



Docket AU-00000A-20-0050 Inquiry into Utility Preparedness Plans to Ensure Safe and Reliable Operations During the COVID-19 Crisis

Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Chairman Bob Burns and Commissioners Lea Márquez Peterson, Boyd Dunn, Justin Olson, Sandra Kennedy

RE: AU-00000A-20-0050 Inquiry into Utility Preparedness Plans to Ensure Safe and Reliable Operations During the COVID-19 Crisis

FROM: Steve Peters, Coordinator, AZBSN, the Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network
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Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network <https://bit.ly/3aaWMCS>

Chairman and Commissioners. **ATIC, the Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council** www.arizonatele.org/, and **GAZEL, the Greater Arizona Educational Leadership organization** www.gazel.org, are leading the development and coordination of AZBSN. We are collaborating with our many partners such as the Arizona Technology In Education Association, the Arizona State Library, the Arizona Telemedicine Program, the Arizona Commerce Authority State Broadband Manager, the Sun Corridor Network, the Arizona Department of Administration's Public Safety Program Manager, as well as other government, education, nonprofit organizations and technology and telecom providers. AZBSN is facilitating collaboration, coordination, information sharing and communication among key public, private and nonprofit stakeholders committed to promoting the expansion of broadband deployment in Arizona. Participation is open to all interested parties. The Network may lead to collaborative projects, development of joint grant applications, sharing of funding and other resources, aggregation of demand at the state and local level, policy discussions, etc. We have created a Leadership Team to set the agenda and guide development of the Network.

On Monday March 16, I sat in on the ACC's Special Meeting regarding Inquiry into Utility Preparedness Plans to Ensure Safe and Reliable Operations During the COVID-19 Crisis. Following that meeting I spoke with Commissioner Marquez Peterson, and we have had exchange of communication from key people from the Arizona State Library, the Sun Corridor Network, the Arizona Department of Administration's Public Safety Program Manager, and others on our Leadership Team. Based upon that communication, we believe that AZBSN should facilitate one or more online meetings to explore how we all can collaborate, communicate and come up with **short term creative strategies to provide connectivity for students and communities**. There are lots of pieces of the puzzle already being worked on, but as far as we can tell there is no unified effort and state strategy. Lots of people know things and are doing good

things, but we all need to collaborate and do a better job of sharing information. Providers, the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona State Library, the Sun Corridor Network, universities, the Arizona Telemedicine Program, Arizona Commerce Authority, State Government, the ACC, local communities, and more are in the mix.

On Monday, March 23 we will be convening an Emergency meeting of the AZBSN Leadership Team to plan an online meeting and strategy for coordination, collaboration, information sharing and communication. **I will continue to communicate with Commissioner Marquez Peterson and we look forward to collaborating with the ACC.** We will keep you informed when the open meeting is scheduled.

Additional Information about AZBSN

Stakeholder groups that may participate in AZBSN may include, for example, Councils of Government throughout Arizona, the Arizona Rural Development Council, League of Cities and Towns, Arizona Commerce Authority and Regional Economic Development Organizations, Local and State Libraries, State and local government entities, Community Broadband Planning Councils, Telemedicine, Public safety, Education (K-12, universities and community colleges) Nonprofit organizations, Technology and telecom providers, More. We have already begun connecting with many of these organizations.

The Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network will coordinate with, complement and support other broadband, education, economic development and telemedicine initiatives such as: Arizona Statewide Broadband Strategic Plan, Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative, Greater Arizona eLearning Association's Arizona Innovation Learning Collaborative, Arizona Telemedicine Program, Sun Corridor Network, Arizona Department of Administration's AZ First Net, Arizona State Library eRate, and more.

FYI in the past few months we have presented: a **Stakeholder Roundtable** <https://bit.ly/392pog4>; a **webinar** featuring an update on Arizona's broadband progress, strategies, plans and even new technologies being developed in Arizona to facilitate broadband deployment to rural and under-served communities <https://bit.ly/2vCiCzY> ; and **another webinar** on Arizona and USDA funding for Broadband <https://bit.ly/3a82Bkp>. Public, private and nonprofit stakeholders attended these events representing economic development, education, local and state government, health services, public safety, libraries, telecommunications and technology companies, and more. We also published a **newsletter**. See the newsletter here <https://bit.ly/2Qy0MW6>.

See the Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network website <https://bit.ly/3aaWMCS> for more information, including members of the Leadership Team.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone or e-mail. Again, **I will continue to communicate with Commissioner Marquez Peterson and we look forward to collaborating with the ACC.**

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