Connect New Mexico Council

Regular Meeting
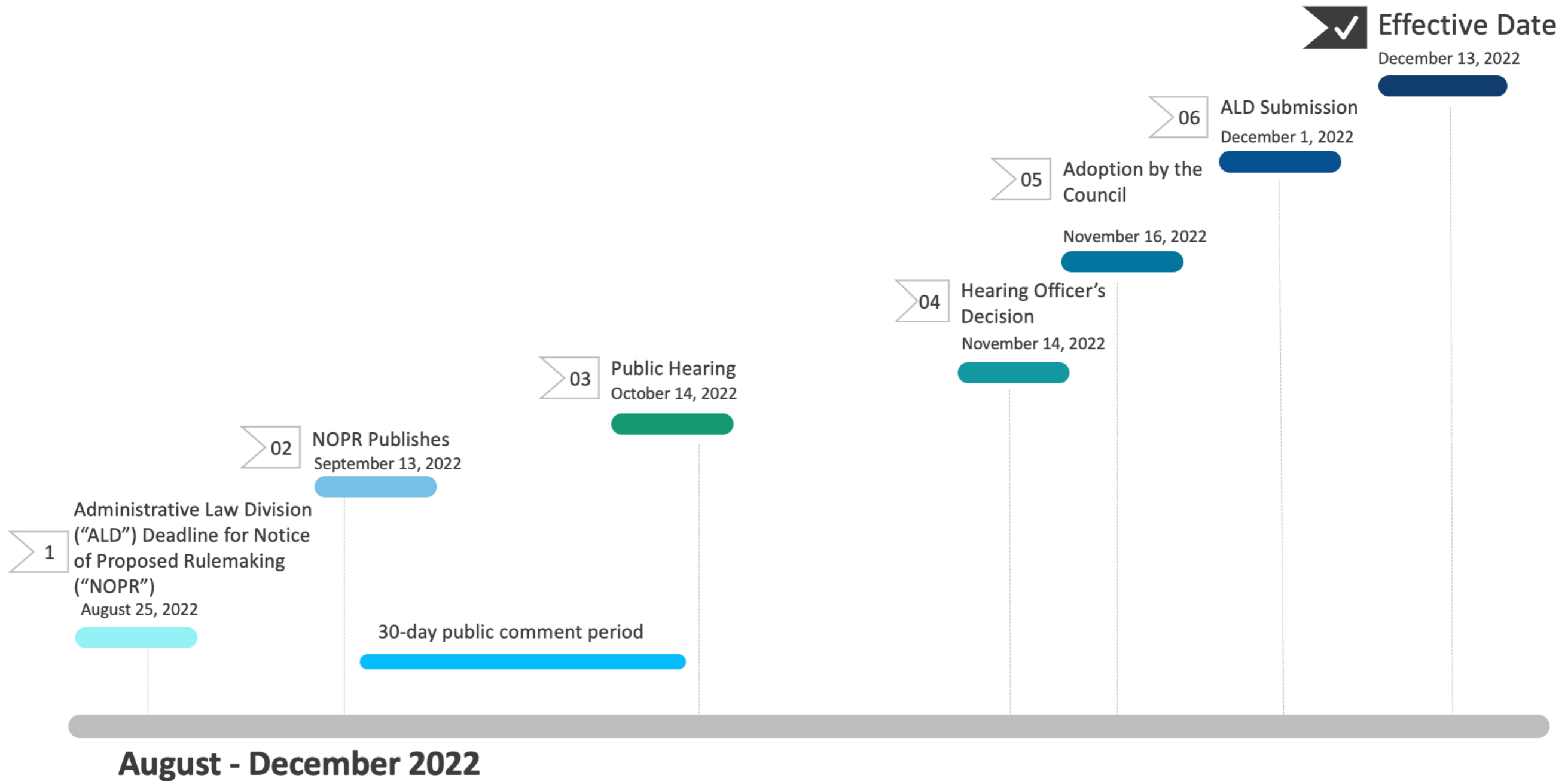May 18, 2022

Connect New Mexico Council: Agenda

1. Welcome & Call to Order

2. Approve Agenda & Minutes

3. Chair Remarks & Council Member Updates

4. CNMC Rulemaking
   a) Process
   b) Community listening sessions planning
   c) State broadband plan CNMC role

5. Discussion Item: Conflict of Interest Connect NM Council
   a) Upcoming Council Resolution

6. Working Group Reports
   a) Mapping, data & evaluation
   b) Regional planning & community engagement
   c) Digital equity & inclusion
   d) Connect New Mexico Grant Program

7. Office of Broadband Update
   a) Staffing
   b) Middle Mile RFI
   c) Pilot Program

8. NTIA Notices of Funding Opportunity

9. Public Comment

10. Adjourn

- **Welcome & Call to Order**
- **Approve Agenda & Minutes**
- **Chair Remarks & Council Member Updates**
- **CNMC Rulemaking**

Connect New Mexico Council: Rulemaking

Effective Date
December 13, 2022

06 **ALD Submission**
December 1, 2022

05 **Adoption by the Council**
November 16, 2022

04 **Hearing Officer's Decision**
November 14, 2022

03 **Public Hearing**
October 14, 2022

02 **NOPR Publishes**
September 13, 2022

1 Administrative Law Division ("ALD") Deadline for Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NOPR")
August 25, 2022

30-day public comment period

August - December 2022

Activities
➢ **Application**
• Prepared application and obtain feedback from Grant Working Group.
➢ **Map of Eligible Service Areas**
• Provided key requirements to the Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC); hope to finalize a map next week.
➢ **Federal Programs**
• Reviewing the NTIA NOFO's on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) to discern any relevant insights that can be applied.
➢ **Program Materials**
• Finalizing program materials (e.g., FAQ, application templates, landing page)

Purpose of Request for Information (RFI)

- The RFI aims to collect public input to support several objectives.
- Received 18 responses.

Key Objectives
✓ Develop a fact-set regarding middle-mile requirements (needs), existing assets, and remaining gaps.   ✓ Develop a comprehensive strategy for the planning, design, funding, deployment, and operations of a statewide, open-access middle-mile network to address the gaps.   ✓ Obtain expressions of interest from stakeholders seeking capacity from middle-mile program.   ✓ Establish collaboration-driven approach for funding from federal and state grant programs and contribute matching capital.

Recap: Impetus for Statewide, Open Access Middle-Mile Program

- A statewide, open-access middle mile network aims to catalyze collaboration to:

1) foster economically efficient deployment of last-mile networks across unserved and underserved communities; and

2) serve the backhaul and private networks needs of several stakeholders (e.g., wireless operators, government, higher education, data centers, etc.)

Efficient Application of Last-Mile Grant Funding	Serve Backhaul and Private Network Needs of Other Stakeholders Across Unserved/Underserved Areas
• Up to 20% of New Mexican households remain unserved	• Mobile networks and public safety networks (e.g., FirstNet) require high-speed backhaul to expand coverage and capacity.
• Several unserved communities lack availability of high-capacity middle-mile networks	• Research and education networks – across higher-ed and K-12 – face growing bandwidth needs and connectivity to new facilities.
• Other barriers may prevent leveraging existing middle-mile (e.g., exorbitant pricing, lack of open access, reliability concerns, etc.)	• Hyperscale data centers depend upon dedicated, ultra-high speed fiber backbone networks with redundant pathways.
• A middle-mile ring that connects several unserved communities and interconnects into a regional backbone offers economic efficiencies over duplicative rings.	• Enterprises, community institutions, and government facilities require high-capacity, redundant networks.
• Serve as catalyst for planning, funding, and deployment of the access network by allowing the ISP's to focus on their local connectivity business plans.	• Serve as an enabler for robust innovation enabled by hyper speed, fiber networks (e.g., Project Echo)

Working Group Reports

Designated Working Groups

- Connect New Mexico Grant Program

- Digital Equity and Inclusion

- Regional Planning and Community Engagement

- Mapping, Data, and Evaluation

- Next Steps

- Discussion

- Public Comment

- Adjournment