



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Broadband Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, July 17th, 2019
Red Lion Hotel – Forest Ballroom
1357 Blue Lakes Blvd N, Twin Falls, ID 83301

Broadband Task Force

Dana Bassett, *Glanbia*
Jaynie Bentz, *Assistant Port Manager*
Rep. Megan Blanksma, *Idaho Legislator*
Doug Burnett, *Coeur d'Alene Resort*
Guy Cherp, *Cox Communications*
Sen. Carl Crabtree, *Idaho Legislator*
Paul Desaulniers, *Century Link*
Kevin England, *Association of Cities*
Jessica Epley, *Frontier Communications*
Pat Felzien, *Micron*
Mike Fitzgerald, *Shoshone County*
Curtis Fryer, *Idaho Forest Group*
Randy Gaines, *Idaho State University*
Cheryl Goettsche, *Sparklight*
Chanel Tewalt, *Idaho Department of Agriculture*
Dan Greig, *Farmers Mutual Telephone Company*
Jerry Gwynn, *Idaho National Laboratory*

Gordon Jones, *Boise State University*
Tom Kealey, *Idaho Department of Commerce*
Mike Kennedy, *Intermax Networks*
Greg Lowe, *Syringa Networks*
Michael Mattmiller, *Microsoft*
Sen. David Nelson, *Idaho Legislator*
Kari Saccomanno, *Ting Internet*
Brad Richy, *Idaho Office of Emergency Management*
Tara Thue, *AT&T*
Jaap Vos, *University of Idaho*
Jon Hanian, *Idaho Office of Emergency Management*
Danae Wilson, *Nez Perce Tribe*

Idaho Commerce Staff

Matt Borud, *Marketing and Innovation Administrator*
Jake Reynolds, *Business Development & Operations Administrator*
Eric Forsch, *Business Retention and Expansion Manager*
Magaly Carrillo, *Administrative Assistant*
James Varner, *Community Development Analyst*

Goals and Objectives of the Task Force - Welcome and Housekeeping

Director Tom Kealey welcomed the Broadband Task Force and gave a summary of the expectations of the Task Force meetings.

Session 2

Idaho Cities Overview

Moderator – Jaap Vos

City of Ammon

The City of Ammon gave a presentation about the infrastructure of the city. It was mentioned that the infrastructure was put in place for public safety, business, schools and residents. They went over the internet packages 15/12mbps, \$16.50 a month, free internet is available. In addition, they received no outside assistance for infrastructure but managed to not have municipal debt. They were also able to hire nine full time employees and acquire \$4 million local investment with optional participation.

Recommendations:

- Focus on infrastructure
- Citizens are willing to have fiber optics installed if they see a return of their investment

Questions:

1. How much does it cost a home owner to add fiber optic?
A. About \$3,000 to add fiber to home.
2. How many new homes are added to the municipal fiber network this year?
A. 1,000 homes this year

Mountain Home:

The mayor of Mountain Home mentioned that broadband fosters economic growth. He also mentioned that when citizens own infrastructure, they are more likely to invest in it due to the sense of ownership. Furthermore, he spoke about Idaho being an agriculture state however that does not mean it cannot be technology based as well. For now, Mountain Home has fiber optic only in city municipality buildings. Moving forward, they will do a heat map to see where it is needed and wanted.

Questions:

1. What is the cost to home owners?
In Mountain Home, most houses are rentals due to the Air Force base. Therefore, many of them might not want to pay for it. This is the reason that heat maps will be used to see where it is wanted and needed in order to know where to start with the infrastructure.
2. Who are the providers:
The citizens can pick who they want as their providers.
3. What is the time frame for access?
Around a year to a year and a half

McCall

McCall being a resort community experiences a unique set of problems. In holidays, it's community can go from 3,000 people to close to 50,000. This causes services to shut down with the influx of people. Since most things are done online, this causes a problem for businesses and for residents as well as for the visitors. Another problem that they are trying to find a solution to is the middle mile.

Idaho Falls

Idaho Fall's first fiber connection was done in 1999. Since then, they have been expanding the infrastructure to allow people to connect to broadband. It was also stated that the people will be able to choose their own provider.

Questions:

1. Is the electrical grid the same for homes and for municipality buildings?
No, it is separate in order to keep the municipality buildings secure from cyber threats.
2. What would you have done differently?
At the beginning, with the dig once policy, dark fiber was put in at two times of what was expected to be used. However, six times more of what was expected should have been put in. This is due to the increase in the demand for this service.

Emmett

Emmett is working on getting broadband for hospitals, schools and other municipality buildings first. They are also implementing the dig once policy, where fiber is put in as houses and sidewalks are being built.

This also means that the city owns the infrastructure. Moreover, Emmett is working towards not having a digital divide, meaning that there is continued Wi-Fi service anywhere people go.

Sandpoint

Sandpoint explained two different models that could be used. One of them is conduit leasing, which means that the service providers put in the fiber in the conduit to keep cost down. The other model is to have a partnership between city and county to build the infrastructure. Sandpoint choose to be municipally owned.

Session 3: Citizen Perspectives

Moderator: Dean Gordon Jones, Boise State University

Association of Cities

Jessy Harrison explained that the survey that was done received 200 responses. She also explained that people who go to libraries do not do so to read books. They use the internet to pay for bills because they are unable to afford internet at home. Therefore, there could be coordination with the ITD to lay fiber, as in the dig once policy, to not use funding to reopen roads.

Association of Counties

One of the challenges found with the survey was that geography is an issue. Thus, a program that performed well with one county might not achieve the same results for the rest. Moving forward, legislation can be used to include grants that expand beyond schools. It is also important to solve the right of way issue which can affect providers when deploying 5G.

Port of Lewiston:

For the Port of Lewiston, economic development is a priority, which translates into the Port operating closely with ITD and other providers. In addition, it was stated the city, school districts and private businesses are using the port network. They closed by stating the one of the challenges is to find the middle mile gap.

Section 4:

Idaho State Programs

Moderator – Brad Richy- OEM
Working Lunch

“Plum Case”

The goal of using the case is to help all communities during an emergency situation. For example, emergency responders can use it where there is limited internet access and they are able to respond faster. It has access of up to four lines. It can have passwords, and each line can be pre-assigned to a specific person or activity. The case has both voice and data capabilities. It is interesting to note that FEMA has used these cases around the world.

Association of Libraries

Dillon Backer explained that there are 104 library jurisdictions and over 160 library buildings. He explained that E-Rate covers schools and libraries for funding 50-90% of expenses associated with broadband. EORC, covers the additional 10-20% that is not covered by E-Rate. Therefore, libraries can receive broadband for a low cost or free.

Idaho Transportation Department

Chris Victory spoke of the different resources that are available but that need broadband to operate. Such as a machine that measures the consistency of ice and snow in roads and measures how much salt is needed. This makes it so 87% of roads are clear when there is snow. There are others that measure traffic

flow and can change lights from red to green to improve traffic conditions. Still others track cracks on roads to know when they should be fixed. In the future there will also need to be infrastructures for autonomous vehicles and for vehicles using networks to navigate. Today, the ITD is preparing for that future by practicing dig first, whenever possible.

Education Opportunity Resource Committee

Schools are being reimbursed depending on the poverty level of the school. There is also monitoring done in order to verify the reimbursements. There are 167 connections that are being reimbursed. It is important to note when schools use E-Rate, the provider needs a SPIN number to be able to work with the school.

Hospital Association

Hospitals are taking a monumental step by using Telehealth. This program administers the right care at the right times to reduce patient visits and time stay. It also reduces transportation costs, decreases travel in bad weather, the medicine is local and the patients can take less time of work. Even though the use of Telehealth is increasing, many hospitals are unable to use it due to the lack of broadband. It is not only Telehealth that needs broadband to operate, CT scans and medicine administration do as well.

Idaho Tribes

It is important to note that libraries can only use E-Rate if they are a stand alone in a brick and mortar. If they share the building with a community center they are not eligible for E-Rate. This causes a problem because tribes have libraries within community centers. Another obstacle tribes encounter are census blocks. This is because they are considered “served” when many times they still need the service. For example, Lapway has connectivity within city limits but does not cover all population.

Idaho National Laboratory

The Idaho National Laboratory goes beyond nuclear energy. They also include solar, wind and hydroelectric. Other services that they have include education in STEM to encourage the new generations to innovate.

Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP)

Broadband needs to be linked to economic development or businesses in order to thrive. The IRP has heard from the rural community that the connection is not great, but they will make do. They are also educating communities about broadband and how it not only impacts their present but how it will impact their future.

IRON

IRON uses competency-based education, where students gain real life experience along with their education. There was also a discussion around Internet 2, where everyone is encouraged to think and look ahead. Otherwise we will be behind in broadband.

Section 5:

Transmission and Right of Way Options/permitting

Moderator: Paul Kjellander – Public Utilities Commission

Went over the agenda for this session. Mr. Kjellander stated that “wireless” should be added to legislation, otherwise there is no jurisdiction on issues that include wireless services.

Idaho Power

Nancy Cyr explained that in public lands the right of way is nonexclusive. She also explained that the average time to get a permit ranges from 6 months to 2 years. The more infrastructure and cables there are, the longer it is to get a permit.

Rocky Mountain Power

Rocky Mountain Power's presentation focused on permits and ways to optimize the right of way.

Avista Utilities

Avista is working on reliable pathways for pole networks. It keeps poles in strategic locations for joint use. Unfortunately, resources are not available to do pole resets.

Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)

The ITD recommended to identify what are the goals, policies and guidelines in order to find places for potential improvements. It is also important to note that there is not always information available of the utilities that are in the right of way. Therefore, there must be an investigation to see what is already there.

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

They expressed that by opening access to black fiber was in the best interest of Idaho. As it should be used as a way for business to partner and participate and not to compete against each other.

Mapping Update/ Outside Service Providers

Jake Reynolds went over the broadbandnow.com mapping data. One of the findings was that there is a gap in the population who does not have access. It was also mentioned that geography plays a role in where and how broadband can be installed. As for the way the research was done, it was mentioned that the data can be flawed if the people who ran the test had multiple devices on the Wi-fi at the same time or watching movies. This gave a slower result than what it should be. Cheryl Goettsche explained the broadband mapping in Idaho from an independent report. She explained that there are several factors that impact speed, such as:

- device limitations (using old equipment)
- hardwire vs Wi-Fi connection
- use of desktop computer or wireless
- type of browser
- viruses
- location
- number of devices

Discussion of Preliminary Recommendations

Preview of Meeting #3 Agenda

Conclusion:

In conclusion, there were 27 presenters total. For the next meeting it was requested that USDA and other sources for funding were available for questions or presentations. It was recommended that satellite providers make a presentation on what exists now and where it is heading in the future. Lastly, it was recommended to think about what a draft around a strategy might look like.