
Sec. 16-76. Broadband network projects.

As used in this section, "broadband network project" means any deployment of broadband services.

As used in this section, "political subdivision" means a county, municipal corporation, consolidated government, or local authority.

As used in this section, "applicant" means a person applying for a permit for a broadband network project.

As used in this section, "permit" means any local permit, license, certificate approval, registration, or similar form of approval required by policy, administrative rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution with respect to a broadband network project.

- (a) *Single point of contact.* Baldwin County, Georgia shall appoint a single point of contact for all matters related to a broadband network project:
 - (1) The single point of contact documentation shall include;
 - a. Chief building official;
 - b. Steve Owens;
 - c. Baldwin County;
 - d. Office: 478-445-4205; Cellular: 478-456-0433;
 - e. sowens@baldwincountyga.com
 - f. <https://www.baldwincountyga.com/business-services/>
 - (2) The single point of contact shall be available for matters related to a broadband network project or a related liaison who may direct such inquiry in real time, with general scope and responsibilities to include permitting and use of right-of-way; and
 - (3) The single point of contact information must be current to maintain designation, by updating with such change in contact information on web pages and associated sources, within 15 calendar days of change.
- (b) *Application completeness review.*
 - (1) Baldwin County shall determine whether an application is incomplete and notify the applicant, by email, of the determination by Baldwin County within ten calendar days of receiving an application.
 - (2) If the county does not respond to the applicant on whether the application is incomplete, within 10 calendar days, the application shall be assumed to be complete on the 11th day.
- (c) *Notification of incomplete application.*
 - (1) If the county determines that an application is not complete, the notification by email to the applicant shall specify all required components of the submitted application that were considered "incomplete";
 - (2) Baldwin County's response shall include a checklist of sequenced items that resulted in the application being deemed "incomplete" and the review timeline shall be as follows:
 - a. The applicant has up to 40 calendar days from the date of notification of incompleteness to respond back with corrections; and
 - b. If the applicant does not respond back within 40 calendar days, the application is deemed canceled.

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- (3) If within ten calendar days the county does not respond to the applicant on whether the corrected application is incomplete, the application shall be assumed to be complete on the 11th day; and
 - (4) Baldwin County shall require a new submission and reset the process and application fees, should an application be deemed incomplete a second time.
- (d) *Approval or denial notification.* If, on or before the 11th day as described in 2 (b), an application is deemed complete, the county shall approve or deny an application within ten calendar days unless a joint meeting between the applicant and the county is deemed as necessary.
- (1) If a joint meeting is deemed necessary, the joint meeting must occur within 15 calendar days of notification of completion and the joint meeting shall include:
 - a. Where applicant is going to conduct work;
 - b. When the work will be conducted;
 - c. What type of work will be done;
 - d. Who the county can contact for specific details or related questions; and
 - e. Any permit seeking approval under application.
 - f. Following a joint meeting between the applicant and Baldwin County, the county shall deny or approve the application within ten calendar days.
 - (2) Upon final approval, any required permit permitted shall be deemed issued.
- (e) *Related fees.*
- (1) Any fee imposed by the county to review an application, issue a permit, or perform any other activity related to a broadband network project shall be reasonable, cost based, and nondiscriminatory to all applicants.
 - (2) Any application fee that exceeds \$100.00 shall be considered unreasonable unless the county can provide documentation justifying such fee based on a specific cost.
- (f) *Other information.*
- (1) *Double fee:* The county shall not require an application or permit(s) when already approved by an authorized state or federal jurisdiction. Provider shall notify and provide a copy of the approved permit to the single-point-of-contact at Baldwin County prior to access of right-of-way within the county's unincorporated area.
 - (2) *Application validity timeline:* Any approved application shall be valid for six months from the date of approval. Should a provider not commence the service request qualified in the approved application within six months, the application shall expire, and it shall require a new permit approval and any associated fees, as applicable.
 - (3) *Single service drop:* The county shall not require a permit for a broadband service provider to perform an installation of broadband service at an individual customer's service address as long as the facility being utilized only transverses a deminimis portion of the public right-of-way to reach the customer's property. The provider must still comply with the provisions of Chapter 9 of Title 25 of the O.C.G.A.
- (g) *Baldwin county acknowledges:*

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- (1) A Georgia Certified Broadband Ready Community has an affirmative duty to notify the Georgia Department of Community Affairs of any changes to the information submitted as part of its application; and
 - (2) Failure to notify Georgia Department of Community Affairs of changes may result in revocation of Baldwin County's Broadband Ready Certification, should the certification be granted.
- (h) The ordinance from which this section derives shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the governing body upon final reading.

(Ord. of 1-5-2021(4))