

ATIC Partnerships & Business Model Groups  
June 8, 2017, Teleconference Report

**Attendees:** Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Mala Muralidharan, Janet Major, Michael Cohen, Steve Peters, Andy Phelan.

This is a report on the conference call held Thursday, June 8, 2017, at 10 a.m. to follow up on the Partnerships/Business Model Groups (Strategy Committee) topics.

1. We discussed the possibilities of partnering with the Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative and Commissioner Andy Tobin's Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) proposal for state matching funds towards E-rate modernization funding of rural broadband infrastructure for K-12 schools and libraries.

Mala Muralidharan reported on the Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative and noted that 21 entities had applied for E-rate modernization funding from the FCC Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) in the 2017-2018 funding year for a Total of about \$14 million including a state match of over \$1 million. USAC approvals will probably be announced after July 1 and USAC may ask questions of the applicants before final decisions. Mala is encouraging libraries to partner with schools in next year's funding applications because service providers are more likely to respond to an RFP with a lower price if they are serving both schools and one or more libraries in a community.

Steve Peters asked if the departure of Mark Masterson from the Arizona Department of Education will have an effect on the process. Mala responded it might since Milan Eaton, the state E-rate coordinator, is a contractor and his contract expires at the end of June. Steve suggested ATIC should be proactive in supporting Milan's position. Mark suggested Steve follow up with Milan to see whether he was expecting his contract to be extended/renewed and inquire whether he felt ATIC support was desired.

➔ **ACTION:** Steve will contact Milan to assess his vulnerability and future plans.

2. We discussed the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) activity.

Mark Goldstein reported that Karen Ziegler is now the FirstNet project manager for Arizona, essentially filling the position that Michael Britt used to have. Karen, who is in the Office of Grants and Federal Resources at the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA), is interested in becoming a pivot point for broadband strategies within the state. She is in touch with Milan Eaton and Mala and is familiar with the failed Digital Arizona Council (DAC) and strategic planning efforts. The FirstNet site that she maintains (<https://azfirstnet.az.gov/mapping-policy-overview>) has some but not all of the earlier DAC documents as well as core Arizona Broadband Assessment Project (AZ BAP) documents. Mark gave her copies of the relevant DAC strategic plan documents. Karen is interested in returning to a strategic planning process for the state. Mala clarified that AT&T is providing implementation plans for FirstNet for all 50 states, but is not doing more general broadband strategic planning. The plans are due to be delivered on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

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Mark believes that Karen would be interested in developing a strategic plan for the state if Arizona does not decide to opt out of the FirstNet program. It is not likely that Arizona would opt out of the process because the state would get 20% less federal funding and would have to do its own network planning. Mala said Karen was quite pleased with the information she provided regarding the role of libraries in supporting first responders. Mark invited Karen to give a FirstNet informational presentation at the June 14<sup>th</sup> ATIC Board Meeting.

➔ **ACTION:** Mark will investigate the timing for availability of the AT&T FirstNet implementation plan for Arizona for ATIC to review.

3. Mark reported there has been no recent contact regarding the progress of Jim Simms' proposal for a middle-mile fiber network for Arizona similar to a network being built by the State of Kentucky.
4. We discussed the interaction between Henry Goldberg and Marisa Walker of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA).

Henry Goldberg reported on his communications with Marisa Walker, Senior Vice President for Foreign Direct Investment & Infrastructure for the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA). Henry had met Marisa at the Digital Southwest Broadband Summit in April.

Henry e-mailed Marisa on May 18<sup>th</sup> explaining ATIC is looking to establish new strategic directions for itself and partner with appropriate state government organizations such as ACA on how to best develop and use broadband infrastructure, telecommunications services, and information technology to benefit the entire state. He pointed out that one new initiative ATIC is pursuing is to act as curator/promoter of the Arizona Broadband Map, and that Mark Goldstein has discussed this with Keith Watkins of ACA.

Henry spoke on the phone with Marisa on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Marisa stated she is familiar with ATIC and has talked with ATIC in the past about infrastructure for the Mexican border ports of crossing as well as transportation corridor plans. She was receptive to interacting with ATIC because there is synergy with her infrastructure responsibilities at ACA. Marisa will attend the ATIC June 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and other ATIC Board meetings, but will decide later if she would like to become an ATIC Board member depending upon her interest and availability. Marisa is aware of the state matching funds for the E-rate modernization program, and stated ACA (Keith Watkins) is considering funding opportunities for broadband and is very interested in public-private partnerships such as the Kentucky Wired model (middle-mile fiber network). Marisa also stated that ACA is currently collaborating with Deloitte and would be happy to discuss that with ATIC.

Mark Goldstein commented Marisa has presented at ATIC Telecom Policy Review public meetings in the past, and has responsibility for the CANAMEX state transportation corridor in addition to southern border ports. Mark noted that we should cultivate her and Karen Ziegler as potential board members.

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➔ **ACTION:** A time-slot for Marisa to speak briefly on ACA activities and discussion of potential ATIC interaction should be included in the June 14<sup>th</sup> ATIC Board Meeting agenda.

5. Mark reported on the AZGEO Broadband Map activities.

A small group that included Mala, Bill Bolin, Oris Friesen, Michael Britt, Mark and Mike Whipple met with Curtis Pulford and Tim Colman of the Arizona Land Department for a small demo of the AZGEO Clearinghouse (<https://azgeo.az.gov/azgeo/>) broadband mapping capabilities and strategic discussion on May 17<sup>th</sup>. We asked Curtis to customize the demo a little for presentation at the July 12<sup>th</sup> ATIC Board Meeting. You need to be an authorized user to gain access to the map. To become authorized is a simple task of filling out a brief form and receiving credentials soon after. The various layers for current FCC wireline and wireless coverage data as well as the AZ BAP Community Anchor Institution (CAI) dataset from late 2014 can be viewed, manipulated, and combined with other layers. After accessing the database you can also link to other external data within your portal session. This is an outgrowth of the AZ BAP efforts with advanced mapping portal capabilities developed by ASU under the auspices of the Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology (ASET) Office in ADOA.

➔ **ACTION:** ATIC members should get authorized to access the map at their earliest convenience, become familiar with its current capabilities, and then this fall decide how to go forward to use, promote, and help evolve the map most effectively.

- ATIC has already assumed the role of curator for the evolving FCC broadband data to provide notice to the Land Department for the AZGEO Clearinghouse.
- Another role could be to promote the use of the Arizona Broadband Map by developing tutorials, information sessions, marketing materials, etc.
- A third role might be to find additional open source datasets for AZGEO to incorporate in the map and facilitate their access to users.

➔ **ACTION:** Mark will send Mala the 2014 CAI spreadsheet and metadata. Mala will provide some updated library data to Curtis, possibly as a part of the CAI dataset or as a standalone spreadsheet.

6. The discussion on renewing the ATIC & GAZeL cooperation was postponed due to time constraints. Henry suggested a rural community demo project that combines GAZeL eLearning applications with deployed broadband infrastructure and possibly Internet2 collaboration. Steve said a subset of us should meet to discuss this or other possibilities and report back to the whole group. The subset will include Steve, Oris, Henry, Janet Major and Michael Cohen.

➔ **ACTION:** Oris and Steve will set up a conference call within the next few weeks.

7. Mark reported that no further progress has been made on the status of the ATIC website.

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Mark now has the credentials for access to WordPress. We have four areas of content that will be placed on the ATIC website:

Board members with their photos and background statements,  
ATIC Board Meeting Minutes going back a year or more,  
Event notices and information and  
Historical documents.

➔ **ACTION:** Mark and Mala will meet within the next few weeks to review the current website, target strategic improvements, and explore evolutionary possibilities.

8. We reviewed the status of ATI Institute. Oris noted that the terms of the officers will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. A Board meeting needs to be held to decide on future plans. Ron Schott has suggested that we invite Jeremy Babendure, the Executive Director of the AZ Tech Council Foundation, to the meeting to discuss possible areas of cooperation. The ATIC Executive Committee members and Janet Major will also be invited to attend.

➔ **ACTION:** Oris will work with John Kelly to arrange a Board meeting.

9. Next steps — strategies and opportunities.

Mark mentioned that Janet Major believes Sharon Hill who conducted the ATIC strategic planning session last July may be interested in being the ATIC Secretary to replace him, and Janet is willing to contact her on this topic. Oris previously asked for email comments from the Executive Committee but received no responses. Assuming that a “no response” is equivalent to tacit approval we agreed to have Janet contact Sharon. Mark suggested that Oris inform the Executive Committee of the decision to go forward with this.

➔ **ACTION:** Oris will notify the Executive Committee that Janet will pursue this task. This has been done.