

Greater Arizona Educational Leadership  
**AZBSN** Arizona Broadband  
Stakeholder Network  
Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council  
**COVID-19 DIGITAL ACCESS TASK FORCE**

**Meeting Zoom Transcript**

**June 13, 2022**

**Disclaimer Notice: The following is the meeting transcript recorded through ZOOM. This document is not edited and contains numerous errors.**

Good day I am now recording.

So good morning, everybody. Good to see you. It's been a couple of weeks. been an interesting, interesting couple of weeks for me. I think you may all know that. I besides being on vacation, I had the pleasure of getting COVID After the first couple of days on vacation, so fortunately, I did not get very sick, but, and I, as far as I can tell, I am fully recovered. And as I was telling me, those who were on a little earlier, I'm actually in a really cool library in Springfield, I'm standing with my brother in law on a farm out and about 15 minutes from Springfield, and the only internet he can get is huge net. And I cannot even get T Mobile on my phone. So I've had to use excuse me, I've had to use Wi Fi calling. So guess what? It's been an interesting challenge. But anyway, I'm here and ready to rock and roll. So let's go ahead and get started. First of all, so here's the agenda. Thanks to our sponsors, as always CareFirst healthplan Valley, the sun United Way. satellite broadcasting and communications Association could G and and try it wireless. So thank you all for your for your support. Are there any new people like there are a couple of new people online? Are there any new people this morning joining us?

Hi, Steve. My name is Joel Breton. I'm with Pima Community College east the HSI stem it knowledge and context grant. So my camera's not working. I apologize. Not a problem. But I'm the new outreach and internship coordinator. So I'm I'm looking forward to listening and learning a lot today and in future meetings. So thank you for allowing me to come.

Yeah. So make sure we have your contact information.

I have Steve This is Sean Oh, Saran. I'm the co president of integrated Access Technology Group. We're a MSP. Based in Tucson we covered the state. And we're just trying to get more active in the community. And I found out about this from a SHABOOM fell over a week care last week and and she and Cindy have invited me today.

Oh, good. Glad you could join us. Shawn will want to learn more about what you're doing also. Anybody else? Anybody else new today.

This is Alan Thomas, manager of IT infrastructure at Pima County. Michelle also invited me to this. So I'm here to listen and learn and contribute as much as I can.

Great. So since you're all registered, I do have your contact information with your emails, and we'll make sure we get you all added to our list. Anybody else? Anybody else? New this morning?

Hey there, Steve. This is Debbie MacNeil. I'm also with Pima County infrastructure manager there and excited to join.

Great. Debbie are you with? Do I know you?

Yeah, we've crossed paths a long time ago.

Yeah, you were with? Long time ago. I was with Cisco. Cisco. I knew I thought that was you saw your name. But yeah, that that was a long time ago to see Steve. Yeah. Good to see you, Debbie.

Anybody else?

going once going twice. Okay, so moving on. So as you all know, I am on vacation. So we will not be meeting next week we will be meeting on the 15th and on August the eighth. So just after just FYI. So just quickly, I've had an interesting. Yesterday, we had a chance to do a little traveling to get to tell my stories. Since I run this meeting. Just quickly, we have an interesting we had a fun day yesterday went to Bentonville. And if most of you may know that that's the home of Walmart. And they have an incredible art museum started and mostly funded by Walton family, who's just really phenomenal. And then we had a chance to stop at a place called Eureka Springs guys should look it up on the internet really phenomenal. They have healing waters, and so they actually have bathhouses but they've got all kinds of shops and it just blew me away apps We are phenomenal. And, and then on the way home, we pass through Branson, Missouri, which is really interesting place. Anyway, that's enough of my story about my vacation. So again, if you haven't, please take time to fill out that participant database, and contacts form so that we can have all your contact information, although we have much of it through your registrations. And then next thing is, as you

may know, I've been using Otter transcript transcription service, which is definitely better than the transcription service through Zoom. And that's perfect, but it's a whole lot better. So that will be available for you to download that transcription later on, probably in a day or so. So next thing is we are working on we do want to create a cybersecurity taskforce team. As again, those of you who have been online know that, that cybersecurity is a big issue is we're going about getting people connected and so forth. And so we need some folks to step up and lead that I've had a couple people have already offered to participate. If you have any interest, please let me know. And just and just to be clear, I'm sorry, go ahead.

I was just gonna say, Steve, this is the shot I was trying again, one of our subsidiaries is a cybersecurity consulting and compliance company, cyber logic security, I'd be happy to invite them, I'm sure they might be interested in helping run that committee or at least participating.

Awesome. And just to be clear, that we are not going to create our own entity, what we are going to do is to try to get him to understand what the needs are, and come up with recommendations and strategy and to look at for a potential home for some kind of a cybersecurity entity, but not for us to create our own. So I just want to be clear about that. Next thing is so Holly, or Calvi or Manuel you guys online. Are you still looking for a digital inclusion? librarian?

Yes, we are. But in the meantime, Cindy Hogan is contracting with us to work with me being connect Arizona, the digital navigators and our digital inclusion projects on on

target. And that was an excellent choice. Yes, it was. I can't think of anybody better for it for you at this point in time. So and Cindy, good job. So we're glad to have you in that position. Now you're getting paid a little bit for all the great work you do. So moving on, it's time any announcements, any other announcements that people have before we move on to our updates?

Yes, I do.

Okay, sure, we could go ahead.

So I want to announce Future Stars is officially having its first fundraiser on September 9, at Arizona Science Center. It's an Adult Swim party. Tickets went on sale this morning sponsorships available this morning. I will throw it all in the chat. But good times there will be car racing that you build your car, then you're going to race your car and then a Jenga tournament. And then full access to the first floor of the Science Center. And for those of you that like alcoholic beverages, they will be there as well. Come on out.

So yeah, be sure and put it in the chat. And while she mentioned that, again, just to remind you that when I tried to prepare the follow up to the meetings that I go through the chat, and if there's any announcements in there, links to pages, anything that you're aware of. If you want that to be included in a follow up, please put it in the chat. It makes it much easier for me to be able to capture that information if it's in the chat. So with that we're going to move on I haven't looked at the participant yet. Jeff, Are you online this morning? going once going twice. I take it he is not standing up. Are you online? Okay, so moving on malo. You online today? Yes, yes, I am. Okay, you're on?

Yes. I really don't have too much to report this time, except that I will. And I'll put this in the chat that on August 5. That is FCC has an open meeting and and it is from 1030 to 1230. Eastern Time. And like I said, it's an open meeting. So if anyone wants to attend, they can it is [fcc.gov](http://fcc.gov) forward slash live. Very simple to remember. Again, I'll put that in the chat. So you can capture the see. They are focusing on a few topics like affordable connectivity outreach. They're also focusing on some pilot programs that they have that have been reported back. They are talking about the spectrum availability, you know, to support satellite broadband services. So, some topics of interest to this may not be all. So, yeah, I urge you to attend, if you can. As far as ACP is concerned, we have we had a slow two weeks. We haven't reached that little 3000 300,000. Mark. Yet we are at 287 households that have signed up. I'm sure when school reopens there will be more households that will sign up for it. Other than that, I don't think I have anything special to report back to you.

Okay. Somebody have a question or comment? Okay, Jeff, now, how are you? Do you have anything else that you need to announce her talk about?

I know, Steve, I think Cindy will be speaking later.

Right? She's up next. As a matter of fact. Sandy, you're on you got lots of stuff to talk about.

Okay. Yeah. Hi. Let's see. So we are planning the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, they're in their sixth or so year of of sponsoring something called Digital Inclusion week, which is in October. And the state is actually working with a committee to create a kickoff for that week. And so we're in the middle of planning that it's going to be virtual, but we're lining up speakers and dignitaries and that sort of thing. And it's going really well. There'll be save the dates coming out for that pretty quickly. Tucson is also doing a digital literacy forum for that on that same week, on Tuesday, October 4, we're going to have that so. So the Pima County group called Connect, Pima is is working on that. So that's underway, and we're getting the Save the date out for that quickly as well. Just wanting to let people know, I was invited by the National Digital Inclusion alliance to attend a roundtable, virtual roundtable with the FCC at the White House. A couple of weeks ago, there were two separate

sessions. I got to go to both of them. And we had some very attentive FCC and White House staff that were taking very close notes, asking us lots of questions sounded really, really concerned about the health and and functionality of, of getting people signed up for the affordable connectivity program. So it was really it was really heartening. And they're it's a long term program is not permanent, but it's long term. And they're they're really looking at making some changes to address the problems that are happening across the country. So that was a really good thing. And the Pima County, the the Pima County taskforce on broadband digital inclusion and digital equity. Like I said, they've kind of rebranded they're calling it now they're calling it Connect Connect Pima. And I assume that the work is going really well too. And I'd like to invite Michelle Simon to talk about that a little bit or if you're available, Michelle.

Sure. We have a month well, we have standing meetings for the steering committee once a month and the subcommittee's also meet once a month. There's a lot of great stuff going on. We have currently, the hotspots around town program, which has been implemented we've got about 75 wireless access points that have been turned on in the community. This is part of a collaboration with Cox communication, and we should have more More of the hotspots in place between now and October. So to tie in with National Digital Inclusion week, we'll be doing things with hawks and doing some celebrations of that hotspots around town program. At the same time, Cindy's been extremely helpful with our digital literacy and inclusion subcommittee. She is one of the co chairs and has helped to facilitate listening sessions across the county. And we will be doing more of those in the future as well. So

thank you. That's all. That's all we have today, Steve.

So I just want to comment like I did. Last time we met, the Pima County is doing some great stuff. Michelle, Cindy could work on your part. And I think what's really interesting about what Pima County is doing, which I think is something that we all need to be thinking about in the communities we're working in, is that they're not just talking about connectivity, but digital inclusion, and so forth. And so it's a really good model for people to be thinking about. While we're talking about that, I don't know Jana, major Are you online?

At don't think I've seen her this morning.

So, Mala, do you want to just talk quickly about the talent, libraries and what's happening with that?

Just very quickly, because we couldn't have our Thursday meeting, the update meeting. Because Ken wasn't available for that meeting. So I don't have the soft opening updates for you. But it we were planning the soft opening update to start last week. So it should be it should have started. We had

all the equipment tested. We had the software tested, and the two locations, the libraries and the two locations, you knew exactly what to do, how to start, what is the how to go about it. I don't know if Michelle, you have any updates from Ken.

Ken is out of town due to an extreme illness with his mother. And so I don't have any updates. As far as that goes. I do know that the libraries themselves have set up the equipment and created private areas for people to be able to interact, and so forth. So that's what I know at this moment. Right.

So Marla, since we have a few new people online, can you take two minutes to explain what this project is? Sure.

Pima County received an LSTA sub grant to set up a pilot project in a couple of their libraries. They chose Onko and alberca libraries to set up a telehealth project. So the telehealth project involves it's opening the library to having a telehealth visit. So library some community members can come into the library, get information but also more importantly, on certain days. They do have visits from the nurse practitioner from the public health. They also have students, nurse practitioners, from nurse student nurses. So training with your way to come and be there to support for them to ask questions. And also to connect with their service provider, whoever they also provider is to take their vitals to record recorded for the doctor is a chord in the sense it's not going to be recorded on the computer it will be transmitted as taken directly to the health service provider. And we have provided backpack kits for them. The backpack kits contain things like a thermometer status quo software to transmit the heartbeats of whatever the status quo can record to the service provider when scale and stuff like that. So all of those are available at both the libraries as well as laptops at the libraries when they can't do it. Within the library, we can set up a tent outside and there is Wi Fi available for them to transmit this information to the doctors. If that two minutes

any questions for from our our Cindy? Aaron, I don't believe Aaron is online this morning with the digital equity Institute. I don't know Cindy if you have Anything you want to talk about that Aaron's involved with? Or if that's not something you want to get into?

Yeah, no. Yeah, no, I don't, I don't have anything new. Okay.

So before we move on, even though this is a little bit off topic, but kelly green, I see that you're online this morning. And I want to do one and introduce you. I think I talked to you briefly and wanted you to, to meet Cindy, because Kelly is with thee is doing some really great work. And really, I think the model that they're working on, could be very useful for us with particularly Digital Inclusion week. So Kelly, can you just take a couple minutes if you don't mind me putting you on the spot to just tell people who you are and what you're doing? Sure, thank

you. So I'm the chief operating officer for Sci Tech Institute. And we are working on these statewide stem ecosystem hubs and working groups. So with the idea of the event, and the inclusion opportunity, we work closely with K 12, educational outreach programs across the state, including our own the sixth through 12th grade, Chief Science officers. But we have been focusing a little bit more on the k three group with our mascot than we take after school. So we're interested in getting more people to attend those types of events that you host. So I dropped my information in the chat. And, you know, send me the details, we can share it out with our large network across the state, especially if it's a digital event. And then, of course, the stem and Innovation Summit is on September 27 at the Science Center. So more information, we haven't gone live with that event information, but be looking forward to it going live here by Friday. So you can sign up or if you want to be a presenter or talk about what's happening in the state. It's really an opportunity for everybody who's either providing access to STEM or a consumer and wants to be more knowledgeable about what's happening, including this great opportunity in our state for broadband. It's a great way to network as well.

Great. Thanks, Kelly. So again, Cindy, I want to do I talk briefly with Kelly before I left on vacation. But I think as I've told you before, I think that what they were doing, it could be a great model for us to look at in terms of what we're trying to do with digital inclusion week.

Sure. And I met Kelly, I'm actually going to come up to that September 27 event, Janet major invited me to do that to promote ACP up there. So I will see you there. Perfect.

Sounds great. So anything else, Cindy, before we move on? So Sofia, I see your online Do you have anything? I know Kelly's online? I don't believe my one. Is there. Shelby Brown is however, I believe. So Sophia, do you have anything?

I don't have anything but Kelly and Shelby are welcome to share.

Okay, so let's go to Shelby first and see if there's anything Shelby regarding e raised that you want to share.

At this time, in terms of you know, not much going on just that the new window for 23 opened up July one. But that's about it. We're also starting to conduct training. And I believe we'll be starting that like on a monthly basis every month during the Office of Digital Teaching and Learning Town Halls. So if anybody wants to learn or understand or, you know, get more familiar with era feel free to join us. This is open to anybody from any state, including vendors as well. We just had our first meeting

last week and, you know, we do get people from other states that end up joining and service providers. So feel free to join us for those. But that's it.

We got to cover it. I truly don't know. I'm in a I'm in a meeting but the person you talk to is Angela or Catalina. So

I'm sorry, who was at? Hey, Rory, I'm

gonna give you a call right now.

All right. Can you mute?

I'll have him call you right back. Do you miss Rory?

Rory, please. Okay. So moving on. Kelly, you're on? Yes. Good

morning. I don't have any updates. I will say though, I will piggyback on what Shelley mentioned as far as the right training happening in our digital office hours. I can put the link to that in the chat. So if anybody has questions or you want to refer anybody who has the right questions to please refer them See those office hours? And I'll put that link in the chat. But that's it.

So Kelly, just to be clear, if I understand correctly, that people who were joining who were not with school districts, theoretically aren't supposed to be participating, but can are, has that changed? Or could you clarify that, please,

would ask Shelby to chime in here. I mean, yes, primarily, our audience is schools, but shall be what happens if somebody pops in? And they have a question? I certainly we're not going to kick them out. We're going to try and get them the right information. Well,

I think this is something new in the past, I think Mailand just conducted II rate training as a separate as a separate thing. And I think that he's just piggybacking off of this time for this two hour window, which several schools are familiar with, but yeah, they come in during the rate calls, yeah, we'll answer and help any, anybody, we did help a couple service providers, one of them getting registered, you know, with the state and stuff like that as a new vendor and stuff like that. So



I just want to be clear about. So I know, my one just did, as, as Shelby was saying, just did a workshop. And most of them have been standalone. And now if your cup tying in with your open meetings, I just want to be clear, I want people to be clear about the expectations.

Right. So we did our first erased training last Thursday. And I think that it might be something that is designated as one Thursday per month. I don't know that we've determined which Thursday that might be. But the digital office hours are open, and anybody can pop in with any question they have. That is certainly open. I would. Like I said, I'll share that link here.

Okay. Thank you for that, Steve. me any questions for Kelly?

Oh, and if

sorry, if anybody wants to learn more about the rate trainings, and be on a separate email list on updates and stuff like that, I'll put my name in the chat and just send me an email to add you to that. And we can add you to that list.

And I do try to include those in our email announcements. Also.

As a comment, Steve, the thinking behind this is because earlier, the trainings used to, you know, your site didn't have good training videos, but now they do. So there is no point in repeating those trainings again. So instead, having an office hour means people have viewed the training, and they're coming to us with particular questions that they have in their particular scenarios. Because as you as you're well aware, every single case almost seems like an exception to the rule. You know, and people have problems and issues interpreting. So those kinds of sessions are more like helping individual users. And I do that with the libraries all the time, because I find that that works better than having a full fledged training. It's like lecturing to them. Instead, the videos are available, the short videos that are available, and they can view it just in time. So they're doing the RFPs the view the RFP video, if they're doing the form, filling the view, the form filling video, if they're doing the billing, they watch the billing video, so that's the way it works.

I smile or have your hand up. Did you have something you want? And maybe you wanted to do that with the digital inclusion? But you want to?

Yeah, sure, I dropped it in the chat. But we were talking about ACP, I just wanted people to know that they will start seeing some ads and billboards and light rail type ads around August 15. For we're working with the digital include digital equity Institute and as US Experience Center that are serving as our navigators for ACP sign up. So we're going to be launching a big campaign. That common sense is footing the bill for using Phoenix as the pilot. We're hoping to expand this outside of just Phoenix to rural areas and to some tribal lands as well as move on to some other states. So Phoenix is serving as the pilot for this in terms of the type of you know the type of partners that that you need to have for something like this as well as the types of advertising that worked best. It'll be on social. So I have flight a flyer in both English and Spanish that was just approved. I'm using it for some back to school nights, but if anybody wants to take that for I use it. I know Mala, thank you so much for being a great partner. They're going to use it at the libraries. Anybody who's doing backpack programs or has is available to take it and print it and use it for any back to school night events or things like that, that would be great. So I just wanted to put that out there. It the campaign launches on the 15th of August. So hopefully, you'll start seeing some of the ads in some targeted areas, in some lower income communities and where some lower income districts are in the Phoenix area.

Oh, Lena Elena, please send me that file besides the chat, because although I can, I should be able to download it. But once we turn off the chat, that you can't download that file, so pretend that it gets out to everybody.

Yeah, I was just gonna say because that's a couple of people asking for it. So if I send it to you, Steve, would you send it out? Oh, well. Okay, great. Thank you. And yes, yes, Cindy. Um, we're actually meeting with Connect. We're meeting with Brandon today to pick his brain on some best practices. And then I think the library, the library navigators may serve as some overflow if need be. Although the Experience Center at ASU has about 150 folks that are going to be trained on ACP with the materials that we're giving them and then also, CTF in California has a huge program to train up navigators with CBOs on the ground that's the California oh god I can never remember California Technology something technology fund emergency technology fund I don't know something like that. So we've got you know they have they have a pretty good model there that we've been picking you know, stealing from basically

you do you guys common sense or just doing phenomenal work? Really amazing. Thanks, Steve. You bet. Anything else? So I don't believe we as online this morning. I don't believe Derek is Gabe. I believe you are though anything that you need to give us an update about what's happening with sun corridor

you still there?

Apparently not. Okay, moving on. So Wes, I don't believe you are online. But where are you? I know you are

have my apologies about that. So so suddenly Amazon final mile. Yeah, so Holbrook towers up. Our guys are ran into some rain issues last week. So they got delayed, but there should have fully fully rotting by the end of tomorrow night or Wednesday worst case? We're, we're dealing with a lot of zoning issues with the Noida and, and Forest Lakes, but they're moving forward. A lot of paperwork involved in that particular process. So, but it's getting there.

Okay, anything else? All righty, let's, let's move on. Any other announcements before we move on to our update this morning in our presentation this morning? Okay, if not, Heather, I'm gonna stop sharing. And I assume I think you'd have a presentation you want to share. So many of you know Heather Floyd, who's the public relations specialist with Valley Telecom has been a regular participant participant in this taskforce. And they have some interesting news and a lot of exciting stuff happening, particularly in the southern part of the state. So with that, I'm gonna stop sharing and turn it over to to Heather.

Good morning, everyone. I'm glad you stayed with us just to see what's going on down here in southeastern Arizona. I'm with Valley telecom and as a refresher Valley is a telephone cooperative that was formed 60 years ago. We're celebrating our 60th year. So that's exciting. We have several fun events going on throughout the year. We started telephone provider landline, dial up internet was offered in 1997. And then we transitioned to DSL and 2003 and fiber shortly after that. Right now we do use all three of those technologies throughout our service area. So here's our service area. Yes, it looks really small but I wanted to show you this right here is Arizona so you can see right we're down here in lower portion. We also do have some services over here in New Mexico. We cover 10,000 square miles which is part of the problem with rural internet is how spread out we are. I updated this slide from the last presentation I did it was November of last year and at that time we only had 7000 Internet customers and we are now up to 8000. That half of that was our Thatcher build out but we have gained an additional 500 customers and believe it or not, that phone line number is holding steady at 3000. That is about where we were last November. So this is a little more zoomed in version. You can see this is Cochise County here, Graham County and Greenlee County. That's where we primarily serve. We have 13 Ilex which is the incumbent exchange our original service territories. We have foresee Lex Safford, Wilcox, Tombstone in stature. Most of those when we do a see like is a fiber build. We have three offices. Clifton Safford, and our headquarters is in Wilcox. That's where I'm off this data. We did recently close our Animus office over here. And it was basically more because of a retirement of a key employee versus a foot traffic or a change in need over there. We do still have two technicians that work out of that office so they're able to really serve that area well still with services needed. Valley even though we're a small Telephone Cooperative, we do offer long haul fiber to other providers. We have this way over here is the our Paso area, we come through New Mexico, close to the border. And this about this area is portal Arizona, where we drop down close to Douglas come across tombstone with Chukia city sind

Noida, back up here is Sarita road, and then we have another fiber run from Tucson all the way down to New Dallas. So we do have those capabilities.

What recently happen is we have agreed with the FCC to do a new reimbursement method. And the new reimbursement method for universal service funds is the alternative Connect America model. The reason that the FCC is asking for that is because it allows them to get commitment from the providers to deploy a higher level of service. They're asking for 25 Three for service, which we knew a couple of years ago would have been well above what folks were using and needing now we know it's much higher. When we're making this commitment to build out, we're doing it with fiber, so they'll be able to go up to a gig. The reason that it's beneficial for valley to use this is consistent funding over a period of 10 years, so we know exactly what our reimbursement will be. So it really helps with our planning. In order to do this a cam to method we must meet construction benchmarks every year, which we've been doing. So we opted in in 2019. We're committed to deploy 5000 locations with service up target. up into this point, we've been doing some self funding, and we've connected about 40% of those locations. Part of the delay in seeking additional funding is because we're doing a merger between two of our phone call walks. We had copper Valley telephone and valley Telephone Cooperative and we merged them into one, we did just get approved for the \$45 million, our US loan to son the remaining construction. So that'll be done within the next five years. And once that's complete, Valley will have 90% of that llac area will be fiber fed. So we're super excited because that's a higher level service for our customers. It's meeting those needs of up to a gig which will hopefully be a little bit ahead of what FCC is requiring of folks. I did leave a link on the bottom of this slide. If people want to learn more about that AKM tooth funding method, they can certainly look into it. So this is what we had last year I showed you guys this map besides our backbone, this is where we had our fiber built out. Once we do this build out for the eight cam to model. Look at all those fun little colors here, the blues and the greens and the purples. Those are all our little mini build outs to our communities. And actually, when this builds none, it's going to be within a mile of my home. So I'll have to seek a little more funding to get some more fiber to drag in Arizona. These are the community that are receiving the a cam two builds. So communities that maybe some of you have heard of Bonita dewy up in Greenlee. We have Clifton and Duncan Gannon Cochise, of Frida Marantz, he has about half right now because we did some joint poll stuff when we're in sea water and electric, upgraded their poles but they still have somebody Pierce Arizona portal, Arizona, San Simone center, Zona York Valley so you guys can all move to these communities and work remote. We'd love to have you as neighbors. We also have these neighborhoods in New Mexico that will be getting fiber animus Columbus, playas, rodeo and burden. The topic we've all been talking about for well over a year, the ACA state broadband development grant Valley was awarded three different projects. The West Wilcox rural fiber investment, the Patagonia Regional Broadband project and city of Stafford piloted one have some improved access in their downtown area. This is our West Wilcox, rural fiber investment. This right here is the city of Wilcox currently, that is all fiber fed. Actually, our headquarters is right about here. This is north of I 10. And this area is not fiber fed. You can see right here's the airport. This covers about 8.2 square miles. Right now it is in our C lac area. And we are serving that with wireless. It's going to reach 513 residential and residential structures and about five businesses including the airport, it's going to be 46 New miles of fiber. And the cost on this project is 2.9 million

with Dolly matching 10%. And here's all those details. I just rattled off for you. And Steve does have this presentation already he can share. Okay. If you haven't seen it, Steve, I can send it again. Absolutely

did get it. I did it this morning. So I did get it

Patagonia regional project. This one was really exciting because believe it or not guys, it came from the networking in this group. Karen Ziegler reached out to me to see what Valley could possibly do in Santa Cruz. Karen was working with CBA advocates, and they were working combinely with the County of Santa Cruz. And they wanted to see what we could do in the region. We had initially proposed Patagonia's and Noida and Elgin. And this is the project that Jeff talked about two weeks ago that he asked one of the providers to scale back. He asked us to remove Sonoita and algen out of the project. And he asked for that, because solenoid is going to be served through the final model projects. So that was great due diligence on his part to make sure there wasn't a duplication of state funds being utilized on projects. So we scale back the project. To serve just the city of Patagonia. This will be a new select area for us. We will be doing a fiber build here. We are currently building an E Rate project to Patagonia school. So that helped with the cost of the project because the backbone was already to the community. This right here is the school so we were able to already bring fiber through with an E Rate build here. Let's see. I visited last week with the town manager. This is going to reach 633 of their residences and businesses. It's going to be 11.5 New miles and miles of fiber Covering 1.2 square miles. Patagonia, as you can see on that map is nice and condensed. So that really even though it's a rural build, this is going to be a little bit of an easier project for us because it how condensed that is. total project cost is 2.1 million with Valley matching 2.2 1000 210,000. This third little project Cydia Safford put in and were merely the vendor on it. They are going to be putting in fiber fiber optic cable access points in their downtown area. The picture over here is the City Hall. And they have a beautiful park around that. As you can see, they also have the courthouse in the area but this is where a lot of their festivals take place. And they're putting in fiber access came up points to that for those tourism events but also, they do have some lower income residents that will be able to access the Internet for free in this downtown area and also all of their public parks. The total project cost is going to be 117 \$1,000 they only put in a grant request for \$65,000. Because some of those other costs must have been covered in other things. I don't know the dynamics of their financing on that. And the city is matching 11% of that grant amount for \$7,500. So we have a lot of practice going on. And right now my web guy is building out this fiber page, which is [www.btc.net](http://www.btc.net) fiber. And this is going to help folks track when fibers coming to him. So as you can see right here, this is a Benoit I need a project here it explains right here what roads Bonita conduct road and Klondike road below Oak Creek. So if you're a local resident, you're going to be able to recognize whether or not this is your area. Right now this the engineering is complete on this, this is ready to go out for contract read. And then if they have interest, they'll be able to click this button and sign up pre sign up for services. So Ralph is doing due diligence and trying to get all of our projects loaded. And then as they progress through the different engineering phases, he will update where they are. So folks will now another new tool that we just signed up for last week is [fiber homes.com](http://fiberhomes.com). This is a national group that is really focused on realtors. And that so realtors can

identify where they have fiber in their neighborhoods. So if you go to fiber homes.com, you can look up any address and you'll be able to determine whether or not it's served by fiber. So that's a new exciting thing for us. And as more of our projects get updated, we'll have more and more addresses populating in there as fiber sir. We do all this with our seven eight employees. These were some fun photos we had done recently trying to get some teamwork generated and some happy smiles going.

We are have been working on our ACP outreach we've done from the initial thing is the ACP is featured right here on our website. This is our website here. This is a new social media ad going out currently. We've done several Facebook posts, we've done radio ads as well. We do a Facebook Live every two weeks. And Bob mentions it on those as well. This quarter, we're doing a couple of new things. We're doing Bill stuffers in our bills going out to our customers. We are also doing some newspaper ads. And I know segoe, which is the south eastern Arizona government organization, it's going to be doing some outreach, and they cover the counties that we're actually in which is Cochise, grand Greenlee and Santa Cruz. So I'm looking forward to seeing the outreach that segoe does and see if that can help our residents. We've always been school and education focused, we proactively placed fiber to the 17 schools that we've served in the past five years, they already have fiber. During the COVID. episodes, we donated \$10,000 to each of our schools so they could purchase equipment to facilitate learning for their students. 10 of them took us up on that offer. And every year we grant scholarships in excess of \$125,000. This year, I think it was about 153. And those scholarships are anywhere between three to \$5,000 each, and the students can reapply for furthering yours. We've given out over one and a half million dollars since we've done that. And here's my contact information. So do you have anybody have any questions? I see there's a bunch of chatting going on here. But I haven't been able to catch up to see if it's related to my

awesome stuff. And Kelly green. So you've made some comments. So it looks like you and Heather need to have some conversation.

Always up for conversation. Absolutely. Yeah, I

think it's really cool. I just want to kind of piggyback to everybody on the call, sharing what you do and where you work and what the fiber is. These are all the things that not only students but bringing awareness to how it actually works. I don't know if any of you remember that show how it's made, I think would help people understand that the challenges that rural areas have in the state compared to the metropolitan areas and especially for students when they get frustrated that their internet work isn't working as fast as a good having them understand how it actually is created and monitored and the effort that's going into make it faster and more reliable. I think it's just a really powerful information that we could have you on as a presenter and anybody on this call sharing what your company does to better the lives of Arizona residents.

All right, be happy to I hope the dates that work out for us. And I do know Ty white, I was happily president when he received the Arizona Rural School Association Teacher of the Year award last year up in Flagstaff, that was wonderful. That was just a happy accident that I happen to attend that conference.

Oh, my gosh. And he was just nominated. He's in the finalists for another one this year. So yeah,

I almost wish I could go back to school and be taught by Ty. He's a fantastic science teacher doing great work in rural Arizona.

Right, like I might have liked chemistry.

Okay, so Heather did send me her presentation, and it will be available. It'll probably be a day or two before I get out the the summary of the meeting since I am on vacation, but I do have her information. And of course, it's her contact information is available. And I assume in the chat, Heather. Also, as you know, I will be included in the registration list with contact information and so forth. So anything any other questions or comments for Heather?

I have a quick question for Heather. Shot. Yeah. Out There. I'm just curious in Patagonia. I know you're sitting around the city covered. There are a lot of ranches in the area. wondering would you be able to do any wireless point to point from there

that isn't currently in the plan. But we haven't done any outreach over in the Patagonia area yet to see what the needs are and where those might be. So this project was generated through the county, and they had requested it and unfortunately, the town wasn't super involved. So my meeting last week was kind of the introduction telling the town manager what was planned and what was going on. I do have another presentation. I'm going out there on August 10. I have a presentation to the county board of supervisors on the 16th. And we're just going to be growing our outreach from there. And we'll see what discussions come up from that. But currently, we aren't planning on doing any wireless from where we're started. There's a lot of trees in Patagonia. So it might depend on where the ranches are located where we could possibly best suit a tower if need be. We do serve a wireless product and Wilcox in Kansas settlement. We will see. Thank you. You're welcome.

Any other questions for Heather? Comments?

I see. This is Karen Ziegler. I just have comments. I just wanted to give kudos to Heather and her team. They were awesome to work with, with the Santa Cruz County folks. And to answer Shawn's question a little bit too is that this project was geared around the ACA requirements, which was you know, heavily focused on, you know, a fiber last mile. So we had to fit within those parameters. But, um, Valley telecom and Cox have been great partners, and we're having lots of discussions about future planning. And the meeting that Heather spoke of on August 16, is a study session for the board to talk about where the, you know, county, and the rest of the locals want to go from this point forward, you know, and tackle some of the other funding that will be coming available next year. But anyway, just wanted to say kudos to Heather and her team. They've done a great job.

And Karen was a great guy through the grant process. As you can all imagine it she made it approachable and a little bit easier to the process.

Thanks. Okay. Any other questions, comments, or announcements for today before we end the meeting? If not, again, we will not meet next week. But we will meet the following week. And I will send out a meeting invite later today. So if that if there's nothing else, I believe that we are done for today. Now, again, reminder, we do do our kibitzing for anybody who wants to stay online after we end this meeting to just chat share information, ask questions or whatever. So we will be doing that and it might be five minutes it might be 1015 minutes an hour, depending on what people have to say. So with that, I'm going to stop the recording and I look forward to some kibitzing and seeing you all in a couple of weeks. And Kelly green it looks like you've got a lot of people you need be talking to busy busy

I love it thank you so much and please go enjoy your vacation Thank you