ConnectME Authority Advisory Council Meeting Notes

7/10/2014

In Attendance: Mike Edgecomb, Josh Broder, Linda Lord, Don Flewelling, David Maxwell, Jeff Mao, Tim Schneider, Ben Sanborn, Des Fitzgerald, Fletcher Kittredge

Discussion of broadband speed measurement.

Underlying data – Ookla, what is being measured and who should be measuring in Maine?

Effect on infrastructure- economic development

Maine 7.5 BB Speed- low goal, rest of world has moved on

CMA definition of Unserved &Underserved for Authority purposes only

Goals of CMA

Collect, aggregate, coordinate and disseminate information and data concerning communications services and advanced communications technology infrastructure in the State

49th for quality, not availability

Rules, definition should be driven off uses people put to it. We set a low bar.

Fed is at 4x1 and we are at 7.5.

What do other states use?

3 markets:

- Residential
- Business – need higher speed to attract business
- Public - Education

Statutory mandate – 2 sets of definition

- Set speed every year for funding purposes
- Set goals on an aspirational basis
- FCC thinking about raising speeds

2 challenges

Advise authority on how to discharge statute – what should be the focus

Strategic issue – no voice of leadership – no state vision

Collect & disseminate data, may or may not be a vacuum in leadership

We need data to make decisions – data, definition of broadband is misleading, advertised rate versus actual

BBCB Task Force Report

Task Force focused on demand side versus supply side

Needs Assessment points to the understanding of value, have to drive private investment to increase take rate, focus of Authority is to boost take rates

Is definition of broadband sub-par service, should speed should be the desired service level we want to have, with 10 mbps as a first step? Be cognizant of investment not being spread too thin

Policy maker discussions talk to different levels of broadband needed for the state, do we have data that shows if we provide higher speed they will increase adoption?

Adoption problem – speed chart capabilities

Market failure – we don't have conditions in ME to drive adoption

Data – right thing to do – problem that needs to be solved – change the resources – Authority could measure actual data, speed around edges spotty

Numbers need to be set to drive policy, should Authority take that kind of position? Data states:

- What's unserved – 1.5
- What do we fund – non-fiber is good money after bad, does not make sense for state to invest in outdated technology, what speed meets the needs economically for future
- Target those who only have dial up now

Grants for unserved and grants for underserved – money for municipalities to drive adoption, why they need broadband, how do we change state policy to drive online services?

Market failure we are seeing is not a reflection of take rates, not a model changer, don't invest money if we can't change conditions

Propose to 10/5 unserved definition?

93% availability to 49% availability, creates potential barrier for businesses

Definition of grant funding to larger policy work. What is argument for not changing funding speeds?

If speed for unserved raised to 6 or funding for 10
Many grant requests coming in at higher rates
What is the trend line for projects under 10
Applications may decline is speed were increased
Other funding programs currently addressing 10, not the 6 or 4 customers currently
Point system for moving a 1.5 to 10 versus a 6 to 10
National avg. is 18

No votes, consensus, divided report, as an advisory board not a deliberative body
Motion: move we recommend to Authority that definition of unserverd be moved to 10 - second – discussion:

- 10x5 funding for projects
- one pager to rationalize things, CMA retreat
- table it, vote?
- residential/business, library and businesses are not part of article, not across the board accurate
- take time to explore this more as next round is quite a way off

Bonding opportunities
We need to do more
Drive contractor actual speed tests
Have all 7th graders do a speed test