



Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Kendall Rathunde, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bert Granberg, Automated Geographic Reference Center
Abby Dowd, STEM Action Center
Brad Hunsaker, STEM Action Center
Ashley Alonso, State of Utah Department of Technology Services
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Jim Stewart, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Jeff Egly, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Ray Timothy, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Jaime Welch Jaro, USDA Rural Development
Heath Price, USDA Rural Development
Kira Slawson, Utah Rural Telecom Association
Douglas Meredith, John Staurilakis, Inc./URTA
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr
Eric Isom, MIB Partners
Jack Walkenhorst, All West Communications
Roger Timmerman, UTOPIA
Lynn Beecher, Go Fiber

Brock Johansen, Emery Telecom
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications
Dean Lundberg, Accelerant
Joel Smith, Accelerant
Trent Bangert, Americom
Jennifer Somers, CenturyLink
Tara Thue, AT&T

Phone:

Sabrina Scott, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Bill Duncan, Utah Division of Public Utilities
Bruce Todd, Strata Networks
Drew Clark, Broadbandbreakfast.com, Best Best & Krieger
Barbara Hollister, Department of Workforce Services
Ed Farnham, TDS Telecom
Liz Jackson, University of Utah Professional Education
Marina Goldberg, Zayo

Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) Update:

Ray Timothy from UETN gave the Council a brief update on UETN network usage and discussed the organization's legislative requests for Fiscal Year 2018. UEN's most recent data (See UEN Bandwidth Utilization handout) reveals bandwidth usage has grown from 13.142 Gbps in 2012 to 76.03 Gbps in 2016. This massive increase in demand is driving UETN's growth, and is also a factor in their legislative requests. The request has three main categories: operations sustainability, filtering and software, and equipment. One key priority for UETN is to implement the first phase of establishing a 24/7 operating center to field a constant stream of calls regarding network operations. Ray also noted that many telehealth network contracts are coming to a close, so the currently separate education and health networks will become more integrated in the near future.

Ray also gave the Council a brief update regarding the Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) initiative. The State Board of Education recently voted to approve DTL plans submitted by Local Education Agencies (LEAs). The approved plans can be found [here](#). Ray clarified a question from the council regarding the responsibilities of UEN compared to LEAs. UEN is primarily responsible for delivering external infrastructure to the school, while schools must take on the cost and maintenance of all internal equipment. The organization hopes to be a resource for these schools regarding equipment choice, as well as software choice. UEN is conducting a pilot study with the LEARN organization to vet the effectiveness of different learning software.

Jeff Egly provided an update on E-rate projects happening in Daggett and San Juan Counties. Jeff reports the environmental assessment for the Daggett project looks promising, and the next steps will include engineering network specifications with partner Strata Networks. The San Juan project was rebid, and the new RFP will likely be released in approximately one week. In the meantime, UEN is working extensively on outreach to stakeholders in this region, as they suspect a complex set of circumstances regarding the San Juan build.

STEM Bus Tour:

Brad Hunsaker and Abby Dowd gave the Advisory Council an overview of the new STEM Action Center mobile classroom, called the Utah Stem Bus, or "USB." The role of the USB will be to "plug in" to any school in the state in order to provide hands-on STEM educational opportunities. The program's mission has been to better connect industry with STEM education, and build a future

workforce that is more prepared for jobs in STEM fields. The project is made possible through the generous donations of sponsors. The primary operating budget is the result of a five year grant from Tesoro. While the first bus nears completion, the team is focusing on conducting some practice teaching experiences and finalizing a scheduling system. The USB aims to reach 3600 students per year. STEM Action Center is still looking for hot-spots to use when the mobile classroom is unable to connect to school WIFI.

FCC Update—One Perspective:

Douglas Meredith gave the council a preview of what the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) might take on in the new Trump Administration. Chairman Wheeler will resign his post upon Trump's inauguration, and a new chairman will be appointed to the commission. Commissioner Pai, the senior republican on the committee, is one possible choice for the position. Two additional commissioners, one republican and one democrat, will be appointed by the President to complete the five member commission. This newly formed commission could take on issues of network neutrality and the 2015 Open Internet Order, universal service, deregulation, and the commission's structure.

Network Neutrality

The Open Internet Order established Internet Service Providers (ISPs) as common carriers and therefore subject to regulation under Title II of the Communications Act. The order prohibits ISPs from blocking and throttling, and issues general conduct rules. Active court challenges and appeals continue, with the most recent ruling addressing "zero-rating with payment" or "sponsored data." Expect changes to Net Neutrality rules, including possible antitrust reform to help protect small edge providers and the removal of ISPs from Title II regulation.

Universal Service

The federal Universal Service Fund (USF) offsets the cost of two primary objectives: to provide affordable rates for customers and to encourage the investment of providers. The programs that address these objectives are largely transitioning from voice support to voice and broadband support. Currently, end-user charges apply to voice only, meaning broadband ISPs are not mandated to contribute to the USF. As support shifts to broadband programs, USF structure may change. Programs funded by the USF could also see changes to reflect partisan priorities.

Accelerant Update:

Dean Lundberg and Joel Smith gave the council an update on Accelerant's progress bridging Utah's rural workforce with urban businesses. The company has created a model using its People, Places, Platform vision which allows them to create partnerships between rural communities and Wasatch Front employers. Accelerant's Opportunity Hub in Price recently hired 28 employees for Health Equity. Since the original hire, Health Equity has requested an addition 22 hires in Price. The company is in talks with additional rural communities and Wasatch Front employers to establish Opportunity Hubs across Utah.

Maps of the Month:

Bert Granberg from the Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) presented the September, October, November, and December Maps of the Month (MOTM).

In September, the MOTM featured county broadband metrics using address points. The map summarizes accessible speed tiers by county, and has an accompanying data table with more detailed metrics.

The October MOTM locates State of Utah facilities, which are often anchor tenants for communities since most state agencies need to get online. The map can be searched by facility or agency type and also provides a pop-up window with more detailed information about each facility.

The November MOTM is the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Data Explorer interactive mapping tool. The tool, which displays population wide technology usage over the years, is a fun way to see how Americans have been getting online and using connected devices over the years.

In December, AGRC created a holiday themed map showing the percentage of address points covered by speeds of 100 Mbps or greater. Percentages are aggregated at municipal and county levels.

Council Updates and Discussion Items:

Kelleigh presented the Outreach Center's new strategy for improving communication with municipal governments. City officials will be receiving their own monthly newsletter designed to present best practices and better include these governments in broadband discussions. To kick off this effort, leaders will be asked to take a short survey regarding broadband access and use in their area. The council was asked to provide feedback on a draft list of questions.

Announcements:

Kelleigh Cole invited the council to an open meeting in Emigration Canyon. Residents are hoping to get fiber installed up the canyon, and have scheduled a meeting on February 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will take place at the firehouse on 5025 E. Emigration Canon Road.

Kelleigh announced the Outreach Center is in talks with EDCUtah to possibly integrate Locate.utah.gov with Sure Sites.

Tara Thue announced the AT&T Foundation is accepting applications for a start-up grant. The foundation will make a \$100,000 investment in an Ed Tech company.

Next Meeting:

The next Broadband Advisory Council meeting will be held March 16, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Governor's Office of Economic Development.