THE STATE OF UTAH BROADBAND PROJECT

UTAH BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, April 17, 2014

10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

EDCUtah

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Heather Webster, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bert Granberg, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
Jessie Pechmann, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
Ray Timothy, Utah Education Network
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education Network
Jeff Egly, Utah Education Network
Jim Stewart, Utah Education Network
Jeff Edwards, EDCUtah
Sherrie Martell, EDCUtah
Lee Chaplin, EDCUtah
Art Brothers, Beehive Broadband
John Brewer, Beehive Broadband
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications
Kevin Rose, Utah Department of Technology Services
John Harvey, Utah Public Service Commission (call-in)
David Ream, US Forest Service
Tara Thue, AT&T
Lynn Beecher, Skywire Fiber (call-in)
Terrance Bride, Ogden City Business Development

Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments
Eric Isom, CenturyLink
Scott Dansie, Comcast
Lynne Yocum, Utah Department of Transportation
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
James Toledo, Utah Division of Indian Affairs
Steve Bos, Vivint
Kira Slawson, Blackburn & Stoll (call-in)
Jamie Welch Jaro, USDA
Amy Ivie, USDA
Greg Boss, Integra
Satin Tashnizi, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Cameron Diehl, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Craig Neilson, Utah State Library (call-in)
Steve Taylor, All West Communications (call-in)
Ryan Marriott, Americom
Glenn Ricart, US Ignite (call-in)
Brian Christensen, Horrocks Engineers
Mark Williams, MLW Consulting
Sarah Nunn, Digis

Jeff Edwards, President and CEO of the Economic Development Corporation of Utah (EDCUtah), presented to the Utah Broadband Advisory Council an overview and update of EDCUtah. EDCUtah is a non-profit organization to help in-state companies grow and also be a catalyst in recruiting out-of-state companies to Utah. One important program to help companies locate to Utah is called, Sure Site. This program locates and tracks sites which are used for site selection in recruiting companies to Utah. Sure Site provides ready-to-go site locations that include information of what is entailed in site-selection, which includes information on location and utilities, including a reliable and available broadband network. Another program to help companies locate to Utah is the Economic Development Tax Increment Finance (EDTIF) program is a tax incentive program that companies can be awarded if they locate to the state. This program allows the company a tax break after the company relocates and supplies jobs.

Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments, gave an update on the regional planning effort for the various cities and counties around the state. Currently, all seven of the Association of Governments

(AOGs) are developing a draft of a Regional Broadband Plan. By working with their local broadband planning committees, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges have been identified for each region and plans are being developed to determine goals to overcome the region's broadband weaknesses and challenges. Final copies of the plans will be available in June, with copies of each plan available on the Utah Broadband Project website.

Kelleigh Cole, Project Manager for the Utah Broadband Project, gave an update on the statewide demand survey. The survey results will be provided at a later date as the team is still compiling the data and expanding on the analysis. Each AOG region will have data specific to that region, which will be incorporated into their regional plans.

Bert Granberg, Director, Utah's Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) presented to the Council a concept of a commercial map the project team has been working on with data that focuses on fiber availability. This map would be used for economic development purposes for companies who want to locate to Utah displaying fiber availability along with natural gas, transportation, electricity and other factors that determine location for businesses. The purpose of this map is to be a resource for recruiting and retaining industry in Utah and to highlight the availability of fiber in the rural areas in Utah. The 2014 April Map of the Month was also presented which displays Utah's current broadband landscape. The map shows the highest level of speed for residential use for wired and fixed wireless. The map is especially important with respect to FirstNet and public safety, and a companion map available for wireless technology. March's Map of the Month was a follow up to the Public Access page that was developed for Utah Broadband Project website. The Public Access page gives information of all the locations within the state that offer Internet access with an available device free of charge. The map is an interactive showing all the locations from the Public Access list.

Ray Timothy, Director, Utah Education Network (UEN), presented to the Council HB 92, which passed during this year's legislative session. This bill combines UEN with the Utah Telehealth Network (UTN). The staff of UTN will continue their roles as UTN is absorbed into the UEN organization. UEN will continue with the UEN Advisory Council and the Advisory Board for UTN will change to an Advisory Council. After July 1, 2015 the two councils may combine to one if appropriate. Mr. Timothy also updated the Council about the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Rural Broadband Workshop. The first workshop focused on why the nation needs broadband in rural communities and how it effects economic development. The second workshop was a panel of telecommunication companies focusing on how to expand broadband throughout the country. The third panel involved Mr. Timothy and focused on state education networks and what they are doing to expand broadband into hard-to-reach rural areas. The FCC also met with Mr. Timothy regarding E-Rate expressing interest in a possible combination of E-Rate and rural broadband experiments that would incorporate some of the hard-to-reach areas. This led to discussions regarding one-to-one initiatives and how to build the infrastructure within the schools to be robust enough to handle the initiatives. The E-Rate program's number one priority is to get infrastructure to the building with the second priority as building infrastructure within the building. The FCC will release a budget for the Rural Broadband Development Program in May or early June.

Dennis Sampson, UEN, gave an update on the E-Rate Program. In 2013, UEN filed for approximately $30 million in E-Rate funding for broadband services statewide. This past year, UEN worked with 10 separate telecomm providers and contracted for over 150 new circuits. These circuits were updated with additional bandwidth requirement for the customers.

Kevin Rose, Utah Department of Technology Services (DTS), gave an update on HB 155. This piece of legislation changed the government structure of public safety communications for the State of Utah. The bill facilitates the transfer of employees from DTS to combine with the Utah Communications Agency Network (UCAN) and make a new state organization named Utah Communication Authority (UCA). A new board was formed that includes representatives from rural Utah, Native American Tribes, the National Guard and the Utah Department of Health to give a better statewide perspective of what is needed for communication services. UCA will be now responsible for the 911 Committee and building a communication platform shared throughout the state. FirstNet is also continuing to move forward, with June being the anticipated date to start for a state consultation. One of the unknowns at this point is how the providers will fit into FirstNet and who will facilitate the program.

Kelleigh Cole, informed the council of the FCC workshop on IP Technology Transition and the Impacts on Public Safety. The FCC has released new rules that will make 100 megahertz of spectrum more available in homes and conference centers. In February, the Utah Broadband Project team hosted a collaboration effort with other western State Broadband Initiative programs. The workshop focused on topics like project sustainability, public safety demands and data collection. All of the states are working through what their program's future will be and how to transfer the data collection over to the national level. The states would also like more information from the FCC regarding interaction between the FCC and the states.