



**Office of the Governor
Economic Development & Tourism**

Governor's Broadband Development Council Meeting

June 17, 2021

AGENDA
Governor's Broadband Development Council

June 17, 2021
1:30 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Governor's Broadband Development Council (" Council ") members will be meeting via videoconference.

Members of the public who would like to attend the meeting may join by videoconference using the following information:

Free Web Link for Videoconference:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NmM4MGU2NTEtOTQ0MS00YzNhLTkzMWMtZjY2NzRhMTg1MDg3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%2254cb5da6-c734-4242-bbc2-5c947e85fb2c%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22bc6eb630-bc65-4377-b472-df8f2396b720%22%7d

Members of the public attending the meeting via the videoconference information provided will be able to hear audio of the meeting and can provide comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. The Council will also record the meeting. That recording will be made available to members of the public upon request.

All agenda items are subject to possible discussion, questions, consideration, and action by the Council. Agenda item numbers are assigned for ease of reference only and do not necessarily reflect the order of their consideration by the Council. Presentations may be made by the identified staff or Council member or others as needed.

ITEM

I. Call to Order

II. Chair welcome, remarks and roll call

III. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the Council meeting on May 20, 2021 (Tab 1).

IV. Comments by Representative Ashby staff providing information relating to council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including information relating to distribution of broadband in unserved areas of Texas, and council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same.

V. Comments by Federal Communications Commission staff providing information relating to council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including information relating to distribution of broadband in unserved areas of Texas, and council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 2).

VI. Comments by Texas Lone Star Network staff providing information relating to council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including information relating to distribution of broadband in unserved areas of Texas, and council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 3).

VII. Review, Discussion, Consideration and/or Possible Action on Council Next Steps for Following Meeting(s) - Chairman Sproull

VIII. Comments without Deliberation:

Public comment may be received on any matter under the Council's jurisdiction without regard to whether the item was posted on the agenda.

IX. Adjournment

Link to June 17, 2021 Council meeting documents:

<https://gov.texas.gov/business/page/governors-broadband-development-council>

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting, who may need auxiliary aids or services, or who need assistance in having English translated into Spanish, should contact Philip Rocha at 512-936-0246 at least 2 days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Personas con discapacidades que asistirán a esta reunión y requieren servicios o instrumentos especiales, o necesitaran traducción al español, por favor de comunicarse con Philip Rocha al 512-936-0246 por lo menos 2 días antes de la reunión para hacer los arreglos necesarios.

Tab

1

GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Minutes of May 20th, 2021 Meeting

Videoconference Meeting

1:30 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

William "Bill" Sproull (Chair) Lindsey Lee Kirk Petty, Thomas Kim, M.D., Greg Pittman, Jennifer K. Harris, Edward Smith, Ph.D. h . Ph.D.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Joseph Behnke, Philip Rocha, Fauye Bennett, Larry McManus, Ryland Ramos, Cristina Madrid, Stephen Davis

The Governor's Broadband Development Council ("Council") proceeded on posted agenda items in the order as follows:

Agenda Item I. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Sproull, Chairman of the Council, called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM. A quorum was present online.

Agenda Item II. CHAIR WELCOME, REMARKS, AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Sproull welcomed the Council for their fifth meeting and briefly outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Agenda Item III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON April 15th, 2021

The Council approved the minutes from the April 15th, 2021 meeting.

Agenda Item IV. COMMENTS BY T-MOBILE STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV'T CODE § 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Remarks from Andres Aldana of T-mobile about how T-mobile has helped rural areas of Texas gain access to broadband and high speed internet. Mr. Aldana shared slides highlighting the broadband coverage in Texas and infrastructure they have developed.

Agenda Item V. COMMENTS BY THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV'T CODE § 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME.

Remarks from Scott Wood from the NTI Administration and a slide presentation highlighting the assistance that the NTIA provides to expand broadband nationwide. NTIA works with states, industries, and agencies to effectively expand broadband access and digital inclusion. NTIA also collects data to inform policy decisions.

Agenda Item VI. COMMENTS BY COMMUNITY TECH NETWORK STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV'T CODE § 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME.

Kami Griffiths of the Community Tech Network shared slides regarding the work of her organization, which is geared toward providing basic/intermediate digital literacy training for low-income adults and seniors.

Agenda Item VII. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION ON COUNCIL NEXT STEPS FOR FOLLOWING MEETING(S) - CHAIRMAN SPROULL

Comment from Council Member Jennifer Harris regarding the new funding made available by the FCC.

Agenda Item VIII. COMMENTS WITHOUT DELIBERATION:

Public comment may be received on any matter under the Council's jurisdiction without regard to whether the item was posted on the agenda.

No public comment.

Agenda Item IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sproull called the meeting to a close at approximately 3:00 pm.

Bill Sproull, Chair

Date

Tab

2



Helping Households Connect During the Pandemic

Emergency Broadband Benefit

What is the Benefit?

Who Is Eligible?

How Can Households Apply?

FCC Partner Toolkit





What Is the Benefit?



The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Program that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. Eligible households can receive:

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband service and associated equipment rentals;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on Tribal lands, and;
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.



Who Qualifies for the Benefit?



A Household is Eligible If Any Member

- Receives or qualifies for Lifeline
- Received a Pell Grant in the current award year;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced school lunch program or school breakfast program in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income, due to a job loss or furlough since 2/29/20 and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 (single filers) or \$198,000 (joint filers); or
- Meets the eligibility of a participating providers' existing COVID-19 or low-income program.





How Do I Enroll?



There are three ways to apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit

Option 1: Contact a participating broadband provider directly to learn about their application process.

Option 2: Go to GetEmergencyBroadband.org to apply online and to find participating providers near you.

Option 3: Send a mail-in application, along with proof of eligibility to:

Emergency Broadband
Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742





FCC Outreach Toolkit



Social

- Logos
- Social Media Images
- Draft Social Media Posts
- Newsletter Insert
- Draft Press Release

Printables

Fact Sheet
Flyer
9"x 5" Info Card
1/4 Page Handout
Poster/Infographic

Videos and PSAs

- ASL Video
- Overview Video
- How to Apply Video
- Audio PSAs
- PowerPoint Slide Deck



Questions?



The FCC's EBB Consumer Hub:
www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

Toll free number for questions:
833-511-0311

To apply: GetEmergencyBroadband.org

Tab

3



Texas Lone Star Network

“Member Owned, Member Focused, Member Driven”



History

- Formed in 1998
- Member Owned
- Established to connect member companies individual fiber segments

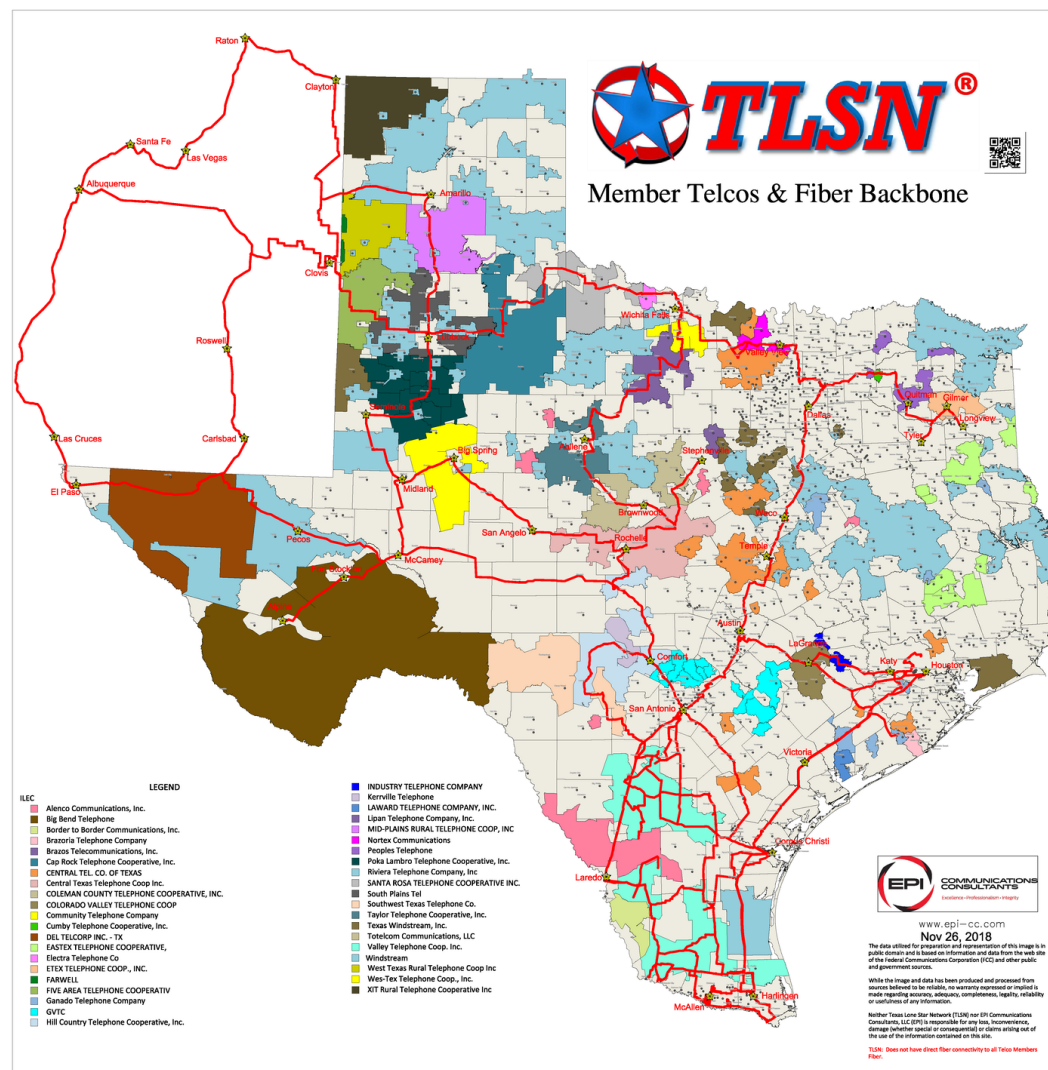


Our Members

- 41 Independent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECS)
- History of the ILECS in Texas
- Networks and Services



The Network





TLSN Services

- Aggregation
- Connectivity
- Transport
- Broadband
- Internet
- Data Centers