

Oregon Broadband Advisory Council Meeting

February 27, 2020

Salem, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Katie Cox, Kurtis Danka, Michael Heffner, Galen McGill, Rick Petersen, Jeremy Pietzold, Cheri Rhinhart, Dave Sabala and Commissioner David Yamamoto.

Staff Present: Christopher Tamarin of Business Oregon

Guests: Karen Barnes, Corvallis; Bryan Conway, Public Utility Commission of Oregon; Alexandra Corvello, Lane County; Beth Fox, City of Portland; Scott France, MYND Global; Danielle Gonzalez, Marion County; Darci Hanning and Jennifer Patterson, Oregon State Library; Carla Montrose, Sprint; Stuart Taubman, Zayo; Paul Zollner of Business Oregon.

The meeting was called to order at 9:18 am.

Welcome, Introductions

Vice-Chair Jeremy Pietzold called the meeting to order and asked for guest introductions.

Jeremy welcomed Michael Heffner representing Public Safety to his first in-person OBAC meeting.

Minutes

Dave Sabala moved that the January 23, 2020 minutes be approved as distributed. Cheri Rhinhart seconded the motion. The council approved the motion.

National Broadband Activity Updates

Chris Tamarin reported on the following national broadband activity regarding infrastructure deployment, technology, market trends, public policy, and illustrations of the value of broadband adoption and utilization since the council's last meeting.

AT&T

AT&T posted another round of video subscriber losses for the fourth quarter of 2019, ending a year of mass erosion to its satellite TV business. AT&T lost a net total of 3.43 million traditional video subscribers in 2019. The company now has 19.473 million traditional video subscribers, down 15% year over year. The company also lost 665,000 AT&T TV Now subscribers in 2019, bringing the total down nearly 42% to 926,000.

In positive news, AT&T expects FTTH subscribers will grow to 7 million by 2022. AT&T added 191K FTTH subscribers in 4Q19, bringing total AT&T FTTH subscribers to 3.9 million, up from 2.7 million at the end of 2018. Based on approximately 14 million homes passed, AT&T fiber penetration is roughly 28%. The goal is to get to 7 million, or roughly 50% penetration of current homes passed.

<https://www.telecompetitor.com/att-plan-is-to-have-7-million-att-ftth-subscribers-by-2022/>

Low Earth Orbit Satellites

SpaceX successfully launched 60 satellites into orbit in January 2020, bringing its total to more than 200. The satellites are intended to blanket the globe with Internet connectivity, once there are enough of them in orbit. There is still have a long way to go before that happens – SpaceX is currently licensed to launch up to 12,000 satellites, but it wants to eventually add another 30,000 to that.

https://www.govtech.com/question-of-the-day/Question-of-the-Day-for-01302020.html?utm_source=gt&utm_campaign=home&utm_term=ANSWER&&utm_content=email&&utm_medium=email

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)

In January, the FCC adopted rules for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), which will use a reverse auction to award \$20.4 billion in rural broadband funding to be distributed over 10 years. The RDOF targets areas where the incumbent service provider is a price cap carrier and where broadband service at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps is not available. Plans call for funds to be awarded in two rounds, with the \$16 billion first round targeting areas completely lacking broadband according to FCC data. A second \$4.4 billion round targeting additional areas will follow, after the FCC collects more granular broadband availability data through a revised Form 477 process. The auction will be open to a wide range of service provider types and will use a weighting system to favor bids to deploy service at higher speeds up to 1 Gbps downstream and with lower latency. In RDOF, the FCC is describing 25x3 Mbps as minimum performance and 50x5 Mbps as “Baseline.” The target is about to move again.

<https://www.telecompetitor.com/20-4-billion-rural-digital-opportunity-fund-adopted-with-a-few-more-tweaks/>

Digital Equity Act (HR 4486)

The Digital Equity Act has been proposed which would require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to establish grant programs for promoting digital equity, supporting digital inclusion activities, and building capacity for state-led efforts to increase adoption of broadband by their residents. A similar bill (S 1167) was introduced in the Senate last spring by Sen. Patty Murray (D., Wash.) (TR Daily, April 11, 2019). There was general agreement among witnesses and lawmakers at a House communications and technology subcommittee hearing that gaps in broadband adoption are due to digital literacy and relevancy issues as well as affordability, and that those gaps create problems for education, workforce development, health care, and participation in modern society.

Cybersecurity

A cyberattack known as e-skimming is getting more common with the rise of online shopping. E-skimming is a type of malware that infects checkout pages online to steal payment and personal information of shoppers. Companies large and small have been hit by e-skimming attacks in the past two years, including Macy’s, Puma and Ticketmaster. The FBI says e-skimming has been on its radar for nearly seven years and unlike traditional skimming, the criminals behind the attack do not need physical access so they can be located anywhere in the world.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/31/e-skimming-cyberattack-is-growing-along-with-online-shopping.html>

Cyber – Census

Congress has been grilling top Census Bureau officials about the cybersecurity of the 2020 census, which kicks off nationwide next month and marks the first time that Americans will be able to fill out the form online. Officials are facing new urgency over the issue after the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report earlier Wednesday highlighting cybersecurity concerns and following the breakdown of Iowa's state caucus voting system. According to the GAO report, the bureau faces "significant cybersecurity challenges in securing its systems and data." The report said the Census Bureau, one month before the online launch, still has to fix identified cyber vulnerabilities, implement Department of Homeland Security recommendations and ensure that collected information is safe from data breaches. Census cyber challenges were highlighted in Australia in 2016 when the country's online census website crashed after multiple foreign "denial of service" cyberattacks. The U.S. census will be available to fill out online beginning in mid-March, while the bureau plans to send out census forms to most U.S. households by April 1.

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/482852-lawmakers-grill-census-officials-after-report-on-cybersecurity-issues>

Broadband Affordability

Cost continues to be a barrier to broadband adoption. Approximately 60% of the U.S. population had low-priced wired broadband available to them in the fourth quarter of 2019, according to new broadband affordability research from BroadbandNow. Researchers defined low-priced service to include offerings priced at \$60 or less. BroadbandNow maintains a geographic database of broadband services available nationwide. In addition to tracking service costs, the organization tracks broadband availability by speed. Speeds available showed relatively few changes between third quarter and fourth quarter, particularly for higher-speed services. The percentage of Americans that can get gigabit service increased from slightly below 23% to slightly more than 23% and the percentage that can get service at speeds of at least 500 Mbps was unchanged at 67.1%. The minimum internet service speed that BroadbandNow considers to be broadband is 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. The percentage of Americans that had non-satellite fixed service at speeds at or above 25/3 Mbps increased slightly between the third and fourth quarter of 2019 – from 94.5% to 94.8%. Nationwide, BroadbandNow says that 61% of consumers have access to wired broadband service at 500 Mbps. Oregon is reported as 73% of Consumers having access. There were 12 states where 80% or more of the population could get broadband at speeds of at least 500 Mbps, including four with the availability of 90% or higher.

<https://www.telecompetitor.com/broadband-affordability-research-61-of-u-s-can-get-low-cost-service-but-will-this-last/>

Broadband Subscription

According to new research from US Telecom – the percentage of U.S. households that subscribe to broadband continues to climb. They forecast that by the end of the 2020, 84% of U.S. households – will subscribe to fixed broadband, 79% of voice connections will be wireless, and only 6% of U.S. households will use traditional telephone lines. Traditional switched telephone subscriptions are plummeting: They will have fallen from a peak of 186 million in 2000 to 24 million at the end of this year.

<https://www.telecompetitor.com/forecast-84-of-u-s-households-to-subscribe-to-broadband-by-year-end/>

5G

5G is arriving. All four major U.S. wireless carriers have launched 5G, with expanding coverage areas. Major national mobile carriers are seeing initial 5G speeds of hundreds of megabits per second and in some cases, even gigabit speeds on their millimeter wave spectrum based 5G networks.

- T-Mobile has launched nationwide 5G on lower band 700 MHz spectrum, with slower 5G speeds than that, at about 20% faster speeds than 4G LTE. The much higher speed millimeter wave 5G sacrifices coverage and range for that higher speed, making for sparse coverage.
- Verizon intends to be in 30 markets with 5G by the end of 2019.
- AT&T just launched lower band 5G on 850 MHz spectrum in multiple markets, and utilizes millimeter wave in about 23 other markets.
- Sprint last reported on 5G progress in October 2019, citing coverage to 16 million people in 9 markets.

5G's overall impact will be much more than just about faster speed. Benefits include much lower latency and much greater capacity. This means many more devices can be connected to the network, and the network can facilitate much quicker response times. 5G will fuel faster adoption of IoT, initially with industry and enterprise sectors. 5G will ultimately bring the concept of the internet of things (IoT) to life, enabling billions of connections across the globe. These new 5G networks also will accelerate automation and, in combination with artificial intelligence, 5G has the potential to make the world look very different five years from now.

<https://www.telecompetitor.com/forecast-84-of-u-s-households-to-subscribe-to-broadband-by-year-end/>

Broadband Mapping

Researchers at BroadbandNow estimate that at least 20.7 million people considered to have broadband available to them can't get service. The total unserved population nationwide is at least 42 million – about twice the FCC's estimate, the researchers said. FCC broadband availability data has received widespread criticism and virtually everyone, including the commission, agrees that it overestimates broadband availability. Based on this research, the report estimates a 19.6% error rate for provider/address combinations nationwide. For addresses where multiple providers were checked, 13% of the time none of the providers offered service. BroadbandNow isn't the first organization to estimate FCC broadband availability data inaccuracies. Research conducted by broadband provider association US Telecom last year estimated that as many as 38% of locations reported to be served actually did not have service available to them.

Unfortunately, as with many of the issues surrounding the digital divide, the FCC's over reporting disproportionately impacts rural communities. As an example, in South Carolina, where 50 percent of residents live in an urban area, unserved addresses are 30 percent higher than FCC estimates. In Oregon, the FCC reports that 7.7% of the population is unserved. According to BroadbandNow, that number is 15.5%. The broadband mapping and availability data problem needs to be solved.

<https://www.telecompetitor.com/report-flawed-fcc-broadband-availability-data-could-leave-20-7-million-people-unserved/>

TV White Space

Zayo has announced that it will provide backbone fiber connectivity to support Microsoft Airband initiative that aims to bring high-speed broadband to three million people in rural areas of the U.S.

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where service isn't available. Microsoft is working primarily with wireless internet service providers (WISPs) on the Airband project, offering technical assistance and in some cases, monetary support. The Zayo deal calls for Zayo to provide fiber connectivity into the communities that Airband partners will serve. Prior to launching Airband in 2017, Microsoft did a study that found that most unserved rural locations could be served most economically through fixed wireless broadband, with a smaller portion best served by fiber to the home. The company has been a strong advocate for TV white spaces technology, which uses vacant TV spectrum on an unlicensed basis. That spectrum band has excellent propagation characteristics and large parts of it are vacant in rural areas. Airband currently has about 10 service provider partners.

<https://www.telecompetitor.com/zayo-to-provide-backbone-fiber-for-microsoft-airband-rural-broadband-initiative/>

Broadband Data Traffic

The average amount of internet usage by U.S. broadband homes surged 27.3% in 2019, reaching 344 gigabytes, according to a new report published by telecom industry consultancy OpenVault. The latest surge in broadband usage correlates with an aggregate increase in provisioned internet speed, which jumped from an average of 103.1 Mbps in 2018 to 128.3 Mbps last year. And so-called "power users"—those that consume 1 terabyte or more of data each month—grew by 60% last year and now account for 12% of all wireline broadband users. OpenVault noted that increased usage is also driven by cord cutting—those consumers that disconnected traditional pay TV cable and satellite services averaged 520 GB of data usage a month.

<https://www.nexttv.com/news/average-us-broadband-consumers-monthly-data-use-surged-27-in-2019-to-340-gb>

T-Mobile-Sprint Merger

On February 10th, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York approved the T-Mobile – Sprint merger, while denying opposition from twelve states, including Oregon. T-Mobile's planned acquisition of Sprint has already been approved by the FCC and the Department of Justice. The combined company would become the nation's third-largest wireless carrier with more than 100 million subscribers.

Digital Divide

On February 20, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission's Office of Economics and Analytics (OEA) released updated data showing that the digital divide substantially narrowed over the past two years. From December 2016 to December 2018, the number of Americans without any options for at least 250/25 Mbps fixed terrestrial broadband service dropped by 74%, from 181.7 million to 47 million. And during that same time period, the number of Americans with no options for at least 25/3 Mbps fixed terrestrial broadband service fell by 30%, from 26.1 million to 18.3 million. The FCC data also showed an increase in competition from December 2016 to December 2018, with the number of Americans enjoying more than two options for 25/3 Mbps fixed terrestrial broadband service increasing by 52%, from 45.9 million to 69.8 million.

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-362583A1.pdf>

Agriculture

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture initiative announced today, dubbed Agriculture Innovation Agenda, aims to "align resources, programs and research to position American agriculture to better meet future global demands," according to the USDA. The initiative sets an ambitious goal of

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increasing U.S. agricultural production by 40% while cutting the environmental footprint of U.S. agriculture in half by 2050.

<https://www.telecompetitor.com/usda-agriculture-innovation-agenda-could-spur-broadband-usage-deployment/>

Streaming Video

Nielsen reports that video streaming made up 19% of all US TV viewing time during 2019's fourth quarter, almost doubling the March 2018 figure. Netflix earned the largest share of viewership for the format, 31%, followed by YouTube at 21% and Hulu with 12%.

<https://www.nexttv.com/news/more-streaming-more-content-new-nielsen-report>

New NARUC Broadband Task Force

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) announced the creation of a new, two-year broadband task force consisting of state commissioners who are being asked to find solutions to improving access to broadband in rural America. The task force will look at access issues and the availability of funding for broadband expansion, among other issues.

COVID-19

Jeremy noted news from around the world about the spread of COVID-19 and the resulting shut down of cities to contain its spread. He predicts that such actions result in increased use of the internet and reliance on it as people work and study from home, and are restricted to their homes. Jeremy also noted that organization need to assess their ability to function in the event that essential workers cannot be in the office. What alternative methods of operation can be employed to keep the organization functioning. He shared that Clackamas ESD is engaged in that planning now.

Ray Baum

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has established an annual award to honor the memory of Ray Baum, who passed away in 2018. Ray was a long-time member of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, the go-to Staffer on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, a nationally recognized expert on utility law and former chair of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council. This award is given to a Staff member of the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications that best reflects his initiative and drive towards public service.

“A good man’s life is never quite ended; Something of it always
remains to touch and illuminate other lives” –
Edward Higgins White

More details about the award and Ray’s life may be found at <https://pubs.naruc.org/pub/3CB939F3-C32E-4A0A-3D17-64D401F6F6AE> .

State Broadband Activity Updates

Chris Tamarin reported the following state broadband activity regarding infrastructure deployment, technology, market trends, public policy, and illustrations of the value of broadband adoption and utilization since the council’s last meeting.

Broadband related Conferences coming to Oregon

The *National Digital Inclusion Alliance* is holding its Net Inclusion conference welcoming digital inclusion community practitioners, advocates, academics, Internet service providers, and policymakers to discuss:

- Local, state and federal policies and policy innovations impacting digital equity
- Sources of financial and programmatic support of digital inclusion programs
- Digital inclusion best practices from across the country

April 7–9, 2020 in Portland

<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/netinclusion2020/>

The *Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center and Telehealth Alliance of Oregon* is holding its Telehealth 20/20: New Perspectives, Innovation Insights and Expanded Vision of Care Delivery conference at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, April 15–17, 2020.

<https://www.nrtrc.org/annual-conference>

Data Breach

A data breach at a contractor for Health Share of Oregon, the Portland area's Medicaid insurer, has potentially compromised the personal information of about 650,000 people. Health Share urged clients to take advantage of the free credit monitoring and take other steps to protect their information, including monitoring financial statements, credit reports and Social Security reports for suspicious activity; contacting banks about any suspected fraud; putting a freeze on credit reports; and reporting fraud to the Federal Trade Commission, Oregon's attorney general or law enforcement.

https://www.thelundreport.org/content/data-breach-affects-650000-medicaid-members-portland-area?mc_cid=ff9a318866&mc_eid=38b2987c1b

Tillamook County cyber attack

Tillamook County commissioners voted to negotiate for an encryption key to regain control of the government's computer systems after a cyberattack struck. The ransom cost has not yet been made public. The county's server and internal computer systems, phone systems, email networks and website were all affected. This past year, 113 state and municipal governments and agencies, 764 healthcare providers, and 89 universities, colleges and school districts in the U.S. were hit by ransomware attacks, according to Emsisoft, a cybersecurity software company.

https://www.tillamookheadlightherald.com/news_paid/cyberattack-county-to-negotiate-for-ransomware-key/article_d31f0e00-4168-11ea-a179-cf3d1ff50ef6.html

Oregon Broadband Office

Now posted:

- *Oregon Statewide Broadband Assessment and Best Practices Study*
<https://www.oregon4biz.com/assets/docs/SNGStudy2020.pdf>
- *Oregon Broadband Office Strategic Plan*
<https://www.oregon4biz.com/dev/www/BOR/Broadband-Office/OBAC/Reports/BroadbandStratPlan2020.pdf>

Presentations

Darci Hanning

Darci Hanning of the Oregon State Library provided a briefing on the status and role of broadband in public libraries. The FCC established broadband goals of 100 Mbps for smaller libraries and 1 Gbps for larger libraries though about 35 percent of public libraries have subscribed speeds of 10 Mbps or less. Price and availability are a problem for public libraries, particularly in rural areas. More than 33 percent of public libraries and 41 percent of rural libraries cannot offer better broadband because they subscribe to the maximum speed available in their area.

- 8.2 percent of public libraries have download speeds of 1.5 Mbps or less
- 34.2 percent of public libraries have download speeds between 1.5 and 10 Mbps
- 29.3 percent of public libraries have download speeds between 10 and 50 Mbps
- 28.3 percent of public libraries have download speeds greater than 50 Mbps

The majority of public libraries are in rural areas serving small communities. Sixty of the seventy public libraries serving communities of 10,000 or less in Oregon report that their download speeds average download speed was 55 Mbps. This is a challenge because there are multiple users sharing that bandwidth.

Service costs vary widely. To illustrate, one Idaho library pays about \$1,300 monthly for wireless internet access at 5 Mbps. The only other option for internet at this library is dial-up. In contrast, a suburban library near Boise pays \$750 per month for 40 Mbps broadband, once again reflecting the rural urban digital divide.

There have been a number of national initiatives regarding library broadband access.

- Toward Gigabit Libraries includes a Toolkit and Improvement Plan funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), has created a "Broadband Toolkit" and customized "Broadband Improvement Plan" designed to help public and tribal librarians learn about their current broadband infrastructure and internal information technology (IT) environment. Through the use of the "Broadband Toolkit" and "Broadband Improvement Plan", librarians will be better equipped to improve their broadband services and become stronger advocates for their libraries' broadband infrastructure needs.
- E-rate makes fiber buildout or connections possible through Category One funding
- General advocacy by the American Libraries Association and the Public Library Association representing libraries to the FCC and policy makers and promoting opportunities to libraries.

The role of broadband in libraries is significant and growing. 65% of local government leaders say libraries play an important or highly important role in advancing digital literacy in their communities as being connected to the internet is increasingly necessary to function in the modern world. This is a challenge for a lot of Americans due to lack of access and due to lack of the skills to use and benefit from digital technologies.

Wi-Fi exponentially increases the library's capacity to serve the public beyond its wired desktops—powering patron's handheld devices and laptops inside the library and on the road with mobile training labs and pop-up library programs, connected through Wi-Fi. Some libraries only provide

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Wi-Fi access during open hours, others provide it 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Additionally, some libraries offer mobile technical training for the community and hotspot devices that may be checked out for access away from the library.

Libraries are leaders in providing digital literacy resources. Google is offering a program called *Grow with Google* <https://grow.google/> offering free training, tools, and resources to help grow digital skills. Since 2017, more than four million Americans¹ have grown their businesses and careers with help from Grow with Google's training and in-person workshops. And through a network of more than 7,000 partner organizations including local libraries, schools, and nonprofits. Libraries are partnering with Google in a *Libraries Lead with Digital Skills* initiative to help with local workforce development. Oregon is on the list to join this initiative, but it has not yet started.

There is a program called Edge for public libraries <http://www.libraryedge.org/>. It is a technology management program with an on-line tool to help libraries assess how they are using technology to serve their community, how well they are managing it within the organization and developing a strategic plan. Edge helps public libraries establish a baseline for continuous improvement and greater community impact. Edge achieves this mission by providing libraries with standards in technology services and programming, and tools to help libraries measure and implement change.

Crook County recently received grants from Facebook. The grant program addresses local needs by making grants available to non-profit organizations and schools for projects that address critical community needs by putting the power of technology to use for community benefit, connect people online or off, and improve local Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics ("STEM") education.

Jeremy appreciates the ways that public libraries have evolved and adapted during a period of dynamic change in information technologies, and remain essential resources for the community. Libraries serve as a broadband access point of last resort for people in the community that do not have access at home or end-user devices.

Darci noted that Oregon's public libraries have not been big users or recipients of E-Rate Program funds. The reason is that the smallest libraries with the greatest need do not have the resources or capacity to navigate the application process. Some libraries also take issue with restrictions on use by the E-Rate Program and the Children's Internet Protection Act that require filters and implement other control measures on information / content access as a condition for the receipt of certain federal funding. Darci also noted that "public library" is an official designation granted by the Oregon State Library.

The Council discussed focusing on the needs of and opportunities for public libraries to address the continuing digital divide and digital inclusion in its 2020 *Broadband in Oregon* report with the help of the state's library professionals.

Beth Fox

Beth Fox of the City of Portland provided a briefing on the city of Portland's fiber expansion project. The city has a significant optic fiber network that was established back in the 1980s and its own telephone switches to support the city government. In recent years, the city has been working to expand that valuable fiber asset.

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The city of Portland has two networks:

Integrated Regional Network Enterprise (IRNE) On-Net

IRNE consists of city owned or managed assets. It has some shared assets with ODOT, PBOT, and TriMet as well as with some other smaller municipalities. There are multiple dedicated city locations served. The city of Portland is also a competitive local exchange company (CLEC). IRNE, as a service provider, has a franchise with the City of Portland and pays all the fees needs to obtain permits and follows all the rules as do other service providers.

There are several construction projects underway to expand IRNE.

- The Division Transit Project is a partnership build between TriMet and PBOT. It runs from 12th and Division to Eastman Parkway with 432 strands of fiber along the entire route. An IRNE fiber will run the length of the build. Twenty-nine prospective service locations have been identified and planning with stakeholders began this year early. The network should be available in 2023.
- IRNE On-Net Builds are planned for additional service locations that are within three blocks of existing IRNE fiber. Twelve expansion builds are planned for current user/stakeholders, six builds for City of Portland public safety locations, two new backbone builds for a total of twenty builds in the project pipeline with seventy-nine "Near Net" locations
- Prescott Backbone Build is approximately three miles in length from 122nd Avenue and I-84 to Prescott to Sandy, and from Sandy to 82nd Avenue. The build will be a combination of underground and aerial construction and add three service locations.
- Russell Backbone Build is approximately two and one-half miles in length with 432 fiber strands from near the Fremont Bridge to Russell to Rodney to Prescott. The build will be underground and required a bore under the Willamette River which was just completed. It will serve three additional locations and connect northwest with northeast Portland.
- Organic growth additional builds include a build across the Gideon Pedestrian Bridge which is underway, a build across the Flanders Pedestrian Bridge over I-405 which is in the planning stage, a build across the Willamette River Fremont Bridge which is complete, a build that will complete a NE 122nd fiber ring with PBOT which is almost complete, and a build across the Earl Blumenauer Bike/Pedestrian Bridge over I-84 which is in the planning stages.

The builds will improve the size, capacity, resilience and cost-effectiveness of the city's fiber network.

I-Net Institutional Network Comcast Partnership

This second network is in partnership with Comcast serving over 300 locations on the Comcast owned network including providing service to Portland Public Schools, Multnomah Education Service District, Multnomah County, several smaller municipality locations and others. This operation was established in the Comcast franchise agreement and the contract expires December of 2021.

Beth noted that one of the key factors for public networks like IRNE which is a long term effort and asset is a strong political will and long term commitment.

Work Session

2020 Legislative Session

OBAC is monitoring several bills introduced in the 2020 Legislative session:

HB 4041

Renames Office of Emergency Management as Oregon Department of Emergency Management. Establishes department as state agency independent from Oregon Military Department. Vests in Oregon Department of Emergency Management emergency authority regarding public health emergencies, emergency quarantines and conflagrations. Transfers rulemaking authority regarding nuclear emergencies from State Department of Energy to Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

Transfers Oregon Emergency Response System from Department of State Police to Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

Renames office of State Fire Marshal as Department of the State Fire Marshal and establishes department as state agency independent from Department of State Police. Transfers search and rescue functions from Office of Emergency Management to Department of the State Fire Marshal.

Transfers Oregon Homeland Security Council from Office of Emergency Management to Office of the Governor. Adds seven members to council and expands duties of council.

Establishes Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council to advise and make policy recommendations to Oregon Homeland Security Council regarding federal emergency support functions.

Establishes Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council to provide advice and recommendations to Oregon Department of Emergency Management regarding the department's emergency preparedness and response functions.

Becomes operative on July 1, 2023. Status: Amended and referred to Ways and Means 2/12/20.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2020R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4041/A-Engrossed>

HB 4079

Modifies definitions applicable for purposes of universal service surcharge. Subjects sale of retail commercial mobile radio services and retail interconnected voice over internet protocol services to universal service surcharge. Reduces rate cap to six percent of sale of services subject to surcharge.

Directs Public Utility Commission to transfer up to \$5 million per year of moneys deposited in universal service fund to Broadband Fund. Establishes Broadband Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in Broadband Fund to Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants and loans through, and to administer, program related to broadband. Directs department to adopt program for providing grants and loans by rule. Directs department to report annually to

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interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to telecommunications on status of Broadband Fund.

Sunsets Broadband Fund, transfer of moneys from universal service fund to Broadband Fund and grant program on January 2, 2030.

Becomes operative on January 1, 2021. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die. Status: The Bill passed out of the House Committee on Revenue to be carried to the House Floor by Rep Pam Marsh and to be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means 2-10-20, Work Session scheduled before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction 2-27-20.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2020R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4079/A-Engrossed>

HB 4101

Requires Oregon Health Authority to ensure reimbursement of health services delivered using telemedicine. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Health Care with subsequent referral to Ways and Means. Amended and assigned to Committee on Capitol Construction 2/25/20.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2020R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4101/A-Engrossed>

SB 1537

Directs Office of Emergency Management to develop and administer program to ensure that certain number of Oregon households are prepared to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks after emergency. Creates task force to advise office on program. Sunsets task force on January 2, 2024.

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to issue grant to University of Oregon to construct seismic stations for earthquake early warning system. Authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds under Article XI-Q of Oregon Constitution for seismic stations.

Directs office to develop and administer earthquake safety educational outreach campaign. Creates advisory committee to advise office on campaign. Sunsets committee on January 2, 2024.

Directs Oregon Homeland Security Council to identify 10 locations to serve as staging areas for emergency response.

Directs council to determine minimum requirements for staging areas. Directs office to develop and administer program to issue grants to establish and maintain staging areas and incident management teams.

Directs office to fund one staging area and one incident management team, to be operational before September 30, 2022.

Directs office to develop strategic plan to develop additional teams. Directs Water Resources Department to evaluate dams for structural and other safety issues. Creates task force to study prioritization and funding of projects. Sunsets task force on January 2, 2022.

Directs State Resilience Officer and Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission to update Oregon Resilience Plan. Directs commission to initiate public process to update boundaries of tsunami inundation zone.

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Declares emergency, effective on passage. Status: Referred to Ways and Means as introduced 1/27/20.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2020R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1537/Introduced>

House and Senate Republicans have walked out of the Session as of February 25, 2020. The 2020 Legislative Session will Constitutional Sine Die by 11:59 pm Pacific Time on March 8, 2020.

Broadband in Oregon 2020 report

The report of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council (OBAC) to the Legislative Assembly on the affordability and accessibility of broadband technology in all areas of the state, and on broadband technology use in healthcare, energy management, education and government, and on the role of broadband in local, regional and state economies, economic development, public policy issues, and key broadband related challenges and opportunities and facing the state is due on November 1, 2020.

Key Broadband Challenges and Opportunities

OBAC has identified the following key broadband challenges and opportunities facing Oregon.

- Digital Inclusion
- Cybersecurity
- Education: Oregon's K-20 educational institutions update
- Public Libraries
- Public Safety
- Agriculture, which contributes more than \$8.25 billion to Oregon's economy each year, is emerging as an important application and will become the largest driver for broadband infrastructure deployment in rural areas of the state.
- Local Community Broadband Planning: Local community engagement in broadband development, adoption and utilization continues to be a high-return "game-changing" activity to be promoted and supported.
- Energy Management and the prospective role of Electric Cooperatives in providing rural broadband
- Federal Funding Programs: Study of all federal broadband funding programs and awards to Oregon applicants. Report on E-Rate Program to Oregon.
- Network Interconnection:

Role of broadband in local, regional and state economies

The Council agreed that it will work with the Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities on a population study of Oregon Counties and Cities and any correlation with broadband access infrastructure.

Rural areas of the state continue to be under economic stress with many areas losing population. Umatilla, Malheur, Union, Baker, Morrow, Harney, Grant, Wallowa, Gilliam, Wheeler and Sherman Counties have all lost population from 2010 to 2020.

Chris asked that Council members review the 2018 Broadband in Oregon report and work on content in their respective areas of expertise for the 2020 report.

Minutes

Public Questions / Comments

Danielle Gonzales of Marion County reported that in December the county was able to improve forty seven rural residents and business' access to the internet by 1,000 percent from 1.5 Mbps to Gigabit speeds by extending the fiber network. Secondly, Marion County has had a Broadband Economic Development Strategic Plan for about a year and a half, and is now working with the city of Jefferson Technology Committee on broadband solutions for that city. Thirdly, the county is studying the problem of obtaining permits to bore under railroad tracks, a permitting process that can significantly delay broadband deployment projects. Danielle also noted the tremendous returns that can be realized by deploying precision agriculture, particularly irrigation and pesticide application, and precision resource management practices.

Meeting Schedule

The February 27, 2020 meeting of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council was held at the Local Government Center, 1201 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon. The next meeting of the council will be held on April 23, 2020, in Salem. Meeting information will be posted on the [council website](#).

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Joseph Franell, Chair
Oregon Broadband Advisory Council

March 27, 2020

Date

Signature on file

Christopher Tamarin
Business Oregon

March 27, 2020

Date