



Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street  
Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 737-0800  
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## Meeting Minutes

**Ref: Broadband Advisory Council Planning Session**

**Date: 1.6.2022**

**Place: MS Teams Virtual Meeting**

### ATTENDEES

Anna Berger, Leesa Aiken, Tom Allen, Melanie Barton, Bernie Mazyck, Elizabeth Carpentier, Nanette Edwards, Eric Budds, Michael Herzberger, Dawn Hipp, Kathy Schwarting, Lori Dickes, Mike Coker, Peggy McLean, Mike Couick, Gwynth Nelson, Casi Sims, Stephanie Frazier, James Stritzinger, Brittany Waring, Brooke Williams, Robert Woods, Brad Wright, Vic Young

A meeting was held on 1.6.2022 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM virtually, via Microsoft Teams. This document summarizes discussions and action items covered during the meeting.

### DISCUSSIONS

- Group updates observed by Broadband Advisory Council (BBAC) members through a round-robin session. Discussion focused on current and upcoming work each entity is performing related to Broadband in South Carolina
- Broadband Updates
  - All entities that were asked to be a member of the BBAC have graciously accepted the invitation. Attached are the members and their contact information.
  - ORS provided an overview of the State of Broadband in South Carolina via PowerPoint presentation – see attachment.
  - CARES II Grants are wrapping up, construction is nearly complete for most grants awarded by ORS.
  - ORS Shared updates with BBAC members regarding the impact of funding focused on the Rural Broadband Grant Program which was funded through the SC Department of Commerce in 14 counties throughout the State. Grant awards have been made; Broadband construction is ongoing.
  - ORS explained the known components and requirements needed for each future funding source coming through the Federal Government.
  - The SC Association of Counties discussed in general terms how counties are using ARPA funds. All counties have received the first tranche of ARPA dollars.
  - The Municipal Association of South Carolina discussed where municipalities are on allocation of ARPA funds. No municipalities have spent any money as of late.



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- ORS discussed initiation of a Broadband Plan and immortalizing the overall Broadband Goal – BBAC members to weigh-in on the topic during the next planning session. Of note, funding from Department of Treasury requires creation of a plan, additional reference to plan development can be found throughout other funding opportunities for Broadband promoted through the federal government. Focus will be to develop one plan and include additional components where necessary to address any additional plan development activities under other federal funding sources.
- Outreach – ORS demonstrated the relaunch of SC Digital Drive, included are additional features and functionalities beyond downloading county eligibility maps. Soft release was scheduled for 1.18.2022. The site is now in production and available at <https://www.scdigitaldrive.org>.
  - ORS has requested BBAC members review the site and provide comments and/or suggestions in the weeks ahead.
  - ORS requested BBAC members fill out the Challenges survey under the Stakeholder tab of SC Digital Drive, by providing one submission per challenge, and submitting as many challenges and potential solutions as one is willing to share with the Broadband Office.
- Open Discussion
  - Potential legislation related to Broadband Adoption and Use – Current draft legislation circulating relates specifically to Broadband Access, that is physical construction of broadband infrastructure across the State. The Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) includes a provision for digital equity. More discussion around this aspect of IIJA and its alignment with state legislation needs to occur in the weeks/months ahead.