December 15, 2017

Columbia Gorge Community College,

The Dalles, Oregon

Welcome & Agenda

1. Gorge Broadband Consortium Overview

2. Federal Program Updates

3. State Updates-Oregon & Washington

4. FirstNet in Oregon Update

5. Regional Updates + Roundtable

6. Next Steps

Gorge Consortium Overview

Our goal is to ensure that residents and businesses have the broadband access, and skills, to take advantage of the resources, services, and markets available on the internet today.

State & Federal Updates

CG Broadband Consortium

Oregon Broadband Update

Christopher Tamarin

Oregon Business Development Department

December 15, 2017

business oregon®

2017 Oregon Legislative Session
Broadband Related Bills – Signed into law

- **State Universal Service Fund [HB2091]:** Authorizes Public Utility Commission to use universal service fund moneys to encourage broadband service availability and to provide support to telecommunications carriers that provide both basic telephone service and broadband service. Status: Governor signed into law 5/15. https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2091/Enrolled

- **Oregon Broadband Advisory Council [HB 3213]:** Expands contents of report by Oregon Broadband Advisory Council to Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology to include role of broadband technology in local, state and regional economies and economic development. StatuGovernor signed into law 5/23. https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3213/Enrolled

- **Cybersecurity [SB 90]:** Transfers information technology security functions of certain state agencies in executive branch to State Chief Information Officer. Establishes Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence in office of State Chief Information Officer. Establishes Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council. Status: Governor signed into law 6/29. https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB90/Enrolled

Council website: https://cyberoregon.com/

business **oregon**

Rural Broadband Capacity   Pilot Program

- The Governor's Office has allocated $500,000 for grant(s) of up to a total of $500,000 from the Strategic Reserve Fund to be available for the support of broadband planning, engineering, and/or infrastructure deployment projects targeting rural and underserved populations.

Oregon Broadband   Advisory Council

- The council members are community leaders appointed by the Governor and representing a broad range of sectors and interests

Cities	Jeremy Pietzold
Counties	To-be-announced
Service Providers	W. Holmes, M. Weidman, J. Franell
Tribes	Lonny Macy
Educators	Anne Carloss
Economic Development	Dave Sabala
Public Safety	Major Tom Worthy
Healthcare	Dr. Miles Ellenby
State CIO	Vacant
Public Utility Commission	Commissioner Stephen Bloom
Also	
State House of Representatives	Rep. Pam Marsh
State Senate	Sen. Ted Ferrioli - Retiring

www.broadband-oregon.org

Networks of the Future

**Oregon Connections
Telecommunications Conference
2017**

- Trump Administration – Broadband Policy

- $1 Trillion Infrastructure Bill in January

- Net Neutrality repealed

- Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee

Thank You !

Christopher Tamarin

Telecommunications Strategist

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National & Washington State Broadband Updates

Columbia Gorge Broadband Consortium
December 15, 2017

National Updates

- **Rural Summit & DC Meetings**
- **Federal agency opportunities for input**

Senate Democratic Rural Summit Federal Delegation & Agency Meetings

- **Broadband is a hot topic**

- **Broadband is being seen as a critical infrastructure**

- **Broadband is bipartisan**

- **Time to provide input to programs & policies**

Let Our Voices Be Heard!

- **US Department of Agriculture**
- **Federal Communication Commission**
- **National Telecommunications & Information Administration**

Washington State Updates

- **Elected official & state agency activity**
- **Nonprofit efforts**
- **Private sector initiatives**
- **Other**

Microsoft Rural Airband Initiative

A Rural Broadband Strategy:

- **Direct projects with partners**

- **Digital skills training**

- **Stimulating investment by others through technology licensing**

Microsoft TV White Spaces Pilot Projects
12 projects up and running in 12 states in the next 12 months

Don't Have to Do it Alone

- **Communicate with elected officials**

- **Engage with national information & advocacy groups**

- **Keep the CGBC active**

Thank You

Monica Babine
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babinem@wsu.edu

Regional Updates

CEDS Broadband Section

Regional Strategies:

1. Coordination with local governments and ISPs
2. Support addressing middle/last mile gaps
3. Support development of redundant network
4. Advocate for funding programs at State/Fed level
5. Address barriers to broadband expansion
6. Increase Adoption
7. Improve awareness of existing infrastructure

Addressing Middle/Last Mile Gaps

Sherman Cities Broadband Project Survey

What type of internet connection do you have at home?

85 responses

- Dialup
- Satellite
- DSL — 47.1%
- Wireless — 31.8%
- Wireless mobile card or cell service
- I do not have internet Service
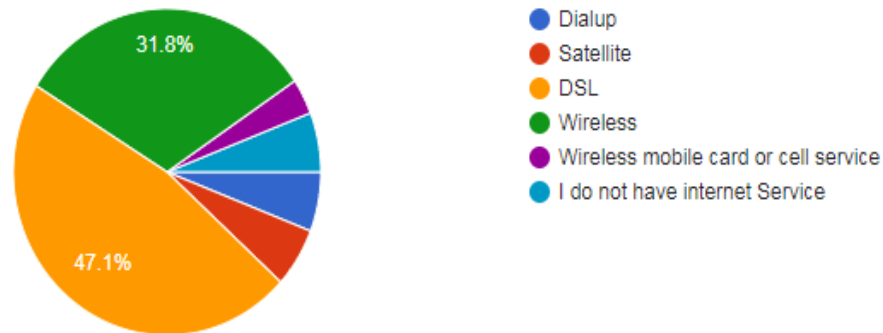
Addressing Middle/Last Mile Gaps

Sherman Cities Broadband Project Survey
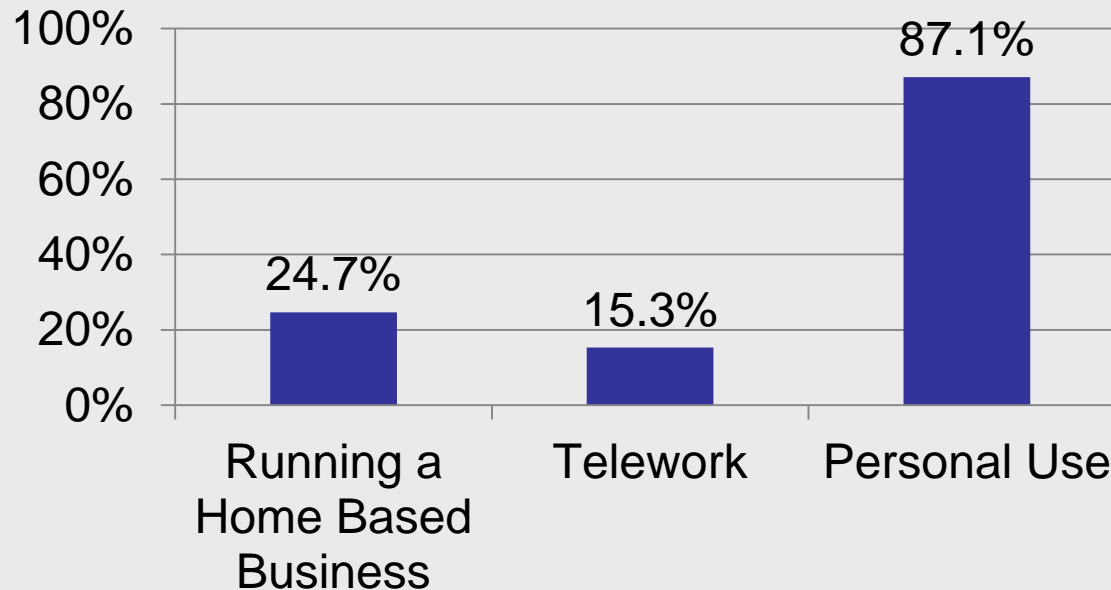
Addressing Middle/Last Mile Gaps

Sherman Cities Broadband Next Steps:

- RFP development in conjunction with the Cities and County to serve Rufus, Moro, Grass Valley, Wasco, and Biggs Junction

- Planning to publish in the new year

Addressing Middle/Last Mile Gaps

1. Additional Activities:

   - Continued support for Maupin Fiber project resource identification + next steps

     - Exploration of sources focused on community and economic development, healthcare, public safety, education, etc

   - Assistance for applications from around the Mid-Columbia to the Regional Infrastructure Fund and the Rural Broadband Capacity Fund in Oregon

   - Continued exploration of opportunities for collaboration in Klickitat and Skamania Counties

Regional Coordination

- Oregon Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot Regional Planning Response:
    - Submitted a response to the RFI focused on regional planning
    - Focus areas:
        - Further work to identify gaps in service for rural communities
        - Develop strategies to address these gaps in collaboration with local organizations and anchor institutions, ISPs and other partners
        - Identify strategies and partners to support adoption in areas where broadband is available that will be replicable in areas without it moving forward
        - Continue to increase our region's capacity to collaborate around addressing the digital divide

Regional Coordination

- **Oregon Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot Application Development Input**

- Focus areas?
- Critical Partners to have at the table?

Regional Roundtable

Keeping the Momentum: Next Steps

Questions?
Carrie Pipinich
Carrie@mcedd.org

Gorge Broadband Consortium
Friday, December 15, 2017
10:00 a.m.
Columbia Gorge Community College, Room 1.454
400 East Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR

ATTENDANCE
Ken Gross (Oregon Telecom), Bryan Adams (LS Networks), Jacob Anderson (Klickitat County), David McClure (Klickitat County) Chris Tamarin (Oregon Business Development), Lynn Ewing (City of Maupin), Dan Bubb (Gorge Networks), Tyler Stone (Q-Life), Scott Hege (Q-Life), Dan Spatz (CGCC), Amanda Hoey (MCEDD) Monica Babine(Teleconference)(WSU), John Goodman (Skamania PUD), Stephen Hainline (Azure Standard), John Huffman (USDA, RD), Rod Runyon (Wasco County), Keith Mobley (Q-Life), Leana Johnson (City of Stevenson), Scott Anderson (City of Stevenson), Cindy Thompson (Windwave), Cody Harmon (Columbia Gorge ESD), Kathryn Greiner (City of Condon)

Carrie requested introductions around the room and then provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Gorge Broadband Consortium. She noted that the group came together to explore opportunities to improve access to broadband in the region as well as support utilization of broadband for community and economic development.

Carrie noted that David Soloos from the State CIO's office was unable to join us at the last minute due to the need to prepare for a meeting with the Governor on Monday related to FirstNet. She noted that Chris would provide a brief update on FirstNet in his place.

State and Federal Updates
Chris Tamarin and Monica Babine provided overviews of broadband related activity occurring at the State and Federal levels. Highlights include:

Oregon State Updates: Chris provided updates from the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session around broadband activity:
- **2091 HB:** Authorizes use of universal service fund resources to improve broadband as well as voice communications. This follows similar reforms at the FCC to migrate universal service funds to support of broadband deployment.
- **HB3213:** Broadband Advisory council report requirements expanded to include information on the role of broadband in local, regional and statewide economies. During this next update, OBAC will be consulting with economic development agencies around Oregon for input.
- **SB90:** Transferred of cyber security IT functions of some state agencies to the Chief Information Officer. It also establishes a Cyber Security Center of Excellence and Cyber Security Advisory Council. They are currently working on a study with PSU to define Oregon's cyber security needs. It will likely be presented in January

Chris shared that the Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot program was funded with $500,000 from the Governor's Office through Strategic Reserve Funds. Business Oregon issued a request for

information regarding interest in the program this fall. 28 responses were submitted with over $10 million in projects. In January, formal applications will be requested from those that submitted responses and others will also be able to submit responses. Director Huffman asked if there was an opportunity to share information on submitted projects with USDA RD in case some were a good fit for their support as well. Chris noted that he could share and that additional resources around projects were critical.

Chris noted that the Oregon Telecommunications Conference, Oregon Connections, was a success this fall and that video of the keynote address by the Bald Futurist was available at www.oregonconnections.info for those that were unable to attend. The Conference will be in Hood River for one more year on October 18 and 19, 2018 at the Hood River Inn. Chris encouraged attendees to participate in the conference while it was still hosted locally with support from MCEDD. Chris noted that in 2019 it would be held in Southern Oregon.

Federal Activities: Chris shared that there is a lot of uncertainty at the federal level around broadband policy currently. He shared that an infrastructure bill is anticipated in January that could be seen as a bellwether for the administration's intent around broadband. The $1 billion bill would likely incorporate $200 Million in direct spending and $800 million in tax incentives.

The FCC has appointed a Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee that is providing advice to the FCC on streamlining regulatory barriers to broadband deployment. They are exploring development of a broadband readiness checklist for localities to certify they are ready for development and several other initiatives. The FCC also repealed net neutrality regulations on December 14,2017. There are several challenges to the ruling that are coming so the conversation around this topic is not settled.

Chris wrapped up his presentation by sharing that the Oregon Business Summit was in its 15th year. Following a Cyber Monday that had $6.6 billion in sales as compared to Black Friday's $5 billion in sales, it is clear that e-commerce is continuing to grow as a part of the economy. Despite this growth in e-commerce and broadband do not appear in the Business Plan. He noted that he was encouraged by local groups that know the relevance of broadband to their communities and economies and encouraged the group to continue to focus energy on sustaining efforts to address the digital divide.

Monica Babine noted that she attended the Senate Democratic Rural Summit in Washington DC and visited with several agencies and members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation. She noted that she was encouraged to see that broadband is being viewed as critical infrastructure. At the Rural Summit it was integral to the discussion on every panel and that there seems to be bi-partisan support for addressing this issue. She noted that now is the time to provide input on a variety of broadband policies and programming. In particular:
- USDA:
  o On December 27, Distance Learning/Telemedicine Program comments are due.
  o The Farm Bill reauthorization will incorporate a number of resources for infrastructure critical to rural communities. Action will likely start in the first quarter of next year with the current Farm Bill set to expire in June of 2018. Congressional delegations will be

> looking for information on impacts of the current programs during this process.

- FCC:
  - The Broadband Deployment Advisory Council is very active and seems interested in hearing from states/communities. Monica noted that both her and Chris have contacts with the council. She noted that an example of the type of information they are gathering is that they are seeking examples on right-of-way and pole attachments agreements that work well currently.

In addition to legislative work, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has several programs around broadband that might be of use for others to engage with.

- Monica noted that there is a State Broadband Leader's network that Monica and Chris participate both participate in. They are gathering February 14th in Washington DC to share information and discuss approaches.
- The Community Connectivity Assessment Tool was beta tested this year. Three Washington communities participated (Stevens, Lincoln and a neighborhood in King County) beta tested it. With the newly appointed Assistance Secretary David Redl (sp?) just confirmed, there is some uncertainty about if the tool will be funded and available moving forward. The communities that beta tested it had found it to be valuable for strategic assessment.

Washington State Updates: Monica noted that the last legislative session had a half dozen bills related to broadband, but not a lot of progress with any of them. However, the conversation seems to be shifting today. Governor Inslee anticipates state actions on the repeal of net neutrality and announced a proposal that includes potential for stopping doing business with those who do not honor net neutrality, ending the restrictions on PUDs providing broadband service to end consumers, and other actions to support investment in broadband. Additionally, the Governor's Budget proposal also included reestablishment of the Washington Broadband Office with funding and three staff.

In addition, there are several groups and coalitions that have highlighted broadband:

- Partners for Rural Washington (similar to the Oregon Rural Development Council) the group identified broadband as key topic moving forward.
- Association of Washington cities most recent City Vision magazine focused on broadband.
- Tribal Tech Training (T3) program being implemented by ATNI and impacts Tribes in Oregon as well.
- The Association of Washington Business held two rural summits this year. Monica attended the second one and noted that broadband was a general session topic given a prominent time slot.
- WSU formed its own Economic Development Council to bring together work around economic development. It was launched in Sept with four key initiatives as a starting point and one is rural broadband access.
- Governor's Summit on Career Connected Learning event held in May, with one of the sites in Klickitat County. Following the summit, the Governor announced a grant program to fund projects focused on this challenge. Grant awardees were announced with Career

Connect South Central (which includes Skamania and Klickitat Counties) one of the awardees. The South Central region will receive for $831,984 in funds to build partnerships with STEM champions to expand and develop internship, apprenticeship, and other career connected learning opportunities to connect youth to careers in STEM fields.

Monica shared that the Microsoft Rural Airband Initiative using TV white space has targeted 12 pilot projects in 12 states, one being in Washington State. The pilot in Washington is located in Lincoln County and focuses on connected agriculture and utilization of sensors to monitor soils, moisture, etc. Monica noted that she sees a lot of opportunity for work with tree fruit and other crops moving forward. The national effort also includes digital skills training in partnership with 4-H. Monica noted that Microsoft is supporting these initiatives through development and free use of the technology but is looking for service providers to use this technology in the long run. Lastly, Monica noted that Microsoft is also working on an initiative called Techspark to build on broadband capacity to support rural economic development. She shared that they have just brought on a field staff person for Washington with this initiative.

Kathryn (City of Condon) noted that a lot of information is coming out on the TV white space initiatives and asked if this was something to support? Chris noted that there is pushback by TV providers on use of the spectrum for free. He also shared that this is another potential tool to address broadband challenges in rural communities, and the more tools the more potential opportunity for addressing the urban-rural digital divide. He shared that Microsoft has hired a PR firms to outreach to local governments and groups about the issue. Dave McClure asked about the speeds they are projecting to get from the technology. Chris noted he was uncertain. Carrie noted she would follow-up with Monica. (Monica noted that they would provide FCC broadband definition speeds of 25Mbps down and 3Mbps download.)

First Net
Chris provided a brief update on First Net. It is a nationwide, public safety mobile wireless data network. It is intended to supplement land mobile radio and each local agency will decide if they want to purchase services on the network once it is developed. It is being funded through sale of spectrum freed up from the digital switch with TV broadcast.

The national FirstNet RFP was awarded to AT&T last year. AT&T has developed proposals for deploying in each of the 50 states and provided them to each state for review. Each state will make the decision to opt into the national network or develop state networks that interfaces with the national network. In October, Oregon and Washington issued an RFP for competitive alternatives to the AT&T proposal. Chris noted that they received two responses. The proposals are under consideration and will be discussed with the Governor Monday. An announcement in January on the outcome is anticipated. Chris noted that this also creates an opportunity to enhance the infrastructure in rural places. With this additional investment there might be opportunity to further rural broadband access. December 28th is the deadline to make a decision to opt in or opt out for each state.

Director Huffman noted that the challenges in frontier communities for getting broadband are very different than they are for somewhere like The Dalles. Chris concurred that there is still a

very real digital divide between rural and urban. In rural areas, 3-7MB rural or less is common for speeds vs 1GB availability in urban areas. Director Huffman noted that addressing this gap is critical to rural communities moving forward.

Regional Coordination and Project Updates
Carrie noted that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy adopted by MCEDD in the spring of 2017 with input from this group is guiding work on broadband in the region. Carrie highlighted several projects that she is working with currently.

- The Sherman County Cities are working with the County and MCEDD to support connecting the Cities and Biggs Junction with broadband access. The group conducted a survey that indicated interest in new service and concerns over speed and reliability of currently available connections. The group is currently developing an RFP for last mile service.
- Carrie is supporting work to bring resources into the Maupin Fiber project to complete the build out, but noted she would leave the update to the City and Q-Life.
- She is also working to identify other resources and opportunities to support work on broadband throughout the region.

Lastly, Carrie noted that she had submitted a response to the Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot program and is requesting input from the group on focus areas. She shared that the scope of the response focused on further identification of broadband access gaps and developing strategies to address these challenges. In addition, the request included creating adoption focused strategies in areas with broadband. She noted she would reach out in January when the full application came available for additional input.

Maupin: Mayor Ewing noted that fiber has been brought to town as well as the cell tower and several busiensses. The project partners are seeking additional funds to complete the buildout throughout town. The hope is that this will be used as a springboard to support improved connections to other communities. Director Huffman encouraged Lynn to talk with Representatives Bonham and Smith to request legislative funding to complete the project. Carrie also shared that they had made a request to EDA but that the project did not match their objectives. They had also applied for or incorporated funds from e-rate and health care related opportunities as well as exploring community and economic development sources.

Keith Mobley noted that MCEDD had sponsored WebWorks and that the forum in Maupin showcased a number of businesses dependent on broadband and that there were many present who echoed this need. Regional Solutions provided $410,000 in funds to get the project started but as the project had developed partnerships the scope had changed. Keith reinforced that Q-life was built as an economic development strategy after the aluminum smelter closed in The Dalles. With successful partnerships along the way, it has continued to support achieving economic development goals in The Dalles. The system is currently revenue positive. Keith noted that this approach is working well in The Dalles and it can work even better in Maupin where the model is slightly different. In Maupin, all that will be necessary is for ISP to provide simple drop connections to customers as the infrastructure will already be in place through the municipality. ISPs then compete on price, quality of service and reliability. This project will

develop a municipal network accessible to anyone who wants to come in and compete.

Columbia Gorge ESD: Cody Harmon noted that there was now gigabit service to the South Wasco School and the Sherman County School. They are also working through the process for the build to Dufur school. Brian from LSN added that they are in the permitting stage.

Azure Standard: Stephen Hainline said they continue to reach new customers near their facility in Moro.

City of Condon: Kathryn Greiner noted that they have continued to build on their Broadband Strategic Plan and are looking to improve connectivity in town. Oregon Telephone is also in the process of installing fiber around town. The City issued a joint RFP with Gilliam County for fiber from Arlington to Condon to bring additional capacity to town at lower costs for providers. The RFP is due December 29, 2017. Additionally, City has developed an informal partnership with Columbia Basin Electric Coop to support addressing broadband needs in their area, both in Condon and throughout their service territory. Director Huffman noted that USDA's Rural Utility Service views coops as essential in the rural broadband conversation. Kathryn also noted that there was a good webinar from NTIA focused on rural coops for those interested.

LSN: Bryan Adams noted that they had connected 19 businesses in Maupin to fiber. Additionally, in Moro they had connected the school and the courthouse. Bryan shared that they are planning a new route from Bingen/White Salmon to The Dalles with a river crossing leveraging BPA transmission lines. This will mean they are able to offer service in the Bingen/White Salmon area but will likely miss additional communities on the Washington side of the Columbia. Lastly, Bryan noted that they met with the City of Prosser recently and the City had passed an ordinance requiring that franchised utilities be allowed access to trenches when projects were opening up the streets. He encouraged local communities in the Gorge to consider this type of approach to reducing costs. Carrie noted that in the past they had gathered local government representatives together to discuss dig-once policies but that it was time to host that conversation again.

Klickitat County: Jake noted that they had no major updates currently.

Stevenson: Leana noted that they had a couple of major sewer projects coming up that would open up the streets and will look for dig-once opportunities.

GorgeNet: Dan noted that they were continuing to invest in improving service in their current territory and noted that they had been involved in some conversations around Sherman County and were interested in next steps.

Carrie thanked everyone from attending and noted a few follow up actions. These included exploring another gathering with local governments to discuss dig once policies as well as consideration of a one-stop type meeting to discuss the variety of funding opportunities for broadband projects as communities work to cobble together resources to complete projects.