

Don Shirley is the executive director of Connected Texas, where he leads the initiative's continuing statewide effort. Under the guidance of the Texas Department of Agriculture, Shirley oversees the management and administrative aspects of the initiative, as well as supports the design and implementation of a statewide broadband deployment strategy. The plan includes partners from both the public and private sectors, all working together on local and regional technology planning, technical assistance, and ultimately, increased broadband adoption and digital literacy in all corners of the state.

Shirley was previously a field operations manager and executive director of the Connect Ohio program. Prior to joining Connect Ohio, Shirley served as director of strategic alliances for Spinvox, a London-based technology solution provider; served as director of product marketing and next generation services for Powernet Global Communications; and was senior product manager, business marketing, for Cincinnati Bell. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business administration from The Citadel in Charleston, SC.