FCC Broadband Data Collection

November 14, 2022

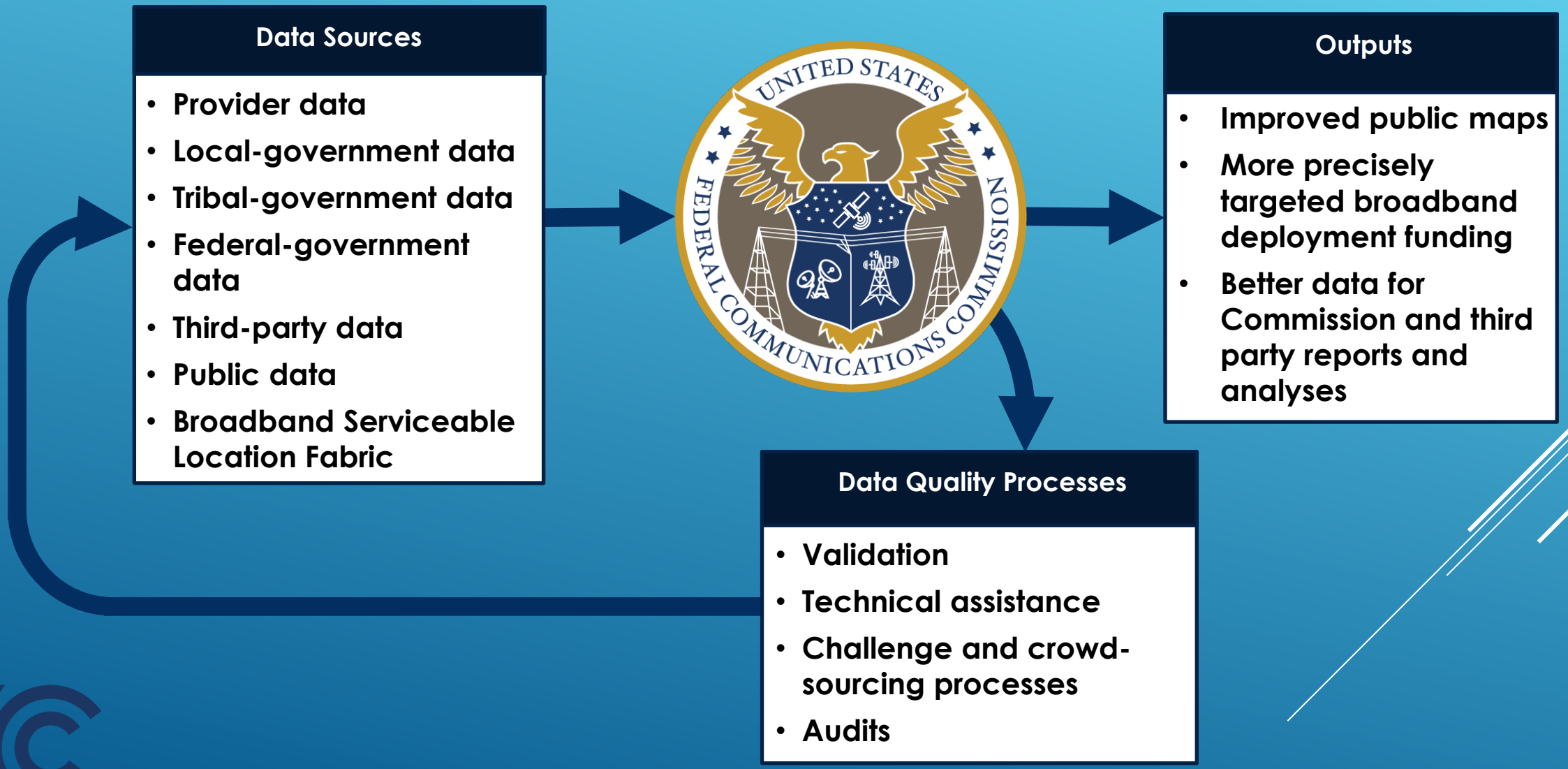
Broadband Data Task Force

Federal Communications Commission

Broadband Data Collection (BDC): New Approach to Mapping Broadband Availability

- The FCC historically has collected broadband deployment data using FCC Form 477.
- More reliable and consistent broadband availability data are critical to efforts to target public funds to connect unserved and underserved communities.
- Congress directed the FCC to develop processes and procedures to collect, verify, and publish more granular data in the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act.

Broadband Data Collection: Data Flow



Broadband Data Collection: Timing

- The filing window for availability Data "as-of" June 30, 2022 ended on September 1.
- The first set of maps will be available on November 18, 2022.
- Once the first version of the maps are published, the FCC will begin to accept challenges to the broadband availability data reported by service providers.
- The BDC will be an iterative process that will continually update and improve broadband availability data.
- The next BDC filing window will begin on December 31 and end on March 1, 2023, and availability data collections will occur every six months thereafter.

Broadband Data Collection: Challenge Processes

Two distinct categories of data will populate the new broadband maps, both of which will be subject to challenge in the BDC system:

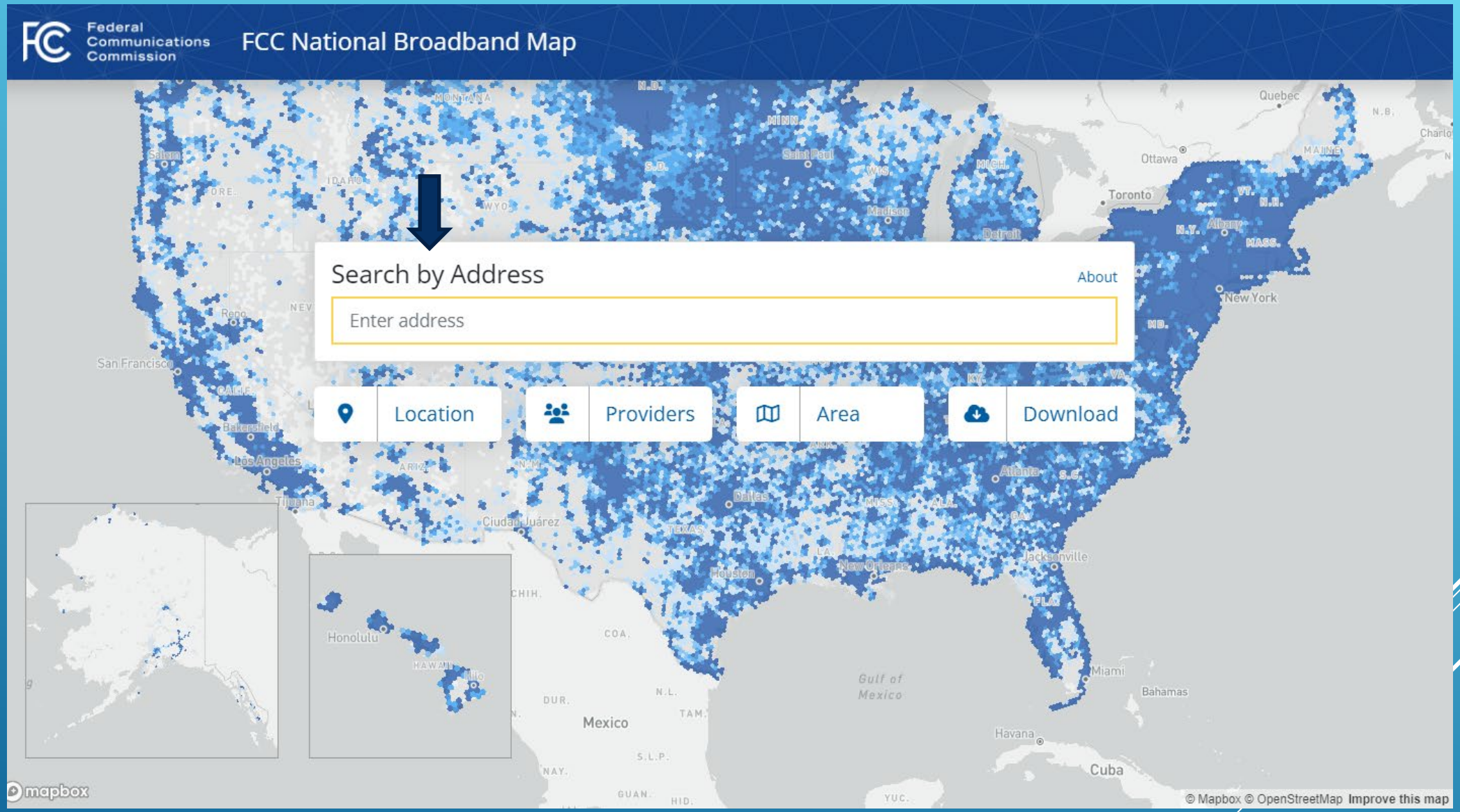
- Fabric Data
- Availability Data

Each opportunity allows for both individual and "bulk" challenges.

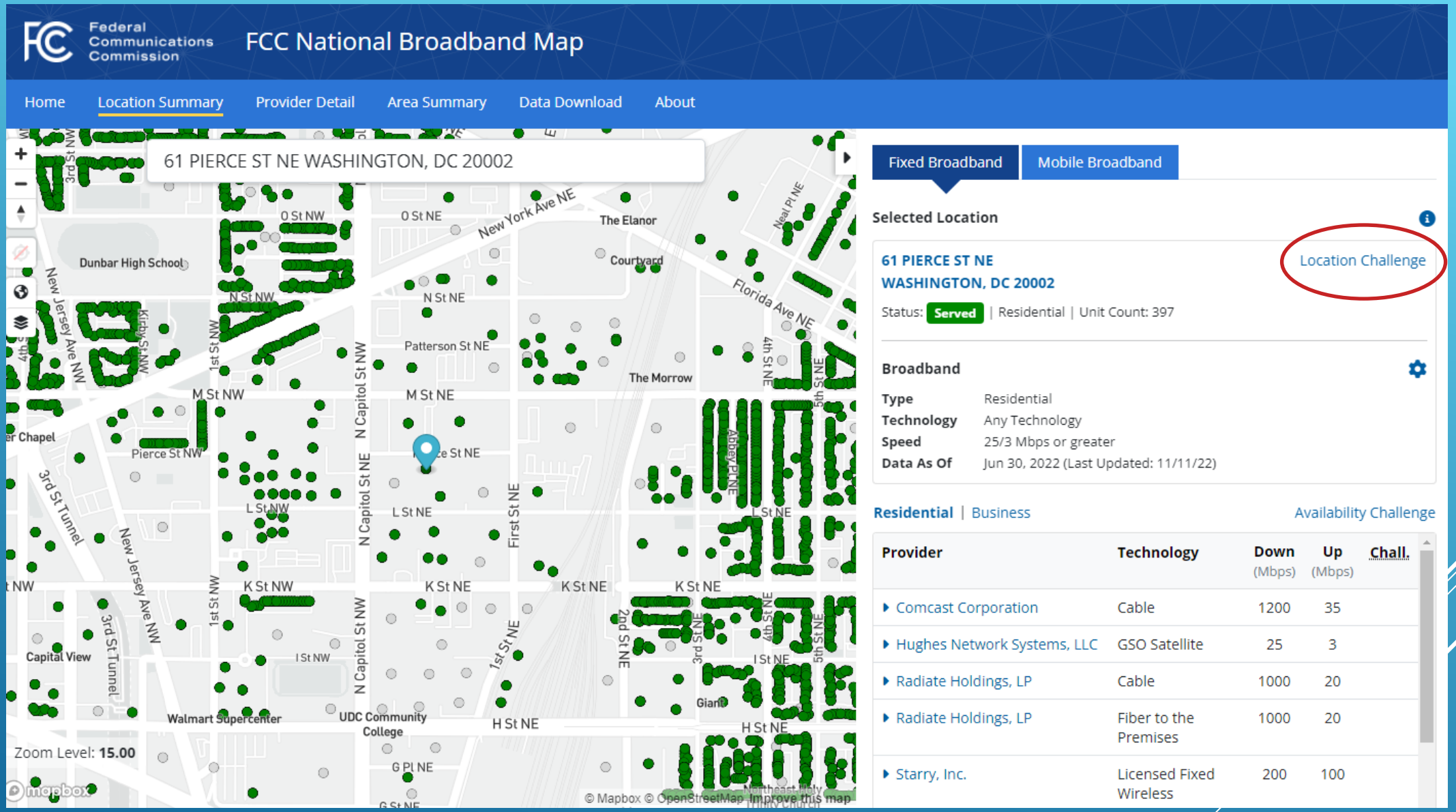
Broadband Data Collection: Fabric Challenges

Fabric challenges dispute the accuracy of the location data included in the Fabric. Types of Fabric challenges include:

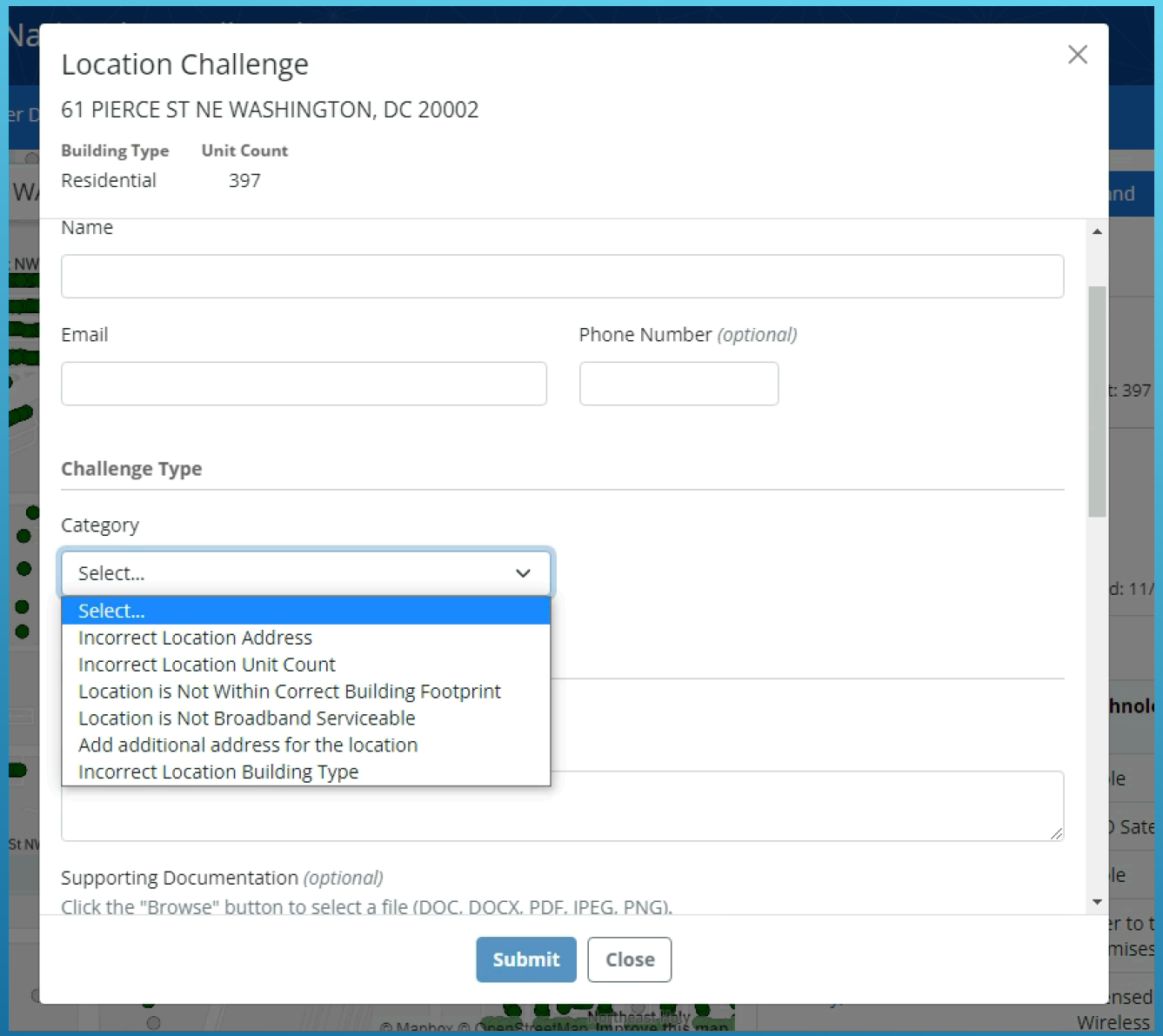
- A location that meets the Commission's definition of a Broadband Serviceable Location is not included in the Fabric;
- A location's classification as being broadband serviceable is incorrect;
- Information about a location is incorrect in the Fabric (e.g., the address or unit count for the location is incorrect); or
- The location's placement (i.e., geographic coordinates) is incorrect.



Map Homepage. Search for Address.



If the information about the location is wrong, click "Location Challenge"



Fill out the required fields and click "Submit."

Broadband Data Collection: Fixed Availability Challenges

The BDC will measure broadband *availability*, not network performance, affordability or adoption.

Service is "available" if the provider has, or previously had, a connection in service to the location, or if the provider could initiate service through a routine installation within 10 business days of a request with no extraordinary charges or delays attributable to the extension of the provider's network.

Service providers report availability by network technology and report the maximum advertised download and upload speeds associated with each such technology.

Broadband Data Collection: Fixed Availability Challenges

Codes identifying the category of or reason for a bulk fixed availability challenge:

1 – Provider Failure to Schedule Install Within 10 Days of Request for Service

2 – Provider Failure to Perform Install Within 10 Days of Request for Service

3 – Provider Demand for Connection Charges That Exceed Its Standard Installation Charge

4 – Provider Denial of Request for Service

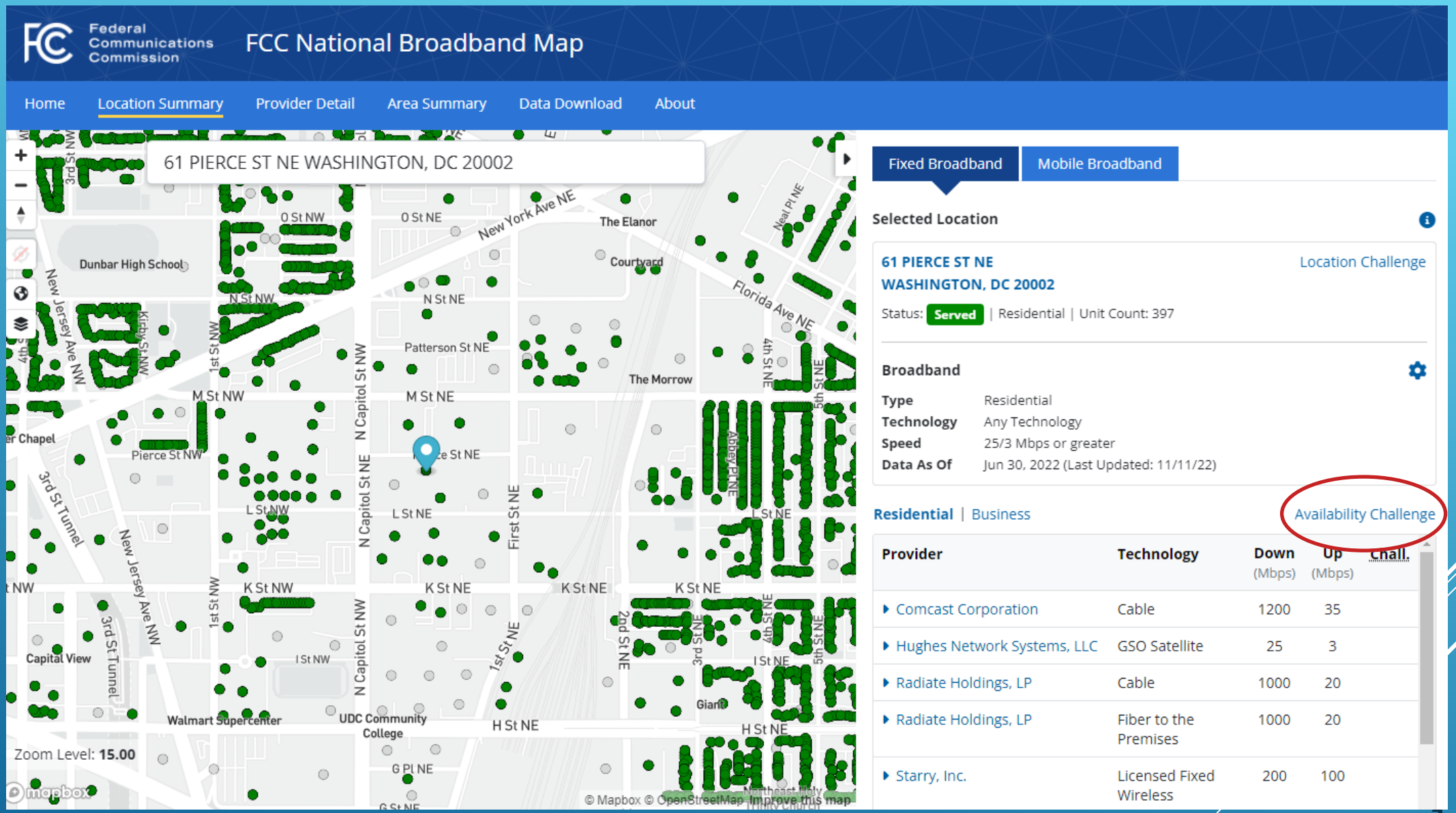
5 – Reported Service Type Not Offered

6 – Reported Speed Not Available for Purchase

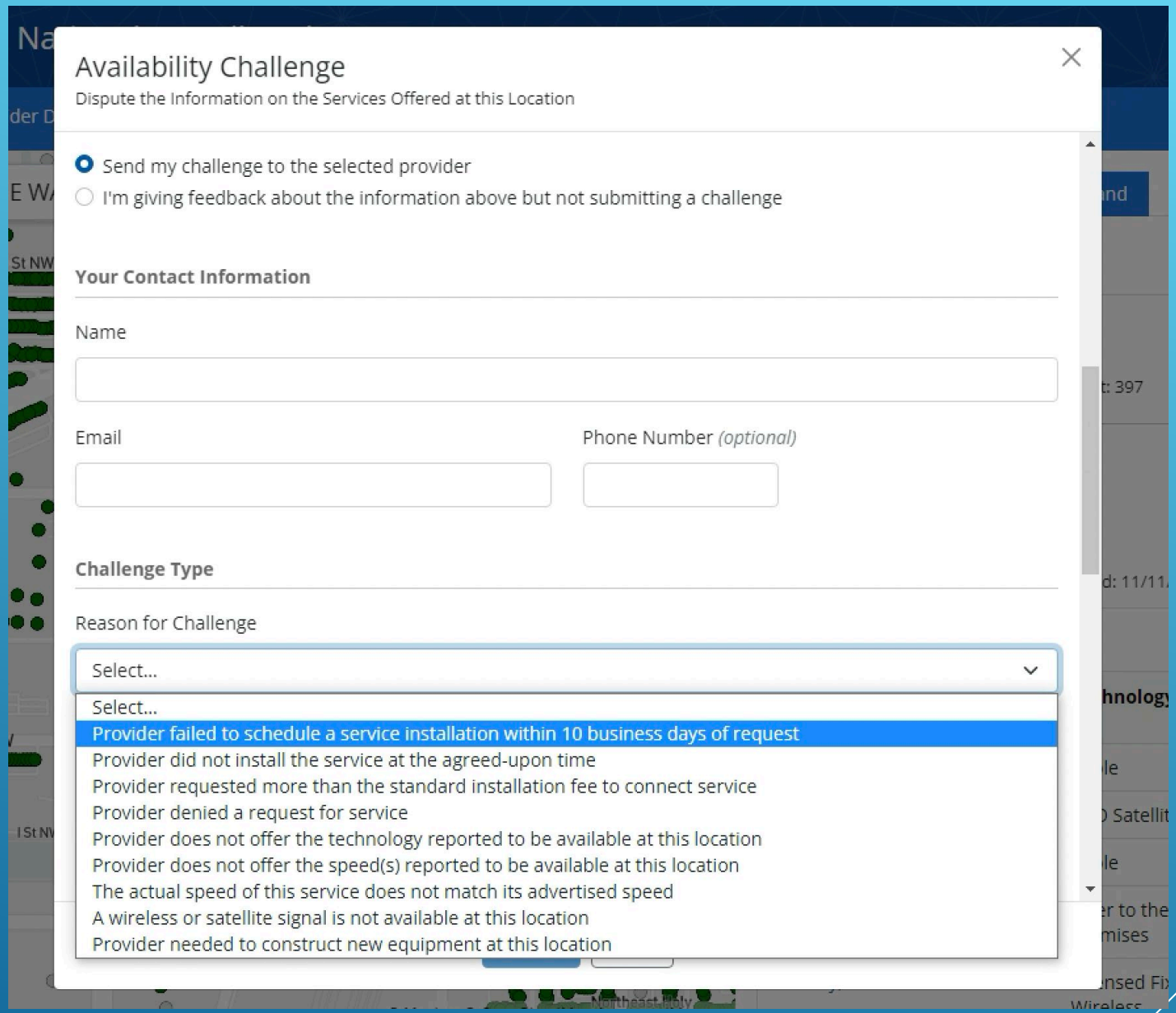
7 – Subscribed Speed Not Achievable [Individuals only can select this option (on the map), but it won't create a challenge]

8 – Signal Not Available (Satellite / Fixed Wireless only)

9 – Provider Demand for Additional Construction (Satellite / Fixed Wireless only)



If the reported service information is wrong, click "Availability Challenge"



Fill out the required information and click "Submit"

Broadband Data Collection: How to Access Fixed Availability Data

- Browse to the "Data Downloads" page on the FCC Broadband Map
- Select the state, technology and data as of date to download
- A Comma Separated Value (CSV) file will download
- The file will contain records of the locations from the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric for which any fixed service provider reported broadband availability.

Broadband Data Collection: Bulk Fixed Availability Challenges

There are three options:

1. Knowledge of Infrastructure - could be based on knowledge of where network facilities and plant exist
2. Information Collected from Individual Consumers – collecting information from individual consumers about the broadband services available, and not available, to them
3. Other

Broadband Data Collection: Knowledge of Infrastructure

Examples of information that may inform a Knowledge of Infrastructure Challenge:

- local building permit records
- rights-of-way records
- franchise agreements
- on-the-ground examination of broadband infrastructure, including trenching activity, in a particular area

Sample of CSV for knowledge of infrastructure submission

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
provider_id	brand_name	technology	location_id	data_vintage	category_code	request_date	request_method_code	evidence_description
900104	Acme Broadband	50	1357135307	2022-06-30	5	2022-09-01	1	Narrative

Broadband Data Collection: Information Collected From Consumers

- Data collected must be after June 30, 2022 (or the "as of date" for future filing rounds)
- Addresses will need to be conformed to the unique location identifiers (Location IDs) in the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric data
- Each location must have a corresponding reason code
- States (and other filers) will need to certify to their submissions

Sample of CSV for information collected from consumers and other submissions

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
contact_name	contact_email	contact_phone	provider_id	brand_name	technology	location_id	data_vintage	category_code	request_date	request_method_code	evidence_description
Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@fcc.gov	888-225-5322	900104	Acme Broadband	50	1357135307	2022-06-30	5	2022-09-01	1	Narrative

Broadband Data Collection: Crowdsource Data

- The crowdsource process is a less formal, more expansive opportunity to submit input in response to filer data, and helps to ensure that we have an inclusive approach to information gathering

- Patterns and other features of the crowdsource data could identify areas or filers that warrant further investigation or follow up, such as through informal engagement with providers or, where appropriate, audits and enforcement actions.

- Similar process for filing in the BDC system and requires similar data submissions to the bulk fixed availability challenge process

Broadband Data Collection: Mobile Availability Challenges

Challengers may dispute the availability of mobile broadband service using on-the-ground speed test data.

- **Speed test data may be submitted using the FCC's Speed Test app (or another third-party speed test app approved by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology).**
- **Alternatively, bulk availability challengers may submit speed test data collected using their own hardware and software provided it meets the requirements set forth in the FCC's mobile speed test data specification and they disclose their methodology for collecting such data.**

Broadband Data Collection: Resources

For More Information:
www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData