Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Tuesday, December 16, 2014
10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.
Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Amie Parker, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Jessie Pechmann, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
John Harvey, Utah Public Service Commission
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation
Shirlee Silversmith, Utah Division of Indian Affairs
Bill Duncan, Utah Division of Public Utilities
Debra Meyer, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Jason Morgan, Integra
Steve Taylor, All West Communications
Lindsay Clark, EDCUtah
Lynn Beecher, Skywire Fiber
Denise Tully, Level 3 Communications
Brock Johansen, Emery Telcom
Michael Merrill, Salt Lake Chamber
Drew Clark, Kirton McConkie
Tara Thue, AT&T

Whitney Reid, AT&T
Scott Bartlett, SITLA
Gary Bagley, SITLA
Michael Lane, Sprint
Darrin Algaier, Direct Communications
Ryan Marriot, Americom Technology
Chief Chris Burbank, Salt Lake City Police Department
Michael Lane, Sprint
Chari Chambers, Zayo
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Melinda Brereton, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Sabrina Scott, Utah Education and Telehealth Network (called-in)
Willis Kenner, Comcast (called-in)
Brad Smeath, Comcast (called-in)
Eric Isom, CenturyLink (called-in)
Jacob Barlow, CenturyLink (called-in)
Sara Nunn, Digis (called-in)

Jessie Pechmann, with the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) gave the Advisory Council an overview of the November 2014 and December 2014 Maps of the Month. The November 2014 Map of the Month organized Utah's broadband coverage, speed and technology data statistics from semi-annual data collections done by the Utah Broadband Project from Fall 2011 to Spring of 2014. The December 2014 Map of the Month was an update of the October 2013 Map of the Month which mapped the increase in maximum advertised download speeds per populated place over the course of the project.

Scott Bartlett with the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) gave an overview of SITLA, which is an organization that works to generate revenue from Utah's trust lands to build and grow the perpetual endowments for state institutions. Bartlett, who is SITLA's easement specialist, also gave an overview of SITLA's easement process and application procedures. SITLA oversees easements across trust lands for power lines, pipelines, roadways, communication lines and other linear facilities. New easements are typically issued for a maximum term of 30 years. All new easements require a surveyed legal description produced by a licensed land surveyor. The typical processing time for new easement applications is 90 days. This process depends heavily on the completeness of the application and the responsiveness of the applicant when additional information or surveys are requested.

Gary Bagley, with SITLA, gave the Advisory Council an overview of telecommunication leases on trust lands throughout Utah. SITLA leases land for communications needs throughout the state. Most telecommunications customers have likely communicated with others and received information through towers and facilities located on Utah's trust lands. SITLA has many communications site leases located throughout Utah and is open to inquires about obtaining a lease, or the potential of co-locating on an existing site.

Dennis Sampson, with the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) updated the Advisory Council on UETN's 2015 budget that was recently released in the Governor's 2015 budget. UETN received $4.5 million for ongoing and $6.2 million one-time funding for equipment updates and replacements in the budget. UETN is also working with legislators on legislation supporting technology in the classroom for the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session. UETN also received a $469,300 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program. UETN plans to use this funding to connect 15,875 Utah students in 46 rural schools and communities to distance learning services.

Sabrina Scott, with UETN gave the Advisory Council an overview of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) update to the E-Rate program Order. This new Order modifies the definition of rural, so that a school or library located in an area with a population of less than 25,000 will be considered rural to ensure E-Rate funding in those much needed areas. The Order also approved a $1.5 billion funding increase for its E-Rate program, which will lift the overall spending cap.

Debra Meyer, with USDA, announced USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) agency who seeking public comments regarding the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the development of a more efficient and effective environmental review process for the RUS Telecommunications Program. Comments are due January 27, 2015 and more information about what type of comments USDA is looking for can be found on the Utah Broadband Project's website.

Kelleigh Cole, with the Utah Broadband Project gave an update on the project. The Utah Broadband Project recently submitted a budget request for ongoing funding to the Governor's Office. This request did not make it into the Governor's 2015 budget, but there still may be a chance for a bill to continue the program in the 2015 Legislative Session. The project will continue through March 2015 and will end if a bill does not get passed in the upcoming session.

Chief Chris Burbank, with the Salt Lake City Police Department and FirstNet discussed FirstNet and its role in Utah. Recently, FirstNet released a request for information, seeking input from interested parties regarding approaches and objectives for establishing a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network. FirstNet will use these responses to better understand industry's capabilities to determine how to best leverage existing capabilities and best practices to meet public safety needs. FirstNet is currently having individual visits to each of the states and territories to continue the dialog about building a broadband network dedicated to public safety, and have already had their consultation visit with Utah. These meetings will focus on roles and responsibilities, users and coverage needs, and also discuss expectations for data collection and other state-specific issues.