By the Committees on Appropriations; and Commerce and Tourism; and Senator Albritton

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to broadband Internet service;
amending s. 339.0801, F.S.; authorizing certain funds
within the State Transportation Trust Fund to be used
for certain broadband infrastructure projects within
or adjacent to multiuse corridors; requiring the
Department of Transportation to give priority to
certain projects; amending s. 364.0135, F.S.; defining
terms; designating the Department of Economic
Opportunity, and not the Department of Management
Services, as the lead state entity to facilitate the
expansion of broadband Internet service in this state;
requiring the department to work collaboratively with
certain entities; creating the Florida Office of
Broadband within the Division of Community Development
within the Department of Economic Opportunity;
providing the purpose and duties of the office; making
technical changes; repealing chapter 2012-131, Laws of
Florida, relating to broadband Internet service;
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
339.0801, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
339.0801 Allocation of increased revenues derived from
amendments to s. 319.32(5)(a) by ch. 2012-128.—Funds that result
from increased revenues to the State Transportation Trust Fund
derived from the amendments to s. 319.32(5)(a) made by this act
must be used annually, first as set forth in subsection (1) and then as set forth in subsections (2)-(5), notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(2)  
(b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year and annually thereafter, $35 million shall be transferred to Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise, to be used in accordance with s. 338.2278, with preference to feeder roads, interchanges, and appurtenances that create or facilitate multiuse corridor access and connectivity. Of those funds, and to the maximum extent feasible, up to $5 million annually may be used for projects that assist in the development of broadband infrastructure within or adjacent to a multiuse corridor. The department shall give priority consideration to broadband infrastructure projects located in an area designated as a rural area of opportunity under s. 288.0656 and adjacent to a multiuse corridor.

Section 2. Section 364.0135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

364.0135 Promotion of broadband adoption; Florida Office of Broadband.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that the sustainable adoption of broadband Internet service is critical to the economic and business development of this state and is beneficial for libraries, schools, colleges and universities, health care providers, and community organizations.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Department” means the Department of Economic Opportunity.

(b) “Office” means the Florida Office of Broadband.
(c) “Sustainable adoption” means the ability for communications service providers to offer broadband services in all areas of the state by encouraging adoption and use utilization levels that allow for these services to be offered in the free market absent the need for governmental subsidy.

(d) “Underserved” means a geographic area of this state in which there is no provider of broadband Internet service that offers a connection to the Internet with a capacity for transmission at a consistent speed of at least 10 megabits per second downstream and at least 1 megabit per second upstream.

(3)(2) STATE ENTITY.—The department is designated as the lead state entity to facilitate the expansion of broadband Internet service in this state. The department shall of Management Services is authorized to work collaboratively with private businesses and to receive staffing support and other resources from Enterprise Florida, Inc., state agencies, local governments, private businesses, and community organizations.

(4) FLORIDA OFFICE OF BROADBAND.—The Florida Office of Broadband is created within the Division of Community Development within the department for the purpose of developing, marketing, and promoting broadband Internet services to this state. The office, in the performance of its duties, shall do all of the following to:

(a) Monitor the adoption of broadband Internet service in collaboration with communications service providers, including, but not limited to, wireless and wireline Internet service providers, to develop geographical information system maps at the census tract level that will:

1. Identify geographic gaps in broadband services.
including areas unserved by any broadband provider and areas
served by a single broadband provider;

2. Identify the download and upload transmission speeds
made available to businesses and individuals in the state, at
the census tract level of detail, using data rate benchmarks for
broadband service used by the Federal Communications Commission
to reflect different speed tiers; and

3. Provide a baseline assessment of statewide broadband
deployment in terms of percentage of households with broadband
availability.

(b) Create a strategic plan that has goals and strategies
for increasing the use of broadband Internet service in this the
state. The plan must include a process to review and verify
public input regarding transmission speeds and availability of
broadband Internet service throughout the state.

(b)(c) Build and facilitate local technology planning teams
or partnerships with members representing cross-sections of the
community, which may include, but are not limited to,
representatives from the following organizations and industries:
libraries, K-12 education, colleges and universities, local
health care providers, private businesses, community
organizations, economic development organizations, local
governments, tourism, parks and recreation, and agriculture.

(c)(d) Encourage the use of broadband Internet service,
especially in the rural, unserved, or and underserved
communities of this the state through grant programs having
effective strategies to facilitate the statewide deployment of
broadband Internet service. For any grants to be awarded,
priority must be given to projects that:
1. Provide access to broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to libraries, schools, colleges and universities, health care providers, and community support organizations.

2. Encourage the sustainable adoption of broadband in primarily unserved and underserved areas by removing barriers to entry.

3. Work toward encouraging investments in establishing affordable and sustainable broadband Internet service in unserved and underserved areas of this the state.

4. Facilitate the development of applications, programs, and services, including, but not limited to, telework, telemedicine, and e-learning to increase the usage of, and demand for, broadband Internet service in this the state.

(d) Monitor, participate in, and provide input on proceedings of the Federal Communications Commission and other federal agencies which are related to the geographic availability and deployment of broadband Internet service in this state as necessary to ensure that the information is accurately presented and that rural, unserved, and underserved areas of this state are best positioned to benefit from federal and state broadband deployment programs.

(5)(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The department may:

(a) Apply for and accept federal funds for purposes of this section, as well as gifts and donations from individuals, foundations, and private organizations.

(b)(4) The department may Enter into contracts necessary or useful to carry out the purposes of this section.

(c)(5) The department may Establish any committee or
workgroup to administer and carry out the purposes of this section.

Section 3. Chapter 2012-131, Laws of Florida, is repealed.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.