THE STATE OF UTAH
BROADBAND PROJECT

# Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
12:00 p.m-2:00 p.m.
Utah State Capitol Building

**Attendees:**

Tara Thue, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Kelleigh Cole, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Brian Smith, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bert Granberg, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
Jessie Pechmann, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
Rep. Ryan Wilcox, Utah State Legislature
Mark VanOrden, Utah Department of Technology Services
Ken Petersen, Utah Department of Technology Services
Kevin Rose, Utah Department of Technology Services
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Ray Timothy, Utah Education Network
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education Network
Jeff Egly, Utah Education Network
Sabrina Scott, Utah Education Network
Deb LaMarche, Utah Telehealth Network
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr
Kira Slawson, Blackburn & Stoll
David Leavitt, Utah Rural Telecom Association
Douglas Meredith, John Staurulakis Inc.

Ryan Marriott, Americom Technologies
JaCee Bullock, Americom Technologies
Rod Tomkins, Americom Technologies
Terrence Riffle, Americom Technologies
Steve Taylor, All West Communications
Eric Isom, CenturyLink
Jared Anderson, Emery Telcom (call in)
Brock Johansen, Emery Telcom (call in)
Rod Moore, Emery Telcom (call in)
Josef Wavra, Enterprise Technologies
Leigh Carnes, Enterprise Technologies
Galen Manning, iSchool Campus
Cameron Blair, iSchool Campus
Greg Hartley, iSchool Campus
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks
Brandon Austin, Veracity Networks
Dean Lundberg, Wildfire Broadband
Carolyn Lundberg, Wildfire Broadband

**Summary:**

Tara Thue gave the Utah Broadband Advisory Council an overview of the Utah Broadband Project's new website which has been redesigned to highlight the site's most commonly-used features. The Project's social media feeds are now displayed more prominently on the homepage, where visitors can easily subscribe to the Project's monthly newsletter, take a speed test, and access information about the Utah Broadband Advisory Council. Bert Granberg gave an overview of the interactive Utah Broadband Map, which has also been upgraded for cross-platform usability, and in addition to area and address searches, results on the map can now be filtered by provider, speed and a number of technology types (cable, DSL, fiber, fixed and mobile wireless). An updated version of the interactive map will be released in the fall and will incorporate community anchor institution coverage, speed test data, and a map of the highest known broadband capacity in each community in Utah.

Deb LaMarche, the Associate Director of the Utah Telehealth Network, gave the Advisory Council an overview of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) new Healthcare Connect Fund, which will make $400 million available annually to healthcare providers to expand the development of broadband telehealth networks from a pilot to a permanent program. The new fund will offer a 65 percent discount on broadband services, equiptment, connections to research and education networks, and provider-constructed and owned facilities. Eligible facilities include public or not-for-profit hospitals, rural health clinics, community health centers, health centers serving migrants, community mental health centers, local health departments or agencies, post-secondary educational institutions/teaching

hospitals/medical schools, or a consortia of the above. Non-rural providers may participate in the Healthcare Connect Fund as part of a consortia, but the consortia must be comprised of at least 51% rural providers.

Douglas Meredith, with John Staurulakis Inc., gave the Advisory Council an update on Federal Universal Service Fund (USF) reform. The FCC has recently focused on reforming the contribution factor, a type of tax paid by telephone consumers, so that it will be sustained into the future. The FCC is also considering reallocating some spectrum currently allocated to television signals to create a nationwide Wi-Fi network. The USF/Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) Transformation Order, which will impact price-cap carriers, and reforms to the Remote Area Fund are both moving forward and several Orders of Reconsideration have been issued. The Utah Broadband Project will continue to update the Advisory Council as these reforms move forward.

Kira Slawson, with Blackburn & Stoll, updated the Advisory Council on the Public Service Commission's (PSC) open docket to study the impacts Federal USF reform would have on the State USF program. The docket asked respondents to comment on 10 separate issues which dealt with increasing the fund; increasing the contribution base; expanding the telecommunications revenues to which the fund surplus applies; limiting the amount of support available; restricting the types of services covered; establishing eligibility based on total company revenues including cable/wireless/internet affiliates; imputing a set revenue to each telephone company; eliminating the fund; redirecting the fund to support broadband; and other alternatives as suggested by interested parties. Comments were filed by the Utah Rural Telecom Association (URTA), CenturyLink, Verizon, AT&T, The Utah Department of Commerce Office of Consumer Services, Comcast, Salt Lake Community Action Program, and the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP). The Utah Division of Public Utilities has compiled all of the comments and will issue a report to the Public Service Commission. At that time, it is anticipated that the Public Service Commission will report those findings to the Utah State Legislature's Public Utilities and Technology Committee.

Kevin Rose, with the Utah Department of Technology Services (DTS), updated the Advisory Council on the First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet) efforts to establish the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) recently announced the availability of $121.5 million in grants to assist states as they prepare for NPSBN in the form of the "State and Local Implementation Grant Program" (SLIGP). The grants will be available to all 56 states and territories, and will support planning, consultation, education and outreach activities as well as help fund efforts to collect information on infrastructure and equipment that could be used by FirstNet in building a wireless public safety broadband network. NTIA designated Utah to receive $1.825 million and will be required to provide a 20 percent match. The program will have a particular focus tribal and rural outreach. DTS will continue to update the Advisory Council as the network moves forward.

Tara Thue gave the Advisory Council an update on Utah's broadband coverage statistics based on the October 2012 Data Submission to the National Broadband Map. Currently, 99 percent, or less than 1000 households, lack broadband coverage of 768 kbps or higher and 99 percent of households have access to more than one provider. In Utah's 248 incorporated cities, 172 have broadband available to every household. Of Utah households, 95 percent have DSL access and 86 percent have cable broadband access. Only 12 percent of Utah homes have residential fiber access and 11 counties do not have any residential fiber access. Fixed wireless is unavailable in 3 of Utah's 29 counties and 5 incorporated cities lack any mobile wireless.

Tara Thue led a discussion on the 2013 Utah Legislative Session. She gave the Advisory Council an overview of H.B. 336 "Amendments to Economic Development," which repeals the Rural Broadband Service Account Act. The Act was created in 2007 and included a one-time $1 million fund to further the development of broadband in rural Utah and is currently unfunded. The Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Utah Broadband Project are supportive of this bill. She also briefly discussed H.B. 380 "Economic Development Revisions" and S.B. 192 "Economic Development Incentives Act Amendments."

Cameron Blair and Galen Manning, with iSchool Campus, gave the Advisory Council an overview of the iSchools initative taking place in Utah. In 2012, the State of Utah launched a pilot program which created three smart schools in Utah including Gunnison Valley Elementary School in Gunnison, Dixon Middle School in Provo, and North Sevier High School in Richfield. iSchool Campus established a wireless network in each school and equipped teachers and students with iPads

and laptops, along with the appropriate firewalls and filtering services. iSchools has also established a professional development training program for teachers to help them utilize the devices and services available to them.  These services were deployed last fall and so far, student's testing numbers are strong. iSchools is also working with textbook publishers and teachers to encourage the development and adoption of more digital materials. The iPads are currently set up to allow students to work on homework without Internet access. The Advisory Council asked iSchools to consider tracking the progress of students with home broadband access versus those without.

Bert Granberg presented the February 2013 Map of the Month to the Advisory Council.  For the February Map of the Month, the project team created series of two-page overview maps, depicting broadband service availability, for all State House and State Senate legislative districts. All data represents service offerings as of Summer 2012 as voluntarily reported by individual broadband providers. Maps of each district are available on the broadband website.