



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Digital Right of Way Policy
2022

Glossary of Key Terms

BRI	-	Belt and Road Initiative
CAREC	-	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CPEC	-	China Pakistan Economic Corridor
EDBI	-	Ease of Doing Business Index
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
EGDI	-	E-Government Development Index
G2C	-	Government to Citizen
G2B	-	Government to Business
G2G	-	Government to Government
GON	-	Government Owned Network
HCI	-	Human Capital Index
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
IEE	-	Initial Environmental Examination
ITU	-	International Telecommunication Union
KP ITB	-	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board
KP BOIT	-	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade
KP BOS	-	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bureau of Statistics
KP SDS	-	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sustainable Development Strategy
KP SEZA	-	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Special Economic Zones Authority
MNE	-	Multinational Enterprise
PBS	-	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PPP	-	Public Private Partnership
RoW	-	Right of Way
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
ST&IT	-	Science and Technology & Information Technology
TII	-	Telecom Infrastructure Index

Definitions

“Private Authority Right of Way” means the right of ways which is owned, managed, maintained or repaired by anyone other than a public authority or a government entity

“Public Authority Right of Way” means the right of ways which is owned, managed, maintained or repaired by a government and/or an autonomous entity.

“Right of Way” means a right belonging to any private natural or legal person, or a public authority to pass over land or property of other person to provide telecom license/services

“Province” means the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

All other words and expressions used but not defined in this policy shall have the same meaning as assigned there to in Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 (XVII of II 1996), rules and regulations made thereunder and Public & Private Right of Way Policy Directive approved by the Federal Cabinet under Section 27A read with Section 8 of Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation) Act, 1996 and issued vide SRO No. 1474(I)/2020 by the Federal Ministry of IT & Telecommunications.

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Executive Summary

The increase in penetration of optical fiber connectivity can play an important role in the economic uplift of communities by provision of quality internet connectivity. Quality connectivity enables a multitude of opportunities for the masses in terms of awareness, access to a wealth of information, learn from online platforms, avail upskilling and educational opportunities etc. Those who are already skilled in areas that are in demand in the market can earn from the various online freelancing platforms. Through the freelance platforms, not only can we earn foreign exchange, but the skilled youth can earn reasonable income for themselves and their families. Through online work, the participation of women in our workforce can be increased if they are provided the necessary skills so that they may conveniently work from home and have a decent income, leading to a reduction in the gender pay gap. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), low internet access can drive inequality among countries and access to high-speed internet is crucial for socio-economic inclusion¹. The policy inputs for the digital development agenda of the World Bank suggest that internet access can drive economic development through its impacts on both the supply and demand side².

Recently, throughout the world, during the pandemic, it was observed that to remain in contact and for business continuity, reliance was made on adoption of various technology related platforms, primarily video conferencing and collaboration tools. In Pakistan, the higher education sector and the private schools could continue to deliver education to students in areas where connectivity was available. However, students hailing from areas which were unserved (no connectivity available) or underserved (poor quality of connectivity and service), were at a disadvantage because they could not avail the opportunity of remote learning. Furthermore, video conferencing and team collaboration tools require a comparatively higher bandwidth compared to other services online such as browsing web pages or communicating on social media platforms, thereby necessitating to have good quality connectivity and bandwidth. During the COVID pandemic, the remote work option became widespread which made it possible for many companies to look for talent from throughout the world hence an increasing trend in the remote work opportunities. With the lack of good quality connectivity, many skilled people in Pakistan may not be able to avail the remote work opportunities.

Keeping in view the context, availability of good quality connectivity can become a fundamental enabler to unlock many economic opportunities and focus needs to be made on quality, coverage, and affordability. A report from Deloitte which describes the value of connectivity in social and economic terms is included in **Appendix A**. An important aspect that has an impact on these parameters is the Right of Way (RoW) issue which causes not only delays but also increases the cost of overall fiber deployment. There is no uniform mechanism for issuing No Objection Certificates (NoCs) and determination of fees by concerned government agencies at the provincial level. At the federal level, the “*Public and Private Right of Way Policy Directive (PP RoW)*” was issued in October 2020 (**Appendix B**) which covers important aspects such as one window operation, fee determination, dispute resolution, and establishment of common utility corridors. Keeping in view the guidelines provided in Federal PP RoW Directive and considering some best practices to facilitate the process of provision of RoW, the provincial RoW Policy is developed which helps to provide a uniform framework for the concerned provincial government departments to adopt, and hence result in the expansion of fiber connectivity throughout the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

¹ Low Internet Access Driving Inequality – International Monetary Fund (IMF)
<https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2020/06/29/low-internet-access-driving-inequality>

² Can internet access lead to improved economic outcomes? – World Bank
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/digital-development/can-internet-access-lead-improved-economic-outcomes>

1. The Need for a Provincial Right of Way Policy

At present, the internet penetration in Pakistan is 36.5% which is mostly due to the access to mobile broadband with the average fixed broadband penetration being less than 2%. In comparison, the internet penetration in Bangladesh is 71.37% with average fixed broadband penetration of 5.81% which has unlocked many economic opportunities for it including fast tracking its journey to become a global freelancing hub. Its annual revenue from freelancing alone is almost \$500 million USD. With lower values of Telecom Infrastructure Index (TII) and Human Capital Index (HCI), Pakistan ranks lower in the United Nations E-Governance index (EGDI) which makes it imperative to focus on improving the tele density and investing in human development. According to the digital development data of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in 2022, 75% of people aged between 15 and 24 used the Internet worldwide which was 10 percentage points more than the rest of the population (65 per cent). This shows that the youth is more inclined to use the internet, provided it is available, compared to the rest of the population. With the growing trend in the global information technology market i.e., from \$8,384.32 billion in 2021 to \$9,325.69 billion in 2022 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.2%, considering the availability of good quality internet to be a fundamental enabler of digitalization, and the presence of our youth bulge (64% of population under the age of 30), we can harness the potential of this demographic dividend if we invest in and facilitate the increase in fixed broadband penetration in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Good quality connectivity will also enable us to utilize various applications that reside in the cloud.

2. Vision

“Expand the digital economy of the province to improve its socioeconomic indicators and reduce the digital and information divide through facilitating the expansion of fiber connectivity and provision of quality broadband throughout the province”

3. Policy Scope

- This Policy applies to the whole of the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- The policy scope is to supplement the Public and Private Right of Way Policy Directive of the Federal Government and includes facilitation of RoW, auxiliary matters including fee determination, dispute resolution, sharing of RoW, one window operation, facilitating public private partnerships, national security related matters concerning RoW with defense and military agencies, dig once mechanism, and removal or alternation of RoW.
- Ownership of the policy will be of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

4. Policy Objectives

4.1. Direct

- i. Encourage and facilitate the expansion of fiber optic connectivity in the province;
- ii. Reduce the overall cost of deployment of fiber optic connectivity;
- iii. Provision of a mechanism for laying of conduits in infrastructure works and projects;
- iv. Encourage the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for expansion of fiber optic connectivity;
- v. Fast track the process of provision of RoW;
- vi. Provide an enabling environment to improve the existing fixed broadband infrastructure in terms of coverage and quality of service;
- vii. Resolve the issues of operators (licensees) in terms of fee determination and dispute resolution;
- viii. Provide a mechanism for one window operation;
- ix. Reduce the digital and information divide.

4.2. Indirect

- i. Enable provision of quality content and upskilling opportunities for the public, especially the youth of the province;
- ii. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce;
- iii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises;
- iv. Help to accelerate the process of digitalization in the province;
- v. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities.

5. Policy Framework and Recommendations

5.1. Legal Framework

This Policy will operate within the framework of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996, with its associated rules and regulations, and the Public & Private Right of Way Policy Directive (SRO No. 1474(I)/2020), approved by the Federal Cabinet under Section 27A read with Section 8 of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996.

5.2. Fee Determination

- 5.2.1. All licensees must pay a Right of Way (ROW) fee for the use of public or private land to install their network infrastructure. This fee, established in accordance with Section 27-A of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996, will ensure consistent application across the province.
- 5.2.2. The ROW fee will be determined on a "no profit, no loss" basis, covering the direct costs associated with processing applications, surveying, route marking, drawing preparation, approval issuance, quality control during construction, restoration by licensees, office maintenance, field record keeping, and other related expenses incurred before, during, and after infrastructure installation.
- 5.2.3. Land cost will be excluded from the fee as licensees install underground networks within designated service corridors of roads and streets, and this land cannot be used by public or private authorities for commercial purposes.
- 5.2.4. The public or private authority can annually adjust the ROW fee at a reasonable rate, not exceeding the percentage increase in their operational and maintenance costs, benchmarked against salary and wage increments for their staff.
- 5.2.5. The ROW fee applies equally to all licensees, regardless of type (including other utility service providers) or ownership (whether fully or partially owned by the Provincial Government or public/private authorities). No discriminatory or preferential treatment will be given in fee determination.
- 5.2.6. Unlike general taxes, the ROW fee constitutes a "quid pro quo" – a charge for services rendered. The fee amount directly reflects the extent of services provided by the public authority to the licensee. Therefore, granting permission for ROW usage will not serve as a means for commercial gain, taxation, or revenue generation.
- 5.2.7. A uniform rate for grant of NoC for right of way will be determined on per meter basis for all of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which, preferably, may be charged one off. For the public authorities, the rate will be Rs. 5/meter which may be revised from time to time.
- 5.2.8. The cost of civil works related to laying down the fiber will be made commensurate with the prevailing rates of Market Rate System as per the latest notification from the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from time to time.
- 5.2.9. The public or private authority will follow a transparent and documented process for assessing and collecting ROW fees. Licensees have the right to appeal the fee determination within a specified timeframe through a clearly defined mechanism.

5.3. Dispute Resolution

- 5.3.1. If a dispute arises between the owner of public or private right of way and a licensee regarding the provision, fee, or conditions of a right of way, the licensee can submit a complaint to the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) established in Section 8 of this policy.
- 5.3.2. The complaint must be submitted within the timeframe specified in the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 (Section 27A (6)).
- 5.3.3. The DRC will consider and decide all complaints within sixty days of submission. Its decision will be final and binding.
- 5.3.4. The DRC has the powers of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, to:
 - a. Summon and enforce the attendance of relevant officials from public or private authorities for testimony.
 - b. Require public and private bodies to produce documents related to internal costings for fee determination.
 - c. Order a public or private authority to set a specific fee and impose reasonable conditions on the licensee.
 - d. Impose daily fines (up to Rs. 25,000) on officials who willfully obstruct required activities, including delaying dispute proceedings.
 - e. Require public or private authorities to address systematic failures to comply with the Act, such as establishing a dedicated right-of-way facilitation desk.
 - f. Order a public or private authority to accept the DRC's determined fee or take other reasonable measures to facilitate the licensee if they fail to comply with the Act.
- 5.3.5. If the owner of a right of way doesn't respond to a request for permission within 30 days {as per Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996, Section 27A(2)}, the DRC can enforce the grant of right of way to the licensee.
- 5.3.6. A DRC decision can be appealed within 30 days to the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Peshawar. Failure to respect the decision will be treated as contempt of court.
- 5.3.7. The DRC shall decide the right of way disputes in line with provisions of:
 - a. This Policy;
 - b. Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation) Act, 1996 (XVII of II 1996),
 - c. Public & Private Right of Way Policy Directive approved by the Federal Cabinet under Section 27A read with Section 8 of Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation) Act, 1996 and issued vide SRO No. 1474(I)/2020 by the Federal Ministry of IT & Telecommunications.
 - d. The Telegraph Act, 1885

5.4. One Window Operation

To fast track the process of granting NoCs of RoW to prospective Telecommunications Licensees, a one window operation mechanism will be developed within 60 days of approval of this policy. The mechanism may make use of a one window digital platform for all the concerned Public Authorities to receive an application for NoC and process the application.

5.5. Facilitating Public Private Partnerships

For expansion of fiber connectivity in areas where the business cases for the private sector operators is not viable, Public Private Partnerships (PPP) as per the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Private Partnership Act 2020 may be encouraged wherein the private sector telecommunication service providers can execute projects pertaining to the expansion of fiber optic connectivity in the province in partnership with concerned government agencies.

5.6. Dig Once Mechanism

- 5.6.1. All public/private housing societies will be granted an NoC subject to provision of common utility corridors at the time of construction, by the appropriate government agency.
- 5.6.2. At the time of approval of construction projects by the provincial government regarding roads, housing or other related establishments, it will be ensured to include the provision of common utility corridors in the PC1 of such projects.
- 5.6.3. In case of NoC related matters pertaining to the provision of optical fiber connectivity in existing establishments, the due process of the concerned authorities shall be followed while the fee shall be determined as laid out in sections 5 and 9.

5.7. National Security

If the RoW is in an area where there are strategic military installations, then the guidelines provided in the Federal Public & Private Right of Way Policy Directive shall be followed.


5.8. Alteration or Removal of Right of Way

In case a need arises that may lead to alteration or removal of RoW for cogent reasons, the recommendations of Federal Public & Private Right of Way Policy Directive shall be followed.


6. Alignment of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right of Way Policy 2022



6.1. Global Context


To show the relevance of revised RoW policy objectives in a global context, their connection is shown with Sustainable Development Goals³ (SDG) and the pertinent SDG targets under those goals.


Policy Objectives	SDG Goals	SDG Targets
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Encourage and facilitate the expansion of fiber optic connectivity in the province. ii. Reduce the overall cost of deployment of fiber optic connectivity. iii. Provision of a mechanism for laying of conduits in infrastructure works and projects. iv. Encourage the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for expansion of fiber optic connectivity. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all ▪ Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

³ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>)

<p>v. Provide an enabling environment to improve the existing fixed broadband infrastructure in terms of coverage and quality of service.</p>		
<p>i. Reduce the digital and information divide. ii. Help to accelerate the process of digitalization in the province.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support domestic technology development, research, and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
<p>i. Reduce the digital and information divide. ii. Help to accelerate the process of digitalization in the province. iii. Provide an enabling environment to improve the existing fixed broadband infrastructure in terms of coverage and quality of service.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020
<p>i. Reduce the digital and information divide. ii. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university
<p>i. Enable provision of quality content and upskilling opportunities for the public, especially the youth of the province. ii. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce. iii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
<p>i. Reduce the digital and information divide.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Enable provision of quality content and upskilling opportunities for the public, especially the youth of the province. iii. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities. 		<p>persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reduce the digital and information divide. ii. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce. iii. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce. ii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce. ii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

<p>iii. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities.</p>		
<p>i. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce. ii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises. iii. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
<p>i. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce. ii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises. iii. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
<p>i. Reduce the digital and information divide. ii. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce. iii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

<p>iv. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities.</p>		
<p>i. Enable provision of quality content and upskilling opportunities for the public, especially the youth of the province</p> <p>ii. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce.</p> <p>iii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises.</p> <p>iv. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training
<p>i. Encourage the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for expansion of fiber optic connectivity</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

6.2. Regional Context

To promote regional cohesiveness, trade and integration between the Central Asian countries leading to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program was started. It consists of 11 countries including Pakistan and has mobilized US\$ 34.5 Billion to lay the groundwork for economic corridor development⁴. Central Asian markets have immense potential and if products and goods produced in Pakistan are marketed properly and strategically, exports can be increased significantly when directed to those markets. Therefore, in the regional context, the RoW Policy 2022 objectives are mapped with the key themes of the CAREC strategic framework 2020 and 2030.

⁴ Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program (https://www.carecprogram.org/?page_id=31)

S. No.	CAREC Strategy 2020 & 2030	KP Right of Way Policy 2022
1	Economic and Financial Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the overall cost of deployment of fiber optic connectivity ▪ Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce ▪ Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises ▪ Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities
2	Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the digital and information divide ▪ Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce ▪ Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises ▪ Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities
3	Infrastructure and Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage and facilitate the expansion of fiber optic connectivity in the province ▪ Provision of a mechanism for laying of conduits in infrastructure works and projects ▪ Provide an enabling environment to improve the existing fixed broadband infrastructure in terms of coverage and quality of service
4	Human Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enable provision of quality content and upskilling opportunities for the public, especially the youth of the province ▪ Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce ▪ Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises ▪ Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities

6.3. Local Context

In a local context, the policy pillars are linked with the proposed objectives in the Digital Policy 2018 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

<p style="text-align: center;">RoW Policy Objectives</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Digital Policy 2018 Objectives</p>
<p>Direct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Encourage and facilitate the expansion of fiber optic connectivity in the province ii. Reduce the overall cost of deployment of fiber optic connectivity iii. Provision of a mechanism for laying of conduits in infrastructure works and projects iv. Encourage the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for expansion of fiber optic connectivity v. Fast track the process of provision of RoW vi. Provide an enabling environment to improve the existing fixed broadband infrastructure in terms of coverage and quality of service vii. Resolve the issues of operators (licensees) in terms of fee determination and dispute resolution viii. Provide a mechanism for one window operation ix. Reduce the digital and information divide <p>Indirect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Enable provision of quality content and upskilling opportunities for the public, especially the youth of the province ii. Facilitate the process of creation of a competitive digital workforce. iii. Help to expand the digital economy through the inclusion of more freelancers and digital enterprises. iv. Help to accelerate the process of digitalization in the province v. Provide opportunities to marginalized communities to reduce income inequalities and improve socio-economic indicators while increasing employment opportunities 	<p>Digital Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Affordable internet with improved quality of connectivity and footprint ii. Reduced cost of deployment of optical fiber networks iii. Infrastructure works and projects shall have a provision for broadband conduit deployment to reduce the cost of fiber deployment. iv. Phase-wise transformation of broadband services from copper-based networks to optical fiber networks will be implemented to improve the quality of service at an affordable price. v. Use of technology in various sectors, especially health, education and agriculture; to connect remote areas and populations to developed areas will be promoted. vi. Investment in digital access projects through public-private partnerships will be encouraged. <p>Digital Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii. All government departments demonstrate improved and measurable transparency, accountability and innovation viii. Digital technologies will be introduced into government services to improve efficiency, transparency, and transaction costs. <p>Digital Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ix. Improved digital literacy and skills, especially through formal education and vocational training x. The use of technology in primary, secondary and tertiary education; as well as technical and vocational education and training will be increased to improve learning outcomes. xi. Demand-driven digital skills will be taught at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels to prepare our youth for the future.

	<p>Digital Economy</p> <p>xii. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa produces successful technology innovators, startups and digital freelancers</p> <p>xiii. Enabling and expanding e-commerce/online marketplaces</p> <p>Other</p> <p>xiv. Local small and medium ICT enterprises and startups grow in revenue and numbers, creating jobs and developing a digital workforce</p> <p>xv. Better opportunities, access and services for women, youth and marginalized groups.</p> <p>xvi. Number of women in the technology sector increases by 50%</p> <p>xvii. More effective and impactful public-private partnerships</p>
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7. Coordination and Implementation

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will notify a Coordination and Implementation Committee responsible for the following:

- To oversee the departmental level coordination as well as coordination among various key stakeholders to ensure that the objectives of this policy are achieved.
- The committee shall assess the implementation status of the policy and present report(s) to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on bi-annually basis or whenever the need arises or in case of any non-compliances observed, by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- The Committee may also put any recommendations to include/ amend/ delete the provisions of the policy from time to time after reviewing the same in view of expansion of fiber optic connectivity in the province.

8. Dispute Resolution Committee

The Science and Technology & IT Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will constitute a Dispute Resolution Committee to address any dispute arising between the licensees and the owners and shall be responsible for the following:

- Investigate and resolve all disputes that may arise over fee or any other issue pertaining to the RoW.
- To address the disputes in accordance with the provision of **Section 5.3** of this policy.
- The Committee may constitute any panel or assign any responsibility to any person in totality or on case-to-case basis to assist in the purpose of dispute resolution.
- The Committee may also put any recommendations to include/ amend/ delete the provisions of the policy from time to time after reviewing the same in view of expansion of fiber optic connectivity in the province.

9. Fee Determination Committee(s)

Every Public and Private Authority may constitute a Fee Determination Committee:

- To determine fee for the right of way in accordance with the provision of **Section 5.2** of this policy.
- The Committee may constitute any panel or assign any responsibility to any person in totality or case to case basis to assist in the purpose of fee determination.

- In the case of any dispute over fee determination, the Committee shall refer the matter to the DRC.

10. Environmental Compliances

Environmental Protection Act 2014 was passed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly with the provision for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and improvement of the environmental monitoring, prevention and control of pollution.

Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, through EPA will oversee that EIA and IEE are being complied to, in order to ensure that the requirements of Pakistan Environmental Legislation and National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) are being strictly followed while implementing the KP RoW Policy 2022.

List of Appendices

- A. Public and Private Right of Way Policy Directive 2021
- B. Report – Value of Connectivity

Schedule(s)

Schedule 1: Composition of Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)

Schedule I

In compliance with Sections 5 and 8 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right of Way Policy 2022, the Dispute Resolution Committee shall comprise of the following:

- i. Secretary Science and Technology & IT (Chairman)
- ii. Secretary Communication and Works Department
- iii. Secretary Irrigation Department
- iv. Secretary Local Government Department
- v. Secretary Law Department
- vi. Representative from Chamber of Commerce and Trade
- vii. Representative(s) of the concerned Department
- viii. Two (02) Representatives from Telcos
- ix. Two (02) co-opted members (if required)

Terms of Reference

The Committee will exercise its functions and authority under the legal framework of this policy.