



# THE STATE OF UTAH BROADBAND PROJECT

## Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Thursday, May 16, 2013

10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.

Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development

### Attendees:

Tara Thue, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Kelleigh Cole, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Vincent Mikolay, 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  
Mark VanOrden, Utah Department of Technology Services  
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation  
Amanda Rock, Division of Indian Affairs  
Mark Williams, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dennis Sampson, Utah Education Network  
Sabrina Scott, Utah Education Network  
Lisa Kuhn, Utah Education Network  
Don Albrecht, Western Rural Development Center  
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr (called in)  
Jeff Barrett, Office of Energy Development  
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks  
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks (called in)  
Chari Chambers, Zayo

### Summary:

Members of the Utah Broadband Project Team recently attended the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) Grantee Workshop and the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB) Annual Conference in Washington DC. Kelleigh Cole gave the Advisory Council a summary of these events. The SBI Grantee Workshop included mapping, planning and sustainability tracks and allowed participants the opportunity to discuss how individual states are implementing SBI programs. Several states, including Utah, are working with local communities to develop regional broadband planning teams and many of the discussions also focused on data verification, stakeholder outreach, mapping community anchor institutions, and sustainability. The SHLB Annual Conference focused on increasing broadband access to community anchor institutions, discussing Federal initiatives and funding opportunities, increasing broadband adoption and exploring sustainability options. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced the release of its Broadband Adoption Toolkit, a document aimed at sharing best practices developed from broadband adoption and digital literacy projects funded by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel addressed attendees and discussed possible ways to improve E-Rate funding including evaluating LifeLine Linkup adoption pilot programs, establishing capacity goals, increasing public/private partnerships, simplifying the application process and potentially using E-Rate funding for home and after hours educational access.

Don Albrecht, Director of the Western Rural Development Center at Utah State University gave the Advisory Council an overview of the "Rural Broadband Availability and Adoption: Evidence, Policy Challenges, and Options" Report published by the National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center (NARDeP). The report examines data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the National Broadband Map and the Federal Communication Commission's Form 477. It concluded that while broadband has become an integral part of everyday life in the majority of American households, the persistence of a rural-urban "digital divide" has prompted concerns that rural areas are falling further behind urban areas by failing to fully attain the numerous benefits resulting from broadband use. The report also concluded that as businesses adopt broadband, their revenues increase and jobs are created. Extension offices are also working to apply for funding to develop digital literacy materials for individuals and businesses.

Sabrina Scott, with the Utah Education Network (UEN), told the Advisory Council that the FCC is seeking comments on its Technology Transition Policy Task Force. The Task Force is charged with determining which technologies the FCC will continue to invest in. The FCC is seeking comments on trials that will explore potential transitions from copper to fiber, and from wireline to wireless technologies. The Commission is also seeking ideas from broadband providers and other interested parties on how to transition traditional voice networks to IP-based networks. The Advisory Council may decide form a subgroup to submit comments to the FCC.

Tara Thue gave the Advisory Council an update on the First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet) efforts to establish the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The Utah Department of Technology Services (DTS) submitted an application for the "State and Local Implementation Grant Program" (SLIGP) and is working with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to receive a final approval. Utah's State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) will oversee the grant and anticipates that they will begin utilizing funds in July 2013.

The Utah Broadband Project is working with each of Utah's seven Association of Governments to form Regional Broadband Planning Councils. Each Planning Council will be tasked with identifying regional issues, priorities and goals related to broadband deployment and adoption; participating in regional and state broadband outreach; creating community awareness about broadband-related issues; and formalizing a regional broadband plan.

NTIA recently announced the release of a new set of reports, the Broadband Briefs series, which will use publicly available data collected by the U.S. Department of Commerce to examine broadband availability in greater detail. Utah achieved high rankings in several categories including access to speeds of 10 Mbps or higher (ranked 11th at 98.53 %), access to speeds of 25 Mbps or higher (ranked 13th at 90.71%), and access to speeds of 50 Mbps or higher (ranked 12th at 89.22%).

The Utah Division of Public Utilities recently released their report titled "Potential Changes in the Regulation of the Utah Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund, In Response to Recent Changes in the Federal Universal Service Fund Program." The Report is available online at <http://www.psc.utah.gov/utilities/misc/miscindx/1299910indx.html>.

Tara Thue also gave the Advisory Council an update on the status of ongoing federal funding for the Utah Broadband Project. At the SBI Grantee Workshop, Larry Strickling, the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the U.S. Department of Commerce, announced that SBI programs will no longer be funded at the federal level after 2014. Broadband mapping data will be reported using an amended Form 477 process and the National Broadband Map will be collected at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The Advisory Council participated in a group activity focused on collecting ideas about the future of broadband planning on a State level. Council members were asked to answer 10 questions which were posted throughout the room. Their responses can be found at <http://broadband.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2011/12/Development-Workshop-Responses.pdf>.

Jessie Pechmann gave the Advisory Council an update on the Spring 2013 Data Submission to NTIA. Twenty eight providers updated their service coverage for the submission. Many providers increased reported speeds and/or coverage areas. She also gave the Advisory Council an overview of the April 2013 and May 2013 Maps of the Month. The [April 2013 Map of the Month](#) analyzed broadband service availability in each AOG region. The analysis described speeds needed to utilize the Internet at three increasing levels of use including basic broadband use, home office or education use, and high capacity usage. The [May 2013 Map of the Month](#) analyzed the same use cases as the April analysis, but on a statewide level. These service levels were compared to Utah's populated areas to show which areas of the state have access to various levels of service.