



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

# Governor's Broadband Development Council Meeting

August 19, 2021

AGENDA  
Governor's Broadband Development Council

August 19, 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\\_YmEzMGUwZjMtZjAwMi00NWJlLWFIMTktZDQzNDIzYjZmYWE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2254cb5da6-c734-4242-bbc2-5c947e85fb2c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22bc6eb630-bc65-4377-b472-df8f2396b720%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YmEzMGUwZjMtZjAwMi00NWJlLWFIMTktZDQzNDIzYjZmYWE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%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, which will be made available to members of the public.

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 June 17, 2021 (Tab 1).

IV. Comments by Council members providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including discussion of potential outline for annual Council report, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 2)

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

VI. 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.

VII. Adjournment

Link to August 19, 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 June 17, 2021 Meeting**

Videoconference Meeting

1:30 PM

**VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

William "Bill" Sproull (Chair), Kirk Petty, Greg Pittman, Jennifer K. Harris, Kenny Scudder, Mike Easley, Steve Johnson, Ph.D., Tom Kim, M.D., Lindsey Lee, Eddie Smith, Judge Marty Lucke, Mayor Frank Moreno,

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Philip Rocha, Fauye Bennett, Joseph Benke

*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 Governor's Broadband Development Council, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. as a quorum was present online.

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

Roll was called and members present are listed.

**Agenda Item III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON May 20th, 2021**

The Council reviewed minutes from the meeting held May 20th, 2021.

**ACTION:** Kirk Petty made a motion to approve the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Lindsey Lee seconded the motion to approve the minutes; carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item IV. COMMENTS REPRESENTATIVE ASHBY’S 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/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME.**

Mr. Messer from Rep. Ashby’s office gave an update on the status of broadband legislation in the Texas House of Representatives. Mr. Messer thanked the Council for their work and spoke to the legislative process in regards to broadband legislation.

**Agenda Item V. COMMENTS BY FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE 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, CONSIDERING AND / OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME.**

Mr. Bartholome from the FCC shared slides pertaining to emergency broadband benefits. Mr. Bortholome discussed benefits and eligibility for the Emergency Broadband Benefit program.

**Agenda Item VI. COMMENTS BY TEXAS LONE STAR NETWORK STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE 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, CONSIDERING AND / OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME**

Mr. Martin from the Texas Lone Star Network shared slides that provided information about the organization. TLSN is a group of “telephone companies” and their networks. Mr. Martin shared maps that outlined the fiber backbone of the state.

**Agenda Item VII. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND.OR POSSIBLE ACTION ON COUNCIL NEXT STEPS FOR FOLLOWING MEETING(S) – CHAIRMAN SPROUL**

Chairman Sproull suggested that the council meet in late July. Chairman Sproull also asked the council to think about what they would like to go in the next legislative report.

**Agenda Item VIII. COMMENTS WITHOUT DELIBERATION**

**Agenda Item IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Sproull called the meeting to a close at 2:47 PM.

---

Bill Sproull, Chair

---

Date

Tab

2

**DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

**Governor’s Broadband Development Council**

**2021 Report Outline**

**Observations**

- Role of HB 5 in the state’s broadband efforts, applause to the leadership and legislature for enacting
- Role of Governor’s Broadband Development Council vs. Broadband Office Board of Advisors

**Broadband Deployment**

- Updated July 2021 Connected Nation maps
- Texas should strive for speeds greater than 25/3 – 3 year, 5 year, 7 year, 10 year targets
- Underserved areas need attention as well as unserved areas
- State needs to focus on a deployment strategy as quick as possible

**Barriers**

- Digital literacy remains an issue for adoption
- Affordability remains an issue for adoption
  - Highlight existing programs (Emergency Broadband Benefit, Lifeline, Provider programs)
- Ineffective monitoring of current federal commitments
- Remove barriers that inhibit the formation of PPP.

**Opportunities**

- Upcoming federal initiatives
- Public private partnerships (highlight NTIA requirement)

**Technology**

- Invest in scalable technologies that can attain higher speeds based on goal(s) set for broadband deployment
- Plan for continued at-home learning & homework gap/telehealth/remote work

**Literature Review**

- Best practices of state broadband programs/funds
  - (Brian Whitacre/Roberto Gallardo, Pew, Connected Nation, Benton Institute, Blandin Foundation, etc.)
- Benefits of deployment/adoption to underserved areas
  - Benefits of competition amongst BB providers to residents/businesses (use research from Brian Whitacre/Roberto Gallardo, Benton Institute)

**Recommendations**

- Plan for and invest in speeds greater than FCC minimum 25/3
- Substantiate demand at community, regional, and statewide levels
- Define what underserved means in Texas
- Fund digital literacy and cybersecurity awareness campaigns
- Study on the costs of NOT having broadband