

CTTAB
April 14, 2009 Minutes
2750 Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Avenue

Present Fran Clifton Jac DeHaan Nancy Gohring Richard Huff Tom Kee Will Little Karen Manuel Marcos Martinez Stuart Maxwell Will Pugh Joann Reiter Ted Schmitt Oren Sreenby Ann Suter	Excused John Neuharth Absent Rob Holland City Staff Wayne Barnett Bruce Blood David Keyes Jill Novik Tony Perez Bill Schrier Visitors Jonathan Lawson Ken Meyer
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1. Call to order: Richard Huff chair – called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The February minutes were adopted and agenda approved as amended.

2. Ethics and Elections: Wayne Barnett

Barnett discussed principal situations for public disclosure or recusal from meetings, particularly as relates to CTTAB’s granting actions. He also said that Board members should not use Board membership for any personal gain or to endorse a candidate. He emphasized using the criterion of whether a reasonable person would see a conflict of interest as a guide to ethics decisions. Barnett also offered assistance and advice for any ethics questions that arise.

3. Report of the Chair: No report this month.

4. Public Comment

Jonathan Lawson, Reclaim the Media, introduced himself to the Board and discussed what Reclaim is doing, principally DTV efforts around town lately. He added that Reclaim has been hearing that people are concerned that the DTV represents threats to access to information, with the resultant diminution of ability to participate in civic life.

5. Chief Technology Officer Report: Bill Schrier

See attached report. Schrier also noted that he had had an ex parte meeting at the FCC last week and his comments are available at the FCC website. The Department also submitted comments to the NTIA and RUS related to the ARRA.

6. Blogs and Wikis: Bruce Blood

Blood said that the City now has a policy on blogging, which can be viewed at seattle.gov/pan/blogginglepolicy.htm. There are a few key concepts: 1) Departments and their public information officers “own” the sites under the direction of the Mayor’s Communication Director, Robert Mak. 2) There are retention requirements for City records. 3) In some cases, comments will be accepted, but they must be moderated, with no libel, slander, epithets, bad language. 4) The blogs cannot be used for illegal activity. There is no policy on this elsewhere. It is expected that these policies would be applicable to other social media such as twitter, facebook, etc.

Schmitt asked if CTTAB can create a blog. Blood said yes, noting that no one in the City has done a two way blog yet. They would use work press as a means to post content.

Schmitt also said that the board would like to be able to exchange documents. Blood said this is possible, but there is a fine line with ethics issues if the City is hosting the site. People could certainly do personal blogs, but they would not be part of official City business. Blood added that there are no policies or rules for wikis yet, and no examples either.

Gohring asked if CTTAB would have to get approval for every posting to a CTTAB blog. Blood responded yes, and that it would be open only to CTTAB to add content and moderate the site. Blood cautioned that, since this is all new, there is no precedent and the City would like to take a cautious approach.

Huff said that the Board wants to be more available to the public, but could see that there are legal and ethical issues. Novik suggested that the Board is talking about several different purposes, should determine what their needs are, and then a meeting with Blood, ethics staff, and the Law Department could be held to determine how to make it happen.

Kee asked if this could extend into other areas, such as block watches. Blood said that it could but that boards and commissions should be differentiated from other community purposes as the City can’t support all the possible uses for every community group. Kee envisioned tying these into My Neighborhood Map. David Keyes said that an intern will be working this summer on technology regarding block watch and other neighborhood applications and offered to have the intern meet with the committee. Seattle.gov/neighborhoods/net has a directory of neighborhood references. Schmitt noted that CTTAB has the ability to chart new territory. Blood offered to work with CTTAB to help figure out needs; what tools can be used to meet those needs; and examine and resolve issues with Law and Ethics and Elections.

7. Committee Reports:

Technology Matching Fund: Jac reported that the committee will be meeting on April 16 to review 65 applications.

Puget Sound Off: Martinez reported that a meeting on curriculum development was held early today and he will report on it next meeting.

Residential Survey: Suter said that there had not been another meeting. The consultants will present the findings once the data have been analyzed.

Broadband: the committee will meet in the next week or so. Huff noted the potential sensitivity of this as a possible campaign issue in this year’s City elections.

E-democracy: Pugh sent the preliminary draft report on e-polling. He would like comments by April 21 so that he has time to make any changes and have a final draft for discussion at the May meeting.

Transparency through Technology: the group agreed to post the podcast of the Board's 2009 annual retreat. Schmitt noted that this committee's work is related to the wiki/blog issue. He will convene a meeting to discuss strategies for communicating public service announcements.

Connecting to Community Technology Organizations: Manuel reported that the committee met and discussed what the needs are – what commonalities exist across the grantees and what things they can share information about. Pugh and Maxwell discussed possible technologies for the CT grantees and that the committee will conduct an informal questionnaire to see how these organizations can develop an information sharing network.

Manuel also reported that HB1522, "Regarding repair and reuse of electronic products by registered collectors," which CTTAB supported, is on its way to the Governor for signature.

Huff noted that this is the most committed CTTAB group he has worked with so far.

8. Cable Office Report: Tony Perez

See attached report for comments to the NTIA.

9. Community Technology Report: David Keyes

See attached report.

10. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Department of Information Technology

Bill Schrier, Director and Chief Technology Officer

Citizens' Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Board

Chief Technology Officer's Report

14 April 2009

HEADLINE NEWS AND ELECTED OFFICIAL NEWS

- **Budget Cuts.** Seattle's sagging real-estate market prompted Mayor Greg Nickels' staff on Monday to roll out a long list of spending cuts that will hit parks and libraries and postpone seismic upgrades to eight fire stations. <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/> and http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/politics/2009036930_citybudget14m.html
- **Homeless Count.** About 500 volunteers went out to count and talk to anyone on the street between 9:00 PM and midnight last night.
- **Definition of Broadband.** I had an ex parte meeting about a dozen FCC staffers on 31 March to discuss definitions to be used in the Broadband stimulus grants. The testimony is in the public record at www.fcc.gov.

CABLE AND BROADBAND NEWS

- See Tony Perez' report.
- Brier Dudley of the Seattle Times has filed a number of blog entries in the last week about the upcoming Comcast conversion of a number of analog cable channels to digital.

SEATTLE CHANNEL NEWS

- Last month video on demand (VOD) plays jumped from 35,000 to 51,000. The top viewed program was CityStream (Mariners Don Wakamatsu, Discovery Park, Cooper Cat camera) with 2,131 plays.
- We are now distributing Art Zone, American Podium and Book Lust to Federal Way's Channel 21.

WEB [WWW.SEATTLE.GOV](http://www.seattle.gov) NEWS

- The Travelers Information Map Application has been launched at www.seattle.gov/travelers/ .
- A new page to track Seattle's progress on the federal stimulus program was launched at <http://recovery.seattle.gov>.
- We are able to track the pet cam streams now that they are running in Flash:
 - doggyCam 3,774 hits
 - kittyCam 1,848 hits
 - bunnyCam 992 hits

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY NEWS

- See David Keyes' report.
- We have a few preliminary results from the community technology indicators survey:
 - 45.9% of respondents have seen Seattle Channel and 67.9% have used Seattle.gov.
 - People with disabilities, African Americans and Latinos are about three times less likely to be confident in financial transactions online.
 - Just over half of residents in Seattle have purchased local goods or services over the Internet in the past year.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS NEWS

- We continue to roll out Office 2007 across City departments. The goal is to have all departments (except City Light) deployed by the end of the year. Conversion from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange/Outlook for e-mail starts in July.
- New solid waste collection contracts are in place. We've used the community notification system to telephone 81,000 customers in Seattle with information about the new contracts and pick-up dates, and we've modified the City's interactive voice response system to support this change.
- Chief of Information Security Mike Hamilton is on the cover of CSO magazine (<http://www.csoonline.com/>) this month. He's interviewed in an article on IT security and data losses that can occur when employees are laid off.
- The Office of Information Security (OIS) continues to follow and escalate to law enforcement the fraud attempts that are being conducted against City employees. Six distinct campaigns have been identified, which are seemingly unrelated. Many Mayor's Office staff received telephone solicitations from one of these campaigns.

Bill Schrier's Twitter: www.twitter.com/billschrier

Bill Schrier's blog: blog.chiefseattlegeek.com

**Before the
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
ADMINISTRATION
and the
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL UTILITY SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20230**

In the Matter of)
)
Implementation of Section 6001 of the American)
Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)
)
Implementation of Title I of the American) RUS Docket No. 090309298-9299-01
Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE

I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Seattle submits the following comments in response to the Request for Information (RFI). Seattle also endorses and signed comments supplied by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) in response to this same proceeding.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seattle files separate comments to underscore the importance of three issues: the definition of underserved, NTIA primacy in grant decision making, and local governments' role as eligible recipients. The City of Seattle believes that the definition of "underserved" must take into account a variety of factors. Network speeds actually experienced by the end user during peak usage times should be the basis for determining any standards for speed, and we urge the NTIA to set standards at least to the levels of our competitors in Europe and Asia to ensure future needs can be met. In addition, underserved should also consider other factors such as affordability, access and whether network management practices unreasonably inhibit users from maximizing the potential of their Internet connection.

Seattle also believes that the NTIA should be the sole decision maker in awarding grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Act"). The role of State governments should be advisory but not determinative.

Finally we believe NTIA should consider significant ARRA funding of broadband projects proposed by local governments, particularly those that have undertaken the steps necessary to identify their broadband needs and have developed concrete plans to meet those needs but lack the necessary funds to implement them.

II. A VARIETY OF FACTORS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING THE DEFINITION OF UNDERSERVED, INCLUDING ACTUAL SPEEDS EXPERIENCED BY THE END USER DURING PEAK TIMES

Seattle strongly believes that neighborhoods and communities served only by copper-based last mile connections to the premises should be included within the definition of “underserved” for the following reasons:

1. As Seattle’s Telecommunication Innovation Task Force discovered over five years ago¹, the assumption that cable modem and DSL networks deliver adequate Broadband service is incorrect. Cable’s Hybrid Fiber/Coaxial (HFC) networks and the phone company’s DSL counterparts are unable to keep pace with growing bandwidth demand. These companies offer theoretical maximum speeds, which are always subject to network congestion and distance limitations. These networks were originally designed as single-purpose networks for video and voice, respectively and were not designed to support emerging high capacity, symmetrical applications. While cable and telco engineers have taken incremental steps to prolong the life of these networks, they are already “tomorrow’s bottlenecks,” as predicted by a 2002 study by the Department of Commerce².
2. The speeds advertised by these carriers are theoretical and are seldom achieved. For example, in the case of cable, despite the improvements of DOCSIS 3.0, which cable operators are touting as capable of providing 100 million bits-per-second (Mbps) and more, the fact remains that users must share the available bandwidth at each node. The more users log on simultaneously, the slower the Internet connection. A 2008 technical audit of the Comcast cable system in Seattle revealed an average 900 homes are passed per node. Therefore any given user would only realize a fraction of the marketed speeds during peak times. Due to these technical limitations, cable companies must always qualify quoted speeds as “up to”, which renders advertised speeds meaningless. Clearly Seattle, while a major center of technology, but

¹ www.seattle.gov/btt

² “Understanding Broadband Demand: A Review of Critical Issues.” Office of Technology Policy, U.S. Department of Commerce, September 23, 2002.

with only cable modem and DSL service, is underserved in relation to cities in the US, Europe and Asia with more advanced fiber-to-the-premises networks.

In the case of phone company networks, DSL and ADSL2+ networks can reach theoretical maximum speeds of “up to” 24 Mbps downstream under ideal conditions (and after substantial monthly payments by subscribers). Actual speeds are also a fraction of the advertised speeds, particularly as distance from the telephone company central office increases, and upstream speeds are usually below 1 Mbps at best. The services offered over DSL and cable lack symmetry or robust upstream bandwidth. Cable’s HFC technology is almost all downstream. Cable operators still dedicate only about five percent of their available spectrum to upstream transmissions, which severely limits new, upstream applications such as high definition video conferencing or telework .

III. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1. **Affordability.** Even where some Internet service is available, communities should be considered underserved if that service is not affordable. In Seattle a small business owner was quoted the following prices for several tiers of service: 3/3Mbps (that is, 3 Mbps upstream and downstream) @ \$380/month; 5/5 Mbps @ \$720/month; and 10/10 Mbps at \$995/month. These prices are a barrier to service and Broadband adoption and affect the ability of our small businesses to expand, hire more workers and generate increased economic activity. Minimal residential cable internet service costs approximately \$60 per month for “up to” 12 Mbps downstream (and significantly lower upstream speeds). Because of these price differences, the divide between neighborhoods with less expensive and more robust, symmetrical broadband, and these Seattle neighborhoods continues to grow.

In comparison, consumers in various Asian and European countries enjoy 100 Mbps symmetrical service for \$40 per month. In areas of France, consumers can obtain 100 Mbps down and 50 Mbps in the upstream, unlimited international telephone calls and 100 television channels (including High Definition channels) for the equivalent of \$42 per month. We strongly urge NTIA to consider affordability as a factor not only for determining the definition of “underserved” but also for assessing the merits of each grant application.

2. **Accessibility.** Even where service is available, communities are underserved if service is not accessible. Even where service is nominally available according to providers and “broadband maps”, and consumers can pay, they may not be able to actually acquire usable service. Residential and business consumers, even in major urban areas like Seattle are often unable to obtain DSL at their premises even though their neighbors can, due to lack of available cable plant or distance from the central office. Cable modem coverage also has accessibility issues. Cable television plant was originally installed to serve residential customers and cable’s infrastructure to support cable modem service does not necessarily extend into business areas.
3. **Speeds limited by network operators.** Even where service is available, communities are underserved if use of the service is limited by network operators or providers and when communications are throttled. A consumer is also underserved where network owners impose arbitrary bandwidth caps. Such caps are becoming more and more common, in our experience, based on complaints to the City of Seattle’s Cable Office.
4. **Technology Literacy:** Any area with a high percentage of populations (usually low income and vulnerable people) that are unable to adopt broadband through disability, or lack of affordable Internet service or access to computers will likely lack technological literacy. People in these areas are not able to avail themselves of available services might be provided and are also underserved.

As a specific example, consider Seattle’s Central District area. This area and its residents are underserved in several respects. While Seattle is considered by many to be a technology leader, this section of the city with approximately 40,000 residents has long suffered from underinvestment in general, and specifically in communications infrastructure. According to 2000 Census data and a statistically valid Technology Indicators Survey completed in January of 2009³ this area contains the densest concentration of people living below the poverty level in the city and

³ **Population and Broadband Access and Adoption Factors in Seattle**

The Central District Franchise Area contains a higher concentration of populations most in need of help obtaining affordable Internet and the computers and training necessary to take advantage of broadband services.

Here are a few statistics about this area and the need in these populations in Seattle. The overall population data is from the 2000 census. The data on disparity in technology access and literacy are based on a 1000 household random telephone survey completed for the City of Seattle in January 2009.

Population profile of the Central District Franchise Area (based on aggregated census blocks):

- The concentration of African Americans is almost 3 times that of the city overall (23.2% v 8.3% citywide)
- More than two-thirds (68.7%) in the area are people of color.
- Latino or Hispanics represent 8.5% in the franchise area vs 5.3% overall in the city.

is designated by the State of Washington as a Community Empowerment Zone. Despite the high poverty levels, residents of this area currently pay the highest prices for broadband service in Seattle while receiving the slowest network speeds and lowest levels of reliability. The Central area has less than half the penetration of cable subscribers than in other parts of the city (25% v 67%); cost is cited as the major reason.

The Central District area is served by Broadstripe, a small cable operator that has filed for bankruptcy protection, and by the ILEC Qwest, which is severely undercapitalized relative to its rivals Verizon and AT&T. Qwest has not included this area among those slated to receive new Broadband infrastructure investment. The current copper based networks from these providers are woefully inadequate and will never keep pace with the area's communication needs. The high prices charged for mediocre performance levels are a major barrier to Broadband adoption. Broadstripe offers "up to" 10 Mbps downstream for about \$50 per month in a bundled package. Residents complain about lost packets, high latency, slow network speeds and frequent, long outage periods. Broadstripe does not market Video on Demand service and provides only a handful of HD channels. Given its bankruptcy filing we do not expect major improvements. Qwest's speed maximum is "up to" 7 Mbps and less than 1Mbps in the upstream for about \$45 per month. These quoted speeds are rarely achieved. Qwest has no plans to offer its own video

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- There is a higher population in poverty (18.8% in the franchise area vs 11.8% citywide).
 - The overall household income is lower (49.6% have household incomes less than \$35,000 compared to 38% citywide).

Technology profile: These are some of the disparities found for populations in Seattle where a larger proportion are represented in the Central District franchise area:

- People making under \$30,000 are only two-thirds as likely to have home Internet as those with household income above \$40,000.
- People with no college education are more than 20% less likely to have home Internet service.
- Only two-thirds (69.6%) of African-Americans have a computer at home v 92.2% of Caucasians
- Only half (50.2%) of Latino/Hispanic households have a computer at home.
- Less than half (44.6) of the Latino/Hispanic households and only about two-thirds (66.6%) of African Americans have Internet at home compared to almost 90% of Caucasians.
- Of those without computers 32.1% cited cost as the reason
- Of those without Internet at home over 18.3% cited cost as the reason.

Value of higher speed service: Over three-fourths of residents felt it would be valuable to have significantly faster Internet service.

When asked what one thing, if anything, would improve your Internet service the most, price was named first (47%) followed by speed (26.7%)

service. Both are closed networks, with no competition. The residents of this economically and socially disadvantaged area have no choice and no hope for better service in the future.

IV. ALL FINAL DECISIONS FOR AWARDING GRANTS MUST BE MADE SOLELY BY THE NTIA. THE STATES SHOULD HAVE A CONSULTATIVE ROLE, THEIR ADVICE SHOULD NOT BE DETERMINATIVE

The NTIA must assert its primacy in decision making, and limit the role of States to commenting on which grant proposals should receive funding. States should not be allowed to rank proposals. There is an inherent conflict of interest in States having any role in decision making since States are also eligible applicants under the Act and may be submitting proposals for their own projects, thereby competing against local governments for the same funding. The NTIA must make clear that it will make the sole decisions over which entities receive funding. We are not opposed to the NTIA granting some small weight to State recommendations for funding but such advice should not be determinative of the outcome. Rather, any State recommendations should be part of broader criteria for evaluating grant proposals. Every applicant and application deserves equal treatment based on the merits of their proposal.

Seattle also believes that the NTIA should reject calls to create a formal State role in evaluating grant proposals. Such action would create an expensive and unnecessary layer of State bureaucracy with associated administrative cost. A State review will delay getting money to communities ready to begin deployment of broadband facilities and institute programs for broadband adoption and digital literacy. The Act permits the NTIA to spend over \$150 million on administrative costs and believe that such a sum is adequate for the purposes of NTIA evaluation and decision making. Using a portion of that funding for State administration reduces the amounts available to hard pressed communities trying to deliver services.

V. FUNDING CRITERIA UNDER THE BTOP SHOULD REFLECT A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE THEIR BROADBAND NEEDS.

Section 6001(e) of the Act states local governments are expressly permitted to apply for and receive NTIA broadband grant funding. NTIA acknowledges this in the RFI. NTIA should work to ensure that no barriers are laid before local governments as they work to participate in and benefit from this program. Local elected officials are well positioned to evaluate the infrastructure and economic development tools needed to sustain viability, encourage growth and ensure the unique needs and specific interests of local communities are addressed. We believe the NTIA should give strong preference to communities which:

- Have taken concerted steps to ascertain their broadband communications needs;
- Have conducted extensive feasibility analyses, engineering and market studies;
- Have developed concrete, “shovel ready” projects that could be implemented but lack adequate funding.

VI. CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in this proceeding. Seattle and other local governments will gladly assist the NTIA in ensuring that the benefits of broadband accrue to all of our citizens and that we begin to make the strategic investments necessary to bring next generation Broadband capability to the United States.

Respectfully submitted,
 Bill Schrier, CTO
 City of Seattle
 April 10, 2009

Community Technology Update: April 2009

Residential Technology Survey Technology Survey & Focus Groups

We compiled some data from the survey for the cable office to use in reflecting the needs of the Broadstripe franchise area. We have delayed other analysis to get our focus groups underway. Vicky and our consultant have arranged groups representing the African American, Chinese, Filipino, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Somali communities. To do this we have partnered with the International Drop In Center, North Seattle Family Center, Family Works, Asian Counseling and Referral Services, First AME and People's Baptist churches, Kawabe Memorial House, Somali Community Services, East African Community Services, and Neighborhood House.

Brainstorm published seattle.gov/tech/brainstorm

The April edition of Brainstorm was published and includes:

- Somali Lab uses texting to gather students
- E-Cycling and Broadband Legislation Update
- Seattle WiFi Stats
- Colfax Students Tour Dolt
- More Free WiFi Available at Seattle Center
- Security Tip on Work-at-Home Scams
- TechTip: Comparing Lab Security Software
- Dollars: funding for human services, environmental, education, arts and culture, youth, and technology-focused after-school programs
- Webinars on fundraising and hosting an effective open house
- Links to sites that promote green communities; broadband speed map, WiggiO collaboration tool, Internet Rights Charter and more.

Rainier Beach Lab Flooded with Tax Filers

The Rainier Beach Community Center RecTech computer lab has had very heavy use for its tax filing help. The report is that users have to arrive an hour early to get a slot each day. As of March 22nd, they have helped 530 people file, with an average gross income of \$23,268. They have enabled over \$1.1 million in returns, with \$410,402 in Earned Income Tax Credits. The Yesler RecTech lab, downtown library, Lake City NSC and El Centro de la Raza and White Center Salvation Army are other sites in Seattle.

Puget Sound Off – Digital Citizenship Flash Curriculum

A Digital Citizenship curriculum presented in Flash has been added to the How-to section (www.pugetsoundoff.org/how-to). This was written by UW Center for Communications and Civic Engagement students. Digital Citizenship is the fourth online how-to curriculum added to the site, following Blogging, Digital Storytelling, and Social Networking for Social Change.

Technology Matching Fund – Seattle Housing Authority Jefferson Terrace

The residents at Jefferson Terrace hired an instructor and just concluded the first series of 6 Basic and 6 Intermediate computer classes. The students learned how to send email and to do Google searches. All the students in the intermediate class created personal PowerPoint slide shows and presented them to the class to much applause. They plan to hire an instructor who speaks Mandarin or Cantonese for future classes.

Technology Matching Fund - Eritrean Community Center

With much volunteer effort, the Eritrean Community has successfully set up a new computer lab. To date they have installed a cable modem donated by Comcast, and networked 10 computers purchased through our HP discount program. Derrick has provided tech support throughout the process. They have created a curriculum to teach classes based on samples from other CTCs.

Cable Modem Services

Comcast completed install at the Oromo Community center. Recent cable modem applications include::

- Catholic Community Services Youth Tutoring Program - New Holly Branch
- Catholic Refugee & Immigration Service
- Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing (LELO)
- Green Lake Small Craft Center
- Southeast Youth and Family Center
- Washington Food Coalition
- New Beginnings(Transitional House Program)
- City Club

Students from Colfax

We provided a DoIT tech career tour for 5 high school students from Colfax, Washington.

Technology Matching Fund – Outreach by Text Messaging

The Somali Community Service of Seattle reported in their last grant report that they are doing outreach for their basic computer class by text messaging their clients.

Evans School Intern Selected– Neighborhood Communications Project

Amy Hirotaka has been selected and agreed to serve as our Mayor's Office Fellows Program intern to work this summer on a Neighborhood Communications Project to develop recommendations to community groups about use of web tools to building neighborhood and community participation.

Federal broadband comments

David worked with Tony and Jill to comment on the state filings and DoIT filed comments directly with the National Telecommunication and Infrastructure Administration (NTIA) regarding the proposed guidelines for the broadband stimulus eligibility. The community technology concerns focus on the definition of underserved, eligibility for community technology centers, ability to regrant to local projects to reach underserved, and the need to address affordability in projects.

Communities Connect focusing primarily on encouraging eligibility of community technology centers for federal funding and attention to the affordability and training – the needs of adequately supporting adoption efforts.

All the NTIA comments are at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants>

State Legislation

All the broadband bills are being merged into one bill, 1701. There has been a lot of negotiation over what components to include. A central issue has been the definition of underserved.

Network

CCN also submitted comments to the state and then to the NTIA on the broadband guidelines,