



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

**Broadband Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020**

Event/Meeting:

Broadband Advisory Council Regular Meeting

Date/Time:

February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am

Locations:

(Springfield)

Illinois Department of Agriculture

801 E. Sangamon Avenue

Springfield, Illinois 62706

(Chicago, via video conference)

James R. Thompson Center

100 West Randolph Street, 16th Floor, Room 504

Chicago, Illinois 60601

Board Members Present:

In-Person: Susan Satter, Deno Perdiou, Melia Carter, Jeff Newell, Ryan Gruenenfelder, Lori Sorenson, Jim Zolnierik, Karen Boswell, Anne Slaughter, Nikki Budzinski

By Phone: Zak Horn, Josh Shallenberger, David Antonacci, Rick Holzmacher, Paula Basta, Chris Nelson, Karen Boswell, Mike Chamberlain, Representative John Connor

Board Members Absent: Steven Hill, Deb Alfredson, Bill Bodine, Director Theresa Eagleson, Representative Bill Cunningham, Representative Jil Tracy, Representative Keith Wheeler

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Staff Present: Matt Schmit

Governor's Staff Present: Chad Hoosier, Rachel Corcoran, Molly Dunn

Call to Order and Introductory Remarks from Chairman: The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Nikki Budzinski at approximately 11:00 am. Chairwoman Budzinski conducted the official roll call. After roll call, Chairwoman Budzinski provided an overview of the agenda for the Broadband Advisory Council ("BAC"). She reviewed the agenda for meeting, which focused on updates from the

Office of Broadband, the Broadband Strategic Plan and the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Chairwoman Budzinski announced as a point of personal privilege that she is leaving the governor's office and thanked the Broadband Advisory Council for the opportunity to serve as its chairwoman. Chairwoman Budzinski then asked members of the public to hold comment until such time that the floor was opened. Chairwoman Budzinski recognized that a quorum of members was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chairwoman Budzinski asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18th meeting. A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Lori Sorenson and seconded by Mike Chamberlain. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Office of Broadband Updates: Matt Schmit, Deputy Director of Broadband, provided an update on the recent activities of the Office of Broadband. The Connect Illinois Broadband Strategic Plan was published, and the first Notice of Funding Opportunity was posted. The state-specific broadband mapping RFP has new respondents, and the subsequent mapping will be utilized in the second round of funding to help inform funding decisions. The new Connect Illinois website will serve as a resource for applicants and community members. The Office of Broadband hired a grant administrator and more staff may be brought on in the coming months. Supplemental resources and opportunities for communities will be provided by the Office of Broadband in the coming weeks. The Office of Broadband hosted its first webinar on the broadband grant program on February 13th, and 200 people participated. Another webinar will be held on February 24th, 2020. The FAQ document on the Connect Illinois website will be updated with additional questions for interested applicants. Grant applications for the first round of funding are due Friday, April 3rd.

Broadband Strategic Plan: Matt Schmit, Deputy Director of Broadband, provided an overview of the Connect Illinois Broadband Strategic Plan. The vision and values of the competitive matching grant program were presented. This included the focus on ubiquitous access to broadband, promoting digital literacy and adoption, and supporting the state's economic development goals. Past investments into broadband by the state and private partners were discussed. Deputy Director Schmit outlined the short-term and long-term goals the Connect Illinois program. The definitions of basic broadband service, unserved, and underserved were described. Deputy Director Schmit provided an overview of the major tenets of the Connect Illinois broadband grant program, including competitive matching, applicant inclusivity, neutral but scalable technology, community empowerment, affordability, and alignment with the Governor's 5-Year Economic Plan. A community capacity building program is under development and is coming soon.

The Broadband Strategic Plan is publicly available online at

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois/Documents/Broadband%20Strategic%20Plan%202.5.20.pdf>

Notice of Funding Opportunity: Matt Schmit, Deputy Director of the Office of Broadband, discussed key components of the first round Notice of Funding Opportunity for Connect Illinois state broadband grants. \$50 million will be made available in first round, allowing a maximum \$5 million grant from state. Upcoming webinars and the Connect Illinois website were highlighted as resources for applicants and communities. Deputy Director Schmit outlined the grant selection criteria, including the different categories of applications and the scoring rubric. Applications will be reviewed through a merit-based review process, and they will be considered on a regional basis. Applicants can challenge existing broadband maps. Deputy Director Schmit noted that applicants will be subject to reporting requirements, monitoring, and auditing.

The full NOFO presentation can be found at

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois/Pages/MeetingsMaterials.aspx>

Public Comment: Chairwoman Budzinski opened the floor for public comment.

Adjournment: Chairwoman Budzinski announced the next Broadband Advisory Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19th in Springfield and Chicago. Chairwoman Budzinski asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Melia Carter and seconded by Anne Slaughter. Motion passed by unanimous decision. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.