



Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Monday, April 18, 2016
9:00 AM-11:00 AM
Utah Department of Transportation

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Kendall Rathunde, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bert Granberg, Automated Geographic Reference Center
Jessie Pechmann, Automated Geographic Reference Center
Jared Anderson, Emery Telecom
Ryan Marriott, Americom Technologies
Jack Walkenhorst, All West Communications
Lorie Price, U.S. Forest Service
Kira Slawson, Utah Rural Telecom Association
Douglas Meredith, John Staurilakis, Inc.
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
Ray Timothy, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Eric Isom, Representing CenturyLink
Chari Chambers, Zayo

Marina Goldberg, Zayo
Jeff Egly, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Jim Stewart, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation
Roger Timmerman, UTOPIA
Aaron Hildreth, Intellipop
Redge Johnson, Governor's Public Lands Coordination Office
Tara Thue, AT&T

Phone:

Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Ed Cox, Senator Hatch's Office
Lynn Beecher, Skywire

Council Updates and Discussion Items:

Kelleigh Cole discussed planning efforts for the 2016 Broadband Summit. The Broadband Outreach Center is looking at scheduling the event in early November, and is planning to adopt a TEDTalk format that will provide opportunities for a broader range of speakers. Please submit presenter suggestions to Kelleigh, and notify her of any dates in early November that might conflict with broadband stakeholders.

Kelleigh also offered a brief FirstNet update: the proposal due date has been extended to May 31, 2016.

Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) Update:

Ray Timothy shared that in the past year UETN has been asked to consult with several western states. Most recently, the organization met with a broadband task force in Nevada. Ray also discussed the increased demand on the UETN network, with average utilization increasing over the past three years from 7.6 gigabits to 45.5 gigabits per second. Distance learning is also growing for both higher education and concurrent enrollment, and UETN is getting regular requests to add more technologically capable classrooms on a number of campuses across the state. UETN is very involved in the state's Digital Teaching and Learning One-to-One Initiative. The budget will be spent with an initial focus on professional development and infrastructure, and will later be spent on devices when schools and teachers are prepared to use the technology effectively. Ray also discussed UETN's upgrades to their three TV channels, and network support to KUER.

Jeff Egly provided an update on UETN's Daggett and San Juan projects. The Daggett County contract has been awarded to Strata Networks, and Frontier has been awarded the San Juan County project. The estimated number of infrastructure route miles is expected to exceed 270 miles. UETN expects to see a ripple effect in the nearby communities, and is excited to see residents the Eastern and Southern parts of the state benefit from increased bandwidth as providers build out their networks. This effort will hopefully help students get the connections needed at home to support their education.

County Resource Management Plan (RFP) Presentation:

Redge Johnson from the Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office described the 2015 legislation that initiated the current statewide County RFP process, and provided a list of the 28 resources included in the legislation. Since broadband was not on this list, The Broadband Outreach Center has been working with counties to provide draft language to include in their plans. Redge explained the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and how this 1976 legislation requires the Bureau of Land Management to consider local plans when updating federal land management plans. The state has decided to require counties to update plans for

three main reasons: planning is good practice; it's an opportunity to have input in federal plans; and if Utah was ever granted control of federal lands the state would be prepared.

Thus far, Redge and his office have seen great buy-in and participation from counties. His office has been monitoring current reforms to BLM planning rules, and working with counties to provide comment on proposed rules. Redge recommends broadband stakeholders keep an eye on these changes, as there could be some procedural changes that give less weight to local input. In addition County RFP coordination, the Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office works on a number of issues, including grazing, mining, timber, and any conflicts between the state and public lands management.

Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Presentation:

Lynne Yocom shared some newly developed maps, apps, and citizen engagement tools with the council. These new tools will help stakeholders stay informed about UDOT's current and pending projects. The UPlan Map Center has been launched as a one-stop resource for the public. Here, users can find fiber maps, view an interactive map gallery with all of UDOT's mapping tools, and access several apps including a Mile Post app. This app is a great resource for providers to use when communicating with UDOT, as they most frequently use mile posts to reference specific areas. In June, the agency plans to launch a website for providers to track applications and better monitor progress. A few highlights include:

- The UDOT Projects App is a map based tool that has updated information about projects from study phase to completion. The tool can be found at data.udot.utah.gov, and a YouTube tutorial about the app can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBxKlf8qwTw>
- UDOT's online fiber maps are also helpful resources for providers. The Fiber Map shows current fiber locations, and a Fiber Priorities Map has also been launched to illustrate which areas will be targeted for development.
 - The fiber map can be found here: <http://projects.horrocks.com/arcgis/udotfiber.html>
 - The priorities map can be found here: <http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=3edf4fbe8b344a98b786be93b8be0634>

Rate of Return Overview:

Douglas Meredith gave the council a brief introduction to recent Rate of Return reforms. He began by providing context on the policy. The surcharges that create the FCC's Universal Service Fund are used for three primary purposes: to subsidize programs for low-income families (Lifeline); to fund broadband infrastructure for educational anchor institutions (E-Rate); and to offset development in high-cost areas (Connect America Fund and Rate of Return). By offering subsidies for high-cost areas, the FCC gives rural providers an opportunity to earn a rate of return on their investments. Currently, 94% of citizens are served by non rate of return carriers, however, rate of return carriers cover 40-45% of the land area in the states.

The recent reform utilizes a forward thinking economic cost model to identify and distribute subsidies based on census blocks. Currently, the rate of return is 11.25%, and the new model will adjust this benefit to 9.75%. Eligible carriers can elect the new model if they agree to a 10 year commitment, a five year build-out rate, and a 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload requirement. Eligibility also depends on a minimum speed requirement of 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload: if 90% of the area currently has 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload speeds the provider will not qualify.

Additional reforms include a broadband only loop support option that replaces the ICLS model, and stipulations that limit eligibility based on competition. Douglas does not expect the new program to be fully operational until 2017.

Block Boundary Suggestion Program:

Bert Granberg described the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC)'s involvement with the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel on a project to provide new census block suggestions to the federal government. The US Census Bureau is looking for states to provide input on current boundaries that may not best define certain areas. Bert believes this program is especially important for rural block boundaries, since census blocks are used to execute telecommunications programs. The ARGC hopes to provide an interactive map to visualize changes in the coming weeks.

Maps of the Month:

Bert Granberg presented the March and April Maps of the Month, which depict UETN's School Technology Inventory and Blue Stakes' 2015 ticket requests. The series of five March maps visualize county level data from UETN's study, including computing devices per student, Wi-Fi access points per classroom, average age of Wi-Fi gear, earliest grade provided e-mail accounts, and the percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. April's map depicts construction hot-spots across Utah. If developers plan to dig or move earth in Utah, they are required to call the state's utility notification center, Blue Stakes. Collective ticket requests are an excellent way to see which areas in the state are seeing the most development activity.

Additional Items, Next Meeting:

UETN announced their upcoming UEN Technical Summit, taking place June 7th and 8th at Hillcrest Junior High in Murray. The Keynote Speaker will be Jaime Casap, Education Evangelist at Google.

The next Broadband Advisory Council meeting will be Thursday, June 9, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, location to be determined. This meeting will mark the fifth anniversary of the Advisory Council.