NWX-DOC-NTIA-OTIA

Moderator: Karen Hanson
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Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. I'd like to inform all parties that today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect. All parties will be in a listen-only except for those that are speakers. For assistance during the call you may press star then zero.

And I would now like to turn the conference over to Karen Hanson. Thank you. You may begin.

Karen Hanson: Thank you so much. Good afternoon everyone and thank you for joining us today for Broadband USA's monthly webinar on broadband topics of interest. I'm Karen Hanson. I'm the Manager of Partnerships and Interagency Affairs with NTIA's BroadbandUSA.

Today's webinar, *American Broadband Initiatives: The Administration's Strategy for Promoting Broadband Connectivity*, will provide an overview of the initiative by officials from the White House and key agencies who are instrumental in its development and whose agencies are responsible for its implementation.

Our presenters today are Kelsey Guyselman, Senior Policy Council with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; Doug Kinkoph, Associate Administrator for NTIA with the Department of Commerce; Jannine Miller, Senior Advisor for Rural Infrastructure with USDA; Kate MacGregor, Deputy Chief of Staff with DOI; and Jennie Campbell, Project Manager with the Office of Government-wide Policy with GSA.

Now I'd like to review some logistics for today's webinar. First, we will open up the webinar for questions after the completion of the presentations. As you hear from each presenter, please use the question box on the right-hand side of the screen to submit your questions or comments.

Second, these slides along with a transcript and a recording of today's session will be available on the BroadbandUSA website within seven days of this webinar under the events/past events tab.

Finally, please visit our BroadbandUSA website for information about our technical assistance program, including useful guides, publications, and other tools that can assist you with planning, funding, and implementing your broadband project.

The newest additions to our website are the American Broadband Initiative Milestones Report under the federal tab and a new interactive map with information on state broadband programs which you can find under the resources/state tab.

As we begin today, our first speaker will be Kelsey Guyselman. Kelsey is a Senior Policy Council in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, responsible for advancing the President's technology and innovation priorities. Her portfolio includes broadband, spectrum, and other

telecommunications matters. Kelsey has shown tremendous leadership on the broadband front and we are very pleased to have her on this webinar to share her perspective. Kelsey, please begin.

Kelsey Guyselman: Thanks, Karen and thank you to NTIA for hosting this webinar today. I'm happy to be here to talk about initiatives of great importance to the administration. This is also the first time that we've had representatives from each of these key agencies to present together on this initiative. So I'm excited to hear all about what everyone has to say and for you to have an opportunity to learn more about what we're doing to advance the cause of promoting broadband deployment in the U.S. So we'll move to the next slide.

From the beginning of the administration, promoting increased broadband connectivity has been a major priority -- particularly in underserved rural America. Nearly 39% of rural Americans still lack connectivity, creating a digital divide that is increasingly more devastating as reliance on the Internet grows. Whether for agriculture, manufacturing, small business, education, health care, or other advancements, we are saying that many of these are only possible if you have high speed broadband Internet access.

With this in mind, the administration has taken several steps to promote the deployment of broadband in America. In April of 2017, President Trump directed Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to develop recommendations for improving prosperity in rural America.

The report that resulted highlighted how critical broadband is to achieving this goal and the need for executive leadership in this space. In January of 2018, President Trump signed two executive actions aimed at improving the process for sighting communications infrastructure on federal property; and in

October of 2018, he directed the development of a national spectrum strategy, seeking to better utilize spectrum in increased connectivity.

You'll also see a link here on this slide for additional highlights from science and technology activities from the administration from the previous year. I encourage you to take a minute and look at that and see what else we've been up to. We can move to the next slide.

Over the past year, the White House, NTIA, and USDA have led the American Broadband Initiative, a multi-agency effort focused on removing barriers to broadband deployment and making it easier for broadband providers to build out networks across the country. With the commitments of more than 20 different agencies, we've sought to make better sense of the way that the federal government's actions impact broadband deployment.

The goal of this effort is in many ways fairly simple -- remove burdensome regulations and requirements and foster opportunities for successful private sector investments.

In February of this year, we released a comprehensive report detailing the achievements of the federal agencies so far in this administration as well as commitments to future changes. Perhaps most importantly, we've also included timelines for completing these commitments. You can move to the next slide.

The ABI focused on three primary areas of agency initiatives driven by straightforward principles. First, streamlining federal permitting processes. Government processes should be clear, transparent, and responsive to stakeholders. Agencies will make changes to allow easier and faster construction of network infrastructure. By reducing permitting delays,

minimizing paperwork, and making clear who the right federal point of contact is, we will allow broadband providers to spend less time and money on bureaucracy and instead focus on building networks.

To reform the current system, the General Services Administration will revise the current forms for permitting requests.

Leveraging federal assets is the second area of work. Federal assets should provide the greatest possible benefits to stakeholders and the public. The federal government owns, manages, or operates a great deal of land and infrastructure across America, including towers and other structures.

Allowing private sector operators to access these assets easily and at a reasonable cost will encourage additional deployment of network infrastructure. Consistent with this goal, DOI has created a map of thousands of tower locations available to service providers as they look to expand their networks.

And finally, maximizing the impact of federal funding -- the federal government should be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. While the private market is best at building and deploying broadband networks, financial partnerships and assistance from the federal government can help to close the gap, particularly in rural America.

But coordinating existing funding opportunities available to providers will better target areas of true need and make more efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars. USDA has committed to this goal as they distribute $600 million in new federal investments in a rural broadband pilot program prioritizing projects to increase productivity, improving rural quality of life.

All of these different work streams will be explained further by the agencies later in this webinar but it's exciting to see the work that has already been done and we look forward to seeing what else will be done in the future. We can go to the next slide.

As you can see, the ABI is led by representatives from the White House, USDA, and Department of Commerce. Each of the work streams is chaired by agencies with particular equities and expertise in that area and consists of other agencies that are connected to the activities of each work stream.

I'd like to just take a moment to thank all of our federal agencies for devoting the time and resources to this effort, and particularly those who are co-chairs of our work stream. It has taken a tremendous amount of time, work, and dedication to the cause and couldn't have happened without their willingness to commit to the initiative.

As you will see in the report, it is a really impressive compilation of the work that has happened in just a few short years. Now we can go to the next slide.

As noted, the report was released last month. It's available online at the link included on this slide. I would encourage you to read the report and see these commitments from our agency partners.

While we're very excited about the release of the report, this is only the first step in this process. In the months to come, we will be monitoring the implementation of the commitments that were made and sharing the results with stakeholders.

In addition, we will continue to look for additional actions that can be taken to streamline government processes, free up resources, and improve the impact

of federal investments. Most importantly, we will continue to engage and listen to the American people to ensure that our country is connected and competitive in the years to come.

This report is an important step towards ensuring that all Americans have access to the vital resources they need to fully participate in the opportunities of the future. The administration remains committed to promoting widespread broadband deployment and to being a good and productive business partner to those in the private sector as they seek to build out these networks.

And with that, I will turn it back over to Karen.

Karen Hanson: Thank you so much, Kelsey. And as a reminder to everybody, we will have time for questions at the end of the session so please use the question box on the right-hand side of your screen to submit questions or comments at any time.

Our next speaker, Doug Kinkoph, serves as an associate administrator at NTIA with the Department of Commerce. Doug directs the Broadband USA program which promotes broadband connectivity and digital inclusion across the United States. Doug is also the co-chair of the federal funding work stream so he will provide both an overview of that work stream's efforts as well as NTIA's commitments within the milestones report. Please welcome Doug Kinkoph.

Doug Kinkoph: Thank you and good afternoon. The federal funding work stream, I think Kelsey said it best by stating that really our guiding principles are to be good stewards of taxpayer funds and to maximize federal funding opportunities.

The objective is to target areas of need in the rural areas of America and the unserved areas which would be simple for broadband project sponsors to identify funding in federal government. Simplifying that process will provide a great deal of benefit for them to actively seek and receive funding.

We also want to leverage state and local policies. And what we mean by that is working with the states -- and I'll get into this a little bit more later -- but to leverage and work with states to ensure we're leveraging the funding that they're doing in the state and local community level so that we can maximize federal dollars. That helps us be more efficient in the use of taxpayer money.

The chart below sets forth the chairs, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce, as well as the active working work stream members. Next slide.

The federal funding work stream key actions provide a one-stop broadband and funding information. And I'll go into these a little bit more in a moment. Improve broadband availability data; improve efficacy and reach of federal broadband funds; strengthen program consistency and collaboration; modernize accountability measures to better track the impact and value of investments to ensure that they're going where they need to go and they're making the impact that they should; and engage the private sector, states, local communities, tribal partners to identify successful models to leverage federal funding, incentivized private investment and create stronger public private partnerships - ultimately helping engage and improve economic conditions in many of these areas. Next slide.

In addition to co-chairing the federal work stream on federal funding, NTIA has also individual commitments, and several of those are listed here: create a one stop site for the latest broadband information on broadband funding and

permitting, and that's set forth on the Broadband USA Web site which is listed there on the slide; pilot -we're developing the pilot broadband mapping tool, which I'll speak about here in a little bit, to better target funding for the federal agencies and states; improve coordination between federal and state programs; and then support streamline federal permitting work stream. Next slide.

Before I go into the individual slides here, I thought I'd take two minutes and talk about the overall mission of BroadbandUSA. And I think it's helpful to kind of lay the groundwork of the work we're doing here.

BroadbandUSA is really targeted to serve communities, industry, nonprofits that want to expand broadband infrastructure and digital workforce skills throughout their area.

We also partner with industry, federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal governments to reduce barriers to capital investment, remove obstacles to broadband services, employ government resources more efficiently which fits very well into the American Broadband Initiative.

We do this through multiple channels. First, technical assistance teams which provide direct and indirect technical assistance to local communities, states, other federal agencies, et cetera, that ask for it.

Our partnership teams attend regional conferences around the country. They also put on technical assistance workshops in communities that request, and we put on webinars such as today's event.

Our third way is the development of products and tools - toolkits on public-private partnerships, federal funding guides, toolkits for local and tribal governments, et cetera. And those are all available on our BroadbandUSA

website. They provide useful tools for startup communities just entering into really how to deploy broadband and more established ones.

The next way that we help support communities who are State Broadband Leaders Network where we bring together over 40 states and territories, and we bring together the broadband policy makers to collaborate on things such as broadband policy, best practices, et cetera. And that has been a great dialogue and they've been great partners with us in the states and territories.

And then the final is our mapping initiative, which I'll go into more in the couple slides, is our newest initiative trying to help better target federal funds to those areas that need funding.

This slide shows that is one of the slides on federal funding that we are putting up on our BroadbandUSA website. It's a one-stop page that will set forth information about federal funding programs that support broadband planning, deployment, training, equipment, other activities; and it provides the public a place to go where they can find out all the information.

If you go there, you'll find stuff on USDA but it'll link you over to their website so you can get more information. But rather than having to know everywhere to go on each Web site of each agency, this provides a one-stop shop. Next slide, please.

The second is a new initiative which is one of our obligations to put up a one-stop site on our BroadbandUSA website for permitting information. And this will consolidate permitting information and create a one-stop location for information about federal permitting of broadband infrastructure. Updating that site will be done as we get improvements from across the agencies, et cetera, and so it will be maintained indefinitely on and updated as need be.

And on there will be information on permitting as well as process flows for some of the permitting process to help the public and industry understand how to navigate those processes. Next slide please.

And one of the more hot topics, I think recently, is mapping. And BroadbandUSA in '18 was given funding, 7.5 million, to start a mapping process to help provide additional resources for agencies to help funding. And we are currently in the process of setting up our platform. We issued a contract to ESRI, managed cloud services, and that is in the process of being set up.

We recently announced that we will be working with eight initial states. I say initial because we'll continue to add states continuously and ultimately, hopefully, get to all 50 here. Our initial states are California, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia. So those will be the first eight that we are working with.

We are also talking with our brethren in the federal agencies, USDA, DOI, Census, et cetera, regarding data that they can share and put into our map. And the intent here is to create a multiple layer view to ensure that we have the ability to drill down more closely on where broadband is not. And by doing a multilayer approach, it allows you to see where there are odd discrepancies, et cetera based on current data.

So that's kind of a quick overview of the federal funding work streams some of the work BroadbandUSA is doing. And happy to take questions at the end. Thank you. Back to you Karen.

Karen Hanson: Thank you so much Doug. Our next speaker, Jannine Miller, serves as the senior adviser for rural infrastructure to the US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. She leads comprehensive data driven analysis to optimize the effectiveness of infrastructure related policies, programs, regulations, and budgets.

Her responsibilities at USDA includes supporting rural prosperity, developing new infrastructure investment options, enhancing rural broadband connectivity, and evaluating the efficient transport of agriculture commodities.

Jannine is also one of the members of the executive leadership team of the American Broadband Initiative, and USDA is also a co-chair of the federal funding work stream. So we are fortunate to have her with us today to cover USDA's many commitments to the Initiative. So please welcome Jannine Miller.

Jannine Miller: Thank you Karen and good afternoon everyone and good morning to those of you on the far western United States. My name is Jannine Miller and I'm really delighted that you all are making time in your day to be on this webinar to learn about all that the federal government is doing to support rural broadband build out by private sector.

On the next slide you'll see something that's very simple but very clear in our directive here by Secretary Perdue. Our job is to do right and feed everyone. And there are multiple aspects of that of course throughout U.S. Department of Agriculture but this also does apply to the rural development mission area of USDA.

There is much we're doing to do the right things and support our rural community as we feed the world.

Next slide also indicates some guiding principles that we've been working to support and working through at U.S. Department of Agriculture. As Kelsey mentioned, the Agriculture and Rural Prosperity Task Force Report was a directive by President Trump to Secretary Perdue to evaluate all that is required for rural prosperity and rural growth and all that the federal government can do to support that rural prosperity.

On the next slide you'll see the four main pillars that we started out with as related to economic development, innovation technology, workforce, and quality of life. These are decades long understanding of the pillars that promote economic prosperity; but we found that going forward today and going forward in the 21st century, broadband e-Connectivity is just as vital as electricity and telephone systems had been in the prior century as well as the Interstate Highway System. It's simply a must have for today's competitiveness as well as our competitiveness and prosperity in future decades.

On the next slide you'll see though that how we are participating in the American Broadband Initiative which is Kelsey said was birthed out of the Ag and Rural Prosperity Task Force findings; and we are so very grateful to President Trump and his whole team at the White House -- the multifaceted approaches that are bringing all federal assets and federal efforts to bear to support rural broadband and support our rural communities.

We are proud to participate as Karen mentioned as part of the executive leadership team here at USDA in partnership with Commerce as well as other agencies, particularly Department of the Interior. What we are doing is certainly within the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and crosses over to our other partner agencies.

In the federal assets and permitting improvements related to environmental reviews, committing to permit reviews in a dedicated time frame of 270 days to give at our U.S. Forest Service to give some reliability and certainty to the industry, streamlining our permitting for mobile now, cross agency assessment of other potential assets that can be deployed for telecommunications companies on federal assets and federal lands, and harmonizing the policies that govern access to those assets.

We're also in a leadership role particularly on the federal funds working group to maximum the impact of tax dollars, establishing goals and performance measures for our Rural Utilities Service broadband programs. We have four of them long standing and a new one but also improving the coordination of those broadband programs to within U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as other parts are federal government.

These last three bullets are the ones that I'll talk more explicitly about. We will soon be publishing a report on the importance of broadband for modern precision agriculture. And we have published an e-Connectivity resource handbook and we have launched and are executing the ReConnect Program.

On the next slide you'll start to see some of the research that we've done so far related to precision agriculture. These are news articles that you can go and learn more if you are interested about the digital aspects of today's agriculture production, planning and market coordination.

In particular, you do see those robots out in the strawberry fields and we're seeing more and more hardware and software being used in the field to improve yields, reduce cost to produce, and better serve agriculture customers in the United States, urban areas, and throughout the world.

These are examples of specialty crops and rural crops, but on the next slide you'll see the facial recognition that we're even seeing for livestock, particularly in this case for cows. So that and the very near future we believe there will be enough data flowing that we can know exactly what type of cow that milk came from. Pretty interesting stuff.

To support all this though, broadband is absolutely necessary. And on the next slide, you'll see some of the challenges that we've done some field research in seven states and we've interviewed folks and looked at nearly three dozen technologies. I'm not going to read through all these but this slide will be available to you after this presentation.

If it's in green, it's impacting farmers. If it's in blue, it's things that telecommunications and broadband providers we hope would pay attention to about rural infrastructure broadband needs. In the black are things that urban citizens and urban businesses can identify with, what they already experience with broadband connectivity or what benefits they could get when rural is connected.

On the next slide is simply a screenshot of a resource. This is the e-Connectivity resource toolkit that we have published at USDA.gov/broadband. This is, hopefully, a very easy to use tool to identify what type of entity you are as you're looking for ways to support various types of broadband programs and projects, not just infrastructure build out but also research and equipment deployment and other adoption technologies. Twenty-seven programs available here at USDA related to e-Connectivity. I hope you'll check out and download that resource toolkit at our website.

On the next slide, I'm going to start to talk just briefly for about a minute and a half about the ReConnect Program. Currently we have announced $600 million of funding in our first round. There will be future rounds that are more, but we have released the rules is at around 600 million. This is for areas that don't have sufficient access today to 10/1, ten megabits per second download and one megabit per second upload. Wherever there is not 10/1, these dollars are eligible to be spent; and buildout must provide service at 25/3, 25 megabits down and 3 megabits per second up. Although we hope some of these projects will fund higher speeds and we have incentives for that.

On the next slide, you can see the types of fund sources available: loans, a combination of loans and grants, and grants that require a match – a cash match. These are three explicit types of programs, and you'll see deadlines at the bottom. Actually I need to correct those. They're reversed. The grant program applications are due May 31. The loan programs are due July 12. The combination is due June 21. All this information is available through on our website at reconnect.usda.gov.

Next slide indicates some of the ways that we're going to be scoring the applications that come in for grants and loan grant combos. There are nine criteria and all of the points and ways to gather those points for projects again is found at reconnect.usda.gov.

On the next slide, you'll see this is one of the most exciting things. This is going to be a very effective use of federal funds is that we are not capping or limiting the type of entities that can apply. We want all potential project and internet service providers to get in this game and be a partner with the federal government to deploy broadband to support rural communities and rural productivity.

And on the next slide, you can see the type of application factors that are necessary. We are good stewards of federal taxpayer dollars requiring a fully complete application with financial feasibility, technical feasibility, and ability to make sure that these federal dollars make an impact in rural communities.

Next slide is a very simple rundown of the types of things to get started on your application. The application portal is not yet open but will be, we hope in a few weeks. Keep an eye out at reconnect.usda.gov for more information.

Next slide indicates that we have workshops, webinars, and other resources there on our web page including a contact us button, and we do get back to folks when we get questions. We have a team dedicated to responding at our helpdesk.

Next slide is the last slide and with that I'll turn it back over to you Karen.

Karen Hanson: Thank you so much Jannine. And I'll just let folks know that there's actually a webinar that USDA is hosting tomorrow on the ReConnect program. So I encourage folks to look for that webinar link by going to USDA's site, and thank you again, Jannine.

We are getting some great questions coming in. Just a quick reminder that if you'd like your question to be asked during the Q&A portion, please use the chat box on the right.

Our next speaker is Kate MacGregor. Kate serves as Deputy Chief of Staff at the Department of the Interior. Prior to that she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management where she managed a portfolio that covers four agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental

Enforcement, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and
Enforcement.

Kate is also a key member of the American Broadband Initiative as she serves
as DOI's agency principle to the initiative, and DOI also serves as co-chair on
two of the work streams. So Kate will address the streamlining federal
permitting work streams tasks as well as DOI's own many contributions. So
please welcome Kate MacGregor.

Kate MacGregor: Thank you so much. So it's so awesome to be speaking to this group about
such an important issue. One of the big questions we get if you go to the next
slide, "Why is DOI is working in this space?"

Well, back in early 2018 we had a presidential memorandum issued called
Supporting Broadband Tower Facilities and Federal Properties Managed by
the U.S. Department of the Interior. And we had two goals that were
established, develop a plan to support rural broadband and within 180 days
report on the progress and identifying assets was a big one for us.

So by no means is the Department of the Interior the number one leading
agency on communications expertise, but we happen to be one of the actually
the largest land manager in the United States. Currently DOI manages roughly
20% of our federal footprint or one in every five acres, and this is important
because most of those acres are west of the Mississippi and many of them are
in very rural parts of our country. For example, Utah 63% federal acreage,
Wyoming 48%, Oregon 53%, State of California - 45% is managed by the
federal government, Idaho 61%. So we have a lot of big land holdings
especially in the west, and that matters when it comes to permitting towers
and infrastructure.

So what you're seeing on this slide is essentially some of the data we were able to start with, our source is the FCC, and saying okay, what do most Americans need when it comes to rural broadband connectivity? Hospitals need one gigabyte per second. Schools look at 100 megabytes per second to one gigabyte. Small businesses, they need 50 megabytes per second.

Well, what does that look like on a map? And this is what we mapped out for ourselves to sort of start framing how we want to approach this.

If you look at the next slide, that's the wire line capability not wireless of our country; and it basically shows some of the areas that are completely lacking connectivity.

If you go to the next slide, what you see is a map of the federal footprint. This includes the Forest Service; but, you know, when identifying what assets can we bring to bear to help the American Broadband Initiative and meet the President's request, a lot of it is public lands and being able to permit infrastructure faster.

So we permit quite a few comms sites each year, whether it's the Bureau of Land Management, whether it's the Park Services, whether it's Refuges. And again in many cases, if you go to the next slide, you can see what we're looking at here. A lot of the areas that are not connected happen to be overlaid and have a strong federal footprint, and we think we can do better and perhaps part of that is permitting faster.

If you go to the next slide, because at the Department of the Interior we never leave out Alaska, and that says it all I think. Over 60% of Alaska is managed by the federal government as public land, and I think that we can do a little bit better in a rural connectivity when it comes to Alaska.

So next slide. What Interior did was, again while we're not the big comms players so to speak, we do have absolutely excellent individuals who work every day in cadastral mapping on GIS services. So we thought, let's put a map together and let's take all of the departments' permits, infrastructure that we have permitted around the country, and throw it up on a map and maybe that would make it easier for folks who want to collocate on existing infrastructure or at least see where we're playing.

So this is what we established. It's the Joint Overview Established Location map. It's actually named after Joel Harrington who created it, but it makes it easier and it's currently available on our website at www.doi.gov/broadband. It's an interactive map that helps you see and you can zoom in.

On the left side you can see the actual toggle that we use. You can see the existing telecom sites. You can see wilderness and wilderness study areas. You can see national monument areas. You can see all sorts of land management decisions that could be potential obstacles or have specific statute driven limitations on where you cannot put infrastructure. But it also shows you where there is existing infrastructure that you might be able to utilize.

If you go to the next slide, this is more in detail sort of what you can expect when gauging around the website and checking out the map; and we're actually taking a lot of feedback right now from folks who would like to see more overlays or more information, but I really encourage everyone to visit the website and take a look.

Next slide has further details that you can click on and zoom in on an actual permit and get more details of like: Who do you need to talk to? When was it

permitted? Which agency do I need to go to to start having a dialogue about potentially collocating on this infrastructure?

You'll see that sometimes there are linear features. Other areas you can do a terrain map to see where higher mountainous features are, but we have quite a bit of different permitted infrastructure. The good news is DOI and several other agencies are using a standard form where we can do this stuff.

The next slide talks a little bit about our co-lead as was discussed on one of the interagency working groups on how to streamline permitting. That's another area where the Department of the Interior has been a significant leader in this administration and we're looking to bring our efficiencies to the communications permitting as well.

So our objective on this committee is to make it easier to get rights of way out of the building and get infrastructure permitted quickly. We have a great map and a good team set up; and we're hoping to bring the efficiencies we've learned at Interior in some of our other permitting processes and learn from all of the other federal agencies that sit on this small interagency working group to make processes better department-wide especially when it comes to communication.

The next slide is an outline of our working group action plan and some of the items that we're working on marching forward. I actually think number three is going to be a really important item that will have a significant and measurable impact on getting more communications infrastructure deployed in the rural west.

And the last slide is a quick, well, second to last slide I should say, is a quick overview of our second item that we required as part of the Presidential

Memorandum which was to submit within 180 days a report to the White House, and that's what we did. It's available on our website right now. It's extremely comprehensive, and the way we laid it out is as a work plan for each of the agencies at Interior whether it's, next slide, Indian Affairs, whether it's BLM, Park Service. If you go to the next slide, that would be great.

It has, and this is just a short little snapshot, a map of what the permitting process is for each of our little agencies. All the work that they do, what they have to do in order to be able to issue a permit, but that's just one of the many things that we analyzed in this report.

We took a deep dive on all our regulations policy guidance, what our environmental review process is, how we do leasing and permitting, should we do e-filing was one of the things that was contemplated, and fair market rentals. It is an extensive report. The team worked really hard on it, and you know, I think that they did a great job. And what we plan to do at Interior is basically take that roadmap and march it along to make all of our permitting more efficient.

So thank you all for having me.

Karen Hanson: Thank you so much, Kate. And as I think everyone can see, DOI has quite a lot on their plate so we're very grateful to all of their team for all their efforts and to Kate for keeping everything going.

For our next speaker and final speaker, actually, is going to be Jennie Campbell. Jennie is a Project Manager at the General Services Administration where she leads an interagency effort to implement section 608D of the Mobile Now Act, a study on the feasibility of creating a database of real

property information from state and local governments to support broadband expansion.

Jennie is also co-chair of the third work stream of the American Broadband Initiative which she'll discuss as well as GSA's commitments. Please welcome Jennie Campbell.

Jennie Campbell: Thank you, Karen. Good afternoon everyone. I'm excited to be able to share the great work that GSA is performing to support broadband expansion.

For those of you unfamiliar with GSA, I just wanted to share a little bit about what we do for the government. We provide building services. So we provide work places by constructing, managing, and preserving government buildings and by leasing and managing commercial real estate.

We also promote management best practices and efficient government operations to the development of government wide policies. And we provide acquisition services such as contracting and purchasing and we leverage the fact that we can do both purchasing to make things more cost affordable and effective for the other federal agencies. Next slide please.

These services help us facilitate the work of the leveraging federal assets work stream whose objective is to leverage federal assets such as towers, buildings, and land to lower the cost of broadband build out and encourage private entities to expand telecommunication infrastructure, especially in a rural America.

The work stream is co-chaired by GSA and DOI. GSA owns or leases over 8,300 rural property assets which include buildings, lands, and structures in more than 8,000 cities nationwide. DOI manages approximately 50 million

acres of land and over 7,000 towers. So between us we are well positioned to lead the work stream.

As noted on the slide, there are 11 other agencies actively involved in the work stream and that includes the seven major landholding agencies in the government. We also have multiple participation from departments and bureaus within those 11 agencies. Next slide please.

GSA maintains a Federal Real Property Profile. It's known as the FRPP. It's a centralized database that contains descriptive information on federal real property that's owned, leased, or otherwise managed by the executive branch agencies, and executive agencies report that information about their real property assets annually.

So section 608B and C of the Mobile Now Act require GSA to issue a notice for public comment to identify new FRPP data elements that would help determine whether federal real property asset is suitable for communication installation and then to issue guidance on how to report those data elements as part of the annual FRPP reporting.

So meeting that requirement GSA established a federal interagency workgroup to clarify the most effective and efficient solutions to get those data elements within the prescribed time frame.

In October of 2018, GSA issued new guidance for the FRPP reporting which included: asset height as a new data element that agencies have to provide, elevation above mean sea level and asset height above mean sea level which will be determined by GIS analysis, and GSA is also going to at a point of contact to facilitate collaboration.

Agencies were advised that as part of that collaboration process, they may be asked additional information that's important to industry in determining if an asset is suitable for communication installation, such as whether or not there is electric power supply, backhaul facilities, a weight restriction, and access or security controls to the property.

Agencies do not have to report on this information as part of the new FRPP process, but they should be aware that they may receive questions about these types of criteria.

In November 2018, GSA shared a set of publicly available FRPP data to be integrated into the dual map that was recently published by DOI that Kate just spoke about.

And in the April/May timeframe of this year, GSA will publish the new data elements outlined in the October guidance and reported by the executive agencies to date. Next slide please.

In September of 2018, the leveraging federal asset work stream completed a survey of real property assets designed to identify additional asset classes that could be leveraged to further support telecommunications networks. The survey showed that most agencies have assets that already have broadband installed. They have assets that could potentially accommodate broadband and they have some level of geospatial data for the real property assets.

We also found that most agencies do not have a centralized database that contains broadband information relative to their real property. The ability to grant access to easement or rights of way in situations when they don't own the easements or rights of way and they don't have an internal broadband working group.

So the work stream is currently evaluating additional options to make information about federal assets available for communication installation, and we hope to publish those recommendations towards the end of this summer. Next slide please.

The survey also identified that there are more than 50 laws, regulations, and policies that address use of the agencies' real property assets. So in the fall of 2018, we established a tiger team to review those laws, regulations, and policies; and, again, by late summer of this year we plan to make recommendations to facilitate the use of agency real property assets.

We're working on these reviews and recommendations in coordination with the streamlining federal permitting work stream to make sure that any changes are in harmony with each other. Next slide please.

As was also previously discussed, GSA is working with a number of other agencies to streamline the federal permitting process and make changes to the SF299 to improve the permitting related to wired and wireless antenna installations. As part of the executive order 13821, GSA has begun collecting information from all property managing agencies in the use of GSA common form and the SF 299 for permitting communication installation.

So this information is used to create quarterly reports on the number of applications received, the number approved, the number rejected, the basis for rejection, and the number of working days each application was pending before being approved or rejected. Next slide please.

GSA is actively engaged in several complementary broadband related activities. In July of 2018, GSA published a FRPP map which is a geospatial display of federal real property inventory.

We are partnering closely with the streamline federal permitting workstream on several activities, three of which I previously mentioned. But we're also participating in the workstream's cross agency analysis of processes, speeds regulations and rules related to permitting.

As Karen mentioned earlier, I'm the project lead for the interagency working group implementing section 608D of the Mobile Now Act. Section 608D directs GSA to study and issue a report to Congress on incentives for states and local governments to provide real property information and the feasibility of creating a database of that information to support broadband expansion.

We've been working closely with state, tribal, and local government stakeholders to gather feedback, and at this point GSA is not actually collecting the data. We're just conducting a study on the potential to collect the data and how we could share and display that information from some state and local governments.

Finally, we will be conducting an analysis of the permitting information that's being collected as part of our requirement under executive order 13821 to identify trends, challenges, and/or opportunities related to the approval and denial of permits.

So although there are certainly a lot of challenges related to expanding broadband, there's a lot of opportunities, and GSA is very excited to be engaged in the variety of broadband working groups and initiatives.

I look forward to answering any questions you might have. I'll turn it back over to Karen.

Karen Hanson: Thank you so much Jennie. And thank you everyone for your presentations and thanks to everyone who's been submitting questions. I will try to go through as many of these as possible, and I will go in the order of the panelists who spoke today.

So Kelsey, we have a question for you which is how do these efforts and the efforts of the American Broadband Initiative relate to the 5G deployment question?

Kelsey Guyselman: Sure. Thanks, Karen. I think there are a few different places where there is some intersection between these efforts. I think the first is on the infrastructure reforms and siting reforms that are taking place. Obviously, those will improve deployment in rural America and will be very important for deploying broadband in rural America, but many of those will also be useful for building out the dense network that will be required for 5G.

So things like being able to have a single common form application through GSA or having access to DOI towers I think we'll have a use for both broadband networks in rural America but also these wireless networks.

And then, in addition to that, I think that there is going to be a benefit to having increased fiber deployment across the United States as we move towards 5G and the data heavy applications. We'll need more fiber deeper and deeper into the network. And so this is something that can be beneficial I think across the board in both rural and urban America and for not just broadband but also for 5G network deployment in the years to come.

Karen Hanson: Great, thank you. Next question goes to Doug from NTIA. There were a lot of questions about the mapping effort. And one of them has to do with whether NTIA is providing funds to states for mapping and just in general how the pilot program is going to work with the states that have signed on.

Doug Kinkoph: No, we were not permitted under the language that was provided with the $7.5 million from Congress for funding collection of new data. So we can't fund the collection of data nor are we funding the states to work with us. We are basically entering into partnerships, we want to say collaboration agreements with the states, to share data, et cetera, and work on the map together.

Karen Hanson: Okay, excellent. Thank you for that. Jannine, we had a lot of questions come in for you about the ReConnect Program. I'll group a couple of them together. One is how will USDA ensure that the ReConnect funds go to the areas that need them the most. And then the other question that's related has to do with eligibility, are electric utilities eligible for ReConnect funding?

Jannine Miller: Certainly. How do we make sure that it goes to the areas that need it the most is an interesting question? It's I guess the answer is indicative of the type of program but this is. It's different from most federal funding that goes out to projects that are in the countryside and in our cities.

                   The funds for this program go to applicants who come in and seek the dollars. They are not pushed out by allocation formula. There is not an amount that goes to every state. The funds will go out on a project to project basis based on the applications that we receive. Those applications have to be in rural areas, 20,000 population or less. So we think and that is written in law by Congress. But we think that is the right size of community and lower for this type of program to make sure that we're getting these dollars to unserved areas.

Also, we are going to be doing a set of tests for the applications that come in. The applications have to assert that there is not currently 10-1 service in the area. So that is how we know these dollars will go to projects that are not served or areas that need it the most.

It is, however, not enough to fill the full gap. Six hundred million dollars is a lot of money, but it is certainly not going to be anywhere near close to building out all of the high-speed high capacity high reliability Internet that we need in the country.

Congress did appropriate an additional $550 million thankfully to this program, and those dollars will roll out in another round probably late this year or maybe first of next year. We're not sure of the timing on that.

But we are really relying these funds to go in partnership to private sector, for-profits, not-profits, even some municipal governments if they are able to prove that they can provide broadband at the premises.

So with that, the other question is related to electric utilities being able to be eligible for the ReConnect funding, and yes, they are. We're very thankful that Congress allows electric cooperatives to be part of this applicant pool because as the question is quoted yes, they have a lot of infrastructure already out there in rural America.

A lot of that though might be old so it probably requires some upgrade and that's what the federal government can help out with. It also depends on state government to be in a place where they allow electric cooperative in their state to provide broadband. Some states don't explicitly allow that so we are encouraging state governments, general assemblies, and governors to put

forward legislation or if they need to, to make sure electric cooperatives can participate.

Karen Hanson: Excellent. Thank you so much, Jannine. Now a question for Kate MacGregor with DOI. Can you tell us what DOI's next steps are going to be to further streamline broadband deployment and improve the permitting processes for broadband?

Kate MacGregor: Yes, absolutely. We not holding back. We're really pushing forward on a potential regulatory action that we might be able to take on reducing basically the regulatory burden when it comes to being able to permit infrastructure in the West and a lot of our public lands.

So when we went through our report, we identified quite a few different items that are potentially holding us up, you know, whether it's doing a rental calculation that's extremely complex and burdensome to our own teams here at the BLM that's based on a map that is no longer in production, the Rand McNally map that hasn't been updated in over ten years.

Or looking at analyzing different agencies like the National Park Service actually has a categorical exclusion they can use to permit some of these comms sites which are usually less than five acres and have minimal disturbance. That's a tool that NPS can use but some of our other agencies do not have that ability.

Another thing that we looked at is can we permit faster and track better if we allow independent operators to e-file their permits and that way we can see right when they come in because you know, in doing a lot of the analysis in one case, and I believe Karen Montgomery is on the phone, some of our folks found some permits that had been sitting in the queue for over two years.

So I think that when it comes to solving some of the problems and actually having a measurable impact on increasing infrastructure in rural America, we are hoping we can do a better job and we think a rule making process will have a significant impact on that.

So that's one of the big steps that Interior is currently evaluating. Thanks for the question.

Karen Hanson: Awesome. Thank you, Kate. So question now for Jennie with GSA. There was a question that came in about the obligation for GSA together quarterly reports on permitting applications, the number of applications received, approved, rejected.

And the question is what is the status of those reports and are they publicly available?

Jennie Campbell: Thank you. So, the first quarterly report was issued to OMB in December of 2018. We're wrapping up the data collection and finalizing the report for the second quarter. It just was impacted by the furlough, so some agencies were able to report rather quickly -- those that don't hold a lot or manage a lot of lands and buildings, and some of the larger agencies needed a little bit more time.

So we're getting ready to issue the second quarterly report to OMB. They're not publicly available today, but I have asked whether or not they're going to be posted on the GSA website and that's certainly something that we can share through BroadbandUSA if and when that happens.

Karen Hanson: Excellent. Thank you so much. So have about five minutes left. And I know that there are still a bunch of questions so let me see if I can get at least a couple more out there. And I'll start this one to Doug, but others may want to chime in as well.

We had some questions about the role of local governments in either partnering with BroadbandUSA or in general leveraging some of the information that's in the milestones report.

Doug do you want to start off with kind of some thoughts about how local governments can play a role in broadband projects?

Doug Kinkoph: Sure. Part of that is I mentioned our State Broadband Leaders Network which is really at the state level, but it provides a good conduit through to the local communities in many cases. So that's an option there to when we have our dialogue of best practices, broadband policies, we talk about what's going on in their states all way down to the local community level.

In the ABI, the American Broadband Initiative, report, there is coordination further between the federal requiring NTIA to take the lead on developing and further coordinating that work between federal and state programs. Again, getting back to how do we integrate the states and the work they're doing on broadband into the work that various federal agencies are doing which then you know leads us to much more efficient use of funding and deployment of broadband around the country.

So we'll continue to do that through the ABI and through the State Broadband Leaders' Network.

And of course we have relationships with a lot of states just through our technical assistance in which we can also pull them into the fold. And we bring that knowledge that we learned from those local communities, et cetera into the larger state broadband leaders' network.

Karen Hanson: Great. Anyone else want to chime in on this question?

Kate McGregor: Sure, thanks. I would just say for the Department of the Interior we have an open comment period that generally stays open on regulatory reform. If local governments would like to share their experiences or concerns or anything that's specific to the Department of the Interior and any of our agencies, I just shared with you Karen the link to the website; but it's doi.gov/regulatory-reform and you can write your comments to any of our agencies and we review them.

Karen Hanson: Excellent. And I will share that with everybody as well. And just a quick reminder that we will be posting all of these slides to the BroadbandUSA website within seven days as well as a transcript and the recording. I think we're running out of time for more questions.

So I think we're going to move on to let everybody know that we would love for you to join us again on April 17th for our next webinar titled *Model Programs and Practices for Building a Competitive Cyber Security Workforce: the HBCU Story*.

Thank you again to all of our speakers today and to all of the attendees who joined us on our webinar. As another reminder, the presentation, transcript and audio recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website within seven days.

And finally as Doug mentioned, BroadbandUSA is available to provide technical assistance, to help expand broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion and broadband adoption. For more information, please feel free to email us at broadbandusa@ntia.gov or visit our website for more information and to access our toolkits and publications.

Thanks so much to all of you, all of our wonderful presenters, and all of you who joined us, and hope everyone has a wonderful day.

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