



## Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Governor's Office of Economic Development

### Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Kendall Rathunde, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Vatsala Kaul, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Bert Granberg, Automated Geographic Reference Center  
Jessie Pechmann, Automated Geographic Reference Center  
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education and Telehealth Network  
Jim Stewart, Utah Education and Telehealth Network  
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library  
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation  
Bill Duncan, Utah Division of Public Utilities  
Gordy Coles, Utah Communications Authority  
Shauna Derbyshire, Bureau of Land Management  
Nole Walkingshaw, Salt Lake City  
Diane Tran, Salt Lake City  
Glenn Ricart, US Ignite  
Mike Parker, Salt Lake Chamber

Liz Jackson, Professional Education University of Utah  
Kira Slawson, Utah Rural Telecom Association  
Douglas Meredith, John Staurilakis, Inc.  
Marina Goldberg, Zayo  
Chari Chambers, Zayo  
Jack Walkenhorst, All West Communications  
Roger Timmerman, UTOPIA  
Lynn Beecher, Skywire Fiber  
Brock Johansen, Emery Telecom  
Angie Welling, Google  
Bruce Todd, Strata Networks  
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks  
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications

### Phone:

Sabrina Scott, Utah Education and Telehealth Network  
Shirlee Silversmith, Utah Division of Indian Affairs

### Council Updates and Discussion Items:

Kelleigh Cole welcomed the Advisory Council to the meeting and announced a possible date for a Lifeline meeting with Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Senior Strategic Partnership Advisor Jessica Zufolo. This 2-3 hour meeting will likely be held November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in the morning. Details to be determined.

### K-16 Computer Science Initiative:

Vatsala Kaul from the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the STEM Action Center discussed the state's efforts to help close tech workforce gaps and create a K-16 pipeline of talent. Her office has been working on creating a computer science pathway program that would include stackable certificates. Ideally, this program will be appropriate for both high school graduates looking to enter the workforce, and for graduates entering computer science college degree programs. Kaul described the pathway as a possible equalizer for rural and urban high school students. Strategies to achieve this pathway will include broadening computer science offerings and creating more interdisciplinary curriculum, increasing professional development for teachers, and aligning programs with industry. The STEM Action Center has also created an app called STEMatch to connect working professionals with students to act as mentors. Mentors will be in high demand in rural areas, so Advisory Council participants are encouraged to contact Kaul if they are interested in participating.

### Continuing Education for Business:

Liz Jackson for the Professional Education Department at the University of Utah presented on program offerings relevant for broadband stakeholders. Professional Education is an open enrollment department that creates coursework for working professionals. Programs serve as a pathway for further education and career advancement. They specialize in trainings, credential programs, and certifications, including an IT Professionals certification. Professional Education will also customize and bring coursework into an organization. Contact liz at [liz.jackson@utah.edu](mailto:liz.jackson@utah.edu) for more information.

### Salt Lake City Digital Inclusion Strategy:

Nole Walkingshaw and Diane Tran from the Salt Lake City Community and Neighborhoods Department discussed the city's progress creating a strategic plan for digital inclusion. The goal of creating a strategic plan is to more broadly consider digital inclusion into all applicable areas of the city government. With the strategic plan in place, projects funding housing initiatives, for example, will also consider digital inclusion as an integrated component of the project. Walkingshaw and Tran hope more funding will be leveraged to

impact city residents affected by the digital divide. Titled, "Plan Salt Lake," the document defines goals, useful metrics for tracking progress, and a common language for discussing digital inclusion. Only a handful of cities have published similar plans, and Salt Lake wants to be one of the first to do so. As a part of this project, Tran has been creating an inventory of resources and documenting which organizations in Salt Lake City offer digital inclusion programming.

#### **Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) Update:**

Dennis Sampson from UETN provided an update on the organization's involvement with the Digital Teaching and Learning state initiative. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) can now apply for the Digital Teaching and Learning Qualified Grant Program and for Planning Grants for fiscal year 2017. Grants can be used for equipment, curriculum, and infrastructure. UETN believes the grants will be a great opportunity to leverage federal e-rate money. They are also working with an organization out of North Carolina to conduct research and learn more about North Carolina's effective use of e-rate funds.

Sampson announced that UETN and Strata's build into Eastern Utah is proceeding and the environmental assessment has begun. Pending approval, they hope to begin construction in May 2017. Strata estimates 40% of the build will be through solid rock. Jim Stewart also provided an update on the proposed build to San Juan County. UETN is still actively working towards getting the San Juan build off the ground. Stewart reported county commissioners seem invested in including Navajo Mountain as part of the build, despite right-of-way challenges.

#### **Utah Communications Authority (UCA) FirstNet Update:**

Gordy Coles from UCA briefed the council on the FirstNet timeline, which remains unchanged. FirstNet is expected to announce a nationwide partner in November based on proposals submitted at the end of May 2016. They expect a draft of Utah's state plan will be submitted to the governor midyear 2017. Once received, UCA will help vet the plan during the 90 day review period. Coles also reported that Utah's open meeting with FirstNet on June 28, 2016 was well attended. A key topic in that meeting was the importance of updating Utah's LMR systems since it will be some time until FirstNet could adequately replace the current system.

#### **Open Internet Order Review:**

Douglas Meredith presented on the most recent court ruling impacting the Open Internet Order. Earlier this June, the District of Columbia U.S. Court of Appeals upheld Net Neutrality with a 2-1 vote from the three judge panel. This particular court is well versed in dealing with federal government issues coming out of DC. The order restricts Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from blocking or throttling content from consumers. Since the FCC released the order March of 2015, Net Neutrality has been brought to court 3 times based on the issue of whether or not the FCC has the authority to regulate ISPs and broadband content. The FCC had previously considered broadband an information service (which they are not authorized to regulate), but then redefined it as a telecommunication service in the Open Internet Order. Both wireline and wireless providers appealed the decision. Rather than asking the Supreme Court to review the decision, the petitioners have requested an "en banc" review in which all judges from the DC Court of Appeals will look at the case. This path will likely delay an inevitable Supreme Court review; petitioners are hoping the current court vacancy will be filled before Net Neutrality reaches the highest court. Moving forward, petitioners are expected to narrow in on the FCC's authority with regards to wireless broadband providers.

#### **Maps of the Month:**

Bert Granberg from the Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) presented the July and August Maps of the Month. The July map uses AGRC's address points data set to look at statewide broadband metrics. Since 2010 census block statistics are relatively outdated at this point, address points provide a more up-to-date visualization of where Utah's population accesses broadband and at what speeds. By far, the majority of addressed properties in the state have access to speeds over 100 Mbps. Out of 1,116,587 addressed properties, approximately 88,234 properties do not have access to broadband speeds that meet the federal definition for broadband (25 Mbps). Only 1,697 properties are completely unserved.

The August map visualizes the preliminary list of eligible census blocks for the Connect America Phase II auction. The list was released by the Wireline Competition Bureau at the FCC on August 10, 2016. The interactive map allows users to zoom into areas of the state and overlay address points. The final eligible list will be updated no later than three months prior to the application deadline for the Phase II auction.

#### **Announcements:**

The 2016 Broadband Summit will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Falls Event Center in Trolley Square. Updates on speakers and the agenda can be found here: <http://broadband.utah.gov/2016-broadband-tech-summit/>

The 2016 Supercomputing Conference will be held November 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> at the Salt Palace. Information can be found here: <http://sc16.supercomputing.org/>

**Next Meeting:**

The next Broadband Advisory Council meeting will be held after the Broadband Summit. Date, time, and location to be determined.