



Study ranks mobile broadband coverage by state

According to CostQuest Associates, an initial investment of at least \$22 billion is necessary to cover all roads with wireless broadband access

- ***Washington, D.C., New Jersey and Rhode Island among the most widely covered states***
- ***Alaska, Montana, Wyoming among the least covered states***

PORTLAND, Ore. – July 21, 2008. The nation’s capital stands out as the area of the U.S. most covered by mobile wireless broadband service, according to a study conducted by CostQuest Associates and commissioned by CTIA – the Wireless Association®.

“Mobile broadband access is increasingly viewed as an important economic development issue,” said CostQuest president James Stegeman. “States are recognizing that ubiquitous coverage is increasingly seen as a market differentiator in attracting businesses, population, and capital investment and it seems to be an important part of their economic development portfolio.”

“When you analyze the data at a very detailed level, you can see it will take time, significant up-front capital and ongoing investment to get full road coverage. It stands to reason that the smallest, most densely populated states or regions are fairing the best.”

The top five U.S. states with the most extensive wireless broadband coverage by percentage of road miles covered are:

Washington, D.C.	100%
New Jersey	99%
Rhode Island	99% (tied)
Delaware	98%
Connecticut	97%
South Carolina	97% (tied)

Conversely, the states with the sparsest mobile wireless broadband coverage are:

Alaska	13%
Montana	18%
Wyoming	20%
West Virginia	23%
Nevada	24%
Oregon	26%

In the study, CostQuest measured the number of road miles in the United States covered and uncovered by wireless broadband services, and what it would cost to provide 100% “ubiquitous mobile broadband” coverage. The findings indicate it would take at least \$22 billion of upfront capital to cover the millions of road miles not currently served by mobile broadband service.

CostQuest conducted the study over three months, using publicly available coverage and tower data combined with geospatial analysis. In addition, the company addressed issues such as mobile broadband coverage, road and population density, as well as the location of existing infrastructure and estimated build-out costs. However, this initial study did not look at the ongoing cost to maintain and support this ubiquitous deployment.

A complete table, including the rankings of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, is attached. A map of the country, identifying the necessary investment in each state, is also attached.

A complete summary of the study is available at www.CostQuest.com.

About CostQuest Associates

CostQuest Associates has over a decade of experience as a leader in providing information systems, economic analytics and services that deliver comprehensive solutions to complicated business challenges. CostQuest has a global knowledge of costs, business functions, network modeling, telecommunications, economics, regulation and applying the right data to make accurate business decisions. The company’s new service, **CQconnect™**, provides carriers and policy-makers the ability to move from analysis to action, providing appropriate applications to make broadband deployment decisions. CostQuest Associates has offices in Cincinnati, Ohio and Bellevue, Washington. For more information please visit www.CostQuest.com

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