**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**November 1, 2021**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Task Force Members Present:** Teddy Bekele, Yvonne Cariveau, Dale Cook, Steve Fenske, Steve Giorgi, Jason Hollinday, Marc Johnson, Bernadine Joselyn, Brian Krambeer, Micah Myers, Theresa Sunde, Jim Weikum, Paul Weirtz, and Dave Wolf.

**Task Force Members Absent:** Nolan Cauthen

**Others in Attendance:** Anna Boroff, Deven Bowdry, Zachary Cairns, Brent Christensen, Scott Cole, Angie Dickison, Amanda Duerr, Jenn Frost, Benya Kraus, Connie Martin, Eileen Smith, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Mike Wimmer, and Nathan Zacharias.

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions and Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2021 Meeting**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Members of the public attending the virtual meeting were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. The minutes of the October 5, 2021 meeting were approved. Chair Bekele provided an overview of the agenda.

1. **Update from the Office of Broadband Development (OBD)**

Diane Wells, deputy director at OBD, provided an update on activities at the office. Deven Bowdry, Government Relations Coordinator for the Department of Employment and Economic Development, confirmed that no date has been set for a possible special legislative session.

1. **Regional Gatherings Overview**

Benya Kraus, Executive Director, Lead for America, provided information on the results of regional broadband meetings held in advance of the Blandin fall broadband conference. She also responded to questions from Task Force members. Her presentation can be found here: [Google Presentation](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fpresentation%2Fd%2F1eMlXpM7RpS2p_QCBpk3w-6YfRuMTPHW_cuHzxVPV4Ss%2Fedit%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=04%7C01%7Cdiane.wells%40state.mn.us%7Cfdbbba610ea64491d50b08d9a627e48e%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637723513733774029%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ZupfWnDSbA2f2HUGYebNqEY7SpEm1rAsNOFs3VNVGvk%3D&reserved=0).

1. **Subgroup Report: Mapping and Speed Goal**

Steve Giorgi provided an update on the work of the Mapping and Speed Goal subgroup and the recommendations under consideration. It was noted that some recommendations spanned more than one subgroup.

1. **Subgroup Report: Accessibility, Affordability and Education**

Yvonne Cariveau provided an overview of the items being discussed by the subgroup and the four recommendations under consideration.

1. **Subgroup Report: Un/Underserved and Funding**

Paul Weirtz provided information on the work of the subgroup and recommendations being considered. The Task Force discussed sending a separate letter to the Governor and Legislature to support using all of Minnesota’s allocated Capital Projects Funds from the American Recovery Plan Act for the Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure grant program, and not limiting those funds to the $70 million approved by the Legislature in the 2021 session.

1. **Public Comment, Other Business, December Meeting Plans, Wrap-up**

Chair Bekele noted that the annual report would be in a presentation-style format with less text than last year. Scott Cole requested members to provide photos of what is happening in the field for inclusion in the report.

Chair Bekele provided an opportunity for Task Force members to bring up additional issues. There was a discussion of calculating the cost to bring broadband service to all remaining unserved locations in Minnesota.

Chair Bekele then asked if any members of the public wished to provide comments to the Task Force and no one did.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.