



House Utilities Committee

Data Collection and Mapping Update Stanley Adams Program Director, Kansas Statewide Broadband Initiative Department of Commerce

January 26, 2012

Good morning Chairman Holmes and members of the committee. Thank you for providing us the opportunity to give you an update on our Broadband Initiative.

As you know, broadband technology plays an increasingly important role in our economy, and in late 2009 the Department of Commerce began work to better understand the broadband landscape in Kansas. The initiative is sponsored by a National Telecommunications and Information (NTIA) grant and includes funding for development and the updating of a broadband inventory map of the state and planning activities designed to assess and improve availability and utilization of this digital economic enabler.

None of our activities include deployment of actual physical broadband networks or infrastructure.

Some of the findings discerned from the early rounds of data collection and mapping suggests there is a wide range of broadband availability among the 105 Kansas counties. The handout I have provided includes a summary of the 10 Rural Opportunity Zones with the lowest reported availability as an example particularly under/un-served communities.* In this example, we looked at minimum speed definitions of 768kps. I also included in the handout some examples of the differences in speed to give you a better idea of the impact these differences have on practical applications of broadband utilization.

As you have heard from other presenters in past week, the FCC issued a ruling recently that may result in reliance on our map by the Connect America Fund in formulating future funding levels. And as you heard from the KCC, the ruling was significant and sweeping in its potential impact to Kansas and its complexities are still being digested by the broadband service provider community and other interests.

Regardless of whether the map ends up being a factor in the CAF or not, our goal is to make the map as accurate as possible so that we can provide meaningful information to local communities across the state as they plan and make decisions about how best to harness an increasingly important part of their economic development.

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We recently transferred the data collection and mapping updating from Connect Kansas, the wholly owned subsidiary of Kentucky-based Connected Nation (unrelated to the FCC's newly announced *Connect America Fund*). This allows us to bring key aspects in-house and leverage existing state resources as well as improve the sustainability of effort post-grant period. Future updates and improvements to the Kansas broadband map will be implemented by the Data Access and Support Center (DASC) at KU's Kansas Geological Survey Department, whose excellent work you may be familiar with.

Work is currently underway and on schedule for our next data update to the map which is due to the NTIA on April 1, 2012. This update will show changes in the broadband map as of December 31, 2011. So for example, as providers expand and improve their broadband networks in Kansas, with each refresh, these changes are incorporated into the map.

With recent increased attention to mapping accuracy, I thought it would be helpful to give you a brief overview of the process involved. To be clear, I am not the GIS expert so I won't attempt to dive deeply into the technical details, but I have asked Ken Nelson from DASC to highlight a few of the factors which drive GIS mapping accuracy and our approach to improving it with each semiannual iteration of updates.

The source of data inputs for the broadband map is the broadband service providers. Their participation in our effort is voluntary and in Kansas the vast majority of them do. As I mentioned, we are currently working on updating the map with data that is accurate as of December 31st. Working with the DASC, we established the framework and identified necessary resources for the update and began contacting Kansas broadband service providers in December.

We have a dedicated resource coordinating our provider outreach and verifying their status. Because this is a data refresh, in many cases individual service providers may not have any change in their data. In fact, historical data indicates only about 30-35% of the Kansas service providers will need to submit changes.

The previous update was as of June 30, 2011 and was submitted this past October 1st. We will continue to update the map semiannually for the duration of the grant period which ends in 2014.

* Based on 2010 Connected Nation data