



Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Thursday, June 9, 2016
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Utah State Capitol

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Jessie Pechmann, Automated Geographic Reference Center
Ray Timothy, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Jeff Egly, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Rick Gaisford, Utah State Office of Education
Bill Duncan, Utah Division of Public Utilities
Abraham Kolloli, Utah Transit Authority
Tina Mathieu, Utah Communications Authority
Glenn Ricart, US Ignite
Kevin Schvaneveldt, Salt Lake Chamber
Roger Tew, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Amy Ivie, USDA
Jamie Welch Jaro, USDA
Elias Wise, Department of Workforce Services
Kira Slawson, Utah Rural Telecom Association
Douglas Meredith, John Staurilakis, Inc.
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr

Steve Mecham, MIB Partners
Brent Daughtery, Comcast
Lynn Beecher, Skywire
Marina Goldberg, Zayo
Lynn Beecher, Skywire
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
Pat Richter, Americom Technologies
Jack Walkenhorst, All West Communications
Chuck McCown, Direct Communications
Roger Timmerman, UTOPIA
Chad Sundloft, T-Mobile

Phone:

Sabrina Scott, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
James Toledo, Utah Division of Indian Affairs
Steve Proper, Comcast
Randy Robison, CenturyLink
Jim Farr, CenturyLink

Council Updates and Discussion Items:

Kelleigh Cole welcomed the Advisory Council to the meeting, and recognized the 5th Anniversary of the Council. The Utah Broadband Outreach Center expressed sincere thanks to the partners that have made the Council a productive resource for broadband stakeholders in Utah.

Utah Transit Authority (UTA) Overview:

Abraham Kololli gave the Advisory Council a presentation on the UTA's forthcoming WiFi upgrade, plans to better utilize its Rights-of-Way (ROW), and the organization's efforts to maintain a tech-based and modern transportation system. UTA currently serves a 1,400 square mile area covering 7 counties, 77 municipalities, and 80% of Utah's population. Average weekday ridership is estimated at 153,000. In 2008, UTA installed a WiMax backhaul along 45 miles of its train lines to offer free WiFi for riders. As usage has increased and the number and types of devices have grown, current WiFi capacity no longer meets the demand. Seeking a significant upgrade, UTA's November 2015 RFP was recently awarded and the organization anticipates the new WiFi system will be in operation by the end of 2016. This summer, UTA plans to test two prototypes in preparation for the install.

Abraham also briefed the Advisory Council on UTA's evolving ROW approach. While some transit areas have restricted access, UTA is looking at marketing some available ROWs to interested parties. These areas follow the existing train lines. UTA has also made efforts to modernize payment systems and create an open platform for app developers to experiment with the organization's vehicle movement data.

Utah Communications Authority (UCA) and FirstNet Update:

UCA Board Chair Tina Mathieu provided a brief FirstNet update on behalf of Gordy Coles, the designated State Point of Contact. The FirstNet RFP was closed on May 31, 2016. They have now entered the bid evaluation phase, and plan to award the contract by the fourth quarter of 2016. After the contract has been awarded, the state will provide input for the FirstNet state plan, however, the planning effort will be headed by FirstNet. A draft of the state plan will be provided for review by mid 2017, and the final plan will be submitted to the Governor by late 2017. There is an upcoming open meeting with FirstNet representatives and the UCA Board on June 28, 2016 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Miller Conference Center at 9570 S. and 300 W. in Sandy.

Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) Update:

Ray Timothy discussed UETN's network usage and areas that have been targeted for updates. Ray shared that average utilization has increased over the past three years from 7.6 Gigabits per second to 45.5 Gigabits per second. UETN anticipates the new Digital Teaching and Learning initiative will create more network demand as the program gets implemented. Added capacity to the network will be increased as needed and UETN will plan upgrades as school usage reaches 80% of the available bandwidth. Currently, many of the Wasatch Front high schools are getting upgrades of 10 Gig networks. Other upgrades include a 10 Gig connection between Heber, Roosevelt, and Vernal; a 10 Gig upgrade between Snow College, the Richfield Data Center, and Utah Valley University; and a 100 Mbps connection to the Alta Canyon Library.

2016 Broadband Summit Discussion, Kelleigh Cole

The date for the Broadband Tech Summit has been changed to November 9, 2016. The event will be held at Trolley Square in the Falls Event Center. The Broadband Outreach Center is looking for quality presenters, and is open to suggestions and/or presentations from providers. Please visit broadband.utah.gov to read the Call for Presenters and contact Kelleigh with any questions.

Broadband Planning for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Elias Wise:

Elias Wise, from the Housing and Community Development office in the Department of Workforce Services, gave a presentation on the HUD directed planning process for housing programs. Recently, HUD issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that will require an assessment of broadband availability in communities to be included in the consolidated plan. Elias described this plan as a living document that gets annual updates and action items as needed. The proposed rule will mostly impact the Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) Program, which is used to subsidize infrastructure funding. CBDG funding is distributed to both the State and to designated entitlement areas with dense populations. The State CBDG fund is directed towards rural areas, and priority funding items are determined at the local level with the help of the Association of Governments (AOGs). Pending the adoption of the new broadband rules, broadband stakeholders who wish to advocate for broadband as a priority should work with AOGs to discuss need.

US Ignite Update, Glenn Ricart:

Glenn gave the Advisory Council a US Ignite update and discussed innovation trends. US Ignite was created as an administrative initiative and a nonprofit with the goal of promoting the development and deployment of next generation gigabit apps with the potential for societal impact. Utah is a key contributor to this project since the State has such robust gigabit networks. Glenn discussed four possible trends for this movement: communicating things will outnumber people connecting to the Internet; wireless technology breakthroughs, software defined infrastructure, and expanding gigabit access and possibilities. US Ignite will also be asking providers to connect to "digital town squares" in every community, which he describes as an intrastate gigabit traffic exchange point that will work around traditional peering agreements. Glenn would like feedback on this concept, and encourages Utah's gigabit players to contact US Ignite.

Maps of the Month, Jessie Pechmann:

Jessie shared the May and June Maps of the Month with the Council. The May map looks at how growing communities across the state are currently equipped with digital infrastructure. The map visualizes population growth estimates from the Governor's Office of Management of Budget, and uses a color scheme to indicate currently available residential download speeds. Areas with high projected growth will likely see increased broadband infrastructure development.

The June map shows where Utahns are connecting to online government and education services. The maps show location data from the Utah.gov website and two virtual charter schools, indicating where Utahns are more likely to connect to the Internet for these services.

Next Meeting:

The next Broadband Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday, September 7, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at the Governor's Office of Economic Development.