

Ohio Broadband Council



POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2008

10:30 a.m. ~ 12:30 p.m.

Vern Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio

Attendees

Steve Burigana, Chair
Bob Blazer (delegate for Connie Browning)
Bruce Hotte
Ed Kozelek
Robert Luikart
Frank Mathews
Brian Phillips
John Wanchick

Guests

Gary Lambert, Connect Ohio
Brent Legg, Connect Ohio
Fred Deel
Katrina Flory
Sarah Saccany
Pankaj Shah
Ed Yeager

Opening

Chair Steve Burigana called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. He welcomed all in attendance, and thanked Brent Legg and Gary Lambert of Connect Ohio for being present to speak to the subcommittee.

Connect Ohio Presentation

Chair Burigana asked Brent Legg to speak to what the focus of the Ohio Broadband Council Policy Subcommittee should be, and also to help explore how this subcommittee should define areas of interest. He also explained that the team has sought a clear definition of broadband.

Brent explained that the definition of what constitutes broadband has changed over time. He distributed a handout created by a California task force, showing their definition of broadband. Brent explained that the FCC, in a new order effective March 19, 2008, stated that providers need to provide speed data based on subscribership on a census block level. Connect Ohio is working to get to census block level.

Up until the FCC's March 19th change, Ohio's definition of broadband was 200 kb per second. On March 19th the FCC changed the definition of broadband to 200kb up to 768kb per second. Basic broadband tier one is now 768 kb to 1.5 Mb per second; tier two is 1.5 Mbps to 3 Mbps; tier three is 3 Mbps to 6 Mbps; tier four is defined as 6 Mbps to 10 Mbps; tier five is 10 Mbps to 25 Mbps; tier six is 25 Mbps to 100 Mbps, and tier seven is anything greater than 100 Mbps.

Connect Ohio is working to map the tiers, and will reveal their mapping efforts in a June 27th press conference. First versions of the maps will be online, interactive and downloadable after the press conference. Web site visitors will be able to see what broadband platforms are available at specific locations, which providers are in the area, and a link to each provider's Web site. Satellite was excluded because it is not affordable. We need to determine what "affordable"

means. Information used in the creation of these maps was provided by service providers. A project similar to this was undertaken in Kentucky, and in three years the Kentucky maps have become ninety-nine percent accurate. In Kentucky and Tennessee, tools such as speedtest.net and speedmatters.org are available for the consumer to test their connection speed, and all information gathered via those sites is tracked. This made it possible to create Kentucky and Tennessee maps which show the average upload and download speeds for each county. Brent stated that interactions with Ohio have been as good as or better than other states, thus the Connect Ohio staff feel well-able to build quality relationships here.

Connect Ohio is conducting residential and business phone surveys to gather information about how broadband is used by county and what the barriers are by county. Survey research will also be released on June 27th. Survey information was gathered through random samples. Brent will ensure that all subcommittee members receive copies of the survey questions.

Chair Burigana noted that, at the last meeting, the subcommittee discussed infrastructure versus device, and asked for Brent's input as to whether the Ohio Broadband Council should focus on providing devices (computers) or just connectivity. Brent explained that Connect Ohio is very committed to "No Child Left Offline", and will target communities where qualifying students do not have a computer in their homes. Connect Ohio will determine what counties have ownership issues and will act on that information.

Steve said the OBC Policy Subcommittee wants to build policy frames in order to move forward productively. In order to do that, we need to learn how other states have dealt with their challenges. Brent explained that the director of the mapping division and the director of research at Connect Ohio could better address those questions, and suggested that one or both of them address the Policy Subcommittee at a future meeting. Steve agreed and suggested that it would be more beneficial for the larger committee. Brent would like to join the group again after the Connect Ohio report is released in June, and would like to bring Wes Kerr, a mapping specialist from Connect Ohio. Steve and Fred agreed that this will be a joint committee meeting.

Update from workgroup: "How other states have defined broadband"

The workgroup was asked by Chair Burigana to research and provide information about how other states have defined broadband. He noted that he is particularly interested in data on California's efforts.

Katrina distributed handouts. Steve Burigana inquired as to whether any states have deployed incentives for commercial development. Pankaj said California has made strides in that area. Steve indicated that the subcommittee would like to see much more information around that, and explained that the intent behind inquiries about other states' progress is not to simply compare Ohio with other states, but that we need basic models and examples which will help us move forward productively. Iowa may have some of the best practices to model.

Bob Blazer cautioned that in the quest to find and adopt best practices, we could inadvertently be looking at old technology, due to the amount of time it can take for reports to be released. Bob stated that our best practice is probably still in development.

Steve asked how we can tap into the determination of what businesses think they need and how, on the commercial side of the planning process, we can make ourselves aware of trend analysis which would be helpful to our conversations. Bob Blazer suggested that may make sense is to find that type of information through the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Steve agreed. Steve

asked the workgroup to contact other agencies and public policy organizations in order research what business needs and requirements are for economic development.

Subcommittee members agreed to postpone the next meeting until after the June 27th report is released.

Chair Burigana adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Action Items

Steve asked the workgroup to contact other agencies and public policy organizations in order research what business needs and requirements are for economic development.

Next meeting

To be determined