

Meeting Minutes: Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission

Utah Broadband Center is a Division of Utah Department of Transportation

Date: November 17, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **Presiding:** Co-Chair Senator Chris Wilson and Co-Chair Representative Scott Chew.
- **Quorum:** Confirmed at 10:11 AM.
- **Members: Legislators:** Senator Wayne Harper and Representative Paul Cutler (joining from Washington D.C.); James Toledo (Utah Division of Indian Affairs), Chris Parker, Director, Utah Division of Public Utilities; Kelleigh Cole (UETN Director Policy & Communications), Laura Hanson (Governor's Senior Advisor for Long-Range Planning sitting in for Governor's Office of Planning and Budget Executive Director)
 - **UBC Staff:** Rebecca Dilg (Director), Steve Greene (Technical Program Manager), Robert Busch (Finance Manager), Claire Shiverdecker (Program Manager).
 - **Commissioners/Partners:** Ivan Hartle (UDOT), Leif Elder (UDOT),and Vikram Ravi (Federal Program Officer).

2. Approval of Minutes

- **Motion:** Representative Paul Cutler moved to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2025, Commission meeting.
- **Action:** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Broadband Access Grant (BAG) Update

Presenters: Steve Greene & Rebecca Dilg

- **Program Overview:** Updates provided on the ARPA Capital Project Funds (CPF) initiative, a \$15 million investment to close the digital divide.
- **Key Metrics:** The project is deploying 135 miles of fiber to 3,604 locations, including significant targets in Box Elder County, Utah County (West Mountain/White Hills), and Tribal Lands (Navajo Nation and Paiute Tribe).
- **Completion Status:** Several projects (Beehive, All West, Direct Communications) are complete. Remaining projects are on track for completion by late 2025 or late 2026.

- **Financial Discussion:** A surplus of approximately **\$305,000** was identified. Senator Wilson and the Commission discussed exploring ways to reallocate these funds to rural projects rather than returning them to the U.S. Treasury.

4. BIG BEAD Grant Update

Presenters: Rebecca Dilg & Robert Busch

- **Location & Challenge Process:** The number of eligible locations was finalized at 30,885 after a rigorous challenge process that removed locations already served by unlicensed fixed wireless.
- **Technology Mix:**
 - **53% Fiber Optics**
 - **21% Fixed Wireless**
 - **26% LEO Satellite (SpaceX/Starlink)**
- **Financial Update:** Provisional sub-awards total **\$214.8 million**. Major provisional awardees include Strata Networks, Liberty, Navajo Nation, and South Central.
- **BEAD Timeline:** Final Proposal submitted to NTIA on October 3.
 - Federal approval (curing process) expected by January 2026.
 - Deployment phase to span the next 4 years (10 years for satellite providers).
- **Unallocated Funds:** Approximately **\$65 million** remains in the BEAD budget. The Commission is monitoring federal discussions regarding "non-deployment" uses for these funds (e.g., workforce development or permitting).

5. Other Business

- **Accountability:** Claire Shiverdecker detailed the 10-year performance requirement for satellite providers to ensure long-term service stability.
- **Legislative Tweak:** Leif Elder (UDOT) and Senator Harper discussed potential legislative updates for the upcoming session to streamline the Broadband Center's interface with the Transportation Commission.

6. Adjournment & Next Meeting

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Senator Wayne Harper.
- **Next Meeting:** Tentatively scheduled for **March 23, 2026, at 10:00 AM**.