Connect New Mexico Council

Regular Meeting

February 18, 2022

Connect New Mexico Council

Agenda

1. **Welcome & Call to Order**
2. **Approve Agenda & Minutes**
3. **Introductions (Board Members, OBAE Staff)**
4. Elect (Interim) Chair and Vice Chair
5. **Connect New Mexico Council Duties**
6. **Office of Broadband Access and Expansion Update**
7. **Connect New Mexico Grant Program**
8. **Discussion**
9. Next Steps
    a. Council meeting cadence and schedule
    b. Workgroup formation
    c. OMA Resolution/Switch to Zoom
    d. Staggering Terms
10. **Public comment**
11. **Adjourn**

Connect New Mexico Council
Membership

- **Connect New Mexico Council membership includes:**
  - Jeremy Lovato, Department of Transportation Designee
  - Alexander Greenberg, Department of Economic Development Designee
  - Eli Guinnee, Department of Cultural Affairs Designee
  - Raja Sambandam, Department of Information Technology
  - Joseph Navarreté, New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority Designee
  - Bogi Malecki, Department of Higher Education Designee
  - Martica Casias, Public Schools Facilities Authority
  - Luis Reyes, Speaker of the House Appointee
  - Launa B. Waller, Minority House Floor Leader Appointee
  - Katherine Crociata, Senate President Pro Tempore Appointee
  - Steve L. Grey, Senate Minority Floor Leader Appointee
  - Jim R. Ruybal, Governor Appointee
  - Christopher Becenti, Navajo Nation
  - Godfrey Enjady, Apache Government
  - Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Pueblo Government

Connect New Mexico Council
Duties

- Coordinate programs and projects per statewide broadband plan
- Evaluate and prioritize grant proposals and make grant awards from the Connect New Mexico Fund
- Adopt rules establishing a competitive grant program
  - Application procedure
  - Required project qualifications
- Consult local and tribal governments, public educational institutions and state agencies to develop a digital equity analysis and plan to address:
  - Challenges to digital inclusion that are posed by the lack of affordable quality service, broadband-enabled devices or the knowledge of how to use the devices effectively in different age, cultural or geographic populations across the state
  - Federal and private sector programs that could be applied to by state agencies or local or tribal governments to address the challenges to digital inclusion
  - Existing state programs or state programs that could be established that address or could leverage federal and private sector programs to address the challenges to digital inclusion

Office of Broadband
Approach

- Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, DOIT
  - Leadership
  - Grants Management
  - Community Engagement
  - Technical & Grants Assistance
- Mapping and Data
- Connect New Mexico Broadband Grant Program
- Digital Equity and Inclusion
- Community & Regional Planning & Capacity Building
- Connect New Mexico Council

Office of Broadband
Approach

- Fixes and solutions

- Best practices and innovative approaches

- Public and private roles
  - **Forging strong collaborative relationships** with state and federal agencies, local governments, schools, and tribes
  - **Convening the Connect New Mexico Council** and working closely with the legislature to ensure strong public participation
  - **Launching a new state broadband infrastructure grant program** and refining equally important programming
    - Mapping and data collection
    - Regional planning and community engagement
    - Digital equity and inclusion

- Direction and detail

State Broadband Grant Programs
Characteristics and Best Practices

- Project area eligibility

- Performance and scalability

- Adoption and affordability

- Nonstate matching funds

- Community support

- Cross-sector collaboration

- Emphasis on open access and shared use

- Engagement process to challenge mapping accuracy
  or project eligibility

Connect New Mexico Act
Broadband Grant Program Framework

- Establishes applicant eligibility to include:
  - local governments
  - state agencies
  - public educational institutions
  - tribal governments
  - entities created by a joint powers agreement pursuant
    to the Joint Powers Agreements Act

Connect New Mexico Act
Broadband Grant Program Framework

- Establishes funding considerations, including extent to which the project:
  - **connects unserved and underserved** populations of New Mexico, with priority given to projects that will connect unserved populations;
  - **meets or exceeds the baseline standards** established by the federal communications commission;
  - **leverages existing infrastructure**;
  - complements or coordinates with the **statewide broadband plan**;
  - **leverages regional collaboration**;
  - **fosters digital inclusion**;
  - **stimulates in-state economic development**, including the creation of jobs and apprenticeships; and
  - **leverages in-kind or financial support** from various nonstate

    (local or federal) sources.

Connect New Mexico Act
Broadband Grant Program Reporting

- Progress achieved toward digital equity and digital inclusion as identified in the digital equity analysis and plan

- Progress achieved on implementation of the statewide broadband plan

- Identified obstacles to an integrated system of permits, licenses and rules for broadband infrastructure across the state, including an expedited review process for rights of way use applications

- Recommended statutory, regulatory or policy changes and budget recommendations for the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure and digital equity and digital inclusion; and information on the broadband grant program, including:
  - List of grant recipients
  - Amount and date of each grant
  - Description of each project funded
  - Description of how each project contributes to the statewide broadband plan and demonstrates increased access and quality of service for the unserved and underserved populations of New Mexico.

Discussion

Next Steps

- Council meeting cadence and schedule
- Workgroup formation
- OMA resolution / switch to zoom
- Staggering terms

Council Schedule

- Monthly meetings
- NOT Fridays at 4pm!

- Third Wednesdays at 4pm?
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Workgroups

- Drawing membership from the council and external stakeholder input
- Meeting in between regular council meetings
- Focused on complementary aspects of broadband and digital equity:
  - Connect New Mexico Grant Program
  - Digital equity and inclusion
  - Regional planning and community engagement
  - Mapping, data, and evaluation

Public Comment

Adjournment