



Phone: 602.254.5887
aticarizona@gmail.com
PO Box 1119, Tempe, AZ 85280
www.arizonatele.org

ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, February 10, 2021

1. Administrative

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from January 13, 2021, Board Meeting
- 1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
- 1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
- 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in January 13, 2021, Minutes

2. Informational Presentations

- 2.1. None Scheduled

3. Activity Reports

- 3.1. Arizona Broadband Strategic Plan & FirstNet (Jeff Sobotka)
 - 3.1.1. Rural Community Outreach
 - 3.1.2. FirstNet Status & Outlook
 - 3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
- 3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
 - 3.2.1. AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Updates
 - 3.2.2. Marketing the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report
 - 3.2.3. New Initiatives to Carry Out the Report's Recommendations
 - 3.2.4. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
- 3.3. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (Steve Peters, Nan Williams)
 - 3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)
 - 3.3.2. Virtual Laboratory Simulations Consortium
 - 3.3.3. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives
- 3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
- 3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major, Jeff Sobotka)
- 3.6. Government Affairs (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)

4. Information and Action Plans

- 4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)
 - 4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter
- 4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)
- 4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn



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ATIC Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 2021

Attendees:

ATIC Board Members:

Jerry Crow, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Ron Schott, Holly Henley, Michael Cohen, Nan Williams, Ian Hathcock, Andrew Bevington, Derek Masseth, and Andy Phelan.

ATIC Associates & Guests:

Steve Peters (AZBSN & GAZEL), Kirk Busch (BigData Southwest), Mala Muralidharan (Arizona State Library), Andy Tobin (Arizona Department of Administration), Clyde McBride (Kayenta School District), Tony Casella (SimplyBits) and Karen Ziegler (Consultant).

Quorum Met with 12 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 7)

Many thanks to Nan Williams and the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA, <http://aztea.org/>) for the use of their Zoom Video account for video conferencing and dial-in capabilities and to the Arizona State Library for providing additional support.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2021, and will be held fully virtually, as will all our meetings until further notice. The full schedule of ATIC Board Meetings remaining for 2021 can be found towards the end of these minutes.

ATIC Board Minutes for Wednesday, January 13, 2021

1. Administrative

1.1. Self-Introductions

See the list of attendees above.

1.2. Acceptance of Agenda Draft

MOTION: To accept the Agenda as submitted

MOVE: Oris Friesen
SECOND: Henry Goldberg
Passed Unanimously

1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from January 13, 2020, Board Meeting

MOTION: To accept the Minutes as submitted

MOVE: Henry Goldberg
SECOND: Nan Williams
Passed Unanimously

1.4. Treasurer's Report

Ron Schott, Treasurer, circulated via email the Desert Financial Credit Union statement with account and transaction details for Board reference, which are included at the back of these Minutes. Ron reported that current funds on hand total \$5454.13. This includes the renewal of the D&O Insurance as well as the payments to GoDaddy, WeeblyPro and for the PO Box rental. It also includes all payments to Steve Peters for coordinating the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force through December 2020.

Mark recounted what Steve Peters has accomplished as a coordinator for AZBSN dating back to the first successful event at Rio Salado Community College and two subsequent webinars. After the pandemic arrived, ATIC approved paying Steve \$800 per month to manage the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force with the stipulation that this funding be reimbursed to ATIC as its first priority when AZBSN receives sponsorship or grant funding. Steve's funding of \$800 per month extended through December 2020.

Five payments of \$1,000 had been made to Steve Peters for support of the AZBSN prior to February 29, 2020, which were not to be repaid to ATIC, and an additional \$8,000 (\$800 per month) has been paid to Steve for his work on the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force for March through December 2020. It was agreed that this \$8,000 would be immediately repaid to ATIC from sponsorships or grants which the AZBSN receives as Steve solicits funding.

Mark had noted at a previous Board meeting that we must remember that AZBSN is separate from ATIC. At that time Mark stated there are three potential sources of future ATIC funding: AZBSN sponsorships, ATIC sponsorships, and ATIC grant opportunities.

Mark said we need a refresh of funds, which includes ATIC sponsorships as well as AZBSN sponsorships. We need to initiate a financial campaign for sponsors and other sources of funding. There may be some pandemic-related special grants available. Mark has spoken to Bob Jacobson about raising funding for ATIC as well as to Kirk Busch about ATIC funding.

Steve has sent out an AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force sponsorship package and he said several people are targets for sponsorship. He reported that Steve Hill of the Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association has committed \$2000, and Steve will be contacting other potential funders shortly.

Steve noted in a previous meeting that the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force needs to identify what tasks from the Task Force report recommendations that it will undertake to implement which would need funding support.

Mark noted that he plans to convene an ATIC Executive Committee meeting shortly to discuss financial issues including Steve's reimbursement of the \$8000 for the AZBSN task force back to ATIC.

1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations

Mark plans to contact Alan Pruitt, Executive Director of the Western Arizona Economic Development District in Yuma and Dominic Pagliuca, Senior Manager of IT & Strategic Fiber at Arizona Public Service (APS) for whom Jeff Sobotka is to provide an introduction.

1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in November 18, 2020, Minutes

None

2. Informational Presentations

2.1. None Scheduled

3. Activity Reports

3.1. Arizona Broadband Strategic Plan & FirstNet (Jeff Sobotka)

3.1.1. Rural Community Outreach

No report.

3.1.2. FirstNet Status & Outlook

No report.

3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support

Jeff Sobotka, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), was unable to attend. In our previous meeting he reported that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has received \$1.6 billion in the federal stimulus to allocate nationally for broadband activities. NTIA assists in setting the ground rules for government grants in the broadband arena and is creating a position within NTIA to coordinate the various federal broadband funding programs. Our Congressman Tom O'Halleran is a good contact point for information on this. The rules are in the process of being written and NTIA seems to be flexible. Jeff has asked them to do away with the matching funds requirement for communities because that often prohibits potential candidates from applying. The Navajo Nation and the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) are engaged in efforts to tap into the \$1 billion grant funding allocated for tribes. Jeff is working with the NTIA on a series of monthly workshops (webinars/town halls) to get broadband to rural Arizona communities, and will work with ATIC and the AZBSN on planning these workshops. These workshops are scheduled to begin in March and will focus on guidance for grant writing.

Mark mentioned the \$10 million in funding for the state Rural Broadband Development Grants program (up from \$3 million in the previous budget) was included in the Governor's budget which was announced last month. The maximum grant size is \$1 million. The Governor's Office has various broadband proposals for fiscal year 2021-22, and it is important that there be bipartisan cooperation from state legislators to take advantage of federal and state grants for broadband infrastructure. ADOT deployment of state-owned fiber is underway along I-17 from Sunset Point to Flagstaff, ADOT deployment of fiber along I-19 from Tucson to Nogales will occur soon thereafter, and the Governor will likely be proposing additional state fiber deployment along I-40.

The Sun Corridor Network (SCN) has been involved in this ADOT middle-mile fiber deployment effort. Jeff is in discussions with the SCN and the Arizona Department of Education about how to use this ADOT fiber. Derek Masseth said there is significant action taking place here on the policy front regarding highway conduit. HB 2596, the ADOT Telecommunication Facilities Installation bill would authorize the installation of fiber conduit within the right-of-way of state highways by ADOT for lease at an established fee by service providers. It allows ADOT to make available excess fiber capacity for service providers to be able to provide middle-mile fiber to reach and serve rural communities. It also allows ADOT to partner with a private entity to manage the fiber. It allows the easements to be used for broadband delivery and provides for compensation to landowners, which is derived from the rural electric co-op bill of last year. It also allows for establishing a fund if there is a surplus. This bill is a follow-on to the ADOT RFI from last year. Funding for the I-40 segment has \$33 million in the budget to

deploy fiber from Flagstaff to the California border and maybe the state can share costs with private entities for deploying fiber along the eastern part of I-40. ATIC and AZBSN task force participants were invited to show their support with the legislature for HB 2596. Ron Schott asked how HB 2596 differs from the Digital Arizona Highways Act of 2012, and Mark responded that the 2012 bill did not allow the lease of fiber to service providers.

Mala asked if the fiber buildout plans have access to middle-mile fiber that already exists as a result of the E-rate process. Mala offered to provide E-rate fiber maps to encourage new middle-mile fiber to be deployed in areas where it does not already exist. Derek expressed a desire for this information for ADOT and SCN fiber planning processes about to be undertaken and will talk offline with Mala. Derek noted there will be appropriate drops to connect local communities with the middle-mile fiber deployed.

In a previous meeting Mark had noted that a proposed \$6.25 billion in state block grant funding for broadband disappeared from the federal government stimulus package. Jeff said that would have been transformative for Arizona and would have provided about \$150 - \$200 million for Arizona broadband, but objections were raised about insufficient oversight of such state grants. Mark commented that state block grant funding may come in the next federal stimulus package. Jeff added that the current federal stimulus funding to support broadband funding for low-income households supports provision of existing service provider services but not new broadband infrastructure. Rick Gibson commented that his firm Sustainability Partners could provide matching funds for broadband infrastructure projects and is certified as a state vendor.

In the same meeting Steve said Lea Márquez Peterson of the Arizona Corporation Commission is looking at repurposing Arizona Universal Service Funds (AUSF) towards broadband for high-cost rural communities. The ACC has a new docket open for AUSF modification. ATIC or the AZBSN task force can still make recommendations on how to best use AUSF funding to support broadband in rural areas. Jeff was going to speak to Lea about potential new broadband uses for the AUSF.

3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)

3.2.1. ASBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Updates

Steve Peters reported on the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force and noted “digital” includes not only broadband Internet access, but also devices, digital content, professional development, digital literacy and technical support. The Task Force meets every Monday morning and is attended by about 30-50 representatives from broadband service providers, technology companies, state and local government agencies, educational organizations, non-profit organizations and consultants. Steve has noted previously that updates are provided at the weekly task force meetings from the State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the Arizona State Library, the Sun Corridor Network (SCN) and the

Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC).

The AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report and Recommendations has been released and is available to be forwarded to appropriate parties. There is a landing page for the Report and one for the Task Force, both of which have been updated. People can download the Report from the landing page. Steve has sent a cover letter to task force participants (including the ATIC Board) that they can use to distribute the task force recommendations report to their constituents. Steve has received feedback that the task force report is excellent and one of the best available nationally. Mark added that Jeff Sobotka and John Kelly have noted that the task force report is being circulated widely.

Steve noted the task force is going into its next phase. Steve said we need to formulate something like a “tiger team” to publicize and make our resources visible and available around the state. As an example of the efficacy of the Task Force, a subcommittee is being established to coordinate the activities of several task force participants that are distributing devices such as computers and hotspots to students and families in need. An overall planning committee will be established to work on the implementation of some of the recommendations from the task force report.

Steve noted that he may need to restructure the Monday meetings since one hour does not seem to be long enough with the increasing number of participants attending now. Changing the format of the meetings is being considered to take less time on self-introductions at the beginning or less time for presentations delivered at the meetings. Steve, Mark and John Kelly said they have been receiving positive feedback about the weekly Monday meetings.

Steve has been working with Karen Ziegler, Andrew Bevington and others to generate a sponsorship funding request package for the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force. This funding request has been sent to potential AZBSN sponsors.

He has said previously that there is a need to schedule meetings with key policy makers such as the Governor’s Office and Superintendent of Public Instruction at ADE to review the recommendations and to develop a strategy to continue collaborating with current and new participants. Some tasks will require the State to take the lead while others can be led by the task force members. The task force may establish project teams to implement recommendations. The next step is for the Task Force to identify what tasks need to be pursued and prioritized.

The ATIC and GAZEL database still needs to be updated with current contact information. Key entities that need to be contacted for information include the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, AzTEA, Sun Corridor Network among a host of others.

3.2.2. Marketing the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report

Another ongoing need is to develop a publicity and marketing campaign for

distributing the report to all the relevant organizations. A marketing committee needs to be created to plan and execute such a campaign, and the existing database of Arizona economic development leaders and decision-makers needs to be cleaned up and expanded.

3.2.3. New Initiatives to Carry out the Report's Recommendations

Mark said we need to define a small group to focus on new initiatives that we want to undertake.

3.2.4. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars

Mark mentioned at the previous meeting that he would like to return to public events and engage a broader community. Steve is updating the ATIC Excel mailing list after which we may want to use Sendinblue for e-mail distributions.

3.3. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (Steve Peters, Nan Williams)

3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)

Nan Williams serves on the EDTech Committee for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) which is rewriting the Educational Technology standards this year. She is also participating in the ADE Technology Task Force on the Digital Learning Subcommittee, and she is part of the ISTE policy group on digital equity access.

Nan reported that the 10th Annual AzTEA STEM Unconference on January 30 was quite successful. Another is being planned focusing on accessibility for all curriculum and IT personnel.

The ADE has released a parent and caregivers guide for education which can be accessed at the following website: https://www.azed.gov/covid-19/arizona-parent-caretaker-toolkit-distance-learning?utm_medium=email&utm_source=sharpspring&sslid=MzcyNDcAAiMLQ0sA&sseid=MzI0N7I0MzA3NwQA&jobid=b9a0bd40-5919-474c-b581-42ec09bba6bf

AzTEA has scheduled the following webinars:

PD in Small Bytes: Bridging Learning in Uncertain Times- Webinars (\$15)
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehcfuphebc7b7596&llr=nh997tjab>

Pandemic Problem-Solving Bi-Monthly (Free)
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehczqyke5a24f20e&oseq=&c=&ch=>

ISTE has scheduled the following certification program:

ISTE Certified Educator Spring 2021 Cohort

<https://bit.ly/icespr21>

3.3.2. Labster Virtual Laboratory Simulations Consortium

As noted in recent reports, the AZBSN Task Force report is recommending that a virtual laboratories consortium for the state be explored, but not necessarily be limited to Labster technology.

3.3.3. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives

No report.

3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)

Mala noted that this week marks the 25th anniversary of “The Telecommunications Act of 1996,” signed by President Bill Clinton, which was the first significant overhaul of telecommunications law since the Communications Act of 1934. This Act was the first time that the Internet was included in broadcasting and spectrum allotment. An interesting write-up of this Act can be read at: <https://colincrowell.medium.com/the-25th-anniversary-of-the-telecommunications-act-of-1996-88006fabdb9f>.

Mala reported that Arizona has received \$1.378 billion (2.65%) of the \$52 billion in national E-rate funding provided for schools and libraries over the last 25 years. See the report below for Mala’s chart of Arizona and national E-rate funding from 1998-2019. Mark Goldstein asked if Arizona is still considered a donor state in terms of how much universal service funds it put into USAC relative to how much it has gotten back, and Mala responded that over the last few years, after 2015, with fiber buildouts Arizona has received a lot more than it has put in.

The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalitions (SHLB) has filed a petition with the FCC requesting that E-rate funds be eligible for off-campus use (remote learning) during the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://www.shlb.org/uploads/Policy/E-rate/SHLB%20et%20al.%20Remote%20Learnng%20Petition%201-26-21%20FINAL.pdf>).

This petition is supported by education stakeholder groups and the American Library Association. The States of Colorado and Nevada have also filed such petitions. The FCC responded with a public notice seeking comments on the use of E-rate funds to support remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, with initial comments due by February 16th. Mala urged ATIC members to suggest technologies that can be effectively used to connect schools to homes. For the full FCC request for comments description see <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-98A1.pdf>

As Mala reported last month, the E-rate RFP window which opened in November is still active. The E-rate application window for the fiscal 2021-22 year opens on January 15 and remains open until March 25. New E-rate applications must be filed every year, and there are about 5000 applicants in Arizona so this is a busy time for Mala and Milan Eaton (the ADE E-rate director).

Mala noted that Lea Márquez Peterson has opened up a docket for comment at the ACC for reforming the Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) to support broadband in high-cost rural areas. State matching funds for E-rate school/library fiber buildouts came from the \$8 million received from an AUSF surcharge thanks to an initiative proposed by Andy Tobin when he was an ACC commissioner. Mark noted that Lea is now Chair of the ACC, and the AUSF currently collects about \$1.2 million per year in revenues. Mala added that AUSF funding has been going to Frontier for POTS service in the White Mountains.

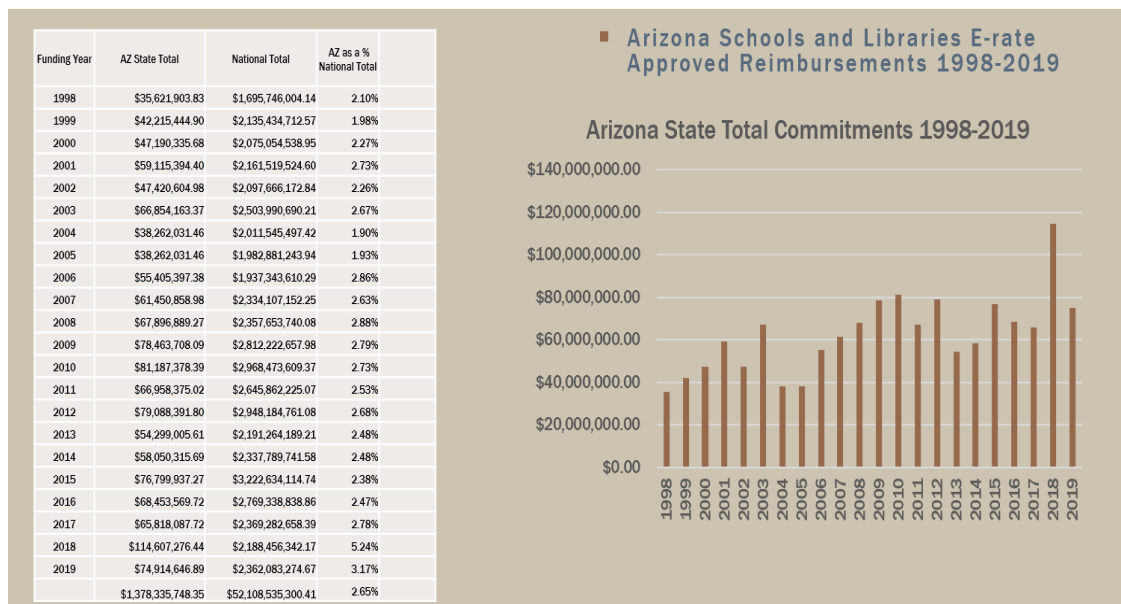
Mala reported that the ConnectAZ Wi-Fi public access locations map has recorded more than 202,000 views. There are about 1500 Wi-Fi locations on the map and Derek has been supplying EduRoam sites as well. ConnectAZ will be migrating from Google to a WordPress platform which will allow much better search capabilities. They are also exploring virtual tutoring opportunities. The LibTAP name is being changed to Connect Arizona Digital Navigators with the email address of connectaz.help@gmail.com. Considerable help topics are supported of which Mala listed a number, such as getting started with cell phones for the hard of hearing and helping victims of banking scams. LibTAP Digital Navigators have supported more than 600 calls to date. Twenty-five percent of these calls involve one-on-one assistance in learning how to complete a task online or with a device.

For a more detailed report, see the following pages.

ATIC Feb 10th Meeting State Library Report

1. Celebrating 25th anniversary of the 1996 Telecom Act - Effective Feb 8, 1996

E-RATE FUNDING COMMITMENT OVERVIEW



The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was the first significant overhaul of telecommunications law in more than sixty years, amending the Communications Act of 1934. The Act, signed by President Bill Clinton, represented a major change in American telecommunication law, since it was the first time that the Internet was included in broadcasting and spectrum allotment.

An interesting write-up on the 1996 Telecom Act: <https://colincrowell.medium.com/the-25th-anniversary-of-the-telecommunications-act-of-1996-88006fabdb9f>

Arizona has received 1.378 Billion of the \$52 Billion – 2.65%. in E-rate funding.

Arizona Broadband Initiative

More than 1500 miles of fiber has been built so far and it is still ongoing. \$ 8.3 M committed. \$ 2.7 M still available
Fiber buildout to connect all Navajo Nation Chapter Houses/Libraries is underway.

Years	Total Funding Requested for Projects	E-rate Funding	State Funding	School/Library funding
2017	\$13,604,623.92	\$12,411,066.38	\$1,043,757.54	\$149,800.00
2018	\$60,040,523.48	\$54,477,962.64	\$4,608,390.58	\$954,170.26
2019	\$48,495,431.01	\$46,255,605.78	\$2,237,045.13	\$2,780.10
2020	\$7,895,534.01	\$7,440,911.98	\$433,022.03	\$21,600.00
2021				
	\$130,036,112.42	\$120,585,546.78	\$8,322,215.28	\$1,128,350.36
	Balance available	\$2,677,784.72		

2. **AZ USF** – Mala is in discussion with Commissioner Lea Marquez Peterson . Written public comments regarding the AUSF Rulemaking may be submitted at any time by mailing a letter referencing Docket No. RT-00000H-97-0137 to Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007, or by submitting comments on the Commission's website (www.azcc.gov) using the "Submit a Public Comment for a Utility" function.

3. **E-RATE FUNDS BE ELIGIBLE FOR OFF-CAMPUS USE**

SHLB filed a petition with the FCC requesting that E-Rate funds be eligible for off-campus use during the Covid-19 pandemic on January 26, 2021. ALA signed onto this petition along with Urban Libraries Council and education stakeholder groups.

<https://www.shlb.org/uploads/Policy/E-rate/SHLB%20et%20al.%20Remote%20Learnng%20Petition%201-26-21%20FINAL.pdf>

The FCC responded with a Public Notice seeking comments on the use of E-Rate funds to support remote learning during the Covid-19 pandemic on February 1, 2021. <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-98A1.pdf> Initial comments are due February 16, 2021, and reply comments are due February 23, 2021.

The three petitions cited in the narrative of the Notice were filed by the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, the State of Colorado and the State of Nevada. A list of eight other petitions filed on this issue is at the end of the Notice in Appendix A.

Eligible Equipment and Services and Their Costs (p. 5): The FCC seeks comments on the specific equipment and services that E-Rate should fund to support off-campus Internet access.

- Should eligible equipment and services include wired or wireless network equipment (e.g., modems, routers, connected devices) and services necessary for off-campus Internet access to support remote learning?
- What level of broadband Internet connectivity is required to support remote learning?
- What are the costs of the services and equipment needed to support remote learning?

Cost-Effective Purchases (pp. 5-6): Cost-effective service and competitive bidding are critical requirements of the E-Rate program. Because of the urgent need to address remote

learning during the pandemic, the Colorado and the SHLB petitions seek waivers of the E-rate's competitive bidding rules.

- If there are no competitive bidding rules, how can the FCC be certain that applicants are making cost-effective purchases?
- Is payment of the non-discount share sufficient to prevent wasteful spending?
- For schools and libraries currently providing off-premises Internet access to students and patrons, what processes have they taken to be certain they are making cost-effective purchases?
- Should the FCC apply existing E-Rate documentation requirements to any funds it provides for off-campus Internet access?
- What other rules or regulations exist or are needed to prevent waste/fraud/abuse of E-rate funds used off-campus? o For example, should recipients of E-Rate funds for off-campus equipment and services be subject to audits like in the regular E-Rate program?

Funding and Prioritization (p. 6): Publicly available information strongly suggests that substantially more funding might be needed to support off-campus Internet access than is potentially available through the E-Rate program.

- If demand exceeds available funding, how should the off-campus requests be prioritized?
- What is the best way to quickly and equitably make E-rate funding available to those in most need?
- How can limited E-Rate funds give priority to students, staff, or patrons that still do not have adequate home Internet access?
- How can limited E-Rate funds focus on students disproportionately affected by the homework gap (e.g., rural students, Native American, African American)?
- Does the E-Rate's current discount percentages adequately target students disadvantaged by the homework gap, especially low-income students and those in remote areas?

Timing (pp. 6-7): The Colorado and SHLB3 petitions request waiver of the restrictions on off-campus use of E-rate funds for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- What should be the timeframe on use of E-rate funds for off-campus Internet access?
 - o **Prospective:** Should E-rate funds apply only on a prospective "forward" basis targeting the students and staff that remain without adequate home Internet access?
 - o **Retroactive:** Acknowledging that many schools and libraries closed in March 2020, should E-rate funds apply retroactively to services and equipment purchased for off-campus Internet access during funding year 2020? If this is allowed, how can the FCC make certain that E-rate funds are not used to pay for services and equipment reimbursed with other federal funding like the CARES Act or the Emergency Broadband Benefits (EBB) Program? (The FCC is in the very early stages of implementing the EBB program.)
- Should the FCC prioritize limited E-rate funding for prospective purchases vs. reimbursements for prior purchases?

- What are the guardrails or other measures needed to avoid duplication with limited E-rate funds?
- Should the use of E-rate funds off-campus end when the national COVID-19 emergency is rescinded, or should another indicator be used to define this period?

Legal Issues (pp. 7-8): This section of the Notice focuses on the statutory arguments the SHLB and Colorado petitioners make to support their position that the FCC has authority under the 1996 Telecommunications Act to allow off-campus use of E-rate funds. At the end of this section, the FCC asks for comments addressing its legal authority to use E-Rate funding off-campus.

4. AZ STATE LIBRARY'S DIGITAL INCLUSION

- To date there have been over 202,000 views of the wifi map. Currently there are 1,601 locations on the map. We would still love to add all EduRoam data if available.
- We plan to migrate to WordPress by the end of the month. The url will be the same. This upgrade will unleash many exciting features, including a "search by zip code" function for discount internet offers as well as updated infographics on broadband adoption in Arizona by age, race, and income.
- Connect Arizona team is gathering information on virtual tutoring opportunities in Arizona.
- We've dropped the AZ LibTAP name and are moving forward as the Connect Arizona Digital Navigators. Our new email is connectaz.help@gmail.com. Updated promotional materials to come.
- The Digital Navigators have had over 600 calls supporting broadband adoption and use. Some examples include:
 - Chromebook help for K-12 students
 - Zoom help for ASU students
 - How to use the AZDHS online portal to register for a COVID-19 vaccine
 - Affordable internet options for houseless individuals
 - Using Microsoft Office products and troubleshooting
 - Using Google products and troubleshooting
 - Free public wifi options near a location
 - How to protect your identity online
 - Getting started with a cell phone for seniors who are deaf and blind
 - Preparing artwork and formatting for online self-publishing
 - Understanding the difference between new and refurbished computers
 - Helping a victim of an online banking scam

End of State Library's Report

3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)

Mark noted that, along with Jeff Sobotka, Janet Major has been an active member of the Telehealth Broadband Action Team (BAT) but Mark did not receive an update from Janet on the Telehealth BAT activities. Janet was unable to attend as she was providing technical support for a webinar, but she submitted a telehealth fact sheet that is included on the next two pages. It provides details regarding SB 1089 from the last session on insurance parity; HB 2454, which replaces “telemedicine” with the term “telehealth” along with a number of other provisions; and SB 1145 which clarifies electronic delivery of services. Mark added that Arizona continues to be an innovative leader in the telehealth.



Telehealth and the 2021 Arizona Legislative Session

TELEHEALTH IS A MAIN LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNOR

- Governor Ducey issued several executive orders regarding **telehealth** at the beginning of the pandemic. According to Christina Corieri, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, “we feel that it is necessary to take some of the things that we’ve done during the emergency and make them permanent in the area of telehealth. People have come to rely on them. Delivery of healthcare this way is safe and effective, it brings more options to our rural community, it helps individuals who may be immunocompromised to not have to go out, and it can reduce the wait times to get service.”
 - See the governor’s [2021 “Arizona Resilient” policy booklet](#).
 - Hear [Christina Corieri](#) (at minute 25) on the governor’s telehealth priorities. These priorities are included in HB 2454, summarized below.
- The governor’s office also recognizes the importance of **broadband** for healthcare delivery, education, and economic development. The pandemic has shined a spotlight on how broadband inequity contributes to healthcare inequity. The governor’s budget includes more than \$33 million to expand the I-40 broadband corridor between Flagstaff and the California border and \$10 million added to the state’s Rural Broadband Grant Program. Several broadband bills have already been introduced in the legislature.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS ON TELEHEALTH

- [SB 1089](#), which went into effect Jan. 1, 2021, requires private insurers to cover telemedicine services if they would be covered as in-person services; disallows higher copays, coinsurance, or deductibles for telehealth services; and broadens the definition of telemedicine to include asynchronous (store-and-forward) telehealth services and remote patient monitoring.
- [HB 2454](#), introduced by Reps. Cobb and Osborne and Sen. Barto in January 2021, **checks multiple additional telehealth boxes**:
 - ✓ Changes the word “telemedicine” to “telehealth” in the Arizona Revised Statutes to be more inclusive of non-physician providers and services.
 - ✓ Requires payment parity by private insurers for telehealth services.
 - ✓ States telehealth coverage requirements and parameters may not be more restrictive or less favorable to healthcare providers or patients than those for in-person services.
 - ✓ States telehealth services may be provided regardless of patient geographic location or site.
 - ✓ Adds audio-only telephone encounters to the definition of telehealth if audio-visual telehealth is not available due to patient’s preference, functional status, or lack of technology or broadband access.
 - ✓ Allows periodic medical exams of employees on workers’ compensation via telehealth.

(Continued)



- **HB 2454 (continued)**

- ✔ Allows a physical or mental status exam via telehealth (including asynchronous) for prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing a prescription medication or device. (Currently, a telehealth exam must be conducted via real-time, audio-video encounter.)
- ✔ Aligns various state definitions of telehealth.
- ✔ Adds to the current statutory list of telehealth provider types chiropractors, dispensing opticians, optometrists, PTs, veterinarians, OTs, respiratory therapists, acupuncturists, athletic trainers, massage therapists, nursing care institutions and assisted living facilities, midwives, hearing-aid dispensers, audiologists, and speech-language pathologists. (Statute currently includes only podiatrists, MDs, naturopaths, nurses, DOs, pharmacists, psychologists, PAs, radiologic technologists, homeopaths, behavioral health professionals, and dentists.)
- ✔ Allows informed consent for telehealth to be obtained by electronic means.
- ✔ Prohibits boards and agencies from requiring licensees to conduct an in-person exam of the patient before prescribing.
- ✔ Requires healthcare providers to “make a good faith effort” in determining whether a healthcare service should be provided through telehealth, and in determining the appropriate communication medium (leaving the clinical decision up to the providers).
- ✔ Allows healthcare providers not licensed in Arizona to provide telehealth services to a person in Arizona if the provider holds a current license in good standing in another state, complies with all Arizona laws and rules, complies with state requirements for liability insurance, consents to Arizona’s jurisdiction for any litigation arising from their telehealth services in Arizona, and follows Arizona community of care standards.
- ✔ Allows public safety employees to receive traumatic event counseling via telehealth.

Additional provisions of HB 2454:

- Establishes a Telehealth Advisory Committee on Telehealth Best Practices made up of healthcare providers and organizational representatives appointed by the governor.
 - Continues to prohibit use of telehealth for abortions.
- **SB 1145 (Sen. Shope):**
 - Replaces requirement for real-time telemedicine encounter for clinical evaluation prior to issuing a prescription with the definition of telehealth in Section 36-3601 (which would be amended by HB 2454).

[Multiple states are working on making telehealth flexibilities put into place during the Public Health Emergency permanent.](#) With HB 2454 and the governor’s support, Arizona is poised to be among the nation’s telehealth leaders in 2021.

Arizona Telemedicine Program / Jan. 22, 2021

End of Telehealth Report

3.6. Government Affairs (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)

Mark noted that at the Federal level the \$900 billion COVID-19 stimulus included direct consumer subsidies to buy broadband services with its Emergency Broadband Benefit program as well as telehealth funding. There was also funding for an NTIA broadband grants program. There was no funding for state broadband block grants that some advocated for because they are more flexibly used and less difficult to apply for, but such state grants could be included in the next federal stimulus package.

Karen Ziegler noted there is a proposal to add \$7 billion to the E-rate program to support E-rate-to-the Home connectivity for remote learning. This would leverage existing E-rate fiber infrastructure at schools and libraries using a new “to and through” concept. Mala noted that SHLB supports this (she is on the SHLB E-rate task force), and part or all of the \$7 billion required may come from left-over (rollover) E-rate funds. An E-rate-to-the-Home program would require confidential information on income of households to be available from some source such as schools.

Steve stated SHLB is doing important work, and suggested ATIC members get on the SHLB mailing list. Steve also noted that he sent an e-mail to AZBSN task force participants about attending an FCC discussion of how the Emergency Broadband Benefit program should be administered.

Bob Jacobson has resigned from the ATIC Board. Mike Keeling has prepared the quarterly and annual ATIC Lobbyist reports for the Secretary of State. He asked for people interested in becoming the ATIC Lobbyist to contact him. Mark stated that AZTC has their own lobbyist but they do not focus on all issues relevant to ATIC.

4. Information and Action Plans

4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)

As noted previously by Mark and Steve, the ATIC website is aging a bit. For example, the resources page is out of date. The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report recommendations as well as using it for communications and public engagement, such as newsletters.

4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter

Mark at a previous meeting suggested that we should think about how to leverage some of the information sessions from the Monday morning AZBSN-COVID meetings.

There remains a continuing need for volunteers to work

- (1) on regular maintenance of the Weebly ATIC website and
- (2) on providing a regular newsletter about all that's going on in the broadband world.

4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)

Nothing to report.

4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

Nothing to report.

5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings

6. Announcements

7. Adjourn

Upcoming ATIC Board & Public Meetings

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2021 are scheduled for the second Wednesdays of the month (except August and December) from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and will be held fully virtually until further notice. Board Meetings are open for all to participate. Please plan to join us.

- March 10, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- April 14, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- May 12, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- June 9, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- July 14, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- No Board Meeting in August (Summer Break)
- September 8, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- October 13, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- November 10, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)

ATIC Special and Public Meetings:

AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. See the Planning page at <https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-planning.html> for details. Also see Task Force information and related resources at <https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-about.html>. Future AZBSN newsletter, webinars, and roundtables are under development



MAKE YOUR HOME'S SEQUEL BETTER THAN
THE ORIGINAL WITH A HOME EQUITY
[LEARN MORE](#)



Arizona T...

Dashboard

Accounts

Checking

ATIC 434041
04081-0400

\$908.86

A \$908.86
\$908.86

Savings

ATIC 073206
04081-0000

\$4,545.27

A \$4,545.27
\$4,570.27

A Available Balance

BudgetTracker

You have no budgets

[Create a Budget](#)



Important Information

Get Down with the Digital Wallet

Have you gone cashless and contactless yet? Pay electronically by just waving your smartphone in front of the chip reader!

December 29, 2020

Say No to Germs! Contactless Payment ...

Avoid the nasties by making no-touch purchases.

November 02, 2020

Quick Links

[Credit Card Login](#)

[Investments \(Raymond James\)](#)

[Mortgage Loans \(MLOS\)](#)

[Identity Secure](#)

[Mobile App 101](#)

Link External Accounts



[Get Started](#)

Last 15 days



Logged in 1 time

Next 15 days



Desert Financial Credit UnionArizona Telecommunications And Information
ATIC 434041 04081-0400*Transaction History*

Statement Period: All Dates

Date of Statement: 02/08/2021

Posted Transactions (100)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
01/22/21	DRAFT #2216 TRACER 34848688	-\$445.79	\$908.86
01/12/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$27.17	\$1,354.65
12/23/20	DRAFT #2215 TRACER 34216767	-\$800.00	\$1,381.82
12/11/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.91	\$2,181.82
11/27/20	DRAFT #2214 TRACER 33656699	-\$800.00	\$2,208.73
11/25/20	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$2,000.00	\$3,008.73
11/10/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$28.40	\$1,008.73
10/13/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.91	\$1,037.13
10/05/20	DRAFT #2213 TRACER 32551935	-\$800.00	\$1,064.04
10/02/20	DRAFT #2212 TRACER 32526978	-\$800.00	\$1,864.04
09/10/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$28.52	\$2,664.04
09/08/20	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$2,000.00	\$2,692.56
08/26/20	DRAFT #2211 TRACER 31778969	-\$800.00	\$692.56
08/11/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$28.04	\$1,492.56
07/27/20	DRAFT #2210 TRACER 31140346	-\$800.00	\$1,520.60
07/24/20	COUNTRY MUTU*AL INS 6300 886-268- 6879 IL 00000000	-\$875.00	\$2,320.60
07/20/20	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$2,000.00	\$3,195.60
07/17/20	ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY 8699 WWW.AZTECHCOU AZ 00000000	-\$400.00	\$1,195.60
07/13/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$27.05	\$1,595.60