

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

January 31, 2017

Re: *Formation of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC)*

Last September, I proposed what I called a Digital Empowerment Agenda—a blueprint of policies that would accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or broadband, in communities across the country.¹

Today, I am excited to announce the formation of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC), which will aim to provide advice and recommendations to the FCC on how to do just that. The BDAC’s mission will be to identify regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment and to make recommendations to the Commission on reducing and/or removing them.

One of the first things the BDAC will be asked to do is draft for the Commission’s consideration a model code for broadband deployment. This model code will cover topics like local franchising, zoning, permitting, and rights-of-way regulations. Building, upgrading, and deploying broadband networks isn’t easy, and red tape often can make the task harder than it needs to be. Similarly, many localities that have a strong interest in promoting a digital economy within their borders may not have the resources or expertise to develop and implement deployment-friendly policies. Consumers ultimately pay the price in terms of less access to next-generation services. Our hope is that with a model code approved by the FCC, one that any city could use as a template, the case for broadband deployment would be much easier, especially for communities that seek to proactively encourage it.

We’ve already filed the necessary paperwork to stand up the BDAC, with plans to convene its first meeting this spring. Two dedicated members of the FCC staff, Brian Hurley and Paul D’Ari, have agreed to be the Committee’s Designated Federal Officer and Deputy Designated Federal Officer respectively, and I’d like to thank them for their commitment to these efforts. But we also need your help. The Commission will be releasing a Public Notice with more details about the Committee’s work and an explanation of the member-selection process. I encourage interested members of the public to apply and to be ready to share your best ideas in order to help bring digital opportunity to all Americans.

¹ [See Remarks of Commissioner Ajit Pai at the Brandery: “A Digital Empowerment Agenda” \(Sept. 13, 2016\), available at https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-341210A1.pdf \(discussing proposals\); see also Summary of Commissioner Pai’s Digital Empowerment Agenda \(Sept. 13, 2016\), https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-pais-digital-empowerment-agenda/summary \(summarizing proposals\).](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-341210A1.pdf)