



Oklahoma State Broadband Coordination

Update Summary

August 2020

Broadband Roundtables

Broadband roundtable discussions are being held with providers and last mile partners in order to have open dialogue regarding obstacles and roadblocks that may exist in broadband expansion efforts and to provide coordination of projects and leverage state broadband assets.

Broadband Roundtable – September 9, 2019

Attendees: Dobson Technologies, Pioneer, Pine Telephone, Trace Fiber Networks, MBO, Indian Nation Fiber Optics and Hilliary Communications

Broadband Roundtable –November 8, 2019

Attendees: Panhandle Telephone, Terral Telephone, Central OK Telephone, Totah Communications, Cherokee Telephone, KAMO and GigaPop

Broadband Roundtable – January 30, 2020

Attendees: Cross Communications, Pioneer, Dobson Technologies, Pine Telephone, Cox, Indian Nation Fiber Optics, and Hilliary Communications

Broadband Roundtable – August 11, 2020

Attendees: Panhandle Telephone, Cross Communications, Terral Telephone, KanOkla, Pioneer, and Cherokee Telephone

Broadband Roundtable – August 13, 2020

Attendees: Cox, ATT, Totah Communications, Dobson Technologies, Central Oklahoma Telephone Company

Tribal Broadband Roundtable – August 20, 2020

Attendees: Osage Nation, Choctaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Jean Rice (National Telecommunications and Information Administration), Lee Denney (USDA Rural Development)

Rural Electric Cooperative Broadband Roundtable – August 24, 2020

Attendees: East Central Electric Cooperative, Central Rural Electric Cooperative, Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative, Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Northeast Electric Cooperative, Ozarks Electric Cooperative, Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative

State Agency Broadband Task Force

A State Agency Broadband Task Force has been developed. This task force meets monthly to discuss ongoing state agency projects, discuss issues or concerns regarding proposed projects or programs, and make recommendations for broadband expansion projects. The first meeting was held on September 27, 2019 and the task force currently meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

State Agency Broadband Task Force members include the following:

Secretary David Ostrowe
Von Royal – OneNet
Sonja Wall – State BB Coordinator
Kevin Blake – OneNet
Randy Crosby - OneNet
Alan Stevenson – OK Department of Transportation
Tyler Henderson – OK Department of Transportation
Randy Jones – OK Turnpike Authority
Joni Seymour – OK Turnpike Authority
Brent Kisling – OK Department of Commerce
Jon Chiappe – OK Department of Commerce

State Broadband Advisory Council

The State Broadband Advisory Council has been developed and held its first meeting on October 31, 2019. These meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month.

The purpose of the Oklahoma State Broadband Advisory Council is to examine the current landscape of broadband coverage and broadband adoption in Oklahoma and to provide recommendations and policy guidance as it relates to the expansion broadband throughout the state.

The goals and objectives of the advisory council are as follows:

- Identify current barriers to broadband access, adoption, and deployment and assist in the creation of an action plan to address those barriers.
- Identify unserved communities and develop strategic guidance for deployment efforts in these areas.
- Identify and address specific local or regional needs related to deployment or adoption.
- Facilitate coordination of state, local, and tribal governments related to broadband deployment and adoption efforts.
- Analyze census data to determine potential correlations between deployment or adoption deficiencies and demographic or location correlations.
- Identify and promote public/private partnerships to enhance broadband deployment and foster broadband adoption and digital literacy.
- Develop recommendations for sustainable funding sources for incentivizing broadband adoption and/or deployment efforts.
- Research potential legislation to create tax- or fee-based incentives for broadband infrastructure in Oklahoma.
- Provide oversight and recommendations for periodic reviews and updates to the Oklahoma State Broadband Plan.
- Analyze proposals and incentives outlined in the Oklahoma State Broadband Plan and assist with development and implementation of the programs.

Oklahoma State Broadband Advisory Council Members:

David Ostrowe	Secretary of Digital Transformation and Administration
Sonja Wall	Oklahoma State Broadband Coordinator
Von Royal	Executive Director, OneNet/OK State Regents for Higher Education, CIO
Secretary Tim Gatz	Secretary of Transportation
Kevin Blake	Okan and OneNet Services Manager
Jim Reese	Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, OK Association of Electric Cooperatives

Lee Denney	Oklahoma State Director of USDA Rural Development
Mike Fina	Executive Director, Oklahoma Municipal League
Brent Kisling	Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Commerce
Jon Chiappe	Director of Research and Economic Analysis, OK Department of Commerce
Matt Latham	Executive Director, Oklahoma Cable and Internet Association
Tom Karalis	Representative, OK Rural Broadband Association
Barry Moore	Telecommunications Consultant, BKM Group
Ron Comingdeer	Attorney, Ron Comingdeer & Associates
Alan Stevenson	Assistant Division Engineer for ITS and Operations, OK Department of Transportation
James Lightfoot	President, Associated Communications and Research Services
Samual Curtis	CEO At Link Services
Lynn Merrill	President, Monte R. Lee
Robert Machado III	Oklahoma State Field Representative, USDA
Ryan Jones	Grid Innovation Manager, OG&E
Taylor Henderson	State Maintenance Engineer, Oklahoma Department of Transportation
Deano Cox	ATT, External and Legislative Affairs
Sean Webster	Research Analyst, Oklahoma House of Representatives

Activities Completed or in Progress

- OK State Broadband Plan was completed and approved by Governor Stitt in October 2019.
- Annual update to the OK State Broadband Plan is currently being finalized.
- A template to quickly and efficiently expand broadband into rural communities is being developed and work is currently in progress to test this process and expand coverage into the City of Purcell and City of Okmulgee.
- The Broadband Ready Application for communities to receive Broadband Ready designation has been finalized and is under review by City of Tahlequah as a test community.
- State fiber inventory is 85% complete.
- State fiber repository has been created and will house all state fiber details, complete with copies of all state fiber agreements.
- Development of the Oklahoma Digital Inclusion Alliance. This group works in concert with the OK BB Advisory Council to assist in education, outreach, and facilitation of placement of equipment in economically challenged communities in Oklahoma. The OK Digital Inclusion Alliance held its first meeting on January 7, 2020 and currently meets on the third Tuesday of every month.
- Participated in a panel discussion at the Kansas Broadband Technologies and Opportunities Conference in Wichita, KS in September 2019.
- Presented at the National Tribal Broadband Summit at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC in October 2019.

- Presented at the Oklahoma Digital Government Summit in Midwest City in November 2019.
- Attended the announcement of ReConnect funding awarded to OK Western Telephone with the USDA Undersecretary of Conservation, Bill Northey, and the OK State Director of Rural Development, Lee Denney.
- Presented updates to the Council of Information Technology for Higher Education on November 21, 2019 and May 28, 2020.
- Presented to the Choctaw Nation on December 4, 2019.
- Presented an update to the Council of Presidents for OK State Regents of Higher Education on December 10, 2019.
- Met with Redlands Community College on December 11, 2019 to discuss broadband initiatives, digital inclusion efforts, and how they might assist.
- Recommended a broadband mapping proposal with CostQuest that is currently under review by OMES.
- Streamlined the state approval processes for ROW access with ODOT and OTA.
- Streamlined process for acquiring letters from Governor Stitt for federal funding purposes.
- In the process of developing an interactive map of public wi-fi spots for Oklahoma.
- Application for providers to utilize state fiber infrastructure assets and towers has been developed and approved.
- Finalizing a comprehensive list of internet and digital inclusion resources to be published online.
- The Oklahoma Laptop Challenge program is being created for purposes of accepting, refurbishing, and distributing donated laptops to tribal and economically challenged communities.