

California Broadband Council

October 27, 2021

Meeting Recap and Transcript

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Wednesday October 27, 2021 at 10:00am PST via virtual conference (per [California Executive Order N-25-20](#)).

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Council Chair Amy Tong welcomed Council members and attendees.

Roll Call

A quorum was established for the meeting.

Member	Designee	Present	Absent
California Department of Technology Director	Amy Tong	X	
Member of the Senate	Ben Hueso	Sarah Smith	X
Member of the Assembly	Mike Gipson	Dr. Angelo Williams	X
California Public Utilities Commission President	Marybel Batjer	Darcie Houck	X
California Office of Emergency Services Director	Mark Ghilarducci	Patrick Mallon	X
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tony Thurmond	Geoff Belleau	X**
Department of General Services Director	Ana Lasso	Brent Jamison	X
California State Transportation Agency Secretary	David Kim	Lori Pepper	X*
California Emerging Technology Fund President	Sunne Wright McPeak	X	

California Department of Food and Agriculture	Karen Ross	Michael Flores	X	
State Librarian	Greg Lucas	Laura Sasaki	X	
Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor	Christina Snider		X	

*Ms. Smith arrived a few minutes late due to a scheduling conflict.

**Mr. Belleau left early and Jerry Winkler served as designee due to scheduling conflicts.

Agenda Item 2 – State Broadband and Digital Literacy Updates

Scott Adams provided updates on state broadband and digital literacy including:

- SB 156 (Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021)
- Introduction of Mark Monroe, Deputy Director, Broadband Middle Mile Initiative.
- An explanation of the Broadband for All versus Middle Mile Initiative efforts.
- How Middle Mile – Last Mile, Funding, Data and Mapping, State Properties, and Contracting and Procurement efforts augment one another.

Agenda Item 3 – Action Plan Updates

Updates were provided for the long-term [Broadband Action Plan](#) Action Items.

Note: Please see accompanying slides and video.

California Public Utilities Commission

- Michael Minkus provided updates on Action Items #3, 10, and 12.

Department of Housing and Community Development

- Josh Rosa provided updates on Action Item #13.

Department of General Services

- Jason Kenney provided updates on Action Item #7

California Department of Technology

- Scott Adams provided updates on Action Items #14, 16, 18, and 24.

Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

- Kaina Pereria provided an update on Action Item #23.

Chair Tong facilitated Council member questions/comments about the updates.

Agenda Item 4 – Broadband middle Mile initiative Update

Mark Monroe provided a Broadband Middle Mile Initiative Update.

Chair Tong facilitated Council member questions/comments about the update.

Agenda Item 5 – Last Mile Funding Programs Update

Michael Minkus provided a Last Mile funding programs update.

Agenda Item 6- Legislative Update

John Mann and Grant Mack provided high-level updates of broadband bills signed in 2021.

Agenda Item 7 – 2022 Meeting Dates and Focus

Staff recommended and the Council voted and approved the following for 2022: quarterly meetings with a focus on:

- Fine tuning and Executive Order or Action Plan items that need to be addressed.
- Getting estimated dates for completion of short-term Action Plan action items.
- Obtaining high-level game plans with milestone dates for long-term Action Plan action items.

Agenda Item 8 – Public Comment

Public comments were made by:

- Robert Tse.
- Larry Ortega.

Ms. Tong asked Council members if they had any concluding comments and Ms. McPeak provided comments.

Ms. Tong thanked the Council members, presenters, and attendees.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17pm.

Follow Up Item

During Agenda Item 8 – Public Comment, a question was posed about whether the Broadband Council would take up the issue of broadband pricing.

Staff consulted with counsel after the meeting and given that California Government Code §8885 prescribes that the California Broadband Council exists “for the purpose of promoting broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas of the state, as defined by the Public Utilities Commission, and broadband adoption throughout the state for the benefit of all Californians” setting pricing is outside the scope of the Council. The Council will continue to promote the importance of affordability from a high level as permissible by statute.

Attachment: transcript.

Transcript

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the third and final California broadband council meeting in the year of 2021. Certainly a lot of updates that you will be getting from this staff. And I do want to go ahead and have our staff to call wrote and make sure that we have quorum to begin this meeting. And then we'll go from there.

Good morning. Director Tong? Here. Miss Smith? Here. Dr. Williams? Here. Mr. Howe? Here. Mr. Mallen? Here. Mr. Winkler? Here. Mr. Jamison? Present. Miss Pepper? Laurie, are you here? She's arriving late, apologies. Miss McPeak? Present. Mr. Flores? Mr. Flores designee for Secretary Ross. Mr. Lucas? Here. Miss Snyder? Here. We have a quorum and two friendly reminders, one for presenters to cue when you would like the slide changed and the other is for attendees to please remember to mute yourself.

Sorry, I was on mute. Michael Flores here.

Great. Thank you, Michael.

All right. Thank you Jules for that. As I mentioned that this is our third and final, which means that there are tons of information that the team has put together and present to this council as well as those the public member, members of the public who is watching today. A little bit of a procedure update to ensure that there's a good concentration on you know, attention being paid to the presenter as well as the dedicated period for open comment, or I should say public comment, per the meeting rules is that the chat function is disabled. However, when the public comment period opens at the end of this meeting, there will be opportunities for the members of public to raise their hand using the hand feature, the feature in zoom and if you are not familiar with that capability, just feel free to actually raise your hand and then our moderator will be calling folks to present their public comment. I think that's probably the only rule change that I'm aware of. And in each of the section because there's a lot of presentation today, I will open it up to make sure to circle back with the broadband and council members to see if you have any questions or comments you wanted to make after each of the presentations. So without further ado, let's just go ahead and get this ball rolling. Wanted to see if any of the council member want to do any opening statements before we hand it to staff for the presentation. Okay, seeing none. Let's go ahead and move forward if somebody could advance the slide please. Okay so, Scott I think you're on.

Thank you, Director Tong. And hello, members of the broadband council and the public. It's a pleasure to be here today. While we posted the agenda, just wanted to run through what we're going to be covering. We'll start with the state broadband and digital literacy update. Then we will shift our focus to action plan updates on long term items and hear from the various responsible entities there. We'll hear a brief update on the broadband middle mile initiative. An update on last mile funding programs from PUC, legislative updates and then have open discussion for the council members on the 2022 Council focus and then public comment. Nicole next slide please. So, just going to give you a real quick update on the broadband office and Nicole, next slide please. Wanted to really, you know refocus an overview of our efforts given that over the last year or so with the pandemic and you know, steps that were taken to address the persistent digital divide in the pandemic that we've taken to increase, you know, our responsibility and workload. So historically, you know, our role has been to interact with the statewide broadband ecosystem, all entities working to bridge the digital divide. We, you know, have you know, as a result of Director Tong being the chair, the additional responsibilities to support and monitor the work of the broadband council, which was really expanded under the broadband for all program which began with the Governor's Executive Order, and then the, you know, completion of the broadband for all action plan in December of 2020. Over the summer in

July with the chaptering of Senate Bill 156. The office also had some additional responsibilities, significant ones to oversee the statewide Open Access middle mile network and be a single point of contact for that effort. Next slide, please. So we are growing our staff to help us continue to effectively manage and implement the work that we're charged with. So we'll be introducing new team members. Today we wanted to introduce we're very happy to introduce a new team member. The governor's recently appointed Mark Monroe to be the deputy director of the broadband middle mile initiative. He will take over the day to day and just overall oversight of the middle mile initiative and be the single point of contact for the third party administrator, state agency partners and middle mile advisory committee in the legislature. And Nicole I'm going to ask you to take the slides down real quick, because I wanted to have Mark introduce himself to the broadband council members and say a few words. Mark? I see Mark Monroe here. Mark, I want to make sure we give you the time but we also know you're on the agenda later. Why don't we come back to Mark who might have stepped away? Got it. Okay Nicole, next slide, please. So what we really wanted to clarify now is the broadband roles within CDT and the broadband office so with Mark's appointment like I said he will take over the oversight of the middle mile broadband initiative and then I will be focusing on the overall broadband for all so you know, continuing to work with the council to monitor and support the work in the implementation of the executive order and the broadband action plan. And what's really important, what we tried to demonstrate on this slide is that Mark and I are going to be, you know, sitting very closely and coordinating at an individual level and at a programmatic level to make sure that the middle mile and the broadband for all program are being leveraged to support and augment each other. And so, want to give Mark a chance if he's back to introduce himself.

Let's keep moving, Scott. I think, we will...I think Mark is back right now. Hey Mark, can you hear us? Hey, Mark? Well Mark is on the agenda down below. Yeah, let's just get this done. Hey Mark? He's looking up. There you go. All right. Go ahead. Try to do the intro again. Scott, go ahead.

Yeah, Mark. We had just, you know, shared with the council members and the public our extreme pleasure that you've been appointed to take over the middle mile initiative and we wanted to give you a chance to introduce yourself to the members and say a few words about your extensive experience and excitement to be a part of the project. I think he was having trouble hearing as well. But let's take it offline. Sounds like there might be some technical difficulties, keep going and then when his time's up on we'll bring him back up. Got it. Well, Amy that concluded the update portion for the broadband office and we were going to move on to the action plan to update some long term items. So for this session, what we really wanted to focus on is, you know, this year has been getting the executive order and the broadband plan action items up and running. And our February meeting we talked about how to implement the broadband action plan and our May meeting, we heard updates on the governor's broadband executive order from key parties and at our August meeting, we heard updates about broadband Action Plan short term items, which were, you know, anticipate to be completed within two years. Today, our focus is going to be here, updates on the broadband action plan, long term items, those that were anticipated to take longer than two years. So we're going to start in order of the items and lead agencies or departments. We're going to start with CPUC will cover actual plan items that they are responsible for. I'd like to ask Michael Minkus from our partner agency PUC to takeover.

Good morning, everyone. Next slide, please. So I'm Michael Minkus. I'm a policy adviser and Communications Division at the California Public Utilities Commission and I'll speak briefly to three California Public Utilities Commission Action Plan update for long term item 3, 10, and 12. So first, we have item three, which is on universal service program updates. And it's to modernize California universal service program to support the deployment and ongoing

maintenance broadband network effectiveness. Next slide please. A number of legislative actions this year further implementation of this item and there will be more discussion during the legislative items. Briefly, major legislative, major legislation on policy and budget bills updated and augmented the California universal service program support broadband notably the California Advanced Services Fund broadband grant program. Next slide please. This is for action plan item 10 related to consumer protection surchargers licensing requirements. So specifically to establish clear standards of consumer protection and provisioning of equitable service provider evaluation, the surcharge collection and overall bill impacts including other non-public charges to minimize total customer bill impact, examine whether broadband service in underserved and unserved communities is consistent with current licensing requirements. Next slide please. So legislation on surcharges, consumer protection, licensing requirements, and broad and data collection was signed into law. That's listed here and on the agency side, CPUC rulemaking on this slide is considering updates to the California Universal Service Fund surcharge mechanisms. The judge in that proceeding released a schedule update recently and updated staff report is anticipated this month with an anticipated final decision to be adopted in the second quarter of 2022. And it is a chance to note that federally, bipartisan infrastructure bill is still being considered in Congress includes a number of relevant provisions. One is that it would direct the Federal Communications Commission the federal counterpart to report to Congress on the future of the federal Universal Service Fund, the Federal version of the state program. And in addition, it was directed by the Federal Communications Commission to open a docket to consider rules around preventing digital discrimination. And finally, on consumer protection. The infrastructure bill proposes to make permanent the emergency temporary federal broadband subsidy we'll touch on later. And in doing so, that Federal Communications Commission is to promulgate consumer protection rules for consumers that participate in the affordable connectivity program, the successor to the emergency broadband benefit. Next slide, please. Finally, for the last of the updates this morning, Broadband action plan item 12 relates to the California Lifeline program, specifically, improved California Lifeline program by including standalone broadband service and work in partnership with internet service providers to encourage participation in the program. Next slide, please. Again, a number of federal and state activities and legislation are relevant to the action plan item the federal government enacted a time limited 3.2 billion national program for emergency broadband discounts, the emergency broadband benefits to qualify households in the six months for that program, would end in November unless it is extended or augmented by the federal legislation. In addition, California adopted a number of bills modifying the California program including Senate Bill 394, a way so...listed here, revising the definition of households and on the agency side, the CPUC continues to consider modifications to the California Lifeline program rules. So that concludes my update for the Public Utilities Commission on these long term items.

Thank you, Michael. So Amy, Director Tong, I think we can do this two ways. We can go through all of the information updates and then open it up to questions on those.

Yeah, I wanted to ask the council members because I know there are several Action Plan items are receiving updates today, which is outstanding. If the list is fairly long, it might be hard for the council member to ask questions or kind of kind of remember. So maybe we can do a little bit of compromise. If anybody can tell that they want to just jump in after each item. Let's just go ahead and please feel free to do so. And then I see Sunne is already raising her hand perfect, Sunne. Sunne always modeling the way and then that way oh god there's two more. So perfect. Let's just do that. And then we can keep this rhythm going for the rest of the items. So start with Sunne, please.

Thank you, Chair Tong. I want to ask a question to you, Michael. Because can you just sort of elaborate on what you think are the implications of the change in the definition of households? What does that mean for all of us in planning and then outreach in terms of adoption? I think

that briefly, let me pull up my notes here, it would be something should the program be extended to support broadband that could make it more easily to comply with the federal program rules and the state statutes. Because people who were separate households could receive the same benefit even if they live at the same address. Alright I see a nodding head. I think that's okay to answer with you. All right. Thank you. All right, Dr. Williams.

Thank you so I just had a question. Appreciate the updates. I had a question on item 10. Can we go back to that? Because it maybe I made it up in my mind when I thought I saw, no the cover slide. There we go. Examine with a broadband service and underserved in underserved communities is consistent with current licensing requirements. How will that be done and will that be reported out? Briefly that's a much broader kind of chunk of work for lack of a better description. And so one of the relevant changes this year is that one of the many different types of licensing that the Commission oversees the digital infrastructure, video and Competition Act, franchises or licenses were amended by Senate Bill 28. And in doing so, the Commission was directed to consider updates or changes to consumer protection rules and requirements. So that's the most direct immediate effect but there are a number of other types of commission administered licenses or telecommunications and broadband service licenses could be relevant in future. Okay, just to follow up so, Mr. Gipson obviously is interested as you all know from his advocacy for AB1425, as it relates to communities and families that live in public housing. And so I know this may be an internal conversation, but I know that Mr. Gipson would be very interested and curious how, how you all are thinking about that. It may not be something that says examine it doesn't say report out but of course, we'd love to add that lens around public housing residents as it relates to service to underserved communities. I know he missed the licensing, I'm just going broader than that. But we'd love to just stay in the loop on how you will fulfill that last piece. Thank you. Alright, thank you.

Hi yeah, sorry. Just at high level, I want to ask about the timelines. So I think you mentioned them, but I'm not sure if it was on the slide. Which is the timeline for I understand there's going to be multiple phases of this proceeding. But what is the timeframe for a decision from the Commission on the locations of the middle mile and the local assistance funding that was included in the trailer bill?

There's an update on the last mile implementation later on the agenda. So that is most directly related to the question on local assistance.

Okay. And but, you know, so that I'm being responsive that is anticipated, a proposed decision is anticipated on or before December 1. And then on the middle mile, I defer to that, other partner agencies and the Department of Technology and I think there's an update on that topic later on the agenda also. But I just, isn't the PUC...are you guys not doing that through proceed? I mean, the legislation requires the PUC to make recommendations.

Right and I still want to coordinate and refer to how we talked about that publicly, but I'm glad to get back to you. Okay.

Thanks.

Alright, Sunne, I believe that hand was from earlier question unless you have a follow up. Okay. You don't hear me but I read your lips. I think that's, got it. Thank you. No problem. All right. Scott, let's proceed.

Yeah, thank you Michael and PUC really appreciate the updates and just want to underscore again these, what we're hearing updates on, the long term action items and the reason we determined that they were long term as we know that there's a lot of, you know, dimensionality

and nuance and dependencies on moving these forward so really appreciate the updates of where you are thus far. Next up, we want to call on our partner Josh Rosa from the housing and community development to give an update on action plan item number 13.

Thank you and good morning, council members and chair. Josh Rosa, Unit Chief with the Department of Housing and Community Development reporting our progress on action item number 13. This action item directs HCD to leverage our housing funding programs to provide free broadband service for tenants in newly built housing. And it really focuses on the role of the property itself, physical property as well as the management and extending the availability, accuracy, and adoption of broadband with direction to consider opportunities for providing 120 megabits per second broadband service to tenants in subsidized units. Next slide, please? So, guiding our work on this from the beginning has been the action plan itself. And its identification of those five main roadblocks to connectivity. Our department is not the expert on broadband issues. So we look to the experts to guide our early work on this and so the action plan has been really informative and important guidance for us. And we seek to anchor our work in addressing each of these five roadblocks at each step. Next slide please. So, the program that we're working on currently is our multifamily housing program. This is HCD's flagship program, as we often call it, because it's the most regularly and heavily funded program. It consists of providing subsidized loans to developers to build, rehabilitate or preserve rental housing for lower income households with special consideration for senior special needs and supportive housing. So we have an upcoming round of our MHP program. We're working on the guidelines that will govern that round. The guidelines are planned to be adopted this fall, and then a Notice of Funding Availability will announce the total amounts available as well as inviting applications in February. So this will be a pretty big investment in overall housing stock. Draft guidelines have already been released, and we've received some public comments. And I'll talk a little bit about the scoring criteria in the draft guidelines that will appear in the final guidelines incentivizing broadband. Next slide please. Oh, thank you. So these are the new criteria and we haven't done this before. So the new scoring criteria in MHP will set a threshold requirement for certain level broadband to establish the floor and then there will be additional points available for properties that can meet a higher volume. MHP is a heavily competitive program. So we consider scoring criteria with a great deal of seriousness because they will be determinative in project selection ultimately. So the threshold requirements that we set which applications need to meet just to be considered addresses availability. And so that requires the project to meet the 25/3 upload download speeds for broadband, which is what the FCC defined is made for broadband. So we set that forth and that's a modest floor, the reason that we have to do it that way is because we fund projects throughout the state who have access to varying levels of municipal fiber networks or lack thereof. So what's the goal ultimately of providing subsidized housing for low income households. So for that reason, we do have to be relatively modest in setting the threshold requirements, but we do really want to push our applicant pool to think assertively and creatively about going above and beyond that minimum threshold. And so we're establishing scoring criteria that will award additional points for properties that can meet the 120 threshold for broadband and in addition to that, they have to achieve at least one of those three sub bullets that you see listed there, which includes providing the internet service for free for a subsidized price for providing device support, which could include tablets, laptops, or computer labs or finally providing digital literacy training, which would include multilingual training, multicultural training, and all the end user support that's necessary to make sure that the service is enacted. Next slide, please. So this is our timeline. So we're pretty, we're getting, we're about halfway down with our process. We did receive some public comments on the draft guidelines with the scoring criteria, nothing really game changing. And we're prepared to adopt final guidelines for the same criteria next month. And then the Notice of Funding Availability once the total funding costs have been determined, which typically doesn't happen but the support would be in the month of February. Next slide, please. Other actions to continue implementing action item number 13, we're not stopping short of this one program, we are examining future funding

programs that we might be able to use to leverage and extend broadband availability in subsidized housing. The new state budget allocates \$300 million to our department to reinvest in our portfolio of existing properties and these are properties where HCD has made an investment to have affordability requirements that are nearing their expiration date, and these are properties at risk of defaulting to the market. So this \$300 million dollar program is in place for us to extend the affordability requirements, reinvest in the property, very often goes hand in hand with upgrades to the property, which so long as we're doing the upgrades this program might also set incentives or requirements for ensuring that the property meets that 120 benchmark for broadband service. So I think we're still in the early stages of investigating that program for compatibility with this. I think that we're hopeful to come to some conclusions in the weeks ahead. And in addition to action item number 13, funding programs of course, on a related topic, we're also working to prepare data and recommendations for CPUC regarding assets in order to meet our obligations under Executive Order 7320. And these two work streams are really usually reinforcing and they inform one another. Our experience with MHP will inform the recommendations we provide to CPUC ultimately and yeah, I think that's all I got. Next slide.

Thank you, Josh. Really appreciate the extensive update and the work you all are doing. Knowing again, this is a long term action item so there's a lot of pieces and really appreciate how you folks are approaching it. Amy, per what we have set up, do you want to ask the members if they have any questions?

As I wanted to give the members opportunity to chime in while they're doing that, feel free to raise your hand. Josh, I do want to commend you for HCD's progress on business, especially like you know, the refresher of the five roadblocks, right, and that it's very common in many, many, many situations when there's a digital divide. So I'm very happy to see there's a systematic approach to address those five roadblocks because connectivity alone, it's only one of the challenges, but really the affordability and availability and the ability to adopt with equipment at the very end of it is really helping to, you know, provide that level of services needed for our residents. So I really like that approach. Any comments or questions from the council members? All right, seeing none. Thank you, Josh for that and let's move to the next presenter.

Thanks Amy. Next is the Department of General Services is going to give an update on action plan item number 7 and Jason Kenney will be doing the presentation. Jason?

Yeah. Hi, everybody. Hopefully you can hear me okay. Happy to present. We're talking about action item 7, which as on the screen there, we're supposed to identify state property for possible use for broadband infrastructure based on specific criteria identified by PUC, Caltrans and other relevant agencies to accelerate broadband deployment. So will give you an update on a little bit of where that stands. My goal here is twofold. I do want to maybe explained some helpful background and context on state property that may explain why this is a longer term goal and just be helpful in general. And then second, I want to share some exciting progress that we've made so far. So first, I want to start with just some basic terminology. And forgive me, this is a little didactic. But all state property is really owned by the state of California. And it is held in trust and the word we use is jurisdiction by state departments. So DGS doesn't own property, state of California owns property and DGS manages that property on behalf of State of California. Same thing with DMV or CHP or state hospitals or CDCR. They have jurisdiction over each department is supposed to be using that property to further their mission, whatever that happens to be, and the moment in which that property or portions of that property are no longer in furtherance of their mission, they declare it to be excess. And excess property is the property that DGS generally there's some exceptions to that, but generally DGS steps in to help departments figure out what to do with it. Do we lease it out long term? Do we transfer to

another state agency, if there's no additional potential state's reuse then we go to the surplus property process, which requires an act of the legislature and then DGS on behalf of the department would actually sell the property or otherwise get rid of it. And so I'm gonna I'm gonna come back to this terminology later on in my slides, but that's kind of the basic framework for property in addition to that there is something called the statewide property inventory. This is existed for a number of years, the government code actually requires DGS to maintain an inventory of state property. And it's supposed to be their property repository of record for state property. Now that said, there is a big but to this. Statute defines what is reported and by whom it is reported. And so not every piece of data about a property or building is required to be captured. And interestingly enough, not all state properties are actually required to be reported to us. And so, SPI is going to consider, you know, capture the majority of state property that's out there. It's not going to have everything. So it is our go to source but there will be instances and I'll you know, cover this later, in which it's not 100% comprehensive, and we would need to bring in other departments to sort of fill in some of those gaps. The other big background information that's useful kind of going back to this concept of jurisdiction is that each department because they have jurisdiction over the property, is ultimately the decision making entity as to what happens with that property unless they declared to be excess or surplus. And so there are transactional entities like DGS, who are responsible for developing property leasing property, selling property, those sorts of things. We work on behalf of those state agencies. And so there's not a central entity who can say alright we're going to go take this property or we're gonna go use it for this purpose. It's a much more collaborative process when we want to develop something to do long term lease or whatever else. So that's, that's the first little bit and I realize I'm not telling you to switch slides, but you're doing an excellent job already. So forgive me. Alright, so transitioning topics into, you know, this this idea of a search. So we were asked to redirect it, I should say, to do a search of potential properties that could be used for broadband development, and that search is dependent on criteria and I want to talk a little bit about sort of just this concept of criteria for a second. There are some obvious ones and that's what's on your slide here. You know, location, property type, size, what kind of nearness it needs to have to other things, whether that's, you know, underserved areas, whether that's existing you know, towers, you know, those sorts of things. These are these are the easy operating parameters that, you know, can be refined and we're kind of working already again with the PUC, CDT, Caltrans on some of these. Next slide, please. There is a little more complicated set of criteria. That's the development method. There is a pretty big difference in the types of properties that could be available for this use, depending on kind of how they get developed, and so if someone said we want to sell property, that's a very, very limited subset, in fact, statewide. You know, typically there's a couple of dozen excess or surplus properties there's not much and so selling property to somebody gives you a very limited universe. Leasing is a much much bigger universe potentially. The construction type matters a great deal. Are we talking about, you know, erecting a you know, a service tower on vacant land. We talked about putting antennas on buildings, we talking about you know, putting conduit underground, obviously, I'm sure all of those things are fully in the mix. But depending on sort of the preferred development model in certain locations or by provider there might, there's definitely differences in the property searches. And so this idea of sort of the development model is a really important criteria set. Next slide, please. And then the other thing, I think it's important as we're talking about criteria, and again, part of the reason why this is a longer term process is because SPI doesn't have both every aspect of property data one might want and because not all property is in it. We do have to bring in other entities and in some cases, those entities have much more manual records. Our property inventory is a GIS enabled database. And so it is something as we bring other entities in they may they may have paper records, they may have, you know, longitude latitude points, as opposed to exact parcel boundaries, those sorts of things. So it's something that we really want to make sure that there's really really solid dialed in criteria. So when we do a much more robust search, you know, it's something that we're doing ideally once or very few times to avoid having to constantly iterate because of those manual data sources in

the manual process. Next slide. But that said, I am happy to report again that we had some really great initial conversations with the departments listed there and PUC was kind enough to provide us with some really, a great starting point. So a middle mile map with the associated Census Designated Places with households underserved and then the other big criteria in terms of adjacency was property and that was real and structure, so vacant land with structures within five miles from that network. Next slide, please. And what you see to the right, I'll just kind of start there is the results. And so those sort of gold or yellow squiggly lines would be the middle mile network and the green and red dots would be state property within the five miles to those locations. And so what's really exciting about this initial effort not to say that it's done not to say that we have all the criteria would be to do a full, you know, to do something, you know, ultimate and final, but to kind of just showcase the alignment between the existing state property and where the middle mile network needs to be and the opportunities to leverage there is a really exciting thing, I think. The green dots represent structures. The red dots represent real property. Obviously, if there's a green dot, there's a red dot underneath it. But in some cases, we've got property without structures on it, which is why there's some red without green. And so really exciting potential here. There are of course some qualifications and I would be remiss if I didn't bring them up. Number one, you know, we say their structures, some of these...most of these are in active use, you know, some are prisons, some are state hospitals, EDD, DMV, CHP field offices, those sorts of things. We don't have an exhaustive record of all of the potential real property improvements and encumbrances that might exist there and so you might have a piece of property that would be really great, but there's, you know, a bunch of utility easements that run through it already that would be, you know, very difficult to undo. Or, you know, there's a...it was a sheet into the state 200 years ago, 150 years ago, and it's got a very specific you know, limited use to it or statute governs what the possible uses of that particular parcel are. And so there's definitely some of that to still work through in the future. And then, of course, I mentioned, you know, SPI doesn't have all the data and so there are still potentially properties out there. I know there are properties out there, you know, that we could add to this mix. I would also be remiss to say that, you know, we certainly have not talked to these departments. And so there would need to be, you know, those more robust conversations in the future as well. And of course, as I mentioned, we benefit from really dialing in the criteria a little bit, but I think as an initial step to kind of showcase the potential power of state property to advance this goal, there's a tremendous amount of alignment. Because SPI is so functional, we have the ability to do a lot with it. And come up with some really great results. I think there'll be you know, it can be easily public easily shareable. We've done that for other efforts, including the executive order on affordable housing and executive order on emergency homeless shelters. And so, SPI is a really powerful tool and we're looking forward to continue to collaborating with our partners at CDT, Caltrans, PUC, others to really get some refined criteria and dial in, I think the ultimate property search so that was a lot and I know I talked really fast. So I'm going to pause and see those questions.

All right, thank you, Jason. I see a hand raised by Sunne.

Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Jason. A great presentation. I will also commend HCD and Josh, I really appreciate the positive attitude of all the state agencies, figuring out exactly you know, all that can be done and going the extra step here. My question Jason is so the identification of properties that you are doing, actually can be pretty strategic for both middle and last mile deployment. How is that work that you're doing going to get fed into a mapping exercise that is available for the project proponents, public, private ISPs that are going to apply for dollars...what do you anticipate is going to be that process?

I want to make sure and see if Scott wants to apply a little bit on it because I think there's a part of this which will produce something but you know, kind of what happens afterward it's produced is a little outside of my particular purview. But for us and kind of in keeping what we've

done on previous Executive Order efforts, you know, I think the ideal goal is number one, criteria gets really dialed in and we know, and we do the property search at the end of that we have a list of potential properties that meets that criteria. And then there are conversations that happen with those jurisdictional departments where we go back and we make sure there are no (indiscernible), that there are no encumbrances that would preclude development, those sorts of things. And we would come up with then sort of the you know, property that based on the development model, based on the criteria based on departmental needs, you know, it's available, that property subset would be able to put in a GIS enabled database, very similar again to what we've done for affordable housing properties. It would be a specific subset and that would be able to be made public. There are a few state properties that are truly confidential, think sensitive infrastructure, daycare facilities, things like that, that you know, we might need to keep confidential for this purpose, but for the most part, I think the properties that we're talking about would be able to be put in a in a specific GIS enabled database that's fully searchable that's made be publicly available for ISP and others to come in and look at and inquire about.

Okay, can I ask...Scott, you're going to comment and then I have one more comment back to Jason.

Absolutely. Sunne, and thanks for the questions. So, you know, as Jason indicated, this is a fairly elaborate process that we're going through to identify these locations and to continue to hone criteria you know, given the urgency we did utilize the initial middle mile location suggested by PUC that were used as the sort of a guidepost for the public comment process on the middle mile locations. So that to the extent that the public process informs and changes those, that would be, you know, a layer or lens that these would have to look through, as you mentioned on there's potential utility for these properties, both on the middle mile, but also the last mile. So as Jason indicated, honing the criteria, you know, the initial suggested one was five miles from state roadways. And so what we've been talking with Jason and department General Services is, you know, for last mile, we need to further refine that criteria to say a half mile from state roadways. So there's that piece so you know, there's getting to a state of doneness or acceptable doneness on this but it is our full intention to utilize the information here and fold that into data and mapping efforts on the middle mile, but also the data and mapping efforts that are ordered through the action plan. And so, you know, given that our office is working with those parties, we're going to be the connective tissue to make sure that this information is folded in to both and all efforts.

Terrific. Okay. Thank you and I truly appreciate the process that has to be both iterative and interagency. I do have some insight having had responsibility for a number of very large state agents or state departments in an agency. And I forgive me Jason if you actually said it, and I just didn't hear it, but I want to play three opportunities, two that are particularly good and important for middle mile, a third that I think can be community hubs for last mile. And so the first is rest stops that are under the jurisdiction of the of the Department of Transportation. I know all the complexities that go with sorting out state money from the federal money, blah, blah, blah. And what we've never done although we were really trying to make a great push for is the rest stops to be totally green in every way possible in terms of energy, but those can be huge hubs, particularly when we're looking at signals. Let me say I-5 was a good example into, so I just to Lori and the State Transportation Agency and our friends at Caltrans, Elizabeth I just I'm back on the rest stop issue for important communications and demonstration of energy efficiency. The second is highway patrol weigh stations. Again, you can put a lot of equipment on that site and colocation of equipment as well as towers there to make the huge amount of difference. Those are two critical potentials, you know, valuable middle mile links and we generate revenue off of them. And the third for last mile folks is actually the DMV, the DMV offices. There are, you know, there are 90 very large ones and usually quite useful properties that also need to be redone at some point but anyway, those are I want to flag those, thank you.

Thank you, Sunne for that. Always great advice. So as usual, wanted to see if any other council members have questions to comment for Jason. I'm seeing none. Jason, just I want to echo the appreciation on this. You know, information that you presented. I do want to have you pile on a little bit that I know you have been working closely with Caltrans, CPUC, and CDT under the leadership with Scott. You know, I'm a big fan of using visualization as much as possible to not only to display what the potential but using, you know, the GIS capability to identify as a layer approach to focus and narrow down to what are the real location that is going to be really, really possible for a lot of these. So really glad to hear that the state property inventory database will be add on having this additional GIS capability so looking forward to a lot more development on this because this is going to be a very useful tool for both middle and last mile.

Can you hear me?

Yes. Dr. Williams?

No, it's Michael Flores. Oh, I actually I had raised my hand but I guess if you didn't see it.

Oh, I'm so sorry.

No problem at all. I had a question. With respect to Jason, I loved your presentation as well as everybody else. I echo Miss Sunne McPeak's sentiments about the presentations thus far. But to what extent has DGS looked at the Fair system? Yeah, I believe that we meet you know, quite a few of the, the criteria there and they're sitting there with the need for broadband, so I didn't know they were included in the if you took a look at them or not?

Yeah, no. Absolutely. Okay. And to Miss McPeak's comment earlier, the CHP, DMV, there other departments who have communication towers as well, some very very rural areas as well that delegation is possible that we have historically done that in fact I've got a program in my shop that's literally part of what they do is telecom leasing. So yes, it's absolutely fairground sites are another great potential opportunity, especially with the vast parking lots. All of those properties would be included in SPI, the rest stops, not so much. That's the part where we bring Caltrans in obviously as a partner, but it kind of goes back to sort of you know what is and isn't an SPI. But I don't think any of that's certainly off the table. But fairgrounds, absolutely. In fact, the fairgrounds would be represented in that map to the right.

Okay, very good. Thank you.

Thank you and Dr. Williams.

Yeah, just wanted to share my appreciation for the presentation and also the suggestions that have been talked about, obviously, you know, really thinking through not only efficiencies and creativity is always important, but I also want to that add voice of equity and thinking through where these are located, who the owners of properties might be in terms of investigating where we finally play something, I know that's a big issue for Mr. Gipson so we'll be watching this and where we can be of assistance, please let us know

Alright, with that, thank you, Scott. Let's keep going. Let's keep going.

Thank you so much, Jason and DGS and all the partners working on that so the next will give brief updates on action items 14, 16, 18 and 24. Next slide please. So, action plan item number 14 is to promote existing contractual vehicles and internet with internet service providers and equipment vendors to support cost savings and efficient purchasing of broadband services and

equipment by local public entities and then leveraging existing contracts. As a resource efficient strategy to help other public entities acquire affordable broadband service, especially in bulk. Next slide. So on this piece, I know it was reported on, CDT had helped out a lot in pandemic response for some of the agencies particularly the Department of Education to help purchase and acquire equipment for students for remote education. We had heard in the first council meeting this year about the rural broadband connectivity program, which was a joint effort by the Department of Technology in the state parks to create a system by which you know, last mile providers could provide connectivity to state parks. So that's, you know, an example of an accomplishment for this year. In terms of next year, we have you know, re-established a working group with the Department of Technology and general services and other partners. Given that there are going to be so many opportunities around or potential opportunities around contracting and procurement, I wanted to give you a brief example that something we've been looking into over the last several weeks is that Housing Community Development, their director has made it a priority to increase or provide broadband services to migrant worker centers. So they have provided us with outstanding map and you know, other you know, location data so that we can work with our you know, Calnet team to see if there's ways we can augment existing service or, you know, provide service to locations where there currently is none. Now, as we've been talking about mapping, that data is also going to be folded into the overall broadband mapping conversation as well. Next slide. On broadband action plan item number 16, Partner with internet service providers to promote, track and publicly report the progress of adoption of Affordable Internet services and devices throughout the state. Next effort, CDT is not leading this effort. We know that some of our other partners see in terms, the California Emerging Technology Fund, and the Department of Education has been doing this for 2022, we intend to in the next month or so announced that we have hired a statewide initiatives manager- the broadband initiative manager to really dive into this to engage providers and then track a lot of this information on the program for All Portal. Next slide. Broadband action plan item number 18, as you can see this is a, it's a big list that requires developing and managing a multi layer network of digital inclusion stakeholders to discuss ongoing needs, ensure resources and coordinate initiatives, leverage the broadband council, GO-Biz, broadband funding initiative to strengthen partnerships among anchor institutions including schools, libraries, workforce development, boards, and social service departments, community and local government broadband coordinators and managers quarterly to identify barriers to programming. New actions to be undertaken and tools developed at the local level can be private and non-sector, nonprofit sector companies to understand predict current and future demand for broadband and then the last, is convene broadband adoption practitioners, including libraries, nonprofits, and others semi annually to share best practices and ongoing community needs in regards to innovation, creating new digital literacy tools, developing curriculum and training to meet the needs of the workforce, community, and students. Next slide. So on this one key accomplishment is that we've done an extensive amount of work with GO-Biz on their, both their identification of funding and on their community readiness survey with local cities, counties, and regions. Really, you know, both of those efforts have allowed us to identify needs, resources, toolkits and creating content that will ultimately go on the broadband for all portal. For example, there's collaboration with original consortia, CETF, Valley Vision, local governments and tribes to create a checklist and a guide for locals looking to create their own broadband. And then the web portal obviously it's going to be a place to showcase these artifacts and other information gathered, as I mentioned, is we increase staff over the next month. Our plan is to strategize for more rapid implementation on this action item. Next slide. And finally, is action item number 24, which is to request that executive branch entities and constitutional agencies incorporate broadband into their strategic plans provide broadband priorities to the broadband Council annually to ensure effective interagency collaboration. Next slide. While a lot of that is already being done here at the Broadband Council and now on the middle mile effort, the broadband office will be contacting entities and offices in November, December timeframe, sending a letter with an email and an online form for each entity in office to populate you know, with a number

of, you know, different catches for us or different columns to capture information about how are they integrating, what are the barriers, who are they partnering with, what additional needs are there, and then we intend to report out to the broadband council in the first quarter meeting of next year. And that is it for my updates.

Alright, thank you, Scott. Want to open up the council members for questions, comments? Yes, Sunne.

Thank you. Yes, thank you Chair Tong. I do want to compliment Scott and your team on the commitment to focus on the adoption and to get to the digital literacy. I know it takes a while but this is really important. I just wanted to sort of share the trajectory in California of household signing up for the emergency broadband benefit program, EBB. California remains the state with the most signups at the FCC, it's Universal Services Administration Corporation (USAC). That's the good news. So the bad news is nationwide, it's a little over 7 million households only in California. It's a little over 700, they were approaching seven or 10,000 households. The FCC has actually been I think very good and trying to get data out on a weekly basis on a monthly basis. They're giving us more insights to where by census, track zip codes the signups are, but to really get our fair share out of EBB, we should be at 2 million and that is not where we're at. We are about 37% towards that goal. We're really promoting EBB. More counties are looking at distribution to CalFresh. More school districts are looking at distribution of the information to tell the actual household, customer, student, and parent here's how you sign up. And so I just want to say to all our state agency colleagues, if you can get that word out to your counterparts at the local level where they are interacting with the actual customer who's low income, it is urgent. The reason it becomes really important is although based on current expenditures, we think EBB might last you February, maybe going into March, it was only 3.2 billion nationwide. The good news is that once you're registered, you're known as qualifying for the benefit to USAC and it is confidential. But then there is a, if you will, successor program that is sitting in the infrastructure bill. It's called the affordability connectivity program. I think that's it. And although the subsidy moves from \$50 a month down to 30, it's still a pretty substantial subsidy and therefore and that's a \$14.2 billion appropriation which means we have a really running start to ensure we get all low income households affordable broadband. And in a database we have to really really focus on this I think in California to get our fair share. Then what we would have as has been reported, by I think Michael Minkus today is the Lifeline program in California becomes an additional, if you will safety net. All of this is really important and I will close by saying the vast majority of the signups for EBB in California have simply been the transfer of existing customers on affordable offers over to EBB, not new people and they're mostly mobile, not at home if you will, wired home subscription EBB. We have a long ways to go and that is even with California doing better than any other state.

That is very, very insightful. I do want to provide a comment and perhaps some idea to work with Scott and team especially I'm seeing the advisory member, you know (indiscernible) and are here. I think they maybe take a page out of the vaccine rollout where you know, lots of approach and outreach I should say was very very, you know, like literally delivered to somebody's doorstep for those individuals who traditionally will not be seeking or what find out about such offering through you know, the typical channel like you know, website or things like that. I think we you know the timing where you mentioned Sunne it's relevant because we are coming to end of the calendar year. And as you know, hopefully a lot the family are starting to look at the light at the end of the tunnel as we coming out of the pandemic that there will be more continuum more focus on how do they maintain the connectivity or sign up for the connectivity with this offering to them and but it's it's how we as a state can really make sure this information is being provided to them. I yeah, I don't want to take up too much time but I think this is I'm glad you flagged that just because we're ahead with the rest of the state doesn't

mean we have done enough. And we should do more and I do have some idea. So are there any questions or comment from other members? Yes, Dr. Williams.

Just want to take up where you and Sunne left off with the emphasis and I really like the example that you use in the vaccine rollout. Because I think it's just that important number one, and it's also just that difficult. I mean, we've been saying this since the 90s that the internet is just it's a utility right period right? In the philosophical sense which should be treated like that everybody should have access that's why affordability is important. Again, public housing is important all the rest but that our biggest problem, I think in the 64th assembly district we actually did several things in the vaccine rollout that we you know, there was no precedent for it. So as an example, and many health organizations were doing this but not a, hey you know, elected Assembly Member, I want you to go door to door with volunteers, not only to educate folks but if you want to get the vaccine today, I'm here and we did that in Watts and Wilmington because they had the highest rate of unvaccinated. And you know how this is a little I'm dating myself, but you know, this is the, you know, we used to have that conversation in public about the book Freakonomics, the things that you see are not really the things that you see. So what if and this is how we started this, this process right? 300 volunteers, we're walking the streets in Wilmington, Watts and want to know the members out there so we're drawing a crowd and we're going to be like, we're split into neighborhoods where we have like 50 people walking on the sidewalk so everybody opens the doors like what are these people doing right? But you know, we started the conversation, because we were looking at the national data. And the Cal OES data, they put out their piece every every you know, every day on vaccine hesitancy and we asked the question, well, what if vaccine hesitancy is really not what we think it is right? Instead of some sort of ardent, particularly that community instead of falling on, oh, well, this is a African American issue, the Tuskegee issue, which is an important issue. But in many cases, folks just couldn't afford it. At the end, people say, oh, you can't afford to go to the park down the street. We sure can't, because I work all the time. So when it comes to this issue, I think we have to really ask ourselves a probing not obvious questions, and think through the outreach from that point of view. Because you know, again, we're swimming in money. So money is not the problem. Something else is so strategy leadership. You know, the proverbial cliché is thinking outside of the box. Definitely want to support that. And again, if our office could do anything to assist in that we'd be happy to.

Yeah, I think we're definitely going to follow up I think I think it's almost like the the ground approach to get the information out because we can rely on you know, the website or the email because they don't have access to that to begin with. Sarah.

Yeah, so I just, from my perspective, I would say I'm a little bit more cautious about anything that's in the federal infrastructure bill right now. I don't want to count chickens before they're hatched. Because my understanding is that, that the House and the Senate are going to have to go through a process of actually, specifically the Democratic caucus is going to have to go through a process of cutting down those two bills in a much smaller package and we don't yet know what is going to make that much smaller package. I you know, I'm hopeful we'll get more money, but we don't actually know and I I don't know if I share the opinion that money isn't an issue. I actually think money quite a very big issue, particularly with adoption because the need is so huge. All right. Thank you, Sunne. You're on mute, Sunne.

Quickly. I do recognize (indiscernible) is is right. I do. We really do respect that. Congress member Clyburn has a big say in this. We're very pleased to see that Jessica Rosenworcel was appointed or President Biden announced the intent to permanently to to nominate her to be permanent FCC chair. So there's continuity along with Gigi Sohn being added and a good administrator at NTIA so they're getting their team in place. I do think that there will be a still strong support, not only from Congress member Clyburn but the National Urban League on the

replacer, their replacer program even if they have to reduce the total number behind it and therefore the number of years they expect to go. And I say that because it's important to continue to do the push for signups and so, I also want to join Dr. Williams and say Amy thanks so much for the suggestion on really the all out effort and then drilling down in communities to figure out what the real issue is door to door as Angelo said, and lastly, I should have reported as I'm reminded by our VP Susan Walters, that in California only Cox is actually making the benefit of EBB a device available. So no one's really advertising it except CETF. And we have, we're small potatoes, we have we do advertise about EBB mostly in the LA market. And no other ISP except Cox is telling residents they can get a device, a good device with the subsidy from EBB. So all of that needs to be put into the big push from the state.

Yeah. Hey. Thanks, everyone. And Sunne just wanted to also clarify one point in that you've been doing great work, you and CETF on EBB outreach, and, you know some of our partners that are members of the broadband council have as well. So the Department of Education has, you know, had, I believe multiple webinars and has communicated out to their, you know, local county offices about the availability of EBB and provided them with information. The State Library has done the same. So there is additional effort being done including CPUC. So it's a continue I think it underscores the challenge that adoption is something we need to continue to stay focused on and with the extensive amount of funding that's been allocated towards infrastructure. I think collectively we need to keep a placeholder that funds are needed to do that. The heavy lifting in the granular and sometimes analog and grassroots outreach on these programs.

Yeah, Scott, I want to quickly make sure that Dr. Williams has the last word on this and then we can keep moving to the I know there's additional items that I want to make sure we have 30 minutes allotted for public comment, Dr Williams go ahead.

Yeah, I'll be brief. I agree, sir. Particularly at the federal level. You're right. Just with what's happening around the politics of the infrastructure bill, it's more than money, which always for California means that we just have to do what we can with the resources that we have. And we've got a lot of resources. But I will say this. I've been around here a while and every time we get a surplus every time we get a huge amount of money in California, the people that need to get served, don't get served. I don't say that to point fingers. I say that to say well, we probably should try to think about this differently and I think there's so many entities that are really invested. Right. So for instance, the ISPs have great affordability programs. But part of the issue is is that they're not reaching at the end of the day, that sector that we're desperately trying to get to so and Amy your point around it we again, it's one of those like it's a true paradox or conundrum, whatever you want to call it. On the one hand, the folks that get this that need the service probably don't have the service. Right? I'll tell you one quick just an example. During COVID, we were doing desperately doing outreach to the members of constituents in the 64th assembly district. And you know, we didn't even have zoom yet. But so we got zoom. We were excited. When we sent it out. We said hey, you know if you don't have a computer, use your phone if you don't have a phone, right? A cell phone use your rotary right call in and so we're on the call. And the majority of people in the 64th assembly district who responded who responded 55 and older, they got rotary phones, and they called in there's no mute button on a rotary phone. And so, when we first because again, you know when you're in the heat of it, you're like everybody needs your phone, please, you know, a desperate plea to have some order. And then by all our staff level, we're talking to one another, what's happening, can we mute that? And we realize, oh my god, so then we make apologies, but you know what we understand that many folks are on, please try to control the noise as best as possible. That was like 'duh' for us. Right? Like we didn't think through these are our actual constituents, this is what they actually have as opposed to what we think they have. And that to me means something not only for the 64th assembly district in urban areas and black brown areas and low

income communities but the whole state. So I think we have to spend some time and again, I'm not suggesting anything that we're not doing or that I won't be a part of or to help and assist. We just need to think thoroughly around how we are getting to people. And you know what I want to say but but that's the key point that we can't let go because if we let it go we'll be back here another year later saying, spent oodles of money and people are still, the people that we want desperately connected and who want to be connected more.

Well said alright, I'm hearing an action item from from this perhaps a fast follow Dr Williams sounds like you have volunteered yourself to be part of it. Let's let's take offline to talk about a method. As you know, I was privileged enough to be part of the vaccine rollout during the pandemic response. There's definitely a lot of lessons learned and a lot of those tools or channels that have established let's leverage those. Let's get this information out to folks and then in a way that they perhaps may not have received despite the great effort by many of the entities as Scott mentioned. Okay. All right. We'll do a fast follow on this one. Thank you. Scott, let's keep this moving.

Next up is Go-Biz on their action item. Kaina?

Thank you, Director Tong. Thank you, Scott. Kaina Pereira, Senior Advisor for business development in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and we are reporting on action item number 23. So former planning group of all state agencies that oversee any potential infrastructure and broadband adoption funding to meet quarterly to ensure alignment and funding goals and implementation and further identify existing and new programs that can support broadband for all. I believe that this last conversation we just have is imperative to inclusion into this update. So I look forward to conversing with Dr. Williams and the other members of the panel to be able to implement this item successfully in q1 of 2022. We are in the planning stages and have been developing action item number two, which feeds directly into this which is the identification of alternative funding sources through federal state and philanthropic option and thereby tying those funding mechanisms to local jurisdiction projects and opportunities. We'll be working with all the members here on developing that information and reporting it out on a regular cadence once the infrastructure and the website developed by CDT is available, at the current time we are accepting and have disseminated this information out to a few participants if you would like to receive this list in this spreadsheet of available funding sources, you can email myself that's kaina.pereira@gobiz.ca.gov we'll have somebody send out my information to everybody on the team. In addition, we're working with the CPUC and all of our partner agencies on standing up this first meeting, probably in q1 of 2022 period, you should be expecting communication and I believe that our communication now needs to be a little bit more robust to include vaccinate 58 and the census related information. So I look forward to meeting with director Tong and providing some of that information out to this group. As we know there are a number of participants both on the state and federal side that we need to have inclusion and rolling programs will be established and created during this long term effort. So the construction of this panel or this group of advisors will change over time. From that we have determined that these actions may intend or have some intentionality around them and as such, we may need to include some program specialists during that time. Currently, we are building out our infrastructure internally on the Go Biz side to be able to manage both this effort as well as long term permit streamlining efforts that we've talked about the CETF and a number of the other participants here. And we'll be rolling out some guidance around that through the web portal as well. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Kaina for that. And GO-Biz has always been on top of the of this action item on the action plans. Really, really appreciate the effort. question or comments? Seeing none let's move to the next item. Thank you. Alright, next item.

I'd like to invite my colleague Mark Monroe to give a very quick update on the middle mile initiative.

Hello everyone I'm hoping everybody can hear me now. apologize for the technical difficulties earlier. Yeah, real quick. We have in terms of the middle mile approach. We have, we were into the introductory, we've really completed an introductory phase integration. We have the agreement signed with Caltrans, PUC and the TPA and we've begun holding the advisory committee meetings as required by SB 156. We have the PUC, TPA and Caltrans are working together on the data and mapping effort. And similarly, our design and engineering teams are working together with the TPA to get the specs to Caltrans so they can get started with construction. And then we're we're also working with TPA and developing business and economic models and operating budget to see what this looks like going forward on a long term basis. And then we we also have an effort to identify some phase one locations that are that will provide immediate connectivity and so hoping to learn from those in addition to, what while we're continuing to move, to identify broader lists of projects for moving forward. And then in terms of the kind of the phase one plan, we're working with PUC to get initial staff assessment as as well as broader assessment and in the next few months, and as they build in their public comments received as part of their proceedings.

All right, I know it's Sunne, have a quick, raised her hand for question. But before we go there Sunne, I wanted to because earlier we were trying to give an opportunity for Mark to introduce himself and due to the technical difficulty on my end it was not broadband related. It was actually equipment related when he couldn't hear us and we were like staring at each other only visually but Mark can you can you just give a very brief self intro to this group of broadband council members?

Absolutely. Yeah. I apologize. So you know, I think I know a lot of you from the last 21 years I've been at finance and worked in a variety of policy areas, including transportation and utilities. And so this last spring when we were looking for ways to new creative ways to to solve for statewide broadband and broadband for all. We we looked at the development of this kind of state run Open Access middle mile, and so that was kind of the genesis of this component. And we and so we've SB 156 enacted that and with a big help from a range of folks, certainly CDT PUC, finance, the governor's office, the governor himself putting, you know, putting his his shoulder behind this but yeah, so now I'm over at CDT and we're here to to get this thing going.

Thank you, Mark. You're a much welcome partner to Scott who have been carrying double duty and it's been an amazing job. So, so glad you're coming on board. Alright, Sunne, and then followed by (indiscernible).

Thank you, Amy. Hey, Mark. I think I remember fondly or not so fondly you turning me down on a couple budget requests at finance. Hey, I want to the welcome. Well, yes, welcome, heartily. Phase one locations. How what's the process of getting to those and the timing?

I mean, we were all I've been asked a lot about criteria about that. Well, in addition to the criteria from SB 156, really the idea is can we identify right now? Where they would provide connectivity when they're done. And so this would be this requires obviously some sort of plan for last mile that is forthcoming as well as an identified link to either other other existing middle mile or the backhaul. So that's really the criteria and and knowing that we're going to, you know, the, the phase one is really a demonstration to show that this works. So it's, we're, we're trying to finalize a list in the, you know, the next week or two here. And then we're gonna continue building the rest, right? It's not like we're just gonna stop and focus on phase one. So I think that's important as we as we look at areas, we're just trying to identify ones where we're going to get that connectivity sooner to to show that this works.

All right. And I would also add that that lots of that is based on the public comment proceeding, you know, in a process that CPUC is running so I think to add to Mark directly from the, because I also chair the middle mile action Advisory Committee that the phase one really for the purpose of demonstrating Hey, is this the right track is the right thinking? By no means it's you know, the definitive approach for the rest of the locations.

Right, right. And as I mentioned earlier, you know, and then in the coming months, next few months, we have to have a much broader assessment, a staff analysis of, of what where we need to move forward.

All right, thank you. Sarah.

Yeah, I'm, I have to say I'm a little bit confused, because my understand is SB 156 said PUC you go identify places transmit that to CDT so it seems like I get there's this desire for early wins. But my understanding at least from the third party administrator who talked about this a little bit with senators is that that's really looking at leasing opportunities, not for build out. And so I'm just a little bit confused about why we're not focusing on using those monies to build out to places that are recommended by the CPUC first.

Sure, so a couple things. You know, I think when the initial assessment was done, I think it was the estimate, if we were to build all 8000 Miles was it was close to \$4 billion. And so you know, as we all know, SB 156 didn't provide that much. So there is something that as we as we move forward with this project, we have to be we have to understand that depending on how much it ends up costing to build, then there is it's likely there's some points that we're going to have to lease. So just kind of be aware that that's and by lease, I think we're usually thinking to buy or use but, but you know, that's something that we're still we're still kind of trying to envision in terms of the PUC and these are, we're not we're not getting ahead of PUC in anyway. They've gone through their public process and, and staff are, one of the one of the things that that we're still working on here in terms of identifying what the Phase One projects are is just clarifying that they are the the they are based on PUCs initial recommendations at the staff level in terms of location.

So, I mean, I get there's when you say immediate availability I guess I'm having trouble because again, I think what the legislature is expecting here is that there's going to be a map that will show them where this middle mile is and get built. And if there's a difference between leasing access to middle mile that already exists versus building out new state owned property. We expect to see a delineation and kind of an expectation of when those things are going to be completes. So I'm just having a, if you're talking about aligning things with last mile, isn't it going to, is this last mile that's already under construction, things like that. And I'm also if the PUC wants to respond, you know, I'd be welcome to that as well.

Sure, happy to have them, you know, chime in there. I mean, when we talk about phase one, we're really looking at a limited set of projects. This is not you know, it's they're really just the quick wins that we wanted. So I think we envision most of them, you know, being builds we're looking for some alternate, you know, alternatives to, you know, to try the proof of concept, but we're really looking at some early builds where clearly there is, you know, communities have been identified that are unserved or underserved. And, and there's been some level of in the PUC has been able to identify and indicate in this case where, what that will, we'll call it the last mile and the first mile connections will be.

I can chime in a little bit, and then Dr. Williams will make sure we have time.

So I'm sorry. I just wanted to ask, does the PUC want to chime in here because that was one of the things that it sounded like the PUC may have some input as well as well, before we move on to other people.

I would love to hear the PUC chime in.

Yeah, sorry. Just takes a minute to get off mute. I don't have anything to add at this time but I'm glad to follow up.

Yeah, and I think specific on that, I like to chime in a little bit because I'm also, you know, intimately involved because I also chair the middle mile advisory committee where the idea of having a pilot or I should say phase one location, not I think, the immediate references doesn't mean that you're identifying in the next day, the connection is there, which implies that is that already there it just matter of, you know, lining it up and stuff like that is the immediacy to it. It's not really in that shorter timeframe, but I think the quick win reference is that, first of all, the purpose of doing these phase one locations, is really to identifying you know, probably just a handful. Well, we don't even know where yet. I mean, how many yet, but is really working closely with CPUC through the public process to identify what are some good candidates, that it's a good demonstration effort to allow the state and I'm using this royal state to learn what is the best way to get connectivity into the hands of our residents. And at the end of the day, you know, like building the middle mile in collaboration with the last mile effort, the CPUC leading all of these is for the purpose of providing that connectivity. And yes, you know, you know, build is what is being referenced or projected through the legislation. And then there's also the option to look for are there alternatives to build if some of these are, you know, hard to reach area, etc, etc. And without, you know, spending time only to analyzing that is in addition to analyzing that identifying a couple of a few I would say phase one locations as a demonstration effort is allowing us to go through that learning and iteration as more definitive approach can be finalized through more staff analysis. That's really the intention of the phase one location.

So I mean, I hear that I just want to add a note of caution here that the legislature was pretty clear that they expected we understood that there would be leasing and build. So I guess I'm still concerned that it's not really clear what these things are, what the demonstration projects are, I'm hearing connectivity is leased or is built.

And Sahar, all I'm trying to convey is that in the middle mile initiatives effort, that recommendation is not there yet. And I think that staff is trying to be very open and as you know, we're openly discussing head this the approach that we're taking to have the location identifying once the location is there, there's probably going to be further analysis and conversation with all of the members involved and a stakeholder involved to see on the how, right and and and I just don't I just don't want to get ahead of all of that, you know, research work that's happening right now, and certainly not at this particular juncture even could because the idea of taking this approach was only being presented to the advisory committee of the middle mile last Wednesday. They just happened to met a week prior to the Broadband Council. It is not until next month that more information will be coming so that's all I'm also you know, just be upfront that I think the state's trying to be open about sharing an approach but by no means anything definitive you know is decided.

Okay, I just I will finally say like we have a very short timeframe to use this money. And one of the great concerns from the legislature is these dollars going unspent when this is one of the times I think I'll chime in and say this is one of the areas where I agree with Angelo and say, you know, as long as we got the funds we got to use them.

Yep, agree that we all felt that sense of urgency, gotta gotta keep this moving. Don't don't overanalyze it. Again, just don't want people to take away that reference of quick when is automatically equivalent to lease and not build. I don't think that's the correct understanding. But I think at the end of the day, it's trying to see the best way to make the investment now, that our best for our future growth moving forward. Thank you. Dr Williams?

Will be brief. Just want to say thank you to (indiscernible) because she has all the questions that my boss was going to ask me so I appreciate that. And I appreciate also your responses. Even if we get responses later. You know, it's an odd kind of thing. This entire process, you know, I don't know, maybe this is, well, it can be it can be approached from an inductive or deductive point of view. Right. And a particular approach where we either go from right, a clear hypothesis, right, a certain clarity and down to the data or observation down to the data. I think what legislature is saying is that we've got the legislature has a hypothesis, meaning they have a clearer sense of what they want to see at the end of the road. And the the closer we can get to that map, the closer we can get to that kind of tactility for them, is going to be really important because that's what begin that's what they're going to push us to answer for them. So we we need your help. I at least I will say I need your help. Because if Mr. Gipson ask me that question. I want to be able to say, look, this is what we know for sure. That is again in parallel to your and your colleagues' vision, and this is how they're implementing from that vision. Also, finally, just wanted to say congratulations to Mark I really appreciate you taking the helm of this middle mile piece mainly because in my brief interactions with you and our assembly fellow, you are a kind human being. You really I'll just tell you this because you don't know it, but it's been transmitted to me to from our fellow. You know, she was of course, a fellow is going to be kind of trepidatious to talk to the person, right who's in charge of this or that but you really did again. You treated her as I'm sure you do everyone with regard, right? Regardless right on their status or who they are and I think that's just key quality that we need in public service. So I just wanted to commend you on that and welcome you into that position and of course, anything our office can do to support your efforts we will.

Thank you very much and I look forward to the continued partnership with the legislature in the administration and the PUC in getting this done.

Right. Thank you. Any other questions or comments from the council member before we move to other topics I'm just doing a time check. I know this normally is scheduled for two hours, but I do not know how many public comments will be made today. I wanted to want to make sure we give ample time to the public to do so. And I know there's couple more items we can we're going to pass through so we might run over noon today. And I don't know if that schedule will be amenable to the council member but if you do need to, you know, take a bio break. I'll just say it because we've been here for almost two hours feel free to do so but I want to make sure we maintain the time that the slot for public comment even though there's a lot to go through for the remaining so okay, with that, Scott, let's move to the next item.

Sorry, the next file is or the next item is the last month funding programs update from the PUC. Alright, thanks, guys.

So, again, I'm Michael Minkus. I spoke earlier. I'm a policy advisor to the director of the Communications Division at the California Public Utilities Commission. And I don't have a slide for this item. But I will provide a brief update on the CPUC implementation of broadband last mile programs and funding. The broadband budget package and the number of policy bills created, funded, reformed and revitalized a number of last mile broadband programs. Summarily the last mile programs fall into four main areas, technical assistance, a loan loss reserve funds, Last Mile program or federal funding account and the California Advanced Services Fund, broadband grant program and its many component parts. Each of the programs

is being implemented in proceeding at the CPUC and I'll provide a brief snapshot the programs are in two main proceedings are docket. The first is the California Advanced Services Fund, led by Commissioner Houck, it will implement the technical assistance, the loan loss reserve in the California advanced services fund broadband grant program and timing for technical assistance. A staff proposal was issued in September in the CPUC and a scoping memo targeted a proposed decision with a set of rules on or before December 1st 2020. For loan loss, the loan loss reserve fund a staff proposal is targeted for the first quarter of 2022. In the public housing consortia, adoption and infrastructure grant programs will be implemented in the next year. Finally, the last mile or federal funding account program will be implemented in the broadband deployment proceeding led by Commissioner Martha Guzman-Aceves. A staff proposal is out for comment now and a proposed decision is targeted for September 2021 to March 2022. So that's the conclusion of my CPUC Last Mile program update.

All right, thank you. Questions or comments. All right, hearing none. Keep going.

All right, the next item is a very brief legislative update. John Mann, the Department of Technology's deputy director of Legislation and also Grant Mack from the CPUC. John?

Hey folks nice to see everybody. To be brief, Grant and I, obviously available to do any pertinent follow up on the different bills that were signed by the governor this year, run through several of them quickly that have most impact on the work we're doing. We have AB 14 by Assemblymember Aguiar Curry uh we related to California Broadband Services Fund, AB 41. Related to broadband infrastructure deployment and recording CPUC to date broadband maps, SB 4 by Senator Gonzalez. Uh related to California advanced services fund again, and increasingly extending that fund through 2032. And we have SB 28. By Senator Caballero. Which again, impacts the digital infrastructure Video Competition Act of 2006 related to data and collection of data on providers. And then obviously we have the historic SB 156 investment budget bill for middle mile and for that build out 3.25 billion to do so. So again, Grant and I are available for these specific follow ups from folks. Here at the meeting and happy to fill any questions.

All right, thank you, John. question or comments. Hey, I'm hearing none. All right. Let's keep moving.

Got it. So really the next portion was intended to engage the council members on the 2022 meetings dates and then the focus and and specifically, referencing that 2020 20 was about the executive order and the creation of the broadband action plan that 2021 was focused on getting the executive order and Action Plan items up and running. And so, staff wanted to start with a recommendation and then helping out to members for their discussion and decision. Our recommendation on you know, a suggested focus for the broadband council for next year would be fine tuning any executive order or action plan items that need to be addressed. Second, getting estimated dates for completion on short term items and providing that direction to the entities in charge of those items. And then, lastly, is really getting a high level game plan from responsible parties with milestone dates. included for long term action item plans. So that's really three recommendations, of refining the Executive Order and Action Plan items, estimated dates, per short term action items, and then high level game plans and milestones for the long term items. I mean really I'd just love to open it up for discussion and guidance from the council members. Amy.

All right. I think this is a recommendation I wanted to take a quick pulse from the council member. Scott what I'm hearing is giving the amount of updates that are provided and mean needing to provide as well as there's a lot of moving parts, you know, in especially the Middle Mile which even though that has its own dedicated Advisory Committee, it when it comes to

Broadband For All is really part of it. That's why this this particular kind of funding from a council should definitely get updated as well. So moving that to a quarterly cadence, Scott is to is to ask right?

Well, yes, it definitely quarterly cadence is a recommendation but also the the focus of next year's plan because the broadband Council, you know, is the body that created the action plan collectively. There there is a need. We've already begun mapping out the executive order in the Action Plan items. But there needs to be potentially another Lance on how, you know the legislation that John had mentioned, potentially impacts or does it change you know, particular approach or owner of those items, but then specifically, given the urgency of all this, we've seen the interdependency and interconnectedness potentially with data and mapping identification of properties permitting is that you know, we need to determine a level of done and identify a due date for that to be done so that all of these efforts can be leveraged to support the overall goal which is Broadband For All .

Yep, Sunne.

I just want to commend you as Chair for the leadership this last year and getting us to this kind of discipline and regular reporting. I totally support Scott's approach and appreciate Scott you setting forth a framework for us to either support or modify and we find I think it is excellent, you'll continue to improve upon it. I like the cadence proposal. So it's it's really the whole approach of having the executive or the action plan continuing to revisit to do exactly what Scott just said, what is done and then you know, the accountability for but at a regular pace so that we can be diligent about assuring we get it get it done.

Got it. Thank you. Dr. Williams.

Yeah, just wanted to echo that same appreciation not only for your team, but also all of the council members and those that in fact, at least in my situation that I stand in for I I like and that's a great word and the discipline of let us continue. Right, going through the executive order. Let us continue to refine and define. I like that. So I would agree with that. The only thing I'd like to see is some and I don't know if we can do this in a larger form. I would love to know and to have a discussion about I know California is a leader in this but where it's being implemented elsewhere, what can we learn right from from other entities state, private, public, that can enhance our thinking and strategy to make broadband for all the promise of it in reality, because I think the, again, another last commendation, the speed by which the executive order came out, and then the report that is so aptly memorialized for Assemblymember Moore, I just again, it's one of those things that if you you know, if you if you missed it, that's monumental. And it means a lot. It meant a lot to the California Legislative Black Caucus. It meant a lot to Mr. Gibson. You You wedded something that hasn't been wedded before at least my knowledge, right? And obviously, the sense of urgency but also the principle and valued, you know, proposition of Broadband For All, but also just recognizing the history of leaders in this fight. I just think that's remarkable. And so really doubling down, right. So yes, let us continue, but also let's figure out a way that we can bring in a public discussion, right, it's good to have study sessions and you know, things that we connect with and working groups but a public conversation about equity, right issues around really getting to what Broadband For All promises, what it means and how we can actually deliver.

Thank you for that. Any other comments or feedback from the council member? So what I like to ask is because this is the last meeting for this year, and what the staff recommendation is really charter or path for the next year, and perhaps the sets this type of cadence as well as the continued this pressing on on this discipline and this rhythm that we have been seeing, and if nothing else, it you know, it needs to be even more tighter, even more a broadened in terms of

the conversation and I really do want to echo Dr. Williams and your point of the equity lens and looking through all of this because it's while you know there's a lot of work being done in the various action item, including the Middle Mile has its dedicated focus now due to the great support that we're getting. At the end of the day. What really matters is did our residents have an improved experience? And are we helping in closing the digital divide? And where's the equity lens to making sure that really the unserved you know, and then the underserved are getting, you know, much needed help through all of this? And I think that type of facilitated conversation issue issue mentioned, is not only to me a good to have and this forum, but this forum should also really serve as that inspirational leadership, that inspirational driver if you would to continue to bring all of their players along in the state everybody might come from a different perspective. But at the end of the day, serving the residents of California to make sure that everybody everybody have the access that they have as a necessity when it comes to broadband should be a common goal. And I think it's important to have this Broadband Council continue to serve as that role that leadership role on behalf of California. So, with that, I like to ask if there's a member of the Council can present a motion to codify this decision. Of one moving the cadence of this council gathering from three times to quarterly. Second if there are expectation for these meeting for the items that they wanted to cover, not to the agenda item, but you know, the area that the broad approach so that we can make sure that it's being documented as a decision moving forward. So, moved. Second. All right, any discussion further discussion needed? All right. And Jules, before you take the vote, do you want to go ahead and reiterate the recommendation?

Sure. The recommendation was to meet quarterly with the focus of fine tuning any Executive Order or Action Plan items that need to be addressed, getting estimated dates for completion of short-term items, and getting high level game plans with milestone dates for the long-term items.

All right, so with that, let's take a vote. All those in favor, please say aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. Any opposed? Sustained. All right. Motion moved. Thank you.

Scott, back to you. Alright, Amy that concludes our official business. Next up is public comment.

All right. I want to be respectful of folk's time. I know we ran really, really long but I think it's a very well discussion. What I like to do this is we're going to open it up to public that if you'd like to speak go ahead and have your hand raised. And our moderator is going to take note of the sequence and and call you know provide you the opportunity to speak if the council member wanted to quickly take like two to three minutes break. We'll come back like if that's okay for everyone. Because we'll be sitting here for two hours. We'll come right back at 12:05.

Amy.

Yes.

And I have another meeting that I have to be at at noon. So I just wanted to note that I'll need to leave. But I appreciate it. And if we'll follow up with my staff regarding public comment.

All right. Thank you for letting us Oh, no problem with that. And I do want to acknowledge that the other council member Lori Pepper was able to join. So thank you, Darci for letting us so why don't we just take a quick quick quick break, and then any public member wants to go ahead and have your hand raised. We'll be back at 12:05.

(People are free to chat while we're waiting.)

Hello. Okay. I want to see if members are coming back we're about a minute. It's 12:04 on my clock. Okay, it's 12:05. I hope everybody have a chance to take a quick break and I know it's been very, very long. But like I said, very well. Likely that long which is outstanding with that. Jules Do you wanna announce I guess I'll say the public comment period is open and Jules if you want to go ahead and remind or walk through the procedure for public comment period.

Sure, public comment is limited to two minutes per commenter, one commenter per entity, and should address the work discussed during the meeting. We will if people are I'll call up phone representatives from phone first. But just so the most frequent question we get is Will you post the video and the slides and we will be doing that we try to do that as soon as possible. So first, is there anybody on the phone who would like to speak? I don't think we have very many phone participants. So I'll loop back at the end.

And Robert Tse is first.

Hi, I'm Robert Tse Senior Policy Advisor for USDA. Rural Development. And I thought this is relevant to I think there's some reference to federal funding. If you haven't already seen it. I thought you'd like to note that Secretary Vilsack announced last week that we have the new reconnect three Broadband Program which will start accepting applications on November 24. For the next 90 days for what for \$1.15 billion in loans and grants of significant to you is we have changed our definition of unserved to 100 Mbps down and 20 Mbps up which is a shift from the old ten One. So that more closely aligns to what is going on. I actually in other states, the funds to service level is 100 synchronous. So we have upped the standard as to what has to be funded. This program has \$200 million for loans \$250 million for Loan and Grant combinations \$350 million in grants with 25% matching requirement, but it has also \$350 million in grants with no matching requirements for projects in tribal and socially vulnerable communities. This is significant for California because California has 109 of the 574 federally recognized tribes. It opens a door for California and I was just checking this morning with the headquarters and whether to see whether or not this these funds could also be used by tribes to help leverage their existing 2.5 gigahertz FCC spectrum Awards and the answer was, we think so. So there's some opportunities here to leverage things. I would say it also fits in potentially to leverage California's Middle obviously Last Mile, but also Middle Mile efforts. So I will I will leave it at that and I'll just let you know there were two Distance Learning Telemedicine grants announced last week for California and I'll just leave it at that. So there's that's a different program

All right. Thank you Robert. All right, Jules.

Larry Ortega.

Hi, good morning. Good afternoon, everyone. Larry Ortega with Community Union. A couple of questions on the on the policy, maybe setting up a policy arm it seems that there's a false presumption that pricing is fair. Right now and I'm wondering if this council would take up the issue of discovering whether or not pricing is fair, and start looking at it through maybe a subcommittee that they can look at because that's a false presumption as we know, prices in Europe and across the you know, other places in the globe. are, you know, fractions of what we're, what we're paying here. And I'm wondering if we could maybe start looking at that the other policy question, and I'm not sure, you know, this could be a combination between community groups, as well as members of this particular Council. To start looking at, you know, the dark fiber that's currently in the ground right now and how that's going to play a role in terms of the deployment aspect of Middle Mile as well as Last Mile. And how we could work to, from a policy standpoint, start accessing that that dark fiber start creating a policy in which we could access that dark fiber or you know, what's going to be done with it. So those are those are my

two questions and I'm wondering if perhaps this Council could appoint someone to follow up so that you know that we can actually do something or decide that this council is not going to do anything, but pricing and dark fiber are two key issues that I think have not been addressed in any of the conversations over the last two meetings.

Alright, thank you for that. Mr. Ortega. What we will do is after the public comment period, we will route back to the council member to see if there's any comments or deliberation they want to take action on but I I wouldn't say that, right at the end of this meeting, we will be able to give you a response. But certainly we'll follow up afterwards after we have a chance to discuss here. Um Jules are there any other public comments?

We're not seeing any other public comments. If somebody is having problems finding how to raise their hands on Zoom, please feel free to raise your hand physically and I'd like to loop back again to if there's anybody on the phone who would like to provide public comment. It does not appear that there is anybody else who would like to provide public comment.

Okay, all right. Thank you for that. We're going to go ahead and close the public comment and coming back to the council member for probably a last sweep of any outstanding items. So if I could have all the council members, if making sure I I know what the Zoom moved so much I couldn't tell who's still on and who's not on anymore. But if you, I want to make sure we still have a quorum to to wrap up this meeting. So if you aren't please, make sure can see you. Just on that last comments that also more of a request to the council member. I don't know if there's any comments or or deliberation. People wanted to talk about that. I'll open it up to council member now. Nobody, Sunne, come on. I always look at you. Because Yeah. So the, and and really the request from Mr. Ortega. It's really about is is is this council the right entity or have interest look into from a pricing fairness, as well as I think the second part is about a dark fiber, whether whether those are an option. I think that was the question. Right. So are there any initial thoughts with the council member on this?

So I can speak up on half of that.

Thank you, Lori.

On the dark fiber piece, I know that Caltrans has been inventorying and we're figuring out what we are allowed to do. And then we'll be planning from there. So nothing to announce right now. But that is absolutely something we're looking at.

All right. I got 50% from question results. That's good. I don't know if there's any. Anybody want to chime in about whether this council was looking to the fairness of pricing, whether that's within the scope of this Council?

This is Sarah. I mean, if if providers will voluntarily provide that information then that's great if the council can do it, but my understanding is that probably you're going to have to have a data request in order to get that and whether providers will provide you with that information is an entirely different question.

This is Laura at the State Library. It may not entirely address the question that's being asked but there is data available through USAC. The reporting features as a result of the seventh important order for publicly available pricing information on what schools and libraries and tribal and healthcare are paying and it it should be available, you know, on a on a state local level, so that is something that we could look into. But again, it's not the consumer level. necessarily, but it might give us some idea.

Thank you, Laura for that. Sunne I saw you're coming off the mute.

I just wanted to say I think we spent a quite a bit of time talking about the need for affordable broadband. This is only the 10th year in which the council has discussed it and that you had a focus that I want to commend and just underscore the intensity of outreach to take advantage of what the federal government is already doing. We just need to have the internet service providers to use all of their innovation, their their expertise to help us get the word out. That's that's the price at this point. Without getting drawn into any other unnecessary debates or research. Just get California's fair share of the money that is available.

Right, thank you for that comment. I think what I'm hearing is you know, there's there's a lot of things to focus on and then perhaps and then there's also, if not all, at least, probably good information that are out there. In the public. And probably the primary focus at this point is trying to make sure we get information out to consumers so they know all of their options in terms of signing up. Whether that leads to or specific asset that conduct a you know price fairness comparison, we may or may not even have access to all the information that we need to do so. So I think unless there's a strong interest or a strong, you know, a desire by the public that this is something we shall do. I would venture to say and probably this is not a priority at the moment. Because they're just, you know, a lot of things we're focusing on and trying to get people connected with the various means and outreach opportunity. If that's amenable to this council let's let's proceed with that and and it would definitely be an area that open to continue to monitor and as our members of the public bring it up as for the request as this thing evolves okay. Alright, so with that I am not seeing any further comments or enquiries. I'm like to go ahead and close this third and final meeting of the Broadband Council for 2021. What a year this has been. I just want to take a moment to really just move pile on all of the recognition accolades that the members have given to the staff and especially I wanted to add in to all the council member who has been consistently participating in this. And then also all the bar members of the public who has been you know, logging in regularly and just you know, continued to contribute to this topic. And of course, our very esteemed panel of advisory members that has been advising the Broadband Council in what to cover what are the area that we should focusing on? It's just it's just a really it takes a village to do all of this. And I'm really, really just honored to be part of all of the dedicated individuals and passionate individuals on how to move as fast as we can and to close the digital divide in California. So with that said, looking forward to more engagement in 2022 alongside with the Middle Mile Action Committee, as well as with a strong focus on this council on adoption, and doing everything we can to provide services to residents. Any council members are I'm just gonna open up hey, you know, I'm gonna break some rules and break some rules right here is the last meeting, any council member and even advisory members want to chime in and say something to close out the year, this is the opportunity to do so.

I would disappoint you if I didn't jump in Amy and I because I just I really I've said it but I just need to underscore how great I think you are leading and everybody that all the state agencies contributing. And I'd put that in chat but somehow I say we seem to be blocked. So if you don't want me to speak each time, let me get up give me the chat function back or something because I will use it okay.

Now we love to have your to speak on Sunne and that's why the chat is no longer fun today. All right, any other members? Just you all want to go to lunch huh. Ah, all right, then. Have a great rest of the year. We will see you in the new year. Take care.