



Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Thursday, August 20, 2015
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
GOED Offices

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Utah Broadband Outreach Center
Chris Tellington, Utah Broadband Outreach Center
Lynne Beecher, Skywire
Jamie Welch Jarrow, USDA Rural Development
Amy Ivy, USDA Rural Development
Glenn Ricart, US Ignite
Roger Timmerman, Vivint
Aaron Hildreth, Intellipop Internet
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Tara Thue, AT&T
Sherry Martel, EDCUtah
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr
Jack Walkenhorst, All West Communications
Gordy Coles, Utah Communications Authority

Jeff Kent, Rocky Mountain Power
Charles Baldwin, Bitstream Communications
Ryan Marriott, Americom Technology
Jesse Pechmann, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
Rick Raile, Emigration Canyon Community Council
Trent Marchant, Google Fiber
Angie Welling, Google
Jim Farr, CenturyLink

Phone:

Melissa Hearst, US Forest Service
Joey Perry, US Forest Service
Alisa Faatz, Cetracom
Lisa Perry, Verizon Wireless

5 Minute Advisory Council Spotlight:

Ryan Marriott from Americom Technology gave a brief introduction about himself and the general operations of Americom. He explained what he calls an “ecosystem” of broadband infrastructure and how businesses, cities, and residents get connected to broadband and how Americom has been involved in several of the middle-mile elements of Utah’s networks. In Utah, Americom has installed over 30 million square feet of DAS (Direct Antenna Support) networks. Americom is one of the first companies in Utah to implement a directional drill which allows them to dig for conduit without affecting surface conditions (e.g. roads).

Items of Business:

Kelleigh Cole announced that Todd Westberg (UPS Information Technology Director) will be a keynote speaker at the 2015 Broadband Tech Summit. Kelleigh also announced that federal representatives and state leaders will be participating. On October 15, there will be a State Broadband Leaders meeting that will be taking place at the offices of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED).

Kelleigh briefed the council on the available handouts:

- July and August 2015 Maps of the Month
- FCC Establishes Bidding Procedures for 2016 Incentive Auction
- FCC Adopts Rules to Help Americans Communicate During Emergencies
- FCC Seeks Comments on Including Mobile Broadband in Annual Progress Report
- Farm Bill Webinar of August 25, 2015

Presentation by Jeff Kent of Rocky Mountain Power

Jeff Kent, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) Director of Distribution Support, gave a Pole Attachments 101 presentation on the general parameters of utility pole joint-use with direct examples and applicable information for Utah. RMP has roughly 344,000 distribution poles in Utah, 66 different attaching entities, about 300,000 attachments and rents space on poles owned by eight other companies. He defined joint use as “the sharing of poles by two or more providers for the safe and efficient use of the right-of-way.” The most common entities that share poles are power companies, phone companies, cable TV companies, telecommunication providers, and wireless providers. Jeff’s main role is to negotiate contracts, establish

relationships amongst the different parties, access management and record keeping, and coordination for existing/new pole attaching entities. Typical joint-use attachments are electric, fiber and fiber storage, cable TV, and telephone.

Jeff then discussed that typical engineering standards are determined by field conditions. There are several safety zones allocated for communications workers and the general public. Jeff explained that the responsibility for safety lay primarily with each pole tenant (e.g. cable, phone, electric, etc.). Joint-use in most states is regulated by the FCC; however, in about 20 states, joint-use is regulated at the state level (e.g. Utah). Jeff then gave some examples of unique Utah regulations such as:

- Investor owned utilities must have commission approved contracts on file. However, this doesn't preclude negotiations but stipulates that all final approvals are passed by the Public Utilities Commission.
- Rights of access to distribution poles are given to: public utilities, wireless providers, and any telecommunications companies.

The limit to pole attachments is about seven, but it is common to see 3-5 attachments on a typical pole. All attachments must be done through a contract which governs all aspects of the process. One way that RMP operates in the public sphere is through an SGAT (Statement of Generally Available Terms) which is available to attaching entities. This is called the Safe Harbor Agreement, which has already been approved by the Public Utilities Commission and allows different entities to agree the established terms and then proceed with their attachments. Another way is through negotiated agreements which generally take longer to approve.

Jesse Pechmann (AGRC) Map of the Month Presentation

The BLM and Forest Service have communication sites that are valuable to broadband infrastructure such as towers. The July Map of the Month features the BLM authorized communication sites. These maps have been built in accordance with the public lands grid. The August Map of the Month featured a state-by-state comparison of access levels to different categories of broadband speeds. Jesse discussed how this map helps to make national comparisons and focuses on the way that demographics (e.g. age, income, etc.) play a role in access.

Emigration Canyon Update

Rick Raile, Emigration Canyon Community Council, discussed the current issues related to communication in the canyon and how it is related to the road expansion project. The key issues are a lack of cell connectivity, a lack of emergency communication ability and no conduit in place for broadband deployment. Rick noted that there are several milestones ahead of the project but that there is healthy and robust support.

FirstNet Update

Gordy Coles from the Utah Communications Authority gave a brief update on FirstNet and discussed the RFI process for data collection for coverage (both current and future capabilities), user identification, capacity, and search providers. This project will conclude on September 30, 2015 and then transition into an RFP process to have vendors build out the FirstNet network.

U.S. Ignite Presentation by Glenn Ricart

Glenn Ricart, founder and CTO for U.S. Ignite, gave an overview of the project's mission and current developments. He focused his presentation on three main topics: the growth of data, high-speed applications and overlapping communication abilities (i.e. new physical infrastructure). He pointed out that the next generation of the Internet will have the core capabilities of much greater bandwidth, specialized networks, and segregated networks for emergencies. FirstNet will be promoting "slicing", which is a strategy to invite several telecom providers to contribute portions of their networks to the emergency network. In Utah, U.S. Ignite has created Utah Ignite to begin this process of "slicing" to add another layer of interconnected and interoperable communities throughout the state.