NEW MEXICO BROADBAND PROGRAM UPDATE

Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee
November 29, 2021

NM DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

RAJA SAMBANDAM, ACTING SECRETARY & STATE CIO

MATT SCHMIT, BROADBAND ADVISOR

RAND TILTON, PROGRAM MANAGER

GAR CLARKE, PROJECT MANAGER

Presentation Overview

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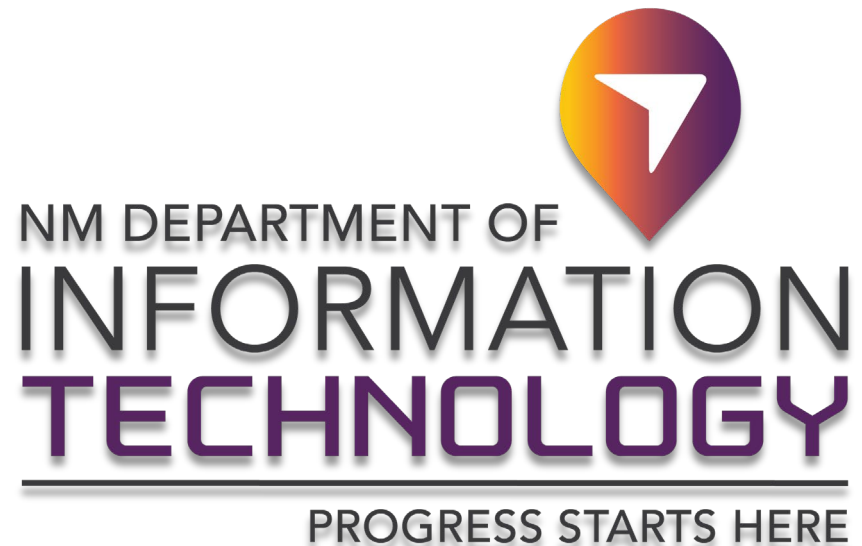
- ▶ 2021 Broadband Legislation Updates
- ▶ Connect New Mexico Council
- ▶ State Funding – 2021
- ▶ Federal Funding Support
- ▶ 2021 Broadband Projects and Initiatives
  - ▶ New Mexico Technical Assistance Program
  - ▶ Community Broadband Survey
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  - ▶ Broadband Infrastructure Plan Project
- ▶ Summary and Next Steps

2021 Broadband Legislation Updates

House Bill 10: Connect New Mexico Act (Laws 2021, Chapter 120)

- Created the Connect New Mexico Council
  - 15 members have been appointed
  - Inaugural meeting is pending

- Created the Connect New Mexico Fund
  - Senate Bill 377 appropriated $100 million (Detail shown on Slide 7)

HB10: https://nmlegis.gov/Sessions/21%20Regular/final/HB0010.pdf

Connect New Mexico Council

State Agency

Secretary or designee
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Higher Education
- Information Technology
- Cultural Affairs

Director of
- Public School Facilities Authority
- Mortgage Finance Authority

Public Members

Appointees by
- Governor
- Speaker of the House
- House Minority Leader
- Senate President Pro Tempore
- Senate Minority Leader

Tribal Members

Appointees by Secretary of Indian Affairs
- Navajo Nation
- Apache Government
- Pueblo Tribal Government

Connect New Mexico Council

State Agency

- Jeremy Lovato, DOT
- Juan Torres, EDD
- Bogi Malecki, HED
- Raja Sambandam, DoIT
- Eli Guinee, DCA
- Ovidiu Viorica, PSFA
- Joseph Navarrette, NMFA

Public Members

Appointees
- Jim Ruybal, Governor
- Luis Reyes, Speaker of the House
- Launa B. Waller, House Minority Leader
- Katherine Crociata, Senate President Pro Tempore
- Steve L. Grey, Senate Minority Leader

Tribal Members

Appointees
- Chris Becenti, Navajo Nation
- Godfrey Enjady, Apache Government
- Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Pueblo Tribal Government

2021 Broadband Legislation Updates

Senate Bill 93: Broadband Access and Expansion Act (Laws 2021, Chapter 123)

- Created the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE)
  - Administratively attached to the Department of Information Technology (DoIT)
  - DoIT established a program code for the OBAE's budget and submitted its FY23 Budget Request to the Legislative Finance Committee and Department of Finance and Administration

- Office managed by a director appointed by the Governor
  - Governor appointed Matt Schmit as an advisor to the OBAE

SB93: https://nmlegis.gov/Sessions/21%20Regular/final/SB0093.pdf

2021 Broadband Legislation Funding

Senate Bill 377: Broadband Appropriations - $100M* (Laws 2021, Chapter 140, Section 17)

- Appropriated to the Connect New Mexico Fund** (FY2021-FY2026)
  - Plan, design, engineer, construct, and purchase and equip broadband infrastructure ($70M)
  - Grants to local governments, tribes, electric and telephone cooperatives for planning and grant writing ($5M)
  - Plan, design, engineer, construct, purchase and equip broadband infrastructure for public schools ($25M) – from Public School Reform Fund

*Contingency language limits the amount to be spent until DoIT/OBAE submits an expenditure plan

** Connect New Mexico Council (HB10) is responsible for evaluating and prioritizing grant proposals and making grant awards from the Connect New Mexico Fund

2021 Broadband Legislation Funding

House Bill 285: Capital Outlay Broadband Appropriations - $7.05M* (Laws 2021, Chapter 138, Section 26)

▼ Appropriated to DoIT to plan, design, engineer, construct, and purchase and equip broadband infrastructure

   *Contingency language limits the amount to be spent until DoIT submits an expenditure plan

Federal Funding Support

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

➢ Internet Service Provider subscription and device support
  ➢ 54,220 statewide recipients (includes all eligible households – not just students)
  ➢ May result in over $32.5M in support

Emergency Connect Fund

➢ Broadband Connectivity and Devices to the Home
  ➢ Total funding requests $67.5M
  ➢ Student with devices 106K
  ➢ Students with broadband connections 41.2K

E-Rate Libraries

➢ E-Rate Funding of $2M leveraged with $300K of State Funds
  ➢ Over 80 percent of libraries connected to fiber at over 100Mbps or greater
  ➢ Over 80 percent of tribal libraries are connected
  ➢ Three bookmobiles equipped with mobile satellite service
  ➢ E-Rate participation increased 45 percent since 2017 (Consultant/E-Rate Coordinator)

2021 Broadband Projects and Initiatives

New Mexico Technical Assistance Program (NM TAP)

- ▼ Established as a result of a $1.5 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant (October 2020)
  - ▼ Provide technical assistance to entities seeking to deploy or expand broadband infrastructure and services
  - ▼ Applications based on a Request for Information (RFI)
- ▼ Types of Support Services
  - ▼ Needs Assessment to evaluate current and future demand for broadband
  - ▼ Assess recipient communities' current broadband infrastructure and market
  - ▼ Prepare high-level design and cost estimate for broadband deployment
  - ▼ Evaluate funding options and develop strategic approaches to obtain needed funding
- ▼ Recognized regionally and nationally by EDA

NM TAP: New Mexico Broadband Program - Technical Assistance Program (state.nm.us)

2021 Broadband Projects and Initiatives

New Mexico Technical Assistance Program

- ▼ Responses from RFI
  - ▼ Ten responses received
  - ▼ Evaluation of responses underway
  - ▼ Assessing resources, scheduling requirements, and engaging each for clarification
  - ▼ Anticipate addressing all ten
  - ▼ Good spread geographically, some coinciding with the June 2020 Strategic Plan project areas
    - ▼ Northern NM/Abiquiu, Ski Santa Fe, Rural North of Taos, East Mountain, Socorro, Sierra County, Silver City, Eastern New Mexico, SW New Mexico, and Deming

2021 Broadband Projects and Initiatives

New Mexico Technical Assistance Program

- ▼ Webinars - DoIT hosted a series of webinars in mid-September and November for stakeholders and internet service providers
  - ▼ Highlighted general federal offers, USDA ReConnect Program, and a NM TAP RFI overview
  - ▼ Highly successful participation (exceeding 250 participants)
  - ▼ Appreciation in simplifying complicated funding requirements

2021 Broadband Projects and Initiatives

Community Broadband Survey

- ▼ Pilot Doña Ana County in partnership with Doña Ana County Broadband Committee
  - ▼ Nearly 3,500 respondents to date
  - ▼ Identify unserved areas in the County
  - ▼ Assist in the implementation of digital literacy programs in the County
  - ▼ Survey includes a Speed Test
  - ▼ Analysis on-going
  - ▼ Contract amendment underway to expand the survey instrument and analytics in other communities interested in partnering with the program

https://www.donaanabroadband.com/?language=en

2021 Broadband Projects and Initiatives

Statewide Price Agreements

- In response to a request for proposals, DoIT awarded statewide price agreements (SWPA) (August 2021)
  - Planning (six vendors)
  - Grant writing (two vendors)
  - Broadband infrastructure services (three vendors)

- SWPA's are available to all public and tribal agencies to accelerate procurement process for broadband initiatives

SWPA: https://www.generalservices.state.nm.us/state-purchasing/statewide-price-agreements/)

2021 Broadband Projects and Initiatives

Broadband Infrastructure Plan Project

- ▼ DoIT awarded a contract to develop an operational plan to meet legislative requirements
  - ▼ Initially contractor benchmarked seven other similar states
    - ▼ Governance roles and responsibilities
    - ▼ Funding opportunities
    - ▼ Grant award methodologies

- ▼ Draft deliverables include
  - ▼ Broadband implementation project plan operating model
  - ▼ Proposed governance structure including roles and responsibilities
  - ▼ Prioritized broadband markets and build plan based on the June 2020 New Mexico Broadband Strategic Plan and Rural Broadband Assessment
  - ▼ Proposed spending plan for a list of potential projects

- ▼ Final deliverables are pending the OBAE Advisor review and approval

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

- ❑ Summary

- ❑ Next steps

  - ❑ Capital Projects Fund application to US Treasury
  - ❑ Report to Legislature January 2022
  - ❑ Convene Connect New Mexico Council
  - ❑ Draft State Plan
  - ❑ Refine mapping
  - ❑ Outreach to communities and stakeholders
  - ❑ Program design + Capital Projects Fund approach
  - ❑ Incorporate Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act resources
  - ❑ Stand up and staff OBAE

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Thank You!

QUESTIONS?