

STATE: MAINE

Date of Report: November 2005

Nature of report (preliminary, final, advisory, executive/legislative): Draft Report of the Maine Broadband Access Infrastructure Board to the Telecommunications Infrastructure Steering Committee

Key recommendations:

- Provide incentives and funding for broadband infrastructure
- Increase awareness and demand for broadband services
- Develop Expansion Projects
- Create a “Broadband Development Authority”
 - Implement State broadband policy
 - Draw from expertise in several existing State agencies, staffed by and housed within a single agency such as the PUC
 - Have rule making authority & access to professional staff
 - Monitor broadband deployment in the state, publicize information on broadband availability, demand, and funding mechanisms
 - Study & recommend regulatory changes to enhance broadband deployment
 - Identify unserved and underserved areas of the State, solicit proposals for broadband expansion projects, demonstration projects and other initiatives, and administer the process for selecting specific broadband projects and providing incentives.
- Stated that any recommended policies enacted as part of this program *“either not make reference to specific speeds or be regularly and carefully revised”*.

Key programs initiated: There does not appear to be any follow-up of legislation or programs to this report.

Recommended appropriation: None

Web link to agency or task force: None

Background:

- Had an original state goal of *“universal access to infinite bandwidth”*.