves the state well as they transition into BEAD project-level meetings and Permitting Roundtables.

⁹ See <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/vt-community-broadband-board-vcbb/vcbb-agendas-materials-and-minutes>

4. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For information on NTIA permitting, see the [NTIA Technical Assistance Hub](#) or the [Permitting webpage](#).

APPENDIX A: KEY PERMITTING ACRONYMS

Based on NTIA’s experience leading regional meetings, the Permitting Team recommend circulating this guide to participants to ensure that they are familiar with common permitting, EHP, and NTIA program acronyms.

ACRONYM	TERM
BEAD	Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program
BIL	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
BIP	Broadband Infrastructure Program
BSL(s)	Broadband Serviceable Location(s)
CAA	Consolidated Appropriations Act
CATEX	Categorical Exclusion
CERPO	Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer
CMC	Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
DOC	Department of Commerce
EHP	Environmental and Historic Preservation
EPO	Environmental Program Officer
FAST-41	Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (Note: See the permitting dashboard of FAST-41 Covered Projects)
FPO	Federal Program Officer
IIJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
ISP	Internet Service Provider
MM	Middle Mile
NBAM	NTIA Broadband Analytics and Monitoring
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
OICG	Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth
RD	Regional Director
SBO	State Broadband Office
SF-299	Standard Form 299 - Application for Transportation, Utility Systems, Telecommunications and Facilities on Federal Lands and Property
SHPO/THPO	State/Tribal Historic Preservation Office
TA	Technical Assistance
TBCP	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
TBO	Territory Broadband Office

APPENDIX B: SAMPLE TEMPLATES

This section includes templates that states/territory may use to assist with initiation of Permitting Roundtables. The cues within brackets explain the information needed to customize the document. FPOs or SBOs/TBOs should replace items in [red brackets] with information specific to their meeting and include logistics in **[bolded brackets]**.

B.1 INVITATION TEMPLATE: SUBGRANTEE

To: [Project proponent Subgrantee XYZ]

CC:

Subject: Invitation: [State/Territory] Permitting Roundtable Meeting on [Date]

Attachment: PDF agenda

Dear [Project Subgrantee XYZ POC],

The [State/Territory Broadband Office] will host a Permitting Roundtable meeting on **[Meeting Day]**, **[Meeting Date]** from **[Meeting Time]** to discuss [Subgrantee XYZ's] permit application(s) at [project location].

The invitation should explain what the subgrantee needs to provide or prepare to ensure a productive discussion, such as a project description, mapping data, and copy of permit

This meeting will be held **[virtually or in person]** on **[Meeting Day]**, **[Meeting Date]** from **[Meeting Time]**, *consider time zones*. See below for instructions on how to virtually join this meeting or provide location details.

Please RSVP by responding to this email as soon as possible so that our team can proceed in inviting **[relevant permitting entities]** to the event. If you or a member of your project team are not able to join us, please let us know so that we can reschedule you for a future Permitting Roundtable meeting. The next meeting will be held on **[next meeting date]**.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you on **[Meeting Date]** and assisting you with this matter.

Thank you,

[State/Territory Broadband Office POC]

B.2 INVITATION TEMPLATE: PERMITTING PARTNERS

To: [Permitting Entity POC]

CC:

Subject: Invitation: [State/Territory] Permitting Roundtable Discussion on [Date]

Attachment: PDF agenda

Dear [Permitting Entity POC],

The [State/Territory Broadband Office] will host a Permitting Roundtable meeting on **[Meeting Day]**, **[Meeting Date]** from **[Meeting Time]** to discuss [Subgrantee XYZ's] permit application(s) at [project location].

The invitation should include details on the project and grantee, permit, project area, and specific permitting issue or concern.

This meeting will be held **[virtually or in person]** on **[Meeting Day], [Meeting Date]** from **[Meeting Time, consider time zones]**. See below for instructions on how to virtually join this meeting or provide location details.

If you are unable to attend, we encourage you to designate a colleague(s) from your agency who can represent your office or respond with alternative times you are available to meet with the subgrantee, NTIA, and the SBO.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you on **[Meeting Date]** to discuss this important project.

Thank you,

[State/Territory Broadband Office POC]



BEST PRACTICE: SEND AN INVITATION REMINDER

SBOs should send participants an invitation reminder three days to one week before the meeting to confirm that participants are planning to join and that participants have the meeting address or link and logistical details.

B.3 AGENDA TEMPLATE

Venue: **[Virtual or In-Person]**

[Day and Date]

[Time]

Agenda Item	Description
Welcome and Introductions <i>[Time]</i>	NTIA and [SBO/TBO] lead introductions.
Topic 1 <i>[Time]</i>	[Description]
Topic 2 <i>[Time]</i>	[Description]
Topic 3 <i>[Time]</i>	[Description]
Next Steps <i>[Time]</i>	NTIA and [SBO/TBO] to lead discussion of next steps.

B.4 MEETING SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

To: **[Permitting Entity POC]**

CC:

Subject: Summary and Next Steps: Permitting Roundtable Discussion on **[Date]**

Attachment: PDF agenda

Dear [Permitting Entity POC],

The [State/Territory Broadband Office] thank you for your participation in the Permitting Roundtable meeting on [Meeting Day], [Meeting Date] from [Meeting Time].

Below is a concise summary of the key topics discussed:

- Topic 1: [Brief Description]
- a. Key Points Discussed
 - i. [Key Point 1]
 - ii. [Key Point 2]

- Topic 2: [Brief Description]
- b. Key Points Discussed
 - i. [Key Point 1]
 - ii. [Key Point 2]

To maintain the momentum and ensure that we accomplish the meeting's objectives, please review the key next steps for the issues discussed:

- 1. [Issue 1]: [Brief Description of the Issue]
 - a. Next Steps
 - i. [Action Item 1] – [Responsible Person/Team] – [Deadline]
 - ii. [Action Item 2] – [Responsible Person/Team] – [Deadline]
- 2. [Issue 2]: [Brief Description of the Issue]
 - a. Next Steps
 - i. [Action Item 1] – [Responsible Person/Team] – [Deadline]
 - ii. [Action Item 2] – [Responsible Person/Team] – [Deadline]

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you for collaborating to help ensure that reliable, affordable, high-speed Internet will be available in [State/Territory].

Best,

[State/Territory Broadband Office POC]

B.5 PERMITTING ROUNDTABLE INTAKE FORM

A Permitting Roundtable Intake Form is a means of gathering information prior to a meeting, to support a focused, efficient, and productive agenda. Intake forms provide a way for stakeholders to identify permit-related issues and concerns that can inform the agenda. Meeting organizers should review the information provided on the form to evaluate whether a project should be included in an upcoming Permitting Roundtable agenda, and to identify where additional information is needed or alternative resolution is possible. Google Forms or Microsoft Forms can help an FPO or SBO create an Intake Form.

Sample Intake Form:

Fields:	Response:
Project Name:	
Project Location:	
Contact Information:	
Project Description:	
Project Maps (if available):	

Type of Permitting Issue:	Federal Permit Application, State Permit Application, Local Permit Application, Private Permit Application, Section 106 / Cultural and Historic Resources, Section 7 ESA review, Other
Date of Permit Application:	
Describe Permitting Issue:	
Describe Prior Steps Taken to Resolve:	
Permitting Agencies Involved:	
Additional Resources:	

APPENDIX C: CONTRACTOR-FACILITATED PERMITTING ROUNDTABLES

States and Territories may opt to have contractors facilitate Permitting Roundtable meetings, especially in states or territories where a contractor is providing primary NEPA specialist support.

In contractor-facilitated Permitting Roundtables, the contractor should adhere to the BEAD Terms and Conditions Section 13D to include relevant federal, state, local, and Tribal authorities and representatives of impacted industries, including utility pole owners, railroads, communications providers, and BEAD subgrantees, to facilitate regular meetings to identify and facilitate resolution of any delays or disputes related to deploying BEAD-funded facilities, and to collect and escalate ISP permitting complaints.

Scope of Work

- Coordinate with SBO/TBO to prepare for Permitting Roundtables, including establishing cadence, setting agendas, managing logistics, and determining the applicability of pre-application meetings for the state or territory.
- Design and facilitate Permitting Roundtables planning sessions and meeting cadences.
- Prepare and distribute Permitting Roundtables agendas and background material in advance of sessions.
- Identify and invite all relevant permitting stakeholders
- Track, document, and report discussion outcomes, action items, and follow-up responsibilities.

A sample template Third Party Environmental Contract Request is provided to assist states and territories seeking contractor support, see appendix of the [Smart Start: How to Plan and Prepare for National Environmental Policy \(NEPA\) Compliance for BEAD](#).

APPENDIX D: CASE STUDIES FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

Several states have implemented their own versions of Permitting Roundtables to help them navigate permitting processes for other programs. The federal grant programs and permitting initiatives showcased here range in terms of federal involvement in grantee management and meeting facilitation. These meetings can provide helpful context and best practices for FPOs conducting Permitting Roundtables for their own states/territories. Each of these examples are related to different grant programs that have unique requirements and funding mechanisms, so FPOs should reference these only for best practices.

D.1 STATE OF INDIANA AND USDA WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Meeting Purpose: Discuss and resolve permitting issues with federal permitting agencies and applicants.

Relevant Program: Water and Wastewater Grants and Revolving Funds

Meeting Participants: The USDA Roundtables brought together permitting agencies, funding agencies and applicants. Tribal Governments were invited as needed.

Level of Federal Involvement: High

Meeting Frequency: Monthly; sometimes additional meetings were held if federal partners or an applicant could not attend at the scheduled time.

USDA held monthly Permitting Roundtables with stakeholders from the State of Indiana to discuss and resolve issues with the permitting process mainly related to their Water and Environmental Programs (WEP). These roundtables gave program applicants the opportunity to discuss project-level issues with program agencies, funding agencies, and Tribal Governments (as needed). The meetings were hosted and facilitated by the USDA State Director, while federal permitting agency partners were responsible for collaborating with USDA to set the agenda on which projects to discuss and help applicants resolve issues. States that would benefit from increased federal engagement in their permitting should consider Indiana and USDA's roundtable model as a template to increase community buy-in and streamline the permitting process.

D.2 STATE OF OREGON AND USACE PERMITTING MEETINGS

Meeting Purpose: Discuss federal and state permit applications and receive feedback on project information in order to resolve issues before applying.

Relevant Program: Section 404 Permits

Meeting Participants: Prospective applicants; regional branches of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USFWS, and USACE; and Oregon Departments of State Lands, Environmental Quality, Geology and Mineral Industries, and Fish and Wildlife.

Level of Federal Involvement: Moderate

Meeting Frequency: Monthly, partners are invited if their jurisdiction applies.

The State of Oregon and USACE co-led monthly permitting meetings to discuss applications for state and environmental permitting. Prospective federal and state permit applicants submitted their application issues to be discussed with representatives from regional branches of the federal agencies like the EPA and USACE and state agencies like Oregon Departments of State Lands and Fish and Wildlife. The pre-application meetings helped applicants review application requirements, receive feedback on project information, and resolve issues before applying. Meetings that are co-dated by both a state/territory and a federal agency can help agencies on both levels coordinate effectively and consolidate resources, including de-duplication of permitting meetings, to improve permitting efficiency.

D.3 US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Meeting Purpose: Every state administering HUD grants may set "office hours" differently. For example, the State of California holds biweekly office hours to answer grantee/applicant questions and share federal guidelines.

Relevant Program: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Level of Federal Involvement: Low

Meeting Participants: California Department of Housing and Community Development, potential grantees, and current applicants.

Meeting Frequency: The frequency or format of office hours may vary by state. In California, open webinar calls take place once every two weeks.

The State of California was one of many states that took advantage of the flexibility that HUD allows states about how to structure their programs. California's government scheduled office hours with project partners to address specific questions about the CDBG program. These virtual meetings provided prospective

applicants with the opportunity to gain more clarity about the grant program and receive technical assistance and federal program updates. California’s webinars are a good resource to understand how states can support streamlining the permitting process at the federal level, in addition to the state level.

D.4 VERMONT COMMUNITY BROADBAND BOARD (VCBB) MEETINGS

Meeting Purpose: The VCBB was created in 2021 to accelerated community broadband deployment and support “efforts that advance the State’s goal of achieving universal access to reliable, high-quality, affordable, fixed broadband achieving speeds of at least 100 Mbps symmetrical.”

Relevant Program: NTIA’s grant programs

Level of Federal Involvement: Low

Meeting Participants: Open to the public, the main audience is broadband stakeholders.

Meeting Frequency: Monthly meetings

VCBB hosts a monthly 4-hour hybrid meeting that is open to the public. VCBB meetings can be attended in-person or accessed virtually through the board’s website.¹⁰ The VCBB website also has a library of important resources for stakeholder engagement and transparency. Available resources include meeting logistics (location and links), agendas, approved meeting minutes, copies of presentations, and meeting recordings. The broadband stakeholders and the public can access meeting materials and recordings for all meetings dating back to August 2021.

VCBB’s commitment to stakeholder engagement and transparency serves the state well as they transition into BEAD project-level meetings and Permitting Roundtables.

D.5 KANSAS REGIONAL BROADBAND WORKSHOP SERIES

Meeting Purpose: The Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBDD) held a series of workshops, distributed across the state, to inform and engage communities about the NTIA’s grant programs and directly interact with Kansas residents in decision-making conversations to help support universal connectivity. KOBDD also held tailored sessions, such as the state-wide workshop on permitting to encourage stakeholders to understand regulatory requirements and reduce permitting barriers.

Relevant Program: NTIA’s grant programs

Level of Federal Involvement: Low

Meeting Participants: The KOBDD workshop series was open to the public and aimed to directly involve residents and community leaders in broadband deployment conversations. The tailored permitting workshop session had over 80 participants in attendance, including ISPs, local governments, state and federal agencies, ROW owners, co-ops, permitting contractors, and other stakeholders interested in broadband deployment.

Meeting Frequency: Series included 13 Regional Workshops and an additional tailored session on permitting.

A key element of KOBDD’s strategy is the Regional Workshops series, which aimed to disseminate essential broadband knowledge, reduce barriers among stakeholders, and introduce related broadband programs¹¹ KOBDD successfully executed 14 workshops across Kansas’s six regions. KOBDD has also held sessions tailored to certain topics, such as the Kansas Broadband Permitting Workshop held on April 25, 2024.¹² This workshop covered permitting basics, the role of federal agencies, and understanding NEPA and NHPA. Additionally,

¹⁰ See <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/vt-community-broadband-board-vcbb/vcbb-agendas-materials-and-minutes>

¹¹ See <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/officeofbroadbanddevelopment/regional-planning-community-engagement/> and <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/officeofbroadbanddevelopment/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment/digital-equity-strategic-plan/>

¹² See <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/officeofbroadbanddevelopment/kansas-broadband-permitting-workshop/>



KOBD demonstrated the NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application to help stakeholders with broadband planning and permit identification.

APPENDIX E: FEDERAL LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Listed below are the major agencies and authorizations that are commonly required for broadband projects. Depending on the project area, scope, and resources impacted, a variety of federal land and resource management agencies may be involved. Subgrantees can use NTIA's NBAM Permitting and Environmental Information Application to identify additional agencies, as needed.

Agency Name	Permits or Authorizations
Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Section 408 permits for projects affecting USACE property i.e., Civil Works projects Conduct CWA Section 404 reviews and issue general/individual permits for activities that impact waters such as wetlands
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue ROW or business leases for Tribal Trust and Allotment lands <i>Note: NTIA has executed an MOU with BIA addressing NEPA responsibilities.</i>
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue ROW permits for BLM lands
Department of Defense (DOD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue ROW permits for DOD lands
Forest Service (USFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue ROW permits for USFS land such as National Forests and Grasslands <i>Note: NTIA has executed an MOU with USFS addressing Section 106 responsibilities.</i>
Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Wildlife Refuge System: Issue ROW permits for USFWS land Ecological Services: Conduct ESA Section 7 reviews for impacted threatened and endangered species (T&ES). Determination Keys: Grant recipients can also use the USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system to complete ESA reviews online using applicable "Determination Keys" (DKeys), if available. <i>Note: NTIA has executed an MOU with the FWS to Authorization of NTIA Grant Recipients to Serve as Non-Federal Representatives for Section 7 Consultation as of October 28th, 2024.</i>
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue regulations for broadband ROW permits in federal highways, but permitting happens at the state/territory DOT level Oversee State DOT compliance with Section 4(f), which requires an assessment of activities that impact significant historic sites, publicly owned public parks, recreation areas, wildlife or waterfowl refuges.
National Parks Service (NPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue ROW permits for NPS land (<i>note: permitting processes are managed by each individual park, so multiple park office may need to be contacted</i>)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct ESA Section 7 reviews for impacted T&ES

(NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NFMS)	
US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issue ROW permits for USBR properties <p><i>Note: NTIA is negotiating an MOU with USBR addressing NEPA and Section 106 responsibilities.</i></p>