

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4105

December 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As you know, Congress has allocated billions of dollars to expand fixed and mobile broadband services. The deployment of these services can be unnecessarily burdensome and lengthy with multiple series of approvals. In an effort to boost the development and deployment of next-generation broadband services, I authored the MOBILE NOW Act, which was signed into law in 2018.

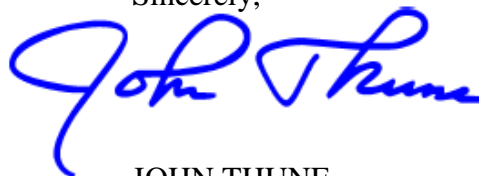
In MOBILE NOW, Congress instructed the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a process for state departments of transportation and broadband providers to coordinate excavations to ease the installation of broadband infrastructure alongside federally-funded highway construction projects, often referred to as “Dig Once.”

With billions of dollars set to be disbursed to deploy broadband services, it is imperative that federal agencies do not hinder the deployment of this infrastructure. Therefore, I write today to seek additional information about DOT’s implementation of MOBILE NOW. Please provide responses to the following questions no later than Friday, January 13, 2023:

- 1) Has DOT implemented Section 607 of MOBILE NOW? If yes, please provide a status report on its implementation. If no, what is the reason for it not being implemented?
- 2) Has each state adopted the “Dig Once” process as called for by Section 607 of MOBILE NOW? If not, what states have not adopted “Dig Once” policies?

Thank you for your attention this important issue. I look forward to learning what progress has been made and your input regarding any additional actions that may be necessary to promote the deployment of broadband infrastructure.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator