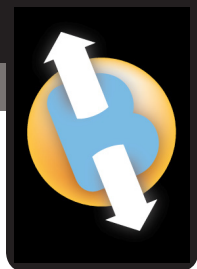


BROADBANDCENSUS.COM'S weekly report

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5/11/2009

The broadband stimulus program of the federal government needs a concrete and transparent mechanism for sifting through applications, and for determining which parts of the country are most in need of broadband funding. The message emerged from broadband conferences, and from questions by NTIA staff.

STIMULUS EVENT IN SILICON VALLEY FINDS 'NO EASY ANSWERS'

The federal government's broadband stimulus provides "an amazing attempt to reboot America's broadband policy," said blogger Geoff Daily, moderating a mini-conference on broadband policy as the 2009 Tech Policy Summit in San Mateo, Calif.

For more, see <http://broadbandcensus.com/2009/05/lots-of-questions-no-easy-answers-on-stimulus-funds-at-tech-policy-town-hall/>

THE WEEK'S LINKS

Broadband Stimulus in the States

New York State has established a broadband stimulus website, and state officials met behind closed doors with Commerce Department officials about their thoughts on deploying broadband. <http://www.nysbroadband.ny.gov/> and http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/exparte/NTIA_NYExParte04242009.doc

Government Technology has a page that outlines broadband developments in Arkansas, Maine and New York. <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/660467> A new broadband mapping project is getting underway in Massachusetts (*see sidebar for more*). http://www.boston.com/business/ticker/2009/05/state_looks_to.html

California is seeking one billion dollars in stimulus funds – nearly 15 percent of the total funds currently available – to bring broadband to every house household in the state. http://www.sacbee.com/politics/story/1833842.html?mi_rss=State%2520Politics

Stimulus' Counter-Stimulative Effects

Stimulus is already producing unintended consequences as **Occam Networks** cuts 10% of its staff amid a sales slowdown attributed to customers slowing purchases over uncertainty regarding broadband stimulus allocation. <http://blog.telephonyonline.com/unfiltered/2009/05/06/occam-cuts-10-of-staff-amid-broadband-stimulus-chill/>

The Agriculture Department's **Rural Utilities Service** program announced \$13.4 million in Community Connect grants – not part of broadband stimulus funds – that are due June 19. http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_10B?contentonly=true&contentid=2009/04/0135.xml

An article on **Red Orbit** details how libraries are joining the fray for broadband stimulus funds. http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/1683483/libraries_seek_federal_money_for_hispeed_internet/

Public Knowledge and the **Benton Foundation** note that the **Genachowski** and **Clyburn** confirmation hearings have been postponed and analyze the consequences. <http://www.publicknowledge.org/node/2152> and http://benton.org/node/25161?utm_campaign=Benton's+Headlines&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2009/05/08/nid-25169&

Broadband Speeds May be Accelerating

A **Pike and Fisher** report suggests that cable operators will have DOCSIS 3.0 deployed to 99% of homes by 2013. <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Report-99-DOCSIS-30-Coverage-By-2013-102255>

Both **Verizon** and **Qwest** have announced programs to offer WiFi to their broadband customers for free. <http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2009/05/01/verizon-to-offer-free-wi-fi-to-broadband-subscribers/> and <http://www.informationweek.com/>

BROADBAND DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS DEMAND TRANSPARENCY

Experts and legislators in Washington last week emphasized the key role of transparency and thoroughness in discussing the role of broadband. The goal is to ensure that a "high standard for broadband stimulus funding is set."

For more, see <http://broadbandcensus.com/2009/05/broadband-data-collection-must-be-thorough-and-transparent-say-experts/>

MASSACHUSETTS TO USE STATE GIS MAPPING TO IDENTIFY UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute, one of the most advanced of an emerging group of state broadband authorities, announced a partnership with MassGIS. Also known as the state's Office of Geographic and Environmental Information, MassGIS will produce a block-level

map of broadband infrastructure. For more, see <http://broadbandcensus.com/2009/05/massachusetts-broadband-institute-will-use-mapping-to-identify-unserved-and-underserved-areas/>

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WASHINGTON, May 11, 2009 - Over the course of about three months, the dialogue about high-speed internet connectivity went from the general to the specific. Now one strand of debate is heading into generalities, even abstractions.

This is going on even as the Commerce Department's **National Telecommunications and Information Administration** meets with key players. The most recent entities to make *ex parte* presentations at the NTIA include broadband officials from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, and the cities of Chicago and New York. They highlighted the importance of states and cities in broadband mapping and in deploying broadband infrastructure.

Others with recent meetings at the NTIA include the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, Marshall County (Indiana), a coalition of broadband diversity supporters, and three organizations proposing methodologies for selecting grant applicants: the **Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research**, **Empiris**, and **David N. Townsend and Associates**. <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/exparte.html> and <http://broadbandcensus.com/2009/04/ntia-details-contacts-with-legislators-states-mapping-companies-and-others/>

At the same time that NTIA is drilling into details, some are stepping back to consider the bigger picture. What is the broadband stimulus package trying to accomplish? How does it relate to the communication, economic and social development needs of society?

At a conference hosted by the **Benton Foundation** on Thursday, a range of technologists and commentators struggled for ways to wrap their minds around the "best practices" or "case studies" for the successful deployment of broadband.

Speaking on the kick-off panel were the top technology officials from two major cities – San Francisco and Seattle – as well as three successful builders of rural fiber-optic networks: **Tim Nulty**, Chairman of **ECFiber**; plus top officials from **Hiawatha Broadband**, in Iowa; and **Jaguar Communications**, in Minnesota.

"A major part of this discussion is what is unserved and what is underserved," said **Bill Schrier**, chief technology officer of the city of Seattle. Rather than focusing on deploying low-speed broadband, Schrier said he wanted to point to a map of the entire United States and declare that the entire country was "unserved" because 97 percent of homes lack super-fast internet connections.

Meanwhile, the network builders – who represent the vanguard of the non-incumbent effort to push broadband further and deeper into society – were unapologetically pro-fiber in their technological disposition. They refused to compromise on their desire to connect every single home in America to an optical grid. Doing anything less, they said, will imperil the future of economic development.

"Think of it – we put a copper wire in every home 60 years ago," said Nulty. Because municipalities and companies seeking to deploy new technologies already have access to the rights of way to deploy the new wires, "fiber is cheaper."

"Communities are dying without broadband," Nulty continued. "It isn't about games; it isn't about seeing HBO; it is about the survival of rural communities." Then he recounted the example of a mechanic in a rural Vermont repair shop who needed a faster connection to download the instructions necessary to fix up outdated lawn instruments.

According to **Donny Smith, Jaguar Communications** got into the fiber game because "We wanted to bridge the digital divide, we wanted to make the Internet available for telemedicine, and we wanted educational benefits for rural schools."

"It will take 25 years to complete the expansion in Minnesota," Smith continued, stoically. Jaguar aims to keep making its fiber technology available more broadly.

Super-fast technologies are one thing, but making a difference through the creation of a "connected community" is the goal of the Ohio-based **One Community**, said **Mark Ansboury**, the non-profit group's chief technology officer.

The group aims to build sustainability through partnerships between non-profit institutions and the public sector – again, largely skirting the role of incumbents – in piecing together various aspects of a complete fiber network.

The goal, according to Ansboury, is "broadband community adoption, where citizens have the means and the will to deliver access to broadband."

"We don't say build it and they will come," said Ansboury. To local community groups, instead, "We say, invest in it, and you will use it."

-Drew Clark, Editor, BroadbandCensus.com



The mission of the Benton Foundation is to articulate a public interest vision for the digital age and to demonstrate the value of communications for solving social problems.

SAN MATEO, Calif., May 11, 2009 - The debate around the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act placed a strong focus on "shovel ready" projects, including the \$7.2 billion in stimulus funds for broadband projects.

Since then, the fiscal stimulus package has had growth of another set of "shovel-ready" projects: broadband-focused conferences.

This week, **Tech Policy Central** opened its third annual Tech Policy Summit on Monday, but not before dipping into the broadband well with a day-long mini-conference on "Broadband Innovation."

Moderated by **App-Rising.com** blogger **Geoff Daily**, the dual edges of the broadband sword – a national strategy for increasing supply, and the problem of stimulating demand – were tackled in a roundtable bracketed by speeches by California Democratic Reps. **Zoe Lofgren** and **Mike Honda**, respectively.

The main conference opens Monday evening with a roundtable on "Fostering Innovation in the Global Economy" and with an interview with **Facebook** Chief Privacy Officer **Chris Kelly**, a candidate for Attorney General of California.

Tuesday is a non-stop whirlwind of panels and talks, but the highlight should be an afternoon session on "The Future of Internet Regulation," featuring appearances by **Verizon Communications'** policy maven **Link Hoewing** and the ubiquitous **Gigi Sohn**, president of **Public Knowledge**. Following that, the conference will continue with a discussion of "21st Spectrum Policy" with **Michael Calabrese** of the **New America Foundation**, **Loopt** COO **Brian Knapp**, and others in a discussion

moderated by **Carolyn Brandon**, Vice President of **CTIA – The Wireless Association**.

On Wednesday, the conference is scheduled to highlight an interview with Obama Transition Team alum **Blair Levin**, and a closing panel on harmonizing law enforcement policy with information technology.

Other events this week will continue the trend toward broadening and generalizing the tenor of the broadband debate. On Wednesday and Thursday, **Free Press** will host two separate events in Washington. On Wednesday, the **Internet for Everyone** advocacy group run by Free Press will hold the third of its "town hall meetings" to "come together in our nation's capital to build one nation, online."

The agenda is expected to follow an itinerary similar to previous events in Los Angeles and Durham, North Carolina. <http://broadbandcensus.com/2009/03/logged-on-and-not-locked-out-at-internet-for-everyone-event-in-north-carolina/>

The Thursday event is officially about "Changing Media." Sponsored by the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**, the event is keyed to the not-so-good fate of the news business, with veritable newspapers like the **Boston Globe** hanging by their newsprint.

In actuality, though, the conference is all about the Internet. From the opening lecture on "Public Internet Policies for the Digital Age," to the "view from the White House," with **Susan Crawford**, a member of President Obama's National Economic Council, to the roundtable discussion in the afternoon with two former FCC chairmen, **Reed Hundt** and **Michael Powell**, plus Senate Commerce Committee staffer **Jessica Rosenworcel**, Free Press Policy Director **Ben Scott**, and **Ram Shriram** of **Sherpalo Ventures**, it is broadband and its future that is driving the media business today.

**-Andrew Feinberg, Deputy Editor;
and Drew Clark, Editor,
BroadbandCensus.com**



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THE WEEK'S LINKS...

news/mobility/wifiwimax/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=217300863 A **New York Times** article details **Novatel's** MiFi 2200 personal hot spot system, which is expected to be available from Verizon starting in mid-May. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/07/technology/personaltech/07pogue.html?_r=1&em=&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1241791276-Lg8sNqg8ecvFH/IF2CVz9Q
Clearwire's WiMAX is soon to be rolled out in Atlanta. <http://www.muniwireless.com/2009/05/07/clearwire-now-offering-wimax-in-atlanta/> And, WiMAX isn't just being used for personal web surfing. **GigaOm** tells us about "How WiMAX can retool the power grid." <http://gigaom.com/2009/05/04/how-wimax-can-retool-the-power-grid/> **Google** is also thinking about power. It wants to use its PowerMeter software to bring energy information into millions of homes across the country. <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/google-looks-beyond-smart-meters-for-home-energy-data-3875> While **AT&T** is still hitching its wagon to copper pair-bonding for its future broadband offerings <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Still-Waiting-On-Faster-ATT-Speeds-Line-Bonding-102340>, **Smithville Telephone** in Indiana is rolling out 100Mbps FTTH for its residential customers. <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Smithville-Telephone-Offers-100Mbps-102298> and <http://www.prweb.com/releases/Smithville/broadband/prweb2391694.htm> Further to the west, **UTOPIA** in Utah is claiming North America's fastest residential Internet connection – "the first symmetrical, non-shared 100 Mbps fiber-optic Internet connection." <http://audiovideo.consumerelectronicsnet.com/articles/viewarticle.jsp?id=738634>

Municipal Wi-Fi Battles in the Carolinas

While some resistance to municipal Wi-Fi remains, major cracks in the industry's resistance appeared last week as **Alcatel-Lucent**, the **American Public Power Association**, **Atlantic Engineering Group**, **EDUCAUSE**, the **Fiber to the Home Council**, **Google**, **Intel**, the **Telecommunications Industry Association**, and the **Utilities Telecom Council** jointly opposed the anti-muni broadband bill in North Carolina. <http://savencbb.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/joint-letter-opposing-hb1252-05-4-09.pdf> and <http://savencbb.wordpress.com/2009/05/05/private-industries-blast-anti-muni-bill-this-is-huge/> and <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Google-Versus-Time-Warner-Cable-102281> and <http://www.zeropaaid.com/news/86143/private-tech-companies-now-support-nc-municipal-broadband/> and <http://savencbb.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/hb-1252alcatel-lucent-final.pdf> For the time being, a South Carolina anti-muni bill appears to be in limbo <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/North-Carolina-Broadband-Bill-Shelved-102300>, however similar legislation is now being proposed in Pennsylvania. http://www.mediapost.com/publications/?fa=Articles.showArticle&art_aid=105468

ABOUT BROADBANDCENSUS.COM

BroadbandCensus.com is a premium provider of news, information and events about broadband technology and internet policy. BroadbandCensus.com is at the forefront of understanding and explaining the implementation of the \$7.2 billion broadband stimulus package on the federal, state and local level. Since January 2008, BroadbandCensus.com has been building a public, transparent and freely accessible database about local broadband speeds, prices, availability, reliability and competition.

BroadbandCensus.com is also host of the Broadband Breakfast Club, an on-the-record discussion forum that meets at the Old Ebbitt Grill on the second Tuesday of each month, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Registration is available [here](#). Webcasts of previous Broadband Breakfast Club events are available for purchase [here](#).

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