



# THE STATE OF UTAH BROADBAND PROJECT

## UTAH BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, June 19, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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  
Heather Webster, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Jeff Van Hulten, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Jessie Pechmann, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center  
Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments  
Soren Simonsen, Community Studios  
LaNiece Davenport, Wasatch Front Regional Council  
Bob Allen, Mountainland Association of Governments  
Amy Peters, Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments  
Emery Polelonema, Six County Association of Governments  
Levi Roberts, Five County Association of Governments  
Cody Christensen, Uintah Basin Association of Governments  
Kent Ogletree, Director of IT for Duchesne County  
Steve Taylor, All West Communications (call-in)  
Ray Timothy, Utah Education Network  
James Toledo, Utah Division of Indian Affairs  
John Harvey, Utah Public Service Commission  
Terrance Bride, Ogden City Business Development  
Gary Zabriskie, Five County Association of Governments (call-in)

Gary Jones, UTOPIA  
Jared Pantera, UTOPIA  
Jim Farr, CenturyLink  
Glenn Ricart, US Ignite  
Brent Simmons, Strata Networks  
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks  
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks  
Ryan Marriott, Americom  
Chari Chambers, Zayo  
Roger Timmerman, Vivint Wireless  
Willis Kenner, Comcast  
Ron Boyer, Summit County  
Kira Slawson, Blackburn & Stoll  
Debra Meyer, USDA  
Amy Ivie, USDA  
Greg Boss, Integra  
Sarah Nunn, Digis  
Lindsay Clark, EDCUtah (call-in)  
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications

Kelleigh Cole, Manager of the Utah Broadband Project, gave an announcement that the Community Connect Grant applications are open for 2014 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). These grants are targeted at areas that do not have broadband service and provide funding to offset the cost of deployment. Members of the Advisory Council and the Regional Broadband Planning Councils are encouraged to apply for grants.

Cole also gave an overview of the regional broadband planning teams which were created to help encourage broadband deployment and adoption throughout the State of Utah. The Utah Broadband Project team partnered with Utah's Association of Governments (AOGs) in 2013 to form local broadband planning teams to develop regional broadband plans. Local planning teams were comprised of members from different industry sectors including broadband providers, elected officials and business members. The councils held meetings within the region to determine regional broadband needs and developed strategies to meet those needs.

Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments, presented the regional broadband plan for the Bear River region. The goals for this region are to promote high-speed Internet access to increase economic development, improve communication with local governments to reduce regulation, look for opportunities for public investment of infrastructure and expanding services, promote broadband access for healthcare needs and education and increase overall access with an emphasis in low income areas. The recommendations for implementing these goals are to continue collecting information on broadband availability, promote infrastructure needs and continue looking for funding options. A key priority in the healthcare industry is to advocate for regulatory changes on how to provide remote healthcare for rural areas. The region would also like to improve the public access in libraries, schools and community centers.

Bob Allen, Mountainland Association of Governments, presented the regional broadband plan for the Mountainland region. One of the first things the region looked at to develop their plan was what kind of coverage was already available from wired and wireless services. The greatest priority for the Mountainland region is to facilitate the highest level of infrastructure expansion as quickly and as cost efficiently as possible. The plan objectives are education, prioritization, increased coordination and cooperation in local planning, funding options to help with infrastructure development and to market existing infrastructure. The ultimate goal of the plan is to continue promoting public/private cooperation and coordination for future planning.

Cody Christensen, Uintah Basin Association of Governments, presented the regional broadband plan for the Uintah Basin AOG region. The first challenge determined by the region's broadband council was the disparity between services across the region. Duchesne County and Uintah County have good services while Daggett County lacks in services. The region's goals are to promote the education and awareness of broadband capacity in the region, promote dig-once policies with infrastructure development, promote utilization and adoption of broadband services, promote economic development opportunities and utilize broadband and other technologies to improve public safety.

Soren Simonsen, Community Studios was hired by the Wasatch Front Regional Council to develop their regional broadband plan and presented the broadband plan for the region. The recommendations for this region are to develop a best practice guide for better collaboration with local government for broadband infrastructure deployment and funding options, develop a template for local comprehensive plans to include broadband, improve capacity and add redundancy according to the demand of residents, determine the regional centers for future economic development and growth, increase intensity of broadband service, promote community development through public transit expansion and emergency preparedness, promote improvement in expanding public Wi-Fi in community centers, public buildings and parks and to promote public awareness and education of broadband in both rural and urban areas.

Amy Peters, Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (SEUALG), presented the broadband plan for the region. The recommendations for this region are to increase tribal and tourism broadband access, increase coordination in local government, build public/private partnerships, develop consumer/provider coordination, identify facilities that could benefit from possible federal grants to help offset funding, encourage best practices of broadband development in city plans, increase provider competition and look for funding options within local governments.

Emery Polelonema, Six County Association of Governments, presented the broadband plan for the Six County region. The challenges for this region are rural and remote geography, minimal to no funding and "dead spot" areas that require continued collaboration with the Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

The goals for this region are to improve speeds, reduce “dead spots” and assist in securing infrastructure funding and increase broadband for tourism. The recommendations for this region are to expand on GPS leveling for agriculture, assist local governments and businesses in developing and implementing public safety measures, promote the use of cell towers where broadband services are unavailable, support broadband deployment, focus on decreasing the “digital divide” in education with both teachers and students and provide digital training and education for minorities.

Levi Roberts, Five County Association of Governments, presented the Southwest Broadband Plan for the Five County Region. The identified priorities for this region are increasing available services and how that effects economic development, broadband service for rural areas and crossing federal lands and providers being able to meet the increase data demands for various industries. The goals for this region include providing more provider options for residential services to increase competition, increasing bandwidth in commercial areas to increase economic development, increasing bandwidth in the schools, libraries, public access areas and hospitals and collaborating with ISPs to expand services and broadband infrastructure. The recommendations from this region are to continue with broadband mapping tools for commercial areas, include broadband in local government planning, enhance broadband database to include project schedules to coordinate and implement best practices, incorporate the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) services to promoted better access for schools and businesses with a rural emphasis, refine grant qualifications for rural areas, create a state liaison for federal land management, build public/private relationships and continue with future broadband coordination within the region.

Kelleigh Cole gave an overview of the Broadband Demand Survey and announced that the regional sections of the survey are completed and have been included with the regional plans.

Ray Timothy, Director of UETN, reminded the Council that the Utah Education Network (UEN) and the Utah Telehealth Network (UTN) have combined services and they are available to help in all resources relating to education and healthcare. Currently the locations of UEN and the UTN overlap many areas and UETN is looking at ways to expand in both areas.