

Oregon Broadband Advisory Council Meeting

January 24, 2019

Salem, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Commissioner Bloom, Anne Carloss, Joseph Franell, Wade Holmes, Lonny Macy, Representative Marsh, Melody Riley-Ralphs, and Dave Sabala

Staff Present: Christopher Tamarin, Business Oregon

Guests: Pam Berrian, City of Eugene; Dave Dillon, Oregon Farm Bureau, County; Bob Fletcher, Rick Woidyla, Jay Gratchner, Verizon Wireless; Danielle Gonzalez, Marian; Shawn Irvine, City of Independence; Julie Omelchuck, City of Portland; Alex Paraskevas, SEDCOR; Rick Peterson, PEAK Internet; Carrie Pipinich, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District; Nate Stice, Governor's Office; Stuart Taubman, Zayo; Lucas Turpin, Oregon State University Extension Service

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 am.

Welcome, Introductions, Minutes Approval

Joe Franell called the meeting to order and asked for guest introductions.

Joe Franell welcomed Senator Arnie Roblan as a newly appointed member of OBAC representing the State Senate.

Minutes

The minutes were not approved due to a lack of a quorum. An email vote on approval of the minutes will be conducted.

National Broadband Activity Updates

Chris Tamarin provided references 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.

Broadband Adoption

U.S. households consumed an average of 268.7 gigabytes (GB) of data in 2018, up from 201.6 GB for 2017, a 33% increase, according to OpenVault, a provider of data consumption and analytics software. Median usage was 145.2 GB per household in 2018, up from 103.6 GB in 2017. The increase in median consumption was 40%.

Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/report-u-s-household-broadband-data-consumption-hit-268-7-gigabytes-in-2018/>

The Internet will celebrate a milestone this year, according to the International Telecommunications Union, which sees more than half the world population online by year-end 2018. The organization, which is part of the United Nations, says that by the end of 2018, 51.2% of

people on earth—3.9 billion people—will have access. “ITU’s global and regional estimates for 2018 are a pointer to the great strides the world is making towards building a more inclusive global information society,” according to ITU Secretary General Houlin Zhao.

Source: <https://cdgportal.com/blog/index.php/2018/12/13/itu-more-than-half-the-world-population-online-by-the-end-of-the-year/>

Forty percent of rural subscribers purchase broadband with download speeds of 25 Mbps, according to a survey conducted by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association. That figure compares to 24% who reported that speed level in a 2016 NTCA rural broadband report. “The NTCA 2018 Broadband/Internet Availability Survey Report” found almost 16% of respondents subscribe to services of 100 Mbps or greater and that 70% of respondents have access to 25 Mbps or higher speeds.

NTCA members are using a variety of technology platforms to deliver broadband, with FTTP-based platforms on the rise. Fifty-eight percent of customers served by survey respondents get broadband via FTTP, compared to 41% two years ago. Close to thirty percent (27.9%) get broadband via traditional DSL, while just over 10% receive broadband via FTTN. Just over 1% are using fixed wireless. Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/ntca-rural-broadband-report-40-of-rural-subscribe-to-25-mbps-downstream/>

Public Policy

State of Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced plans to expand broadband in the state by instituting a new broadband grant and loan program that will serve as the “central planning and coordinating body for public and private efforts to deploy broadband at the state level.” In addition, the governor’s proposed budget includes \$1.2 million to create a Statewide Broadband Office (SBO) and \$25 million for the broadband grant and loan program. The new SBO “will be an information clearinghouse for local, state, and federal programs. It will set high-level policy, develop and implement a statewide plan, and incentivize deployment of quality and affordable service to Washingtonians in every corner of the state,” Gov. Inslee said.

U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chair Senator Roger Wicker (R. MS) and ranking member Maria Cantwell (D. WA) announced the committee’s priorities for the 116th Congress. Promoting broadband deployment in rural America is a top priority. The announcement specifically mentioned 5G deployment as a desirable means for rural broadband deployment, along with other wireless, wireline, and satellite broadband technologies. Cybersecurity was also cited as a critical issue to be addressed by the committee.

Two court cases will likely determine the fate of net neutrality in 2019. The Neutrality supporters’ appeal of the Federal Communications Commission’s repeal decision and the Trump administration’s legal battle with California over state-level neutrality laws. Many experts believe the only way to end the battle is to pass clear legislation, but other analysts say that the odds of that happening are slim.

Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/01/02/these-are-court-fights-that-will-decide-future-net-neutrality/?utm_term=.lccalab86b6e&wpisrc=nl_sb_smartbrief

Wireless Broadband

AT&T says mobile 5G, fixed wireless, and edge computing comprise the three main services in its 5G strategy. AT&T has pledged to deploy a standards-based nationwide mobile 5G network by early 2020. Fixed wireless can be used for primary connectivity or as a back-up secondary connection for resilience. AT&T Business already offers Wireless Broadband and this year AT&T says it will offer multiple speed tiers up to 50Mbps. Edge computing is key because it allows businesses to process low-latency, high-bandwidth applications closer to where they're used. AT&T already offers [AT&T Multi-access Edge Compute \(MEC\)](#), which can be deployed using LTE or 5G connectivity, for both mobile and fixed wireless applications.

Source: <https://www.sdxcentral.com/articles/news/att-outlines-3-pillars-of-its-5g-strategy/2019/01/>

T-Mobile has reported that it has completed “the world’s first 5G data transmission on low-band spectrum (600 MHz) on a live commercial network” in Spokane, Wash. According to T-Mobile, a single 5G 600 MHz cell tower will be able to cover “hundreds of square miles.” That’s dramatically greater coverage in comparison with towers deployed in the millimeter wave band, which according to T-Mobile, cover less than a square mile. The broad coverage areas that 600 MHz can support will enable T-Mobile to deploy the first nationwide 5G U.S. network, the company said—a goal the company expects to achieve in 2020. Tellingly, however, the T-Mobile announcement today says nothing about the speeds achieved. T-Mobile’s biggest 5G first claim—that it will have the first nationwide 5G network. Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/t-mobile-one-600-mhz-cell-tower-will-cover-hundreds-of-miles-with-5g-but-at-what-speed/>

Verizon launched its 5G Home fixed wireless offering in four markets last October and says it is delivering speeds higher than customers were promised. When Verizon 5G Home was announced, the company said the offering would support typical network speeds around 300 Mbps and up to 1 Gbps peak speed. The service sells for \$50 monthly with a qualifying Verizon Wireless service or \$70 a month for non-Verizon Wireless users, and Verizon expects to offer Verizon 5G Home outside its traditional local telco service territory. Verizon has said that it sees a [potential market](#) of 30 million homes for Verizon 5G Home.

Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/cfo-verizon-5g-home-fixed-wireless-exceeds-promised-speeds/>

Broadband Planning

This month, Next Century Cities launched a new resource: [Becoming Broadband Ready: A Toolkit for Communities](#). The toolkit is a one-stop resource for community leaders seeking to connect residents to broadband. While every broadband project is different, there are common threads that run through successful projects. From staffing to permitting practices to financing models, *Becoming Broadband Ready* compiles the building blocks of a successful broadband project into an easy-to-use and impactful resource for any community.

The Toolkit provides resources to:

- Establish Leadership
- Build a Community Movement
- Identify Goals
- Evaluate the Current Circumstance
- Establish Policies and Procedures to Support Investment
- Prioritize Digital Inclusion
- Identify Legislative and Regulatory Barriers
- Explore Connectivity Options
- Explore Financing Options
- Be a Clear Collaborator
- Measure Success

Find the full toolkit at <https://nextcenturycities.org/next-century-cities-launches-becoming-broadband-ready/>

Broadband Reports

According to the *2018 Speedtest U.S. Fixed Broadband Performance Report* by Ookla, Xfinity offers the fastest broadband in the U.S. The provider was the fastest in the country overall and was first in nine states and 17 large cities. Verizon and Cox tied for second nationally. The United States had a 35.8% increase in mean download speed and a 22% increase in upload speed over the previous report. The U.S. now is seventh in the world for download speed, between Hungary and Switzerland. It is 27th for upload between Bulgaria and Canada. The average download speed was more than 95 Mbps and the average upload speed was 32.88 Mbps. Xfinity had a SpeedScore—a composite metric of upload and download speed—of 104.67. The rest of the top five were Verizon (102.57), Cox Cable (101.84), Charter/Spectrum (87.56), and AT&T Internet (76).

New Jersey was the fastest state with a score that was 139.8% speedier than the slowest state, which was Maine in the Ookla report. Five east coast states (Massachusetts, Maryland, Delaware, and Rhode Island in addition to New Jersey), as well as the District of Columbia, ranked in the top ten. Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Vermont were grouped with Maine at the bottom. Three Google Fiber cities—Atlanta (with a SpeedScore of 205.78), Charlotte, N.C. (199.20), and Austin, Texas (197.44)—were the fastest. Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/ookla-xfinity-offers-fastest-broadband/>

The widespread use of smartphones and other mobile wireless devices has made it easy for Americans to be connected to the internet; 77 percent of Americans go online on a daily basis, according to a Pew Research Center survey from January 2018. And 26 percent of them say they go online “almost constantly.” In the U.S., 95.7 percent of households had access to broadband internet, according to data from the Federal Communications Commission and the 2016 Census, and 11.5 percent of Americans have access to download speeds greater than 1000 megabits per second. (The average download speed in the U.S. is 109 Mbps.) Those metrics—percentage of households with a broadband internet subscription and percentage of a state population with access to fast download speed—were used to determine the *Best States for internet access*.

Oregon was ranked 17 overall, in the US News report.

Source: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/best-states-for-internet-access>

The rural broadband gap is narrowing but persists, according to new research from US Telecom. Wired broadband at speeds of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream was available to 98% of non-rural areas but only 65% of rural areas as of mid-2017, according to US Telecom. The 25/3 Mbps speed level is particularly important because it is the new target that the FCC has proposed for the high-cost Universal Service Fund. US Telecom worked with consultancy Telecodata to produce the broadband research, which was based on information reported by service providers and collected through FCC Form 477. Approximately 79% of housing units are non-rural and 21% are rural, according to U.S. Census figures cited by US Telecom. Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/ustelecom-measures-rural-broadband-gap-65-of-rural-areas-have-25-3-mbps-vs-98-of-non-rural-areas/>

Tribal areas and tribal communities continue to lag behind other areas and segments of American society with respect to broadband and telecommunications services. High poverty rates and low income levels in tribal lands—along with the fact that many tribal communities are located in remote rural areas (often with rugged terrain)—are major factors that may explain why tribal areas have comparatively poor levels of broadband access, and why providers may lack an economic incentive to serve those areas. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Department of Commerce have begun to collect and compile data on tribal broadband deployment. The most recent data show that, as of December 31, 2017, approximately 32% of Americans living on tribal lands lacked access to broadband at speeds of at least 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload. This compares unfavorably to about 6% of all Americans lacking access to broadband at those speeds. Tribal areas that are the most lacking in broadband service are rural Alaskan villages and rural tribal lands in the lower 48 states. Source: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44416>

Note for the Record

Dave Sabala noted for the record that he believes that the FCC and other organizations over estimate or over represent the availability of broadband services and service speeds and service quality in their reports. He is skeptical about many of the statistics that are cited.

Industry and Market Trends

Vendors' cloud infrastructure revenues grew to \$16.8 billion in the third quarter of 2018, surpassing revenues from sales into traditional IT environments for the first time on record, according to International Data Corporation (IDC). The infrastructure revenue figure included servers, enterprise storage and Ethernet switches. The year-over-year gain was 47.2%. The cloud IT infrastructure sales accounted for more than half (50.9%) of the total worldwide IT infrastructure vendor revenues, up from 43.6% in the third quarter of 2017.

Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/idc-cloud-infrastructure-revenues-surpassed-those-for-traditional-it-for-the-first-time-on-record/>

Cable providers are now setting their sights on 10 Gigabit service. An industry consortium of NCTA, CableLabs, and Cable Europe have established a 10G brand, calling it the next leap for broadband. The cable industry claims to be able to offer gigabit broadband to 80% of the U.S. today, thanks in large part to efforts from Comcast, Cox, and Charter. Smaller cable MSOs have been active in gigabit capability as well, which relies primarily on DOCSIS 3.1 technology. CableLabs, the R&D consortium of the cable industry, is spearheading the technical capability to bring 10G to market. The goal is to deliver 10G over existing coaxial networks.

Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/cable-industry-aims-to-capture-10-gig-momentum-with-launch-of-cable-10g-program/>

Satellite providers are planning an expanding range of lower-latency broadband and communications services to be delivered from non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) satellites. The FCC has authorized three non-U.S. companies to offer U.S. NGSO satellite services and authorized U.S.-based SpaceX to deploy and operate a NGSO satellite constellation offering broadband service around the world.

Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/u-s-set-to-gain-multiple-lower-latency-ngso-satellite-services/>

According to Cisco's newest *Visual Networking Index*, video traffic will quadruple by 2022 and at that point, video will account for 82% of all IP traffic, up from 75% today. By 2022, Cisco says that nearly half of all devices and connections will be video capable. In addition to streaming video traffic growth, Cisco's predictions also forecast increases in gaming and virtual reality traffic. Gaming traffic is expected to grow nine-fold from 2017 to 2022, at which point it will account for 4% of overall IP traffic. Virtual and augmented reality traffic will also balloon and by 2022 it will reach 4.02 Exabytes per month, up from 0.33 Exabytes per month in 2017. Cisco says global IP traffic could reach 396 Exabytes per month by 2022, up from 122 Exabytes per month in 2017. It will amount to 4.8 Zettabytes of traffic per year by 2022.

[Fierce Video 11-27-18 www.fiercevideo.com]

Broadband homes served by telephone and cable companies without pay-TV grew by 1.2 million in the third quarter of 2018, according to Kagan, a research group within S&P Global Market Intelligence. That is the largest increase in 'broadband-only' homes that the firm has ever measured. Kagan [reported](#) that in the third quarter of the year, 23% of wireline broadband households in the U.S. did not have a subscription to a traditional multichannel service. The percentage of video consumers without a traditional subscription has risen 8.5% during the past three years.

Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/kagan-broadband-homes-without-traditional-pay-tv-increase-by-1-2-million/>

Gigabit internet is now available from the top 25 wireline ISPs, according to a gigabit household's survey from Kagan. The ISPs have used a combination of fiber and DOCSIS 3.0 and 3.1 technologies to provide the de facto standard that customers are beginning to expect (even if they don't all sign up for this tier of service). As a result, an estimated six in 10 U.S. households now have access to gigabit internet.

Source: <https://cdgportal.com/blog/index.php/2018/12/03/report-finds-gigabit-available-to-60-of-u-s-households/>

Broadband Funding

The 2018 Farm Bill passed by congress raises the annual budget for USDA broadband loans, loan guarantees and grants to \$350 million from 2019 to 2023 and allows funding to go toward grants as well as loans. Other compromise farm bill broadband provisions include raising the “minimum acceptable level of broadband service for a rural area” to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream—up from a previous 4/1 Mbps. The bill also includes \$50 million annually for Community Connect grants; \$10 million annually for grants, loans and loan guarantees for middle mile infrastructure for rural areas; and \$10 million annually for the “Innovative Broadband Advancement Program.” That program would provide grants, loans and loan guarantees with the goal of “demonstrating innovative broadband technologies or methods of broadband deployment that significantly decrease the cost of broadband deployment and provide substantially faster broadband speeds than are available in a rural area.”

Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/compromise-farm-bill-would-raise-usda-broadband-loan-and-grant-budget/>

The USDA announced plans for its ReConnect Pilot Program that will award \$600 million in broadband loans and grants for rural broadband. Plans call for the USDA to make three different types of awards, including:

- \$200 million in grants, with a requirement for 25% in matching funds
- \$200 million in 50% grant/50% loan combinations
- \$200 million in low-interest loans

To be eligible for a 100% loan or 50% loan / 50% grant, the service area must be in a rural area where 90% of the households do not have sufficient broadband access. To be eligible for a 100% grant, the service area must be rural and 100% of the households must lack sufficient broadband access. Source: <https://www.telecompetitor.com/usda-reconnect-rural-broadband-pilot-rules-released-allocates-600m-in-loans-and-grants/>

State Broadband Activity Updates

Chris Tamarin provided references on 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.

Gigabit Service

Wave Broadband has announced that it has launched Wave’s new Gig Speed Internet product in Depoe Bay, as well as Otter Rock, South Beach, Siletz, Makai, Otis, Gleneden Beach, and Lincoln Beach. The new gigabit internet tier recently became available to all area residences and small businesses serviced by Wave, bringing the fastest connectivity speeds available in this area. Wave’s Gig Speed delivers the capability of download speeds of up to 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps), providing connections as fast as consumer devices can handle. This class of service provides the bandwidth needed to readily accommodate households with multiple users, devices, and simultaneous downloading and streaming. Wave partnered with the city of Depoe Bay and other municipalities to facilitate building out the infrastructure to support these new speeds. This agreement parallels similar partnerships between the company and municipalities in Oregon, northern California and Washington seeking reliable high-speed internet.

Source: <https://newportnewstimes.com/article/communities-get-gigabit-internet-service>

Oregon Broadband Office

Governor Kate Brown issued an executive order establishing the Oregon Broadband Office within Business Oregon. Governor Brown's recommended budget includes funding to fully staff the new broadband office.

"This is an economic and equity issue," said Governor Brown. "Broadband is essential for businesses to grow, and for schools, health care providers, and first responders to deliver the highest quality of service. We will continue to push for policies that help all Oregonians thrive."

The Oregon Broadband Office will develop broadband investment and deployment strategies for underserved areas, promote public-private partnerships, support local broadband planning, advocate for policies that remove barriers to broadband deployment, and help communities access federal and state funds.

Source: <https://www.oregon.gov/newsroom/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?newsid=3049>

Viasat ETC Application—UM 1970

The original hearing schedule that was adopted on November 29 has been suspended. PUC staff notes that the parties have been engaged in settlement conference/workshops and that the applicant is willing, as necessary, to request a waiver of deadlines from the Federal Communications Commission while the parties collaborate on addressing certain issues. Staff further represents that all parties support suspending the procedural schedule to allow time for additional work on addressing these issues. There will be a pre-hearing conference on February 12, to set the remainder of the schedule for UM 1970 VIASAT CARRIER SERVICES, INC. Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) needed to Receive CAF II Funds.

Presentations

Shawn Irvine

Shawn Irvine, Economic Development Director of the City of Independence, and Alex Paraskevas, Rural Innovation Catalyst of SEDCOR, delivered a presentation of the smart agriculture initiatives underway in the city of Independence and Polk County. The city is working on creating a smart rural community and a model for rural innovation and opportunity by embracing technologies in the digital age for economic and community development.

Independence offers the accessibility and connectivity of a big city, and the charm and quality of life of a small town. We are leveraging our livability through outreach, engagement and an entrepreneurial mindset. Intentional outreach and a 'Yes' mentality creates opportunities for people and businesses regardless of their economic and social backgrounds.

In 2007, the cities of Monmouth and Independence deployed a Fiber-to-the-premises network to every home and business. The network became an economic development asset enabling local businesses. The city partnered with Pacific Power to leverage the network and become the first community in a six-state region for deploying smart electric meters for improved energy management. Independence won an international smart cities competition to develop a Virtual Situation Room and partnered with Italian company TeamDev to develop and deploy a pilot. Independence is cultivating its image as "a place where good ideas go to grow."

Agriculture was selected as a particular area of focus. Several pilot projects have been implemented, including two National Institute of Standards and Technology Global Cities Team Challenge action clusters. Because of the city's initiatives, Sean is now on the leadership team for the NIST Smart Ag/Rural Supercluster. Outreach has been achieved through well-attended ag-tech and entrepreneurship meetings.

The city with help from the Ford Family Foundation and SEDCOR has been able to fund a Rural Innovation Catalyst position at SEDCOR to promote community involvement and awareness. Alex has been working to build relationships with the Agriculture community and area educational institutions including Chemeketa Community College, George Fox University, Western Oregon University, Oregon State University and K-12 schools. SEDCRO covers Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties.

Independence is exploring smart solutions to agricultural problems and challenges.

Intel Berry Tracking Project

- Field to fork tracking of environmental conditions through sensors placed in every berry "tote" (plastic bins) for harvest
- Tracks progress, set alerts, monitors crop at a granular level throughout the harvest process
- Opportunity to integrate blockchain for shipping logistics and food safety certifications
- Scalable pilot with applications to many other crops
- Opportunity to add additional sensors or leverage data for other purposes (FHWA)

Independence is working with the Oregon State University Extension Service on its Data Science for the Public Good program to go into rural communities, identify challenges in and apply university data science resources to developing solutions. They just began working with vineyards modeling weather and microclimate predictions for actionable information on grape bud break and bloom.

SEDCOR is hosting Ag-breakfast meetings to discuss agricultural issues and opportunities.

Chris noted that Independence is a great example of a small rural city that recognized broadband as essential infrastructure and as a strategic tool for meeting the community's needs, which led them to build a fiber-to-the-premises network when others would not. And they have been working to leverage that asset through innovative programs and projects for economic and community development ever since.

Dave Dillon

Dave Dillon, Executive Vice President of the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB), provided an overview his organizations and offered its perspective on smart agriculture and broadband issues. OFB was started in Pilot Rock, Umatilla County in 1919. It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that represents the interests of the state's family farmers and ranchers in the public and policymaking arenas. It works to promote education, economic development, and advancement for its members and the farming, ranching, and natural resources industry.

Dave noted that rural and agricultural are not always the same. The distribution of farmers and ranchers in Oregon mirrors that of the general population. Seventy percent of the producers are in the Willamette Valley. In the early Twentieth Century, nearly 30% of Oregonians lived on farms and ranches, today that is 1% or less, and almost universally, agricultural producers business locations are also their homes which means that not just smart ag, but communication, education, healthcare, public safety, and all the other applications also apply.

Dave said that he had read the 2018 *Broadband in Oregon* report and appreciated the focus on agriculture. He said that he had several "take-aways" to offer relative to broadband, (1) Agriculture challenges are not a separate thing from rural challenges, they are intertwined, (2) Broadband for farmers, ranchers, and growers is not just an information distribution system, it is a two way connection that enables the agricultural community to contribute, provide information, engage, and participate in the economy and society, (3) Broadband affords the agricultural community and opportunity for innovation and collaboration, (4) Government reporting and regulation issues are extensive for agriculture and it all is progressively moving on-line and into the cloud, (5) the challenges of time and distance faced by growers living in remote areas that can be overcome through telecommunications, and (6) the ongoing flight of population from rural areas to urban areas that threatens the future of the family farm and rural communities. These are all important issues for the Bureau, and broadband is a valuable tool that can be used to address them.

Joe noted that these presentations reinforce the need for a critical look at the status of broadband relative to agriculture in Oregon and the need for an Agriculture Summit to convene stakeholders including producers, government/regulators, the Extension service, and economic developers. OBAC has long been focused on the urban-rural Digital Divide and looking for ways to drive broadband infrastructure in rural areas, and though it has touched on agriculture in the past it has never focused on agriculture as an application that can drive investment and infrastructure deployment in the same that education, healthcare, and public safety can.

Work Session

2019 Legislative Session

Chris Tamarin reported on the broadband related bills and resolutions that have been introduced for the 2009 Legislative Session. Key bills that include OBAC and reflect OBAC's recommendations are:

SB 505

Directs Oregon Broadband Advisory Council to study issues related to expansion of broadband capacity and access. Requires council, based on findings of its study, to establish statewide broadband plan and submit report to interim committees related to economic development on or before September 15, 2020. Authorizes council to propose legislation for 2021 regular session based on its findings with respect to study of public-private partnerships. Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department for Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot Program grants for broadband infrastructure projects in rural areas that lack adequate broadband access. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Sponsored by Senator LINTHICUM; Senator HANSELL.

Status: Introduced.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB505/Introduced>

HB 2173

Creates Oregon Broadband Office within Oregon Business Development Department. Repeals sunset on Oregon Broadband Advisory Council. Adds member to council. Broadens duties of council to include recommending public policy and solutions to address state's broadband needs and goals. Directs council to champion statewide access to broadband services. Pre-session filed at the request of House Interim Committee on Economic Development and Trade.

Status: Introduced.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2173/Introduced>

HB 2184

Expands definition of "retail telecommunications service" for purposes of universal service surcharge. Authorizes Public Utility Commission to subject sale of communications and broadband services other than retail telecommunication services to universal service surcharge. Directs commission to transfer moneys deposited in universal service fund that are to be used for encouraging broadband service availability to Broadband Fund. Establishes Broadband Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in Broadband Fund to Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants and loans under program for assisting qualified entities with projects for development of open access broadband service. Directs department to adopt program for providing grants and loans by rule.

Pre-session filed at the request of House Interim Committee on Economic Development and Trade.

Status: Introduced.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2184/Introduced>

Other bills address telemedicine, blockchain, and cybersecurity.

2019 OBAC Agenda

The council discussed its agenda for the upcoming year. Broadband in Agriculture will be a focus and the convening of a Broadband in Agriculture Summit was discussed.

Oregon Broadband Office

Chris reported on the Governor's Executive Order 18-31. On December 14, 2018, Governor Kate Brown issued an executive order establishing the Oregon Broadband Office within Business Oregon. Governor Brown's recommended budget includes funding to staff the new broadband office and to create a \$5 million Broadband Infrastructure Fund for rural areas.

Source: https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_18-31.pdf

Public Questions/Comments

No additional comments.

Meeting Schedule

The January 24, 2019, 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 February 28, 2019, in Salem. Meeting information will be posted on the [council website](#).

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Approved by:

Signature on file

Joseph Franell, Chair
Oregon Broadband Advisory Council

February 28, 2019

Date

Signature on file

Christopher Tamarin
Business Oregon

February 28, 2019

Date