



THE STATE OF UTAH BROADBAND PROJECT

Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Thursday, December 13, 2012

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
Chris Conabee, 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
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education Network
Sabrina Scott, Utah Education Network
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr
Justin Stewart, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Stan Stoll, Utah Rural Telecom Association
David Leavitt, Utah Rural Telecom Association
Shirlee Silversmith, Utah Division of Indian Affairs

Ed Naranjo, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute
Ryan Marriott, Americom Technologies
JaCee Bullock, Americom Technologies
Steve Taylor, All West Communications
Eric Isom, CenturyLink
Jared Anderson, Emery Telcom
Bruce Todd, Strata Networks (call in)
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks (call in)
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks (call in)
Jeff Goodrich, Strata Networks (call in)
Todd Marriott, UTOPIA
Roger Timmerman, UTOPIA
Dean Lundberg, Wildfire Broadband
Carolyn Lundberg, Wildfire Broadband
Susen Sawatzki, AdNews Magazine
David Shaw, Kirton McConkie

Summary:

Tara Thue, the Utah Broadband Project Manager, gave the Utah Broadband Advisory Council a preview of the relaunch of the Project website that will be released in early 2013. The site has been redesigned to more effectively highlight recent blog entries, upcoming events, the Utah Broadband Map, and information about the Utah Broadband Advisory Council.

Bert Granberg, Director of the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC), presented the November and December 2012 Maps of the Month to the Advisory Council. The November Map of the Month analyzed mobile broadband data coverage at Utah ski resorts. For each ski resort, the map shows which mobile broadband providers have data service capability at or near the resort's base area. All of Utah's ski resorts, with the exception of Beaver Mountain Ski Resort, have mobile data coverage from at least two providers. The analysis was conducted using the most recent provider-submitted coverage data, along with drive test data collected in July 2011.

For the December Map of the Month, the Project Team mapped the locations and connection speeds of the 813 sites where broadband services are provided through the Utah Education Network (UEN). UEN connects Utah school districts, schools, libraries and higher education institutions to a robust network and provides quality educational resources. Despite Utah's size and extensive remote, rural areas, UEN is one of the nation's premiere education networks. Dennis Sampson, an Associate Director at UEN, recommended that the map be updated with a category showing speeds above 10 Gbps to more accurately illustrate the network's backbone speeds. He also asked that the recent fiber connection between Price and Roosevelt be added to the map. AGRC will work with UEN to update the map.

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). FirstNet recently held its second board meeting and has stated it would like to have the NPSBN operational within 18-24 months. FirstNet has also established the Public Safety Advisory Committee, which is working on a statement of requirements for the network. Paul Patrick, the Director of Emergency Medical Services for the State of Utah, has been asked to sit on the Executive Committee of the Public Safety Advisory Committee. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) recently established the Division for Public Safety Communications, which will coordinate with FirstNet and manage state planning efforts. Stephen Fletcher, Utah's former Chief Information Officer, has been appointed as Director of the division.

Tara Thue gave the Advisory Council an overview of the TechNet 2012 State Broadband Index Report, which ranked Utah 9th overall, making it the only Rocky Mountain state to be recognized. TechNet evaluated each state based on executive and legislative leadership, state funding, cooperation, and planning. Utah's healthy technology economy and robust infrastructure contributed to its ranking. The report cited Utah as a case study and applauded its high adoption rate, fiber-to-the-home access, publicly-supported broadband deployment projects, and public-private partnerships. The report specifically mentioned UEN's partnership with private providers to connect over 1000 schools and the Utah Department of Transportation's (UDOT) practice of facilitating cooperative fiber and conduit trades with broadband service providers and its best practice of laying fiber conduit during road construction projects where it makes sense.

Tara Thue also led a discussion on the upcoming 2013 legislative session. The legislature has made several committee member changes on both the Senate Transportation, Public Utilities and Technology Committee and the House Public Utilities and Technology Committee. The Utah Broadband Project and the Utah Broadband Advisory Council plan to be a resource to these new committee members and educate them on significant telecommunications issues. Advisory Council members also said that they do not anticipate changes to the Universal Service Fund (USF) in Utah until the 2014 legislative session. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has opened a docket (12-999-10) to solicit comments on this issue. The PSC will also host a technical conference dealing with this issue on January 10, 2013. Based on the information gathered, the Utah Division of Public Utilities will submit a report with recommendations to the Utah State Legislature.

The Utah Broadband Project has submitted a proposal to NTIA to amend the current Project Plan to reallocate funding for regional planning. The proposed program will issue grants to each of the Association of Governments in Utah to form regional planning councils to focus on broadband planning at the local level. The Project Team has researched the participants, evaluation methods, planning processes, timelines and sample materials from regional broadband planning teams in other states (Arkansas, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, and North Carolina) and will incorporate some of these ideas into the Utah program. The Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development plans to work with local communities to develop regional economic development plans and may coordinate with the Utah Broadband Project on local planning efforts. The Project Team has also asked Advisory Council members for recommendations on planning and implementing the program, as well as suggestions for local participants.