

BROADBANDBREAKFAST

PRESENTS

BROADBAND IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

DECEMBER 12, 2024
WASHINGTON, DC.



Donald Trump's 2024 victory in the presidential election will change public policy in Washington on many fronts. Broadband will be particularly impacted...

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Welcome & Introduction: Drew Clark (9:00 - 9:15 a.m.)

Keynote Address from Sen. Marsha Blackburn (9:15-9:30am)

- **Marsha Blackburn**, Senator, Tennessee

Keynote Address from Sen. Amy Klobuchar (9:30-9:45am)

- **Amy Klobuchar**, Senator, Minnesota

Panel 1: Finishing the Job on the BEAD Program (9:45-10:35am)

As power moves to a new administration, the future of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program - is likely to come center stage. What kind of changes can we expect from the NTIA, and potentially the FCC, as Donald Trump returns to the White House. Will the new administration stay the course or tweak aspects of BEAD? To set the stage for the discussion, we're pleased to welcome NTIA Administrator **Alan Davidson** to deliver a 10-minute opening address.

- **Alan Davidson**, Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- **Eric Frederick**, Chief Connectivity Officer, Michigan High-Speed Internet Office
- **Diane Rinaldo**, Executive Director, Open RAN Policy Coalition
- **Ronnie Hammond**, Director, Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband
- **Joshua Breitbart**, Senior Vice President, ConnectALL, Empire State Development
- **Christopher Cole (moderator)**, Senior Reporter, Telecom, Law360

Executive Conversation with NextNav's CEO Mariam Sorond (10:35-10:40am)

The lack of a backup to GPS is a national security concern. Officials across the government and industry are sounding the alarm as GPS vulnerabilities like spoofing and jamming become more widespread. China and Russia are already ahead of the US and are building backup systems. Exploring alternatives to enhance this vital service is crucial for safeguarding American commerce, public safety, and national security. What role could a terrestrial PNT (Positioning Navigation and Timing) network play in strengthening national security in the incoming Trump Administration?

- **Mariam Sorond**, Board Chair and CEO, NextNav
- **Drew Clark (moderator)**, CEO and Publisher, Broadband Breakfast

Intermission (10:40-10:55am)

Panel 2: A Return to Spectrum Authority? (10:55-11:45am)

Since the Federal Communications Commission's authority to conduct spectrum auctions lapsed in March 2023, advocates have been clamoring for Congress to renew it. Thus far, their efforts have fallen flat. As the FCC looks to explore additional spectrum opportunities, the authority's lapsing casts a long shadow. With a new Congress on the horizon and a potentially reshuffled FCC, what factors will facilitate - or hinder - a revival of auction authority? And what impacts might this have on future spectrum strategies, the broader economy, and the U.S.'s competitive edge in wireless technologies? To set the stage for this pivotal conversation, we're honored to welcome **Congressman Bob Latta** to deliver a 10-minute opening address.

- **Bob Latta**, Congressman, Ohio's Fifth Congressional District
- **Scott Blake Harris**, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Crest Hill Advisors LLC
- **Shiva Goel**, Senior Advisor for Spectrum Policy, NTIA, U.S. Department of Commerce
- **David Redl**, Founder and CEO, Salt Point Strategies
- **Jeff Blum**, Executive Vice President, External & Government Affairs, EchoStar
- **Robert M. McDowell**, Partner, Cooley
- **Kelcee Griffis (moderator)**, Telecom Reporter, Bloomberg News

Lunch (11:45am-1:00pm)

Fireside Chat: The Future of Rural Broadband Connectivity (12:20-12:50pm)

The digital divide remains a pressing challenge for America's rural communities, where reliable high-speed internet is essential for economic growth, healthcare access, and educational opportunities. In this fireside chat, Broadband Breakfast CEO and Publisher Drew Clark will sit down with former Rural Utilities Services Administrator Hilda Legg to explore strategies for addressing these pressing needs. Drawing from her experience leading key USDA telecommunications programs, Legg will discuss fiber deployment vs wireless solutions for future-proof connectivity, and how federal funding can overcome economic hurdles to deliver long-term value for rural communities.

- **Hilda Legg**, Consultant, Legg Strategies
- **Drew Clark**, CEO and Publisher, Broadband Breakfast

Panel 3: Reforming the Universal Service Fund, and Renewing the Affordable Connectivity Program? (1:00-1:50pm)

While lawmakers say they support empowering underserved communities, the biggest disappointment for broadband advocates in 2024 was the expiration of the Affordable Connectivity Program. Its fate has become intertwined with potential changes in the Universal Service Fund. To complicate matters, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has struck down the USF as unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court is widely expected to review that decision next year. How will these two twin issues play out in the new administration, and in the next Congress?

- **Roslyn Layton**, Senior Vice President, Strand Consult
- **Amy Huffman**, Policy Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance
- **Mignon Clyburn**, Principal, MLC Strategies, LLC
- **Harold Furchtgott-Roth**, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for the Economics of the Internet, Hudson Institute
- **Ryan Tracy (moderator)**, Co-Writer, Capitol Account

Intermission (1:50-2:00pm)

Panel 4: With Chevron Deference Dead, Will Courts Check the Next Administration? (2:00-2:50pm)

The Supreme Court's decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* marks the end of Chevron deference, fundamentally altering the regulatory landscape that federal agencies navigate. This change has profound implications for the FCC's authority on critical issues including Net Neutrality and digital discrimination. A second Trump administration will face a transformed regulatory environment where agency rulemaking powers are significantly constrained. Additionally, are we likely to see more litigation about Section 230 content moderation under the Trump Administration? How will the FCC approach Big Tech, and how will courts react?

- **Joel Thayer**, President, Digital Progress Institute
- **Nathan Leamer**, CEO, Fixed Gear Strategies
- **Tom Johnson**, Partner, Wiley
- **Michael O'Rielly**, President, MPORielly Consulting Inc.
- **Gigi Sohn**, Senior Fellow and Public Advocate, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
- **Lynn Stanton (moderator)**, Senior Editor, Wolters Kluwer's TR Daily

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



SEN. MARSHA BLACKBURN
*SENATOR,
TENNESSEE*

Marsha Blackburn is the senior senator for Tennessee and the first woman to represent the Volunteer State in the United States Senate. She serves on the Deputy Whip Team and is a member of the Finance Committee; the Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee; the Veterans' Affairs Committee; and the Judiciary Committee. She serves as the Ranking Member on the Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security and on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law.



SEN. AMY KLOBUCHAR
*SENATOR,
MINNESOTA*

U.S. Senator **Amy Klobuchar** is the first woman elected to represent the State of Minnesota in the United States Senate. As co-chair of the Senate Broadband Caucus, Senator Klobuchar has been a leading advocate working to connect every American to high speed internet once and for all. Her provisions to expand high-speed broadband across the country were included in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was signed into law in 2021.

PANEL 1: FINISHING THE JOB ON THE BEAD PROGRAM



ALAN DAVIDSON
*ADMINISTRATOR,
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION*

Alan Davidson leads NTIA, the President's principal advisor on telecommunications and information policy. As NTIA Administrator, Alan oversees more than 500 employees working to close the digital divide, manage federal spectrum resources, and build a better Internet. Before joining NTIA, Alan most recently served as a Senior Advisor to the Mozilla Foundation, a global nonprofit that promotes openness, innovation, and participation on the Internet.



ERIC FREDERICK
*CHIEF CONNECTIVITY OFFICER,
MICHIGAN HIGH-SPEED
INTERNET OFFICE*

Eric Frederick serves as the State of Michigan's first Chief Connectivity Officer. In this role, Mr. Frederick leads the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) with the goals of achieving universal broadband access and creating a more digitally equitable state. For more than a decade, Eric has been a steadfast advocate and resource for expanding broadband in Michigan and now oversees MIHI's \$1.8 billion in funds to close Michigan's digital divide.



DIANE RINALDO
*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
OPEN RAN POLICY COALITION*

Diane Rinaldo is one of the country's leading authorities on 5G, telecommunications supply chain security and privacy. She served as Acting Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. During her time at NTIA, Ms. Rinaldo directed the Administration's efforts on privacy, 5G, Internet security issues, and supply chain.



RONNIE HAMMOND
*DIRECTOR, MARYLAND OFFICE
OF STATEWIDE BROADBAND*

Ronnie Hammond is a seasoned professional committed to advancing connectivity and digital equity across Maryland. With over a decade of experience in the private and public sectors, he has been a driving force behind broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion initiatives that are transforming communities statewide. Now serving as the Director of the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband, Ronnie leads the allocation of over \$500 million in grants dedicated to closing broadband gaps.



JOSHUA BREITBART
*SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
CONNECTALL, EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT*

Joshua Breitbart is the Senior Vice President, ConnectALL, at Empire State Development. In that role, he serves as Director of the Division of Broadband Access, overseeing the statewide digital equity plan and administering over \$1 billion in public investments across the state. Joshua Breitbart brings more than two decades of experience to ConnectALL.



CHRISTOPHER COLE
*SENIOR REPORTER FOR TELECOM,
LAW360*

Christopher Cole is senior reporter for telecom in Law360's Washington bureau, where he also wrote about all things FCC as part of the legal newswires' general assignment coverage. He has years of experience as a legal, business and political reporter and editor at newspapers, as well as covering Congress and federal agencies, and started at Law360 in 2018.

EXECUTIVE CONVERSATION WITH NEXTNAV'S CEO MARIAM SOROND



MARIAM SOROND
*BOARD CHAIR AND CEO,
NEXTNAV*

Mariam Sorond is NextNav's Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer. She has nearly three decades of experience leading transformational change across mobile, wireless, and satellite networks industries and has held leadership positions within start-ups and large companies. Before joining NextNav as CEO in November 2023, she served as the Chief Technology Officer, SEBU at VMware, CRDO at CableLabs and Chief Wireless Architect at DISH.

PANEL 2: A RETURN TO SPECTRUM AUTHORITY?



BOB LATTA
*CONGRESSMAN,
OHIO'S FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT*

Since 2007, Congressman **Bob Latta** has served the people of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. Congressman Latta is a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee where he plays an intricate role in crafting the nation's energy, telecommunications, environment, health care, and interstate commerce policy. Congressman Latta is the chair of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology where he advocates for policies that help consumers, grow our economy, spur innovation, and close the digital divide.



SHIVA GOEL
*SENIOR ADVISOR FOR SPECTRUM
POLICY, NTIA*

Shiva Goel is the Senior Advisor for Spectrum Policy at the NTIA, where he represents the agency in its efforts to expand the use of spectrum to support the needs of the federal government, consumers, and the commercial sector. He also manages satellite and space matters for the Office of Assistant Secretary. He joined NTIA from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), where he served as Legal Advisor to Commissioner Geoffrey Starks on wireless, space, and international policy.



SCOTT BLAKE HARRIS
*CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER,
CREST HILL ADVISORS, LLC*

The founder and Managing Partner of Crest Hill Advisors, **Scott Blake Harris** has been a legal and policy professional in Washington, D.C. for forty-eight years, primarily focused on telecommunications, technology, and energy issues. He has deep experience both in government and in the private sector. Scott has served as Chief of the FCC's International Bureau, General Counsel of the Department of Energy, and most recently as a senior advisor and Director of the National Spectrum Strategy at NTIA.



DAVID REDL
*FOUNDER & CEO,
SALT POINT STRATEGIES*

David Redl is the Founder and CEO of Salt Point Strategies, a public affairs consulting, strategy, and advocacy firm focused on the telecommunication and technology sectors. Prior to founding Salt Point, David served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and the Administrator of the NTIA and as Chief Counsel for Communications and Technology to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.



JEFF BLUM
*EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
EXTERNAL & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,
ECHOSTAR*

Jeff Blum serves as EchoStar's Executive Vice President, External & Government Affairs, overseeing public policy, regulatory and government affairs in Washington, D.C. Before coming to EchoStar (formerly DISH Network) in 2005, Jeff was a partner at the Los Angeles firm of Davis Wright Tremaine, where his practice focused on copyright, First Amendment and anti-piracy litigation.



ROBERT M. MCDOWELL
*PARTNER,
COOLEY*

Robert M. McDowell is a partner at Cooley LLP and is chair of its global communications practice group, where he advises clients on their most significant regulatory, legal and business matters. As a former commissioner of the FCC, Commissioner McDowell has been at the forefront of the most complex and groundbreaking issues facing the telecommunications, media and technology sectors.



KELCEE GRIFFIS
*TELECOM REPORTER,
BLOOMBERG NEWS*

Kelcee Griffis is a Washington, D.C.-based reporter covering the telecom business for Bloomberg News. When she's not writing about the latest FCC development or affordable broadband initiative, you can find her watching reality TV or training for her next marathon.

FIRESIDE CHAT: THE FUTURE OF RURAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY



HILDA LEGG
*CONSULTANT,
LEGG STRATEGIES*

Hilda Legg is a prominent advocate for rural economic development, with a career spanning leadership roles in telecommunications, infrastructure, and public policy. Appointed by President George W. Bush as Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), she oversaw billions in investments, established USDA's first Broadband Loan Program, and created the successful Community Connect Grant Program, bringing broadband to underserved rural areas. Now a consultant with Legg Strategies, she continues championing rural infrastructure, including broadband, water, and energy, while serving on various boards and as a sought-after speaker.



DREW CLARK
*CEO AND PUBLISHER, BROADBAND
BREAKFAST*

Breakfast Media LLC CEO **Drew Clark** has led the Broadband Breakfast community since 2008. An early proponent of better broadband, better lives, he initially founded the Broadband Census crowdsourcing campaign for broadband data. As Editor and Publisher, Clark presides over the leading media company advocating for higher-capacity internet everywhere through topical, timely and intelligent coverage.

PANEL 3: REFORMING THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND, AND RENEWING THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM?



ROSLYN LAYTON
*SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
STRAND CONSULT*

Roslyn Layton, PhD has published many reports and analyses on universal service fund reform. She serves as Executive Vice President of Strand Consult and Visiting Researcher at Aalborg University's Centre for Communication, Media and Information Technologies in Copenhagen, Denmark. She leads Strand Consult's Global Project for Broadband Cost Recovery which chronicles the policy to enable financial sustainability and affordability for the world's broadband networks.



AMY HUFFMAN
*POLICY DIRECTOR,
NDIA*

Amy Huffman joined NDIA in 2021. She is a public servant, systems thinker, innovative policy expert, and storyteller passionate about closing the digital divide and ensuring all Americans can thrive in the 21st century's digital world. Amy has studied and worked in the digital inclusion field since 2011.



MIGNON CLYBURN
*PRINCIPAL,
MLC STRATEGIES, LLC*

Mignon Clyburn served as Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from 2009 to 2018, and acting chair from May to November of 2013. Previously, Clyburn served 11 years on the South Carolina Public Service Commission and prior to that, was the publisher and general manager of a family-founded, Charleston-based African American oriented weekly newspaper. She is currently the principal of MLC Strategies, LLC, a DC-based consulting firm, and serves on a number of public and non-profit boards.



HAROLD FURCHTGOTT-ROTH
*SENIOR FELLOW AND DIRECTOR,
CENTER FOR THE ECONOMICS OF THE
INTERNET, HUDSON INSTITUTE*

Harold Furchtgott-Roth, former commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, where he founded the Center on the Economics of the Internet and helped cofound the Forum for Intellectual Property. He has cofounded various businesses in the communications sector.



RYAN TRACY
*CO-WRITER,
CAPITOL ACCOUNT*

Ryan Tracy is co-writer at Capitol Account, a Washington, D.C. publication focused on financial services regulation. He is a former reporter at The Wall Street Journal, where he spent 13 years writing about the intersection of business and Washington. He wrote extensively about broadband, including a series of articles digging into the effectiveness of the FCC's broadband programs.

PANEL 4: WITH CHEVRON DEFERENCE DEAD, WILL COURTS CHECK THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION?



JOEL THAYER
*PRESIDENT,
DIGITAL PROGRESS INSTITUTE*

Joel Thayer is president of Digital Progress Institute, and a tech and telecom attorney based in Washington, D.C. His experience also includes working as legal clerk for FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and FTC Commissioner Maureen Ohlhausen. Additionally, Mr. Thayer served as a congressional staffer for the Hon. Lee Terry and Hon. Mary Bono.



NATHAN LEAMER
*CEO,
FIXED GEAR STRATEGIES*

Nathan Leamer is the CEO of Fixed Gear Strategies. He was an aide to former Federal Communications Chairman Ajit Pai.



TOM JOHNSON
*PARTNER,
WILEY*

Tom Johnson has over 15 years' experience in private practice and public service at the federal and state levels representing clients in high-stakes appellate and regulatory litigation matters. Tom has argued appeals in the Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, D.C. and Federal Circuits, and the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Prior to joining Wiley, Tom was the General Counsel at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), where he served as the agency's chief legal officer and briefed dozens of appeals – personally arguing two – in the federal courts of appeals in constitutional and administrative law challenges to the FCC's orders.



MICHAEL O'RIELLY
*PRESIDENT,
MPORIELLY CONSULTING INC.*

Michael O'Rielly served as a Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission from 2013 through 2020. He is currently President at MPORielly Consulting Inc., a Visiting Fellow at the Hudson Institute, a Senior Fellow at the Media Institute, and a Member of the International Advisory Committee of APCO Worldwide. Before joining the FCC, Mr. O'Rielly held a variety of leading staff positions during 20 years on Capitol Hill in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, ending as Policy Advisor in the Office of the Senate Republican Whip.



GIGI SOHN
*SENIOR FELLOW AND PUBLIC ADVOCATE,
BENTON INSTITUTE FOR BROADBAND &
SOCIETY*

Gigi Sohn is one of the nation's leading public advocates for open, affordable and democratic communications networks. In recognition of her expertise and dedication to the public interest in communications, President Biden nominated her to serve on the Federal Communications Commission in October 2021. Gigi currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Association of Public Broadband (AAPB) and a Benton Institute Senior Fellow and Public Advocate.



LYNN STANTON
*SENIOR EDITOR,
WOLTERS KLUWER'S TR DAILY*

Lynn Stanton is a senior editor at Wolters Kluwer's TR Daily, where she currently covers policy issues affecting broadband and Internet services. She has reported on issues ranging from universal service to the section 230 safe harbor since the 1996 Telecommunications Act. She has a BA from the University of Maryland and a master's degree from the University of Virginia.

GOLD SPONSOR



NextNav Inc. is a leader in next generation positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), enabling a whole new ecosystem of applications and services that rely upon 3D geolocation and PNT technology. Powered by low-band licensed spectrum, NextNav's positioning and timing technologies deliver accurate, reliable, and resilient 3D PNT solutions for critical infrastructure, GPS resiliency and commercial use cases.

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gaiia is a leading provider of OSS/BSS solutions for the telecommunications industry. With its comprehensive platform, gaiia offers ISPs an all-in-one solution for billing, CRM, operations, field service, automation, and more. Founded with a vision to simplify and optimize ISP operations, gaiia empowers providers worldwide to deliver exceptional services and drive growth in the digital age. To date, gaiia has raised a total of US\$26.2M. For more information, please visit [gaiia's website](#).



Connected Nation is a national nonprofit, founded in 2001, with a mission to improve lives by providing innovative solutions that expand the access, adoption, and use of broadband (high-speed internet) and its related technologies to ALL people. Our teams work in partnership with anchor institutions, Tribal Nations, nonprofits, Internet Service Providers, government agencies, and others to provide the support and guidance needed for successful broadband rollout and the expansion of digital equity programs. Everyone belongs in a Connected Nation.