



THE STATE OF UTAH BROADBAND PROJECT

Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Wednesday, March 20, 2013
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn, St. George, Utah

Attendees:

Tara Thue, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Kelleigh Cole, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Mark VanOrden, Utah Department of Technology Services
Bill Duncan, Utah Division of Public Utilities
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library (called in)
Ray Timothy, Utah Education Network
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education Network
Jeff Egly, Utah Education Network
Steve Proctor, Utah Communications Agency Networks
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr (called in)
Kira Slawson, Blackburn & Stoll
Curt Hutsell, TCA Inc.
Ken Sizemore, Five County Association of Governments
Dean Cox, Washington County
Jack Walkenhorst, All West Communications
Garrett Baxter, AWI Networks

Cody Anderson, AWI Networks
Tim Hoskins, AWI Networks
Michael Terry, AWI Networks
Ed Farnham, Baja Broadband
Raymond Hansmeier, Baja Broadband
Eric Isom, CenturyLink
Nate Marcotte, CenturyLink
Jared Anderson, Emery Telcom
Brock Johansen, Emery Telcom
Ed Roberson, Integra
Todd Bowman, Integra
Kerry Alvey, South Central Communications
Bruce Todd, Strata Networks
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks
Lane Earl, Strata Networks
Chari Chambers, Zayo (called in)
Brian Proffit, Zayo (called in)

Summary:

Tara Thue 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) is currently processing grant applications from each state for the "State and Local Implementation Grant Program" (SLIGP). Utah's State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) has submitted Utah's application and once the application is approved the State will receive \$1.825 million in two phases and will be required to provide a 20 percent match. The program will have a particular focus tribal and rural outreach. Steve Proctor, with the Utah Communications Agency Networks (UCAN), told the Advisory Council that several states have formed an organization called WestNet, which will allow several western states with similar population distributions and geographies to coordinate their responses to NTIA and emphasize the need to provide coverage in rural and tribal areas. The Utah Broadband Project also hopes that states will be able to leverage the network to improve consumer availability in underserved areas. DTS will continue to update the Advisory Council as the SLIGP grant moves forward.

Kira Slawson, with Blackburn and Stoll, gave the Advisory Council an overview of the Utah Rural Telecom Association (URTA) Annual Meeting. The meeting featured presentations from Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell, Representative Lowry Snow, the Utah Broadband Project, URTA, the Utah Division of Public Utilities, and several broadband providers and vendors. Many of the sessions focused on the implications that federal Universal Service Fund (USF) reform will have on rural telecommunications providers in Utah.

Tara Thue gave a brief overview of the 2013 Utah State Legislative Session. No major legislation impacting broadband infrastructure or service was passed but the Utah Public Service Commission (PSC) has asked the Utah Division of Public

Utilities to prepare a report on the impacts federal USF reform would have on the State USF program. It is anticipated that the PSC will present the report's findings to the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee during the upcoming Interim Session. Eric Isom, with CenturyLink, told the Advisory Council that Senator Curt Bramble plans to propose telecommunications tax legislation during the Interim Session and the Utah Broadband Project will report any developments to the Advisory Council. Steve Proctor gave the Advisory Council an overview of H.B. 172 "Public Safety Radio Communications Amendments" which will establish a plan to continue developing and maintaining UCAN and increase coordination between agencies.

The Utah Broadband Project is developing a regional planning program that will issue grants to each of Utah's Associations of Governments (AOGs) to form Regional Planning Councils to focus on broadband planning at the local level. Ken Sizemore, with the Five County Association of Governments, gave the Advisory Council an overview of the role of AOGs in Utah. The AOGs allow county and city governments to coordinate to administer federal block grants and planning activities, such as economic development and transportation planning. The AOGs will leverage their existing relationships with local officials, county commissioners, city councils and other stakeholders to coordinate regional broadband planning efforts. In coordination with the Utah Broadband Project, each AOG will will develop a regional broadband plan to address local access and adoption issues.

The Utah Broadband Project invited several southern Utah broadband providers to give the Advisory Council business updates.

- AWI Networks is a St. George-based fixed wireless provider who uses licensed spectrum to deliver high speed DOCSIS 3.0 connections over a wireless environment. AWI has worked with school districts in Washington County to provide redundant connections to several local schools. They have also worked with several businesses to provide wireless connections to remote locations, including the Gilbert Mine.
- In the past year and a half, Baja Broadband has upgraded its system to DOCSIS 3.0 and has focused on connecting schools, businesses, and public safety and healthcare facilities. The company is focusing on both last mile and middle mile connections and has been increasing its fiber network in Washington County.
- CenturyLink has been working on upgrading its backbone infrastructure throughout the state. The company has installed fiber-based nodes in 95 residential areas. It has also continued to establish partnerships with wireless providers, business, and public and private entities to expand its fiber network.
- Emery Telecom provides traditional telephone and Internet service to consumers in Carbon, Emery and Wayne Counties and has also bought out cable companies in Carbon, Emery, Grand and San Juan Counties. The company is installing DOCSIS 3.0 broadband service and fiber to the premises to service residents in Carbon, Emery and Grand Counties. Emery Telcom is also working with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to connect traffic cameras along U.S. Highway 6 and U.S. Highway 191.
- Zayo Group has been installing fiber infrastructure between Salt Lake City and Provo and is a major backbone provider for several LTE wireless networks. They are also working with State government entities to provide infrastructure for public safety networks.

Tara Thue gave the Advisory Council an overview of the March 2013 Map of the Month which illustrates the existing footprints for all mobile wireless providers' 4G speeds, which will be useful as the State works with FirstNet to construct/deploy a 4G LTE broadband network for use by emergency responders for voice and data communications.