Data Access and Support Center

Joint Committee on Information Technology
Broadband Update
December 17, 2012

Stan Adams

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the Kansas Statewide Broadband Initiative.

Overview

The initiative, began in 2010, is primarily designed to foster increased availability and utilization of broadband in un-served and under-served communities across the state. Our program is funded through a grant from the NTIA (US Commerce Dept.).

Federal funding for the initiative covers the five year period ending in 2014. In addition to the federal funding, the State is required to at least 20% in matching or in-kind contributions.

There are four primary project categories covered by the grant:

1. Data Collection and Mapping
2. Broadband Planning and Strategy Development
3. Local/Regional Technology Planning Teams
4. Technical Assistance

On a semi-annual basis, we poll each broadband service provider in the state to collect a defined set of data to populate our State Broadband map and to serve as inputs for the national broadband map. We contracted with the DASC GIS team to conduct the provider data collection and reporting submittals. The interactive map foundation was completed earlier this year. This part of the project was previously included in KITO reporting and the remaining outstanding issue to be resolved prior to closing out the KITO project related to addressing disabilities compliance issues identified by the State. Working with the DASC team, we believe we have resolved these issues and are in the process of obtaining final approvals.

In support of the overall planning effort, we are currently conducting several research studies as to compile a comprehensive needs assessment for the State. This will include a study of Businesses, Residential and Community Anchor Institutions (CAI). As part of the CAI study we are also conducting the KanEd Needs Assessment as directed by legislation passed in the previous session.

Once we have completed the current round of research and analysis the findings will be used to inform design and implementation of the Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT). The LTPT's function as a way for us to provide resources and subject matter expertise in support of individual community or regional broadband needs assessments. As part of this effort we are working to integrate the Commerce website with the interactive map website where the DASC servers house all the mapping data. Once we have finalized design and implementation of the integration, we will have a comprehensive resource center to support the LTPT's as well as other broadband stakeholders in a user-friendly format.

We continue to expand our inter-agency engagement on the project and include efforts underway at the State Library (CAI), Kansas Corporation Commission and the Kansas Department of Education.

Finally, a key outcome of our work is to set the environment for a sustained focus on the core issues related to un-served and under-served areas of Kansas, particularly with respect to rural communities. The funding levels provided essentially serve as seed money for each State to create their own plans. Kansas is in a unique position to lead the nation in leveraging broadband technology to economic growth and prosperity. We hope to add substantial meaning the now often used phrase 'Silicon Valley of the Midwest'.

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5-2