



# THE STATE OF UTAH BROADBAND PROJECT

## Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Thursday, May 17, 2012

12:00 p.m.-2:00 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  
Spencer Jenkins, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center  
Bert Granberg, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center  
John Harvey, Utah Public Service Commission  
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation  
Gary Ricks, Utah Department of Technology Services  
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library  
Shirlee Silversmith, Utah Division of Indian Affairs  
Jim Stewart, Utah Education Network  
Deb LaMarche, Utah Telehealth Network  
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr

Eric Isom, CenturyLink  
Steve Taylor, All West Communications  
Steve Proper, Comcast  
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications  
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks  
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks  
Jared Anderson, Emery Telcom  
Roger Timmerman, UTOPIA  
Joseph Wavra, Enterprise Technologies/Goshute  
Charles Baldwin, BitStream Communications/Goshute (online)  
Debra Meyer, United States Department of Agriculture  
Don Albrecht, Western Rural Development Center/USU

### Summary:

Lynne Yocom, the Fiber Optics Manager for the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), has been working with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to secure rights-of-way and negotiate specifications for traffic camera poles for a section of road that USFS owns and UDOT is maintaining. UDOT has been told that the process may take up to two years to complete and asked Council members if the timeframe and process is typical for these types of issues. Several Advisory Council members have worked with USFS on projects and stated that the agency has very specific requirements for permitting and construction and recommended that she work with the local USFS field office.

Sharon Bertelsen, an attorney for Ballard Spahr LLP, gave the Advisory Council an update on the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) that was recently established with the passage of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The legislation reallocates the 700 MHz D Block of spectrum to public safety and authorizes the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reallocate and auction the 470-512 MHz (T-Band) currently used by public safety entities. It also authorizes the FCC to use incentive auctions to raise \$7 billion to fund the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and provide \$135 million to support State and local efforts to plan and integrate with the Network. Steve Proctor, the Executive Director of the Utah Communications Agency Network (UCAN), was recently appointed to the FCC's Interoperability Board, which will make recommendations for "minimum technical requirements" for implementation into the Network to ensure a nationwide level of interoperability. These recommendations are due on May 22, 2012 and will be approved by June 20, 2012. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) also issued a Request for Information (RFI) on May 16, 2012 and parties with valuable information regarding the planning and implementation of the NPSBN are asked to comment. Comments are due on June 15, 2012.

Debra Meyer, the Broadband Coordinator for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Utah, gave the Council an overview of the Community Connect Grant Program, which will provide funding to rural communities seeking to secure broadband access. Eligible communities must have a population of 20,000 or less and must provide free

Internet access to community residents for 2 years. Applicants will be scored based on the community's rurality (population), economic need (based on the median household income), and the benefits derived to the specific community. The Broadband Project created and presented two maps showing how Utah communities would rank for rurality and economic need under the grant's scoring criteria.

The FCC also recently announced the Broadband Adoption Lifeline Pilot Program, which will make \$25 million in funding available to eligible telecommunications carriers to create programs that test best practices around issues of cost, digital literacy, and relevancy. Applicants are encouraged to partner with existing broadband adoption programs as well as schools, libraries, State and local governments, non-profits, and others.

Tara Thue gave the Council an overview of the May 16, 2012 Utah State Legislature interim committee meetings. The Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee is considering changes to the existing tax and fee structure for telecommunications services in Utah. The Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee heard a presentation from Stan Stoll, the Executive Director of the Utah Rural Telecom Association (URTA), on the Connect America Fund (CAF) and its impacts on Utah's rural service providers. The Advisory Council discussed the need to continue informing the Legislature on these issues during the 2012 Interim Session.

Kelleigh Cole presented the final draft of the Utah Broadband Advisory Council Report to the Advisory Council. This report summarizes the deliberations and findings of the Council as of May 2012 and is intended to provide Governor Gary R. Herbert, the Utah State Legislature, and other interested parties an overview of the Council's recommendations and policy guidance. The report is scheduled to be publicly released on June 19, 2012.

Bert Granberg gave a presentation on the Utah Broadband Project's May 2012 Map of the Month, which analyzed areas within Utah that are eligible for the FCC Mobility Fund's reverse auction. Under the program, the FCC will seek bids for providing 3G equivalent broadband service to pre-determined unserved areas of the country. The Project created three maps that illustrate the eligible census block's proximity to population; roads, with an emphasis on State and Federal Highways; and irrigated agriculture, which can be integrated for optimum performance using mobile broadband.