



Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Thursday, September 21

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Ginger Chinn, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Emilee Cooke, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bert Granberg, Automated Geographic Reference Center
Tara Thue, AT&T
Tim Blackburn, Millennium
Douglas Meredith, JSI/URTA
Lynn Beecher, Go Fiber
Kobus Van der Merwe, University of Utah
Kelly Jorgensen, Housing and Urban Development
Barbara Hollister, Department of Workforce Services
Brody Panter, Department Workforce Services
Gordon Coles, Utah Communications Authority
Lance Jackson, Zayo
Jeff Egly, UETN

Rick Gaisford, Utah State Office of Education
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
Damion Hinckley, Codale Electric Supply, Inc.
Jack Walkenhorst, Emery Telcom
Brock Johansen, Emery Telcom
Shirlee Silversmith, Utah Division of Indian Affairs
Shauna Derbyshire, BLM
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications
Jon Osborn, Virtual Utah Virtual Academy
Chand Sundloff, T-Mobile

Phone:

Trent Bangert, Americom

Wireless Testbed Application Update

Professor Kobus Van der Merwe, from the Flux Research Group at the University of Utah, updated the council on his pending application for a wireless testbed called PAWR or Platform for Advance Wireless Research. The test bed will allow for enhanced wireless and mobile networking tests. This research will be done through building city platforms funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The platform is structured to be a "living lab" and meant for a real world context. Besides NSF funding, 28 other companies are partnering with the testbed. PAWR is waiting to see if they make it to the final round where the NSF will visit the site and ask questions about the proposal, and if funding is given, the project will start at the beginning of next year. The NSF is looking for highly flexible infrastructure plans, and broad research that uses or requires wireless and community involvement. The University has all those requirements, has excellent partners, and has built test beds in the past.

The proposal is called POWDR, Platform for Open Wireless Data-driven Research. The testbed will be tracked through mobile devices on objects that move and are predictable. This includes campus and downtown buses, as well as people using portal units. The platform will leverage existing fiber deployments from UETN, UDOT, and Utopia. Crown Castle will provide space for radio deployment on campus and in the downtown area. The platform hopes to attract more academic and private sector users.

HUD Digital Inclusion Efforts and Partnership

Kelly Jorgensen, the field director for Housing and Urban Development (HUD), addressed the group about two current programs that HUD has been conducting. First, the program called Connect Home Nation has been actively bridging the digital divide within HUD for those who do not have internet access in their home. When this program first began there were 28 communities in the pilot launch and now 30 more communities have joined. Secondly, a new digital inclusion partnership with an organization called PC's for People has been organized. PC's for people refurbishes computers and gives back to low-income communities for an affordable price. An event with HUD, Connect Home Nation, PC's for People and Mobile Beacon will be giving out 200 computers and a \$10 subscription to internet access for low-income families.

Lifeline Update

Barbara Hollister and Brody Panter discussed eligibility changes for the Lifeline program. Starting next year, states will work with the Universal Service Administration Company to verify eligibility. Eligible applicants include food stamp, Medicaid, and SNAP recipients. By October a soft launch will introduce the new software platform. As the program progresses, broadband services will be put into

scope and traditional landlines will be phased out over the next five years. Lifeline and USAC are working on an interface connection transition to verify eligibility. Currently, there are 35,000 recipients to lifeline in Utah.

Virtual Academy Introduction

John Osborne introduced an online charter school called Virtual Academy. It caters to grades K-12 and is available for anyone throughout the state of Utah and is free of charge. There are live class scheduled every day and they give not only the students the opportunity to work from home, but the teachers as well. This allows more opportunities for students to have access to education. When the academy first opened, it only had 500 students and now it has 2,000. Almost half of those students are in high school and 822 college credits are available for concurrent enrollment opportunities. It is also the only online school with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) designation. Online schooling allows children to work at their own pace, and it creates more free-time to work on other projects or extracurricular activities. It is also beneficial for those who suffer from social issues such as anxiety, depression and bullying.

Broadband Deployment Advisory Update

Currently the FCC's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee has (BDAC) met twice in Washington and will meet for a third time on November 9th. The committee is comprised of city, state and private sector representatives who serve two year terms. The BDAC is divided into five subcommittees which include the model municipal code, model state code, evaluating state and local barriers, competitive access, and federal siting committees. Kelleigh Cole currently serves on the model state code committee, which will meeting regularly to write state ordinances that can be used to further broadband development. The first draft of this language will be released at the November 9 meeting.

State FirstNet Update

Gordon Coles told the council that the state has finished reviews and comments for FirstNet. Meetings with AT&T and FirstNet have been conducted to answer concerns and additional sites have been added to the original plan. Utah has submitted comments and is waiting for final plans. The Governor has also been meeting the tribes to address all their concerns for an opt-in. The state is also waiting on NTIA for opt-out rates, since funding levels haven't been determined. The 90 day clock for the Governor to opt in has been delayed until the NTIA rates come out.

Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) Update

Jeff Egly discussed the different projects events that UETN is working on. The largest focus is securing funding for a 70-mile fiber project from Vernal to Manila and Dutch John. UETN will meet with Chairman Pai next week and has gotten support from Senator Hatch, Governor Herbert and Lieutenant Governor Cox. UETN has kept in touch with tribes to keep them updated on the process. Kelleigh has also been reaching out to the FCC to get more details on the process.

Maps of the Month

Bert Granberg presented the September 2017 Map of the Month which is an update of the October 2014 Map of the Month. The map shows how the FCC's mapping data, which is aggregated to the census block level, shows far more coverage than Utah's more granular data. The maps are broken down into cable service, DSL, fiber and fixed wireless. The August Map of the Month profiled UDOT's UPlan maps. On the website, there are online interactive fiber map links, unified transportation plans, average daily traffic maps, and state right of way databases. AGRC also developed the Virtual Academy Map which is featured in the June 2016 Map of the Month.