

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

Meeting Packet: 11.10.2022

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# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2022 | 1:30pm – 4:30pm (or upon adjournment)

Idaho Capitol Building

Room WW53

This meeting will also be held virtually via [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 823 6606 5832

Or if you choose to call for audio only: 1.253.215.8782

**Chairman,  
Representative  
John Vander  
Woude**  
Ada County

**Vice-Chairman,  
Senator Carl  
Crabtree**  
Bonner, Clearwater,  
Idaho, and  
Shoshone Counties

**Representative  
Megan Blanksma**  
Elmore, Owyhee,  
and Twin Falls  
Counties

**Representative  
Barbara Ehardt**  
Bonneville County

**Senator David  
Nelson**  
Benewah & Latah  
Counties

**Senator Doug  
Ricks**  
Bonneville and  
Madison Counties

**Andrew Emerson**  
MH Solutions

**Mitch Watkins**  
Watkins Distributing

**Margie Watson**  
JC Watson &  
Company

Time	Topic	Presenter	Notes
1:30 p.m.	Call to Order Roll Call	Chairman Vander Woude	
1:35 p.m.	Approval of 10.11.22 Meeting Minutes	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board	Action Item
1:40 p.m.	Middle-Mile Update	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	
1:45 p.m.	Update on Broadband ITB & RFP	Ewa Szewczyk, Commerce	
1:50 p.m.	Update on “Call for Broadband Project and Planning Proposals”	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	
2:00 p.m.	3-4 Minute Introductions & Public Comments	Broadband Stakeholders & Partners	
4:25 p.m.	December IBAB Meeting	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	
4:30 p.m.	Adjournment	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board	

## Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Idaho JRW Building - West Conference Room

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Members	Idaho Commerce Staff
Chairman, Rep. John Vander Woude, <i>Idaho Legislator</i>	Jake Reynolds, <i>Business Development &amp; Operations Administrator</i>
Vice Chair Sen. Carl Crabtree, <i>Idaho Legislator</i> <b>Z</b>	Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, <i>Broadband Development Manager</i>
Sen. David Nelson, <i>Idaho Legislator</i> <b>Z</b>	Ewa Szewczyk, <i>Grants and Contracts Manager</i>
Sen. Doug Ricks, <i>Idaho Legislator</i> <b>Z</b>	
Rep. Megan Blanksma, <i>Idaho Legislator</i> <b>Absent</b>	
Rep. Barbara Ehardt, <i>Idaho Legislator</i> <b>Z</b>	
Andrew Emerson, <i>MH Solutions</i>	
Mitch Watkins, <i>Watkins Distribution</i>	
Margie Watson, <i>JC Watson &amp; Company</i>	
(Z) denotes via Zoom	

### Call to order:

Chairman Rep. John Vander Woude called the meeting to order at **12:30 pm** with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2022 Meeting.

Motion by Margie Watson to approve meeting minutes

Second: Mitch Watkins

All in favor: motion passes

### Introduce State's new Broadband Program Manager

Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez was introduced and he thanked Administrator Reynolds for sending a nice welcome and introduction to board members, and for sharing his experienced background with them. He's looking forward to working with the board and working together on upcoming IBAB projects.

### Update on Capital Projects & BEAD funding timelines

Ramón shared current and future Broadband funds and infrastructure along with projected timelines. No questions were addressed from the Board. We want plan in place before JFAC begins.

At end of month, have Broadband mapping that will help the state and used to challenge FCC maps. September 29 begins the 270 days to get the 5-year action plan submitted. Ewa will share along with road map.

Senator Nelson: timeline and staffing questions.

Senator Crabtree where are we on mapping? Ramon engaged in the conversation regarding the mapping ITB. Open for bid November 2, 2022.

**Time frame is adopted**

Motion by Mitch Watkins needing flexibility for more time if need be.  
Second: Margie Watson  
All in favor: motion passes

**Update on Broadband RFPs**

Ewa Szewczyk shared with the Board purchasing procurement. We can hire out directly with outside contractors vs. hiring internally with permanent employees, but contractors must meet all requirements. Lowest bid will be awarded.

Five-year plan will go live early November, 2022 and will be posted soon.

No questions or comments from the board on this timeline.

**Discussion on Call for Projects & Planning Grants in Advance of '23 Legislative Session**

**Proceed with call for information.**

Motion by Margie Watson  
Second: Carl Crabtree  
All in favor: motion passes

**NTIA/Commerce/Locals Broadband Summit**

November 15, 2022 at Riverside. Can also attend virtually.

Next meeting: **November 10, 2022 at 1:30 pm and December 20, 2022 at 1:00 pm.**

Chair Vander Woude Adjourned the meeting.

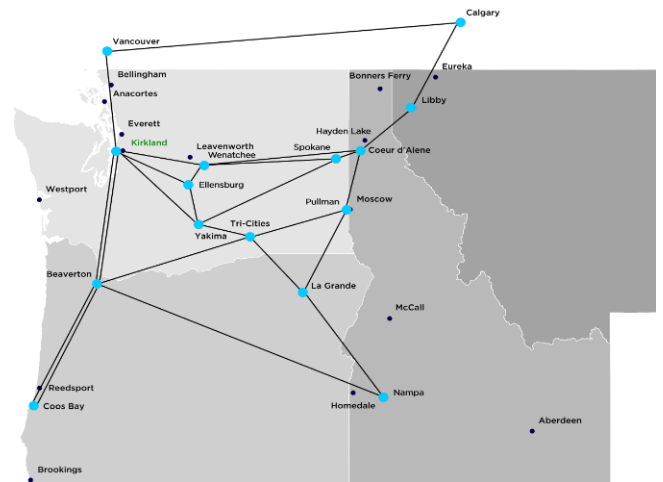
**Zipty Fiber:** A privately held company that acquired the assets formerly operated by Frontier Communications in Idaho, Montana, Oregon & Washington. We are investing \$500 million in upgrading our network, building the fastest and most reliable broadband network across the Northwest.

**Mission:** *Simplify and elevate people’s connected lives, everyday.*

**Vision:** Combine the most advanced fiber network with a refreshingly great customer experience for all that you will ever do in the online world. We connect people and businesses to data and experiences that matter most to them.

We own and operate a state-of-the-art **Middle-Mile** infrastructure

- Enables access to major market pricing
- As the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier, our network facilitates ‘Open Access’
  - 137 Idaho resellers/carriers use our network today
  - Competition brings consumer choices
- Using Dense Wave Division Multiplexing drives up the overall capacity of existing infrastructure to move more data efficiently and cost effectively



**Affordability** is important to us

Fiber 50/50 \$20/mo	Fiber 200/200 \$40/mo	Fiber GIG \$60/mo	2 & 5 GIG Starts \$120/mo
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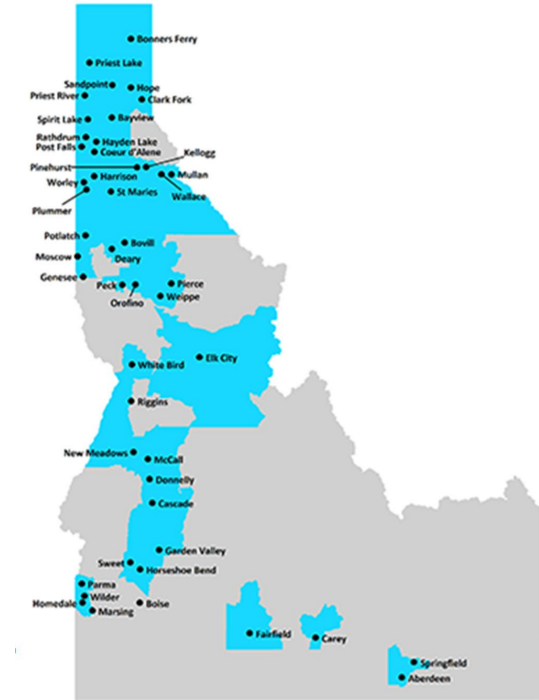
As an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Zipty Fiber enables qualifying low-income households access to Federal Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program. Eligible households can receive up to \$ 39.25 off their monthly internet service fee (up to \$ 105/month on Tribal lands).

## ZiPLY Fiber Service across Idaho

21 Counties  
178,000 Serviceable locations  
40 Central Offices  
139 Employees  
10 Construction Vendors

Since 2020  
ZiPLY Fiber investment \$ 7.7 million  
75,000 New Fiber Served locations  
Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater,  
Kootenai, Latah & Shoshone

Idaho CARES Act Projects:  
Bonner County  
Clearwater County  
Latah County  
Shoshone County



## Civic Partnerships we recognize we are better together.

In partnership with local governments, we can leverage public funds to expand Fiber to the Premise infrastructure in less dense areas more economically and faster than on our own. Infeasible Rights of Use (IRU's) facilitate a public partners desire to connect their facilities without the burden of infrastructure maintenance, regulatory reporting and technical upgrades into the future.

We are excited about the future in Idaho and to work with the Idaho Broadband Office and Advisory Board. We are actively analyzing service level data within Idaho; to date we have identified 30,000 addresses that meet the unserved/underserved eligibility criteria. Our response to the Idaho Request for Broadband Project and Planning Proposals will showcase the opportunities to leverage public-private sector partnerships to deploy broadband across the ZiPLY Fiber service areas in Idaho. For more information visit [www.ziPLYfiber.com](http://www.ziPLYfiber.com)

Contacts:

Jessica Epley, VP Regulatory & External Affairs [Jessica.epley@ziPLY.com](mailto:Jessica.epley@ziPLY.com) 503-431-0458

Chris St Germaine, Local Partnerships Manager [chris.stgermaine@ziPLY.com](mailto:chris.stgermaine@ziPLY.com) 208-400-0602

November 4, 2022

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board  
Via email: [ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov)

Re: Request for Written Comments and Information for November 10, 2022 Meeting

IBAB Board and other stakeholders,

Idaho Falls Fiber appreciates the opportunity to submit written comments and information about how our work in Idaho Falls is supporting your mission and vision for all Idahoans. We enjoy any opportunity to showcase the good work Idaho Falls Fiber is doing for our community. We are just finishing up year three of a four-year, citywide fiber-to-home build out.

Over 75% of city homes and businesses have connection access into a dedicated fiber optic line. Customers can choose from one of six approved internet service providers (ISP). The take rates and customer satisfaction are exceeding our most optimistic projections. We continue to utilize, to the extent possible, existing infrastructure to bring down construction disruptions to neighborhoods along with costs of network installation.

Access to a fiber network is only half the battle with affordability being the other half of the equation. We do not require contract commitments and there is no charge for installation or equipment. Once on the Idaho Falls Fiber Network, customers don't generally leave. They have a choice of two product offerings: 250 mbps or 1 gig upload and download. With standard speed and service offering requirements the providers stay competitive with each other on price and customer support. This open network design has provided superior broadband access to customers as well as customer access for ISP providers. 250 mbps service starts at only \$59.99 per month, total cost with no upfront fees or price hikes six-months later.

As we wrap up this year's construction season over next few weeks, we are focusing for 2023 on the remaining 25% of the city, which is expected to be more complex and costly. These are areas with underground utilities, poor soil conditions and no prior electric conduit. These more difficult segments were intentionally left for the last year of the buildout so that lessons learned from the prior three years of construction could be leveraged.

Idaho Falls Fiber has not received one dollar of federal, FCC, state, or other general financial support for our network build. Unless we are able to locate some grant opportunities that we are eligible for, residents of Idaho Falls on our fiber network will have to pay for 100% of the network buildout. We have a solid business model and are confident the user fees can

adequately pay for the network build over time. Being a nonprofit entity, any grants would directly benefit the citizens of Idaho Falls by lowering their internet costs today. This benefits Idahoans directly dollar-for-dollar at a time when spiraling inflation is putting immense strain on our residents. Any grants and funding support stays in Idaho, for the benefit of Idahoans and not out-of-state shareholders or corporations.

We have done numerous tours over the past few months for various elected officials and leadership. There is a general sense of surprise at the innovation and progress being made in Idaho Falls. I welcome all of you, if you have not already, to Idaho Falls and see what we have been working so hard on the past three years. It really is a story of success for Idaho and one that I get a lot of opportunity on a national stage of late, to showcase what a little city in Idaho has accomplished. I welcome the opportunity to hopefully say that the City of Idaho Falls did have support from the state of Idaho and our statewide broadband advisory board. There is an opportunity still to be part of the state's largest open access network.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bear Prairie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bear Prairie  
General Manager  
Idaho Falls Fiber

cc. File BP/588



## Custer Telephone Cooperative (CusterTel) Comments

J.D. Bennetts, CEO/General Manager

- Custer Telephone Cooperative is deeply committed to providing the best service possible to our members and subscribers. We are continually investing in our plant and have been converting our network from copper DSL to Fiber to the Home for over 15 years. We have been committed to serving our members since the Coop. was formed in 1955. I feel it is very important that existing service providers lead the charge to finish deploying broadband to our local communities. We're already here, we're already committed, and we have been taking good care of our subscribers for years.
- Upgrading our electronics and outside plant was already very expensive, but the huge influx of funding across the country has actually made the situation worse. We are seeing historic lead times and price increases. Contractor availability is a huge challenge and because they have more work than they can get done their prices have increased dramatically. Capital Expenses have increased dramatically, but Operational Expenses have also been increasing steeply due to inflation and other factors. I encourage funding to be reasonably appropriated to not only CAPEX but OPEX to make sure these networks are successful for the long term.
- I would also encourage the State to take a long term approach to construction. Building and operating these networks in rural areas takes a lot of logistical work and regulatory hurdles to jump through. Removing as many barriers and red tape as possible is encouraged, but no matter how much money is devoted to these initiatives it will still take years of commitment to achieve our goals. We need to be realistic about milestones so providers can navigate all of the challenges in order to get these projects completed.
- Please educate everyone on the use of speed test data on the decision making process. Speed test servers are a great tool. Our staff and subscribers use them daily to ensure that our networks are performing optimally. I often hear about policy makers using speed test data to identify areas where broadband is insufficient. It's true that if customers in an area who are subscribed to the maximum available broadband perform speed tests, the data would show the need for upgrades. It is just as true that all customers do not subscribe to the highest speeds available to them. Any speed test they perform will not indicate what speed is available at that location. For example, a subscriber with Fiber to the Home has 1 Gig service available to them. Let's say that subscriber purchases 25x3 service because that's all they need and can't justify spending more money on a higher plan. If that subscriber (and everyone else in the same situation) perform speed tests it will show usually less than 25x3 because other devices in the home are consuming bandwidth at the same time. Decision makers might look at the data and see that an area has an average speed test of 15x1 for example and conclude that funding is necessary in that area, when in fact that area is already capable of Gigabit service. I'm not saying that speed test data can't be helpful to the process, but it is very important that the data be put in context for it to paint an accurate picture.
- Strive for transparency and fairness in the grant program so everyone knows what is expected and build a program that helps these projects be successful.

## **Comments to Idaho Broadband Advisory Board November 10, 2022 Meeting**

Lumen appreciates the work of the Department of Commerce and Broadband Advisory Board to develop and implement a broadband program for the state of Idaho.

The company currently has enabled over 82,000 fiber-to-the-premise locations in Idaho with an additional 45,000 planned for 2023. The company has also submitted a middle mile grant with the NTIA between Melba and Boise.

The comments below focus on details around application requirements and awarding grants with a goal of providing the citizens of Idaho with ubiquitous and affordable broadband in the most productive, effective, and expedient way possible.

### **Mapping**

Mapping is important to ensure that dollars are focused on the areas of need and avoids overbuilding existing infrastructure. All providers interested in participating in the program should be required to submit mapping data to the state. This information should come in the form of a Shapefile. This means a GIS file format for storing, depicting, and analyzing geospatial data depicting broadband coverage. It is made up of several component files, such as a Main file (.shp), an Index file (.shx), and a dBASE table (.dbf). The data should target locations below the census block.

### **Provider Qualifications**

While most providers are capable of building, operating, and maintaining a broadband network, the state should ensure that a provider submitting an application meets certain requirements. Such as long term viability to ensure the service will be sustainable to those locations for a period of time (5 years?), ability to secure resources.

### **Buildout Requirements and Timeframes**

The ability to provide 100 Mbps download will generally require fiber to the premise connections. While the program does not necessarily need to require that fiber be utilized, it should be encouraged and potentially weighted in favor of applications would be awarded. Achieving 100 Mbps/20 Mbps is primarily done with fiber connections. It is not unreasonable to require finished upload and download speeds to be at least 100 Mbps symmetrical.

There is already a significant demand for resources, both supply and labor, and as result the buildout timeframes should take that into consideration. The amount of time allowed to build out an awarded project should be in the 2-3 year timeframe. Additionally, the geography and climate of Idaho is such that it is not possible to build year-round across the state. The timing of award cycles should also take the build season into account. An award cycle that is later in the year will have an impact on what can be accomplished in that same year.

### **Application Notice Window**

An application deadline for submitting broadband projects to be considered for grant awards should provide for a period of at least 90 days notice. It will take time to engineer and plan projects. Allowing

enough advance notice will ensure that the state will receive quality proposals.

### **Application Criteria**

In addition to requiring an explanation of the technology and equipment necessary to provide the required service levels a project will be required to achieve, several other things should be included or allowed.

An application should be allowed to have multiple, separate, projects contained within it, as long as the aspects of the projects are the same, i.e. using the same type of technology and equipment. The projects could be awarded on a stand-alone basis or as a package but requiring multiple applications for multiple projects creates additional time and effort when time is short for finalizing the details of potential projects.

All applicants should be required to either participate in an affordability program or offer an affordable product directed at citizens who qualify for a variety of state or federal assistance programs.

Projects should help facilitate service to community anchor institutions and improve the overall connectivity of a community. Additional weight could be applied when being evaluated.

The state should not require any specific or standard levels of matching funds. Many of the projects that will be proposed will have higher per location costs. Requiring a specific amount of provider contribution, whether that is a percentage or a minimum contribution amount, will be an impediment to building out these higher cost locations. An applicant should be allowed to seek 100% funding.

### **Award Process**

Applications that prioritize unserved locations should be given more weight than projects that focus on building out to underserved locations. The goal is to ensure connectivity to all locations. The focus should not be on improving already connected locations. Those locations will have a lower cost per location to improve and will be easier to upgrade down the road and should have a lower priority.

### **Challenge Process**

This process will go hand in hand with the efforts around mapping. The state should ensure that a provider can challenge an award in an area that will result in overbuilding an existing network. At least a 30 day window to challenge an award would be a sufficient amount of time and would not prejudice the awardee's ability to begin their project in a timely manner. In addition to a challenge process, the state has the responsibility to ensure that served areas are not being overbuilt.

### **Permitting**

The substantial amount of funding coming for broadband will have an equally substantial impact on the amount of permits that will be required to build out broadband infrastructure. The state should consider ways that it could assist the entities responsible for issuing those permits. Funding for additional staffing and resources should be considered as part of how these funds are allocated. In many respects these could be short term or interim positions and resources to ensure that these builds can be done in an efficient and timely manner. Streamlining and potentially standardizing the filing and approval process for permit applications could promote efficiencies and avoid waste and delays, which ultimately impact the customers and citizens of Idaho.



November 15, 2022

Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho 83702

Dear Program Manager Hobdey-Sanchez:

Cox Communications (“Cox”) submits the following comments for consideration by the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (“IBAB”), which supplement the verbal comments provided by Cox Sun Valley Market Leader, Guy Cherp, at the November 15, 2022 IBAB meeting. We appreciate the opportunity to share some of our experiences and learnings in addressing the digital divide.

The Cox family of companies has been operating for more than 120 years and is proud to be a long-standing provider of communications services in Idaho. Although we are a large company, we are a part of every community we serve. We spend \$1.5 million annually with local contractors, and Cox has donated over \$175,000 to local community organizations this year alone. We are more than a service provider, we’re a community partner who is invested in Idaho’s success. Cox is here to stay, and we’re excited to grow with you.

Over the past 10 years, Cox has invested more than \$19 billion in network infrastructure upgrades to deliver advanced video, phone and high-speed internet, enabling gigabit speeds to our residential and business customers. Our network is strong, and we will continue to invest to ensure that we are meeting growing customer demand, powering the next generation of internet users, and remaining a provider of choice in the State of Idaho.

As part of our ongoing commitment to digital equity and bridging the digital divide, Cox is investing hundreds of millions in private capital to bring our services to un- and underserved homes across the country, either fully funded by Cox or in partnership with state, local, and federal governments. Most recently, we partnered with local residents and their HOA to build 100% fiber optic network to serve over 150 homes in a residential subdivision called Indian Creek in Blaine County. The residents contributed \$500,000 and Cox spent its own private dollars to complete this \$1.4 million dollar project, bringing gigabit speeds to these homes and an additional 40 lots yet to be developed.

Cox has a long history of supporting broadband adoption programs, which are a key part of any long-term broadband plan. More than a decade ago, Cox recognized the need for affordable access for households with school-aged children and launched our Connect2Compete program. Through this program, Cox offers up to 100mbps services for \$9.95 per month, plus benefits like no equipment rental fee, no deposits, no long-term contract, and no installation fees. Given the success of this program, we then launched ConnectAssist, a low-cost broadband connectivity option for any household that qualifies for government assistance programs like SNAP, Pell Grant, Veterans Pension, SSI, and more. For just \$30 per month, ConnectAssist customers receive a wired, connection with a Wi-Fi-enabled router that provides speeds up to 100 Mbps. Cox also raised our hand in support of the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which offers a \$30 a month subsidy and can provide eligible customers free internet services.

Idaho has a great task ahead to bring broadband to all citizens by 2027. To achieve this, it is important that you stay true to many of the objectives of the state Broadband Strategic Plan. The Idaho Office of Broadband and Idaho Broadband Advisory Board will play a prominent role in allocating significant federal broadband funding and it will be critical to get a holistic assessment of our community’s broadband market and needs. Key elements of such an assessment should include:

- **Bringing all stakeholders together.** Convening ISPs, consumer groups, business groups, nonprofits, and other relevant stakeholders for data-driven, solution-oriented discussions.
- **Taking a long-term view.** Instead of a one-time snapshot, a smart assessment will consider recent market trends and provider's future buildout plans.
- **Gathering as much data as possible.** Smart, data-driven planning will allow for more precise solutions to meet Idaho's connectivity needs.
- **Working from accurate maps.** The forthcoming federal DATA map, to be issued by the FCC, will have the accuracy and granularity to meet most state and local policy maker needs.
- **Engaging objective, independent experts.** Where Idaho may need outside expertise from data analyst and others to build an effective broadband plan, they should consider credible, carefully vetted, and objective outside experts.

With a thorough assessment in hand, the following best practices can help Idaho maximize the impact of broadband funding and decrease the risk of waste, fraud, and abuse as the plan is operationalized:

- **Focus funds on finally bringing broadband to remaining unserved areas.** Despite significant progress towards universally available broadband, far too many households, in the U.S. remain without access to a high-speed internet connection. Grant applications seeking to serve these areas should receive priority. Applications that seek to deploy networks in areas that are already served- or have federal funding commitments- commonly known as "overbuilding" – should not be considered.
- **Support broadband adoption and digital skill development** with locally tailored solutions to reach those who do not subscribe.
- **Encourage robust participation by local entities** in state planning processes and application development from start to completion.
- **Assure a technology neutral approach** to allocate grant funding. Policy should not preference one platform over the other. Instead, grant programs should encourage ISPs to compete for funding so that unserved areas ultimately benefit from the technology that is most appropriate to eliminate the digital divide.
- **Evaluate applications objectively** to assure a level playing field, emphasizing criteria like expertise and experience in building and operating networks.
- **Resist imposing unnecessary or burdensome requirements on grantees** that could limit competition for funds by discouraging eligible and qualified entities from applying.
- **Deploy a robust challenge process** that allows entities to challenge determinations of "served" versus "unserved" areas, helping to reduce wasteful duplication.
- **Strive for maximum transparency and accountability** during every stage of the grant process.

Cox has decades of real-world experience deploying broadband projects and accelerating broadband adoption. We encourage the State of Idaho to leverage our expertise- we have a long track-record of successful public-private partnerships and a long-standing history of investing in the State of Idaho. Cox stands ready to continue collaborating with the Idaho Office of Broadband, the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, as well as stakeholders across private and nonprofit sectors, to assist in the development of plans to ensure that all Idahoans have access to reliable, high-speed broadband by 2027.

Sincerely,



Guy Cherp  
 Vice President and Market Leader, Sun Valley  
 Cox Communications  
[Guy.Cherp@cox.com](mailto:Guy.Cherp@cox.com)

**From:** [Hank Allen](#)  
**To:** [COM-Info Commerce](#); [Cody Allred](#); [Technology Idahoans for Safe](#)  
**Subject:** I want Hardwired Fiber Broadband In Idaho!  
**Date:** Monday, November 7, 2022 12:10:39 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.**

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Dear Broadband Advisory Board,

Please do not spend taxpayers money on wireless broadband in Idaho! Hardwire fiber-optic is superior and will be the best for Idaho. Please invest my tax dollars into fiber.

I support the views of Idahoans for Safe Technology.

<https://idahoansforsafetechnology.org/fiber-first-idaho/>

--

*Best Regards,*

**Hank Allen**

*Realtor*

**Sea to Farm Real Estate**

by: Atova Inc.

Cell: (831) 251-7134

Office: (208) 370-3388

Donalyn: (408) 724-2872

Email: [hank@seatofarm.com](mailto:hank@seatofarm.com)

**From:** [Kim Schroeder](#)  
**To:** [COM-Info Commerce](#); [Cody Allred](#); [idahoansforsafetechnology@gmail.com](mailto:idahoansforsafetechnology@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Fiber first for Idaho  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 9, 2022 9:47:15 AM

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Good morning Idaho Broadband Advisory Board,  
Fiber optic broadband is the long term solution (vs. wireless) for several reasons:

It is more cost effective (allowing to close the digital divide), secure, faster, environmentally friendly and an excellent investment in our municipalities.

Additionally it is very important to point out that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit ruled on Aug 13, 2021 that the FCC failed to consider the [non-cancer evidence](#) regarding [adverse health effects of wireless technology](#) when it decided that its 1996 radiofrequency emission guidelines protect the public's health.

Not one dollar of tax payer money should be invested into wireless broadband until after there is substantial written evidence proving the FCC completed the court mandated work in these two cases: [CHD/EHT et al. v FCC, Case #20-1025. \(D.C. Cir.\)](#) and [Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians v. FCC, Case #18-1129, \(D.C. Cir.\)](#)

I strongly support Idahoans for Safe Technology, they have done extensive and credible research please click this link for more information.

<https://idahoansforsafetechnology.org/fiber-first-idaho/>

Thank you,  
Kim Schroeder  
Middleton ID

**From:** [rwalsher](#)  
**To:** [COM-Info Commerce](#); [Cody Allred](#); [idahoansforsafetechnology@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Future of Broadband meeting 11/10..  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 9, 2022 10:48:37 AM

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Hello IBAB members,

Thank you for taking a moment to read my opinion about the future of Broadband in Idaho. Please consider the superiority of fiber optic connections, I will enumerate several reasons why fiber is superior to wireless:

1. Environment - a hot button issue today, fiber has an incredibly small impact on the environment. Fiber optic networks are the most planet-friendly, energy-efficient of all the available access technologies, requiring almost no power to carry signals at lightning speed.
2. Fire - wireless telecommunication equipment have been linked to several fires, including the following in CA: Silverado Fire (2020), 130K residents evacuated, Woolsey Fire (2018), \$6 billion in damages, Malibu Canyon fire (2007), hundreds of millions in damage.
3. Speed - wired connections provide 30 - 1000+ mbps vs wireless which produces 5-12 mbps on average.
4. Wireless networks will require expensive upgrades in the near future as data demands increase. Over time, fiber optic will prove to be much more economical, with an investment return within 5 – 10 years. With billions of federal dollars now available for fiber optic broadband networks in under-served areas, fiber is more affordable for Idaho than ever before.
5. Nature - Scientists have proven that radio frequency (RF) radiation can be absorbed by birds and insects, raising internal temperatures, interfering with reproduction and navigation, or triggering other responses. This has dramatic implications for our natural world as purveyors of wireless technology push ahead with their plans to blanket the country with powerful antennas.
6. Law - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit ruled on Aug 13, 2021 that the FCC failed to consider the [non-cancer evidence](#) regarding [adverse health effects of wireless technology](#) when it decided that its 1996 radio frequency emission guidelines protect the public's health.

Thank you again for your consideration, Idaho deserves the best in all areas, especially in quality, safe fiber optic broadband.

Rick and Laura Walsh  
Parma, ID

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.



**From:** [William Lind](#)  
**To:** [COM-Info Commerce](#); [Cody Allred](#)  
**Cc:** [idahoansforsafetechnology@gmail.com](mailto:idahoansforsafetechnology@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** I support Fiber Optic Broadband  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 9, 2022 10:43:35 AM

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There are two types of broadband connections: wired and wireless, and the best kind of wired broadband is fiber optic. Compared to fiber optic, wireless is slow, expensive, unreliable, easier to hack, prone to fires, not able to handle future speed requirements, and not yet proven safe.

The federal government prioritizes end-to-end fiber optic projects because fiber optic is superior to wireless. Everyone agrees and understands that communities in Idaho deserve access to the reliable, affordable, safe, high-speed internet connections we already paid for! Fiber optic broadband should be the centerpiece of broadband development in Idaho and I support Idahoans for Safe Technology in their efforts to have Idaho adopt this approach.

[https://idahoansforsafetechnology.org/fiber-first-idaho/?fbclid=IwAR3L8w6Jmmeampxl7qPmYyfqC4S40AuGnEqa\\_M6hhgldRg22rcBSXKIYY0Y](https://idahoansforsafetechnology.org/fiber-first-idaho/?fbclid=IwAR3L8w6Jmmeampxl7qPmYyfqC4S40AuGnEqa_M6hhgldRg22rcBSXKIYY0Y)

Respectively,

William Lind

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Star, Idaho 8339

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## IBAB 11/10/22 Meeting Speakers

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