

STATE: OREGON

Date of Report: October 2, 2008

Nature of report (preliminary, final, advisory, executive/legislative): Preliminary Draft

Key recommendations:

***Infrastructure:** Broadband Telecommunications is essential infrastructure.*

1. Establish goals relating to transmission capacity in both directions and in-state network peering.
2. Establish performance measures and mapping options.
3. Explore incentives and remove disincentives for digital broadband network investment.

***Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage continued cooperation and collaboration between the public and private sectors.*

1. Involve local and state governments in broadband planning and implementation to determine how local needs and interests can be met.
2. Recognize that local, state, and federal laws impacting Oregon allow local governments to build and operate broadband networks when they determine it is in the public's interest.

***Education and Awareness:** Review and recommend a broadband foundation for an educated and competent 21st century society*

1. Propose solutions for equal access that provide appropriate connectivity for every K-20 institution in Oregon.
2. Explore improvements to access mechanisms to the Universal Service Fund programs to make them easier to use and more understandable for schools and libraries.
3. Explore providing schools and libraries with training and assistance in applying for subsidies from the Universal Service Fund.

***Health Care:** Support the Oregon Health Network*

1. Support implementation of a sustainable statewide broadband telecommunications health network to improve quality of care across the state, recognizing that it will simultaneously increase demand for broadband services.
2. Support the provision of training to healthcare providers in the use of broadband telecommunications technologies for the delivery of health care and healthcare education.

***Access to Government:** Encourage funding for wider e-government and e-commerce availability and use.*

1. Recommend funding strategies to promote the development and use of e-government and e-commerce tools so that Oregonians are “online vs. in line.”
2. Encourage increased participation in public governance processes through use of broadband telecommunication technologies.

Public Safety: Interoperability and network sharing.

1. Support a multi-organizational development of an appropriate 21st century public safety communications network.
2. Support the concept of multi-purpose broadband networks.
3. Explore co-location of commercial wireless transceivers and public safety communications transceivers on shared towers.

Telework: Promote telecommuting.

1. Explore industry and government best practices and discuss awareness campaigns and incentives in all business and governmental sectors.
2. Promote telecommuting by public and private sector workers.

Economic Development: Broadband telecommunications plays a key role in the state’s economy.

1. Explore the promotion of increased business and geographical diversification of Oregon's economy through use of broadband technologies.
2. Explore training and incentives to aid the use of broadband by all sectors of the economy.
3. Support the continued improvement of workforce development projects that assist workers and businesses to succeed in the global economy.

Innovation and Research: Engage in and reward broadband innovation and research.

1. Explore options for increasing demand for a robust broadband infrastructure.
2. Encourage champions to move the concept forward.
3. Encourage the expansion of relevant programs at Oregon's colleges and universities
4. Review options for improvements in how high school science and technology programs can stimulate sustainable innovation and economic growth.

Key Programs Initiated: None; Oregon Health Network already exists.

Recommended Appropriations: None

Web link to agency or task force: <http://www.ortcc.org/default.htm>

Statement of Values:

- **Telecommunications is essential infrastructure.**

The improvement, expansion and new construction of the state's sewage treatment works, water supply works, telecommunications infrastructure, roads and public transportation provide the basic framework for continuing and expanding economic activity in this state, thereby providing jobs and economic opportunity for the people of Oregon.

- **Oregon has a broadband goal.**

It is the goal of this state to promote access to broadband services for all Oregonians in order to improve the economy in Oregon, improve the quality of life in Oregon communities and reduce the economic gap between Oregon communities that have access to broadband digital applications and services and those that do not, for both present and future generations.

- **Oregon has guidelines for broadband development.**

Oregon's goal for broadband development may be achieved by:

- (a) Expanding broadband and other telecommunications services;
- (b) Creating incentives to establish and expand broadband and other telecommunications services;
- (c) Undertaking telecommunications planning at the local, regional and state levels that includes participants from both the public and the private sectors;
- (d) Removing barriers to the full deployment of broadband digital applications and services and providing incentives for the removal of those barriers; and
- (e) Removing barriers to public-private partnerships in areas where the private sector cannot justify investments.

- **Telecommunications has a role in public safety.**

It is the policy of the State of Oregon to encourage and support the rapid deployment of broadband telecommunications services in areas of the state where such services do not exist, to support redundancy of critical telecommunications assets in order to ensure homeland security protections in the state and to ensure that a secure conduit is available for emergency communications and public safety networks in all Oregon communities.

- **Improve Oregon's Internet Protocol network infrastructure.**

It is the policy of the State of Oregon to promote, facilitate and encourage activities, projects and businesses that improve Oregon's Internet Protocol network infrastructure, performance and connectivity to the Internet backbone network and World Wide Web for the benefit of Oregon's commercial, educational, governmental and individual users.

- **Develop a health care network model.**

Declare that it is the policy of the State of Oregon to promote and facilitate activities by Oregon's health care and education communities and their telecommunications providers to develop a network model that provides standards for interoperability, establishes a peering point for all health care and education telecommunications in Oregon and establishes peering agreements among health care and education networks that contain payment structures.

Where we've been:

- The Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council (ORTCC) was first authorized by the legislature in 2001 and was continued by the legislature in 2003 and 2005.
- Oregon's current strong broadband telecommunications infrastructure position is the result of private and public sector investments, proactive public policy, effective funding initiatives, and notable public-private partnership activity.

Where we are today: The headings listed under "Key Recommendations" followed by the Report's recommendations are policy statements previously established in Oregon. Otherwise, the Report does not address Oregon's current state of broadband availability, adoption, or use.

Where we want to be:

- Increase adoption/penetration and utilization of existing broadband.
- Expand availability of broadband.
- Ensure that broadband is affordable.
- Promote increased broadband adoption rates and stimulation of new applications.
- Adopt and implement effective policy.

How are we going to get there?

- Define broadband activities, facilities, and services.
- Define "unserved" and "underserved"
- Define "affordable"
- Explore establishing multiple tiered capacity measures for broadband, or use new FCC tiers as units of measuring broadband capacity.
- Track Oregon broadband service availability, once defined.
- Poll best practices in governments and the private sector.
- Continue to solicit input from members of the public.

- Review inventory and demand data and other relevant materials to propose incentives for investment in unserved and underserved areas.
- See also, Key Recommendations summarized above.

Broadband functionality (tiers of service) - Not yet established.