

Asotin County Broadband Action Team
November 17, 2pm Meeting Agenda

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87604918466?pwd=WVJ3Zi94QzUydzZ1L1RXUjNGSkEyUT09>

Debbie Baker, Scott Thompson, Mark Detrick, Chad Miltenberger, Ernest Rasmussen, Jennifer Ashby, Mary Neuman, Gail Long

2:00 Introductions

2:05 Broadband Office update/Questions

Ernie: Infrastructure bill passed, 45 billion for digital equity, 65 billion for broadband, all states will submit a digital equity plan, Washington state is well poised to do this because of the Broadband Action Teams. We have a good foundation to build plan.

Mark: Digital Navigators – dropped some articles about Digital Navigator into chat, Going through the applications, 7.4 million in total funding, have gotten 10 qualifying apps, and the rest are asking for \$15 million. Planning Digital Equity Forum, will produce list of ways to make broadband more equitable. Should be announcing first week of December.

276 million in infrastructure money, next round in April 2022 has ??? million, 5 million in matching grant (federal funding) info coming out Nov. 29. Washington is in a good place

EBB now called Affordable Connectivity (**something that I didn't catch**) and program being made permanent. Will change to \$30 a month for households. Change probably happening at end of 2021-2022 school year. Tribal will still be able to get up to \$75. Tribal Connectivity program got another \$2 billion in funding and giving tribes more time. \$1 billion in middle mile connectivity; developing rules regarding digital discrimination, transparency of costs;

Ernie question: reduced amount but is eligibility being expanded?

Mark: it's staying the same

Mark: thinks we're going to see more of the efforts continue, such as Digital Navigators, devices to students, developing skills, particularly elderly. We've just seen the tip of the iceberg. Programs evolving to meet needs of community. Very mindful of the disconnect with rural communities and working to level playing field.

Jennifer: please send any projects to be included in Asotin County Digital Plan.

Mark suggests re: plan: #1 What is the vision? Every step you take is in pursuit of that vision. The vision should come from this group. Plan is also grant narrative. It's the chicken and egg thing. Plan can be very simple.

Ernie: got invitation to meet with folks from Columbia and Walla Walla County. Exciting because

2:20 Port Projects Summary

Jennifer: Wanda is at a broadband office meeting about preliminary proposal. She was asked to write full grant. **Jennifer, can you insert Wanda's paragraph here?**

Jennifer will send a potential vision statement asking folks to contribute whatever they think of.

Debbie: Regarding Anatone projects, looking at addresses, reason that most people don't have broadband is because of cost. Only one address showed up that showed no broadband. Some getting gig service. A lot getting 50-100 mbs. A lot of addresses aren't coming up – trying to find out where they are and if they service. Have been doing a lot of work up the river and in Anatone. Feels lie affordability rather than access is the problem for these folks. The list came from school district.

Debbie: is there talk at the state level of reinstating WTAP? Other states have programs, wondering if using some of this funding will be used to reinstate this type of program.

Ernie: won't be federal funds but legislature is looking at a bill that would result in additional affordability for phones.

Mark: Dig Nav includes funding for entities who want to provide devices. Broadband Affordability grant will encompass some of what WTAP did.

Jennifer: Asking question for Wanda. Wil BAT be willing to write letter of support for port projects in grant? General consensus is yes.

Will send out slide deck from Association of Washington Ports.

Mark: you can jump into other meeting. Funding for EBB will run out in Feb. Link in chat

Ernie: still needs speed tests. It's not just a one-time thing, would like to keep getting data to see how effective their work is. Can find out if funds are getting into communities that need. Will show progress. Allows us to challenge FCC version of areas that are being served. Speed tests have plateaued state wide but are still needed to see if progress is being made and money is being spent where it is needed. This is a unique BAT because libraries are leading effort. Asotin County is our favorite because of BAT diversity.

Mark: more info is available in speed test dashboard. More granular.

Adjourned 2:38

Chat contents

14:04:28 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:

<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/blog/2021/11/06/two-years-in-the-making-the-digital-equity-act-passes-in-congress/>

14:04:35 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:

<https://www.benton.org/blog/largest-us-investment-broadband-adoption-ever>

14:04:46 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:

<https://www.benton.org/blog/largest-us-investment-broadband-deployment-ever>

14:04:52 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:
<https://www.benton.org/blog/how-infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act-will-make-broadband-more-affordable>

14:05:11 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs>

14:20:55 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:
Washington State Broadband Office - Infrastructure funding webinar happening now:
<https://wastatecommerce.zoom.us/j/85342209525?pwd=OU1pT3NYWnduRlFoZmpjazMvUUtKQT09>

14:25:56 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:
Updated information on the emergency broadband benefit and affordable connectivity program here:
<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

14:30:32 From Debbie Baker Valley Vision to Everyone:
Yes for Valley Vision

14:31:40 From Gail Long - TDS to Everyone:
As a service provider that is seeing some overbuild by other ports/PUDs TDS would abstain from this vote.

14:33:26 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:
<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-statewide-broadband-act/speedtestsurvey/>

14:33:35 From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/4bcf7c77ecac475eb467e9df0028d05>
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From Mark Detrick, Washington State Broadband Office (he/him) to Everyone: 02:05 PM
<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/blog/2021/11/06/two-years-in-the-making-the-digital-equity-act-passes-in-congress/>
<https://www.benton.org/blog>
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