

Middle-Mile Advisory Committee
 July 21, 2023
 Meeting Minutes and Transcript

The Middle-Mile Advisory Committee met on Friday, July 21, 2023, at 10:00am PST via virtual conference.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

CIO & Directorate Bailey-Crimmins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Directorate Bailey-Crimmins welcomed all MMAC members, designees, presenters and attendees.

A quorum for the meeting was established.

Member		Designee	Present	Absent
California Department of Technology	Director Bailey-Crimmins		X	
California Public Utilities Commission	President Reynolds		X	
Department of Finance	Chief Deputy Director Miller	Designee was Teresa Calvert	X	
Government Operations Agency	Secretary Tong		X	
Department of Transportation	Director Tavares	Designees was Chief Deputy Director Keever	X	
State Senate	Senator Gonzalez	(Ex-Officio Member)		X
State Senate	Senator McGuire	(Ex-Officio Member)		X
State Assembly	Assembly Member Tasha Boerner	(Ex-Officio Member)	X	
State Assembly	Assembly Member Wood	(Ex-Officio Member)	X	
County of Monterey, District 1	Supervisor Alejo	Local Government Representatives	X	

County of Del Norte, District 2	Valerie Starkey	Local Government Representatives	X	
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Agenda Item 2: Executive Report Out

Mark Monroe provided the executive report out, focusing on execution phases, the NTIA grant and deliver of fiber and conduit. Also noted that updates would be given regarding contract execution further in the presentation.

Agenda Item 3: Project Updates

- **Mark Monroe** provided the California Department of Technology's (CDT's) update on initial broadband needs (8,100 miles);
 - the budget model with an estimate of \$455k per mile; implementation approach: 75% of the network will be constructed (approx. 6,000 miles) while 25% will be leased (approx. 2,000 miles).
 - This phased approach will maximize coverage of unserved households, linkage to last-mile & middle-mile, meet labor objectives and maximize state & federal funding.
 - An updated phase 1 map was shared showing the 8,300 miles.
 - Update considerations were shared regarding IRU/Lease, Caltrans Build, Joint Build and Buy
 - Phase 2 will include approx. 1,700 miles
 - A planning timeline of the project was shared.
- **Janice Benton** provided a California Department of Transportation update focused on preconstruction progress (environmental, permitting and design), construction readiness, a programmatic approach to environmental progress, and an update on Mendocino County construction on State Route 20.
- **Tony Naughtin** provided the Third-Party Administrator update focusing on network development & engineering; coordinating & planning with Caltrans; business development & product management; community & tribal outreach.
- **Scott Adam** provided the California Department of Technology's (CDT's) update on stakeholder outreach including virtual and in-person workshops, consultations and monthly email updates. Also shared a video of the San Joaquin Valley Broadband for All, Digital Equity, & BEAD Planning Regional Workshop.
- **Maria Ellis** provided a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) update focused on the Federal Funding Account (FFA) public map, Local Agency Technical Assistance, California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) grants received, and last mile broadband initiative funds.

Agenda Item 4: Public Comment

Public comments were made by:

- Patrick Messac, Oakland Undivided
- Dr. Larry. Ozeran, Clinical Informatics

- Geoff Belleau, CA Department of Education
- Emily Cohen, United Contractors
- Sarah McCormick, City of Fort Bragg
- Ross Millerick
- Amy Hamblin, NextGen Policy
- Ernie Pacheco, Communications Workers of America

Members Final Comments

Director Bailey-Crimmins: CDT & Caltrans look forward to the labor discussions that we will have in the next few weeks.

Chief Deputy Director Keever: I'd like to express my appreciation for everyone working on this. It's a lot of hard work but will have a lot of benefits. Thank you to everyone.

Closing Remarks

Directorate Bailey-Crimmins thanked Committee members, staff, partners, and attendees and confirmed that the next MMAC meetings is scheduled for October 20, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13pm PST.

(meeting transcript attached; video and presentation slides from meeting posted to Committee web site)

Transcript

Well, good morning and welcome. Happy Friday. Everyone to the July twenty-first, 2,023 Middle Mile Advisory Committee meeting. The first order is to what call will. So Miss Alvarado, would you please call Wolf?

Yes. first I will go over housekeeping rules.

attendees. Please note there is time allocated at the end of the meeting for public comments, either in person, zoom, phone, or email presenters. Please queue Sam to advance your slides.

Committee members, please raise your hands to speak and ex officio. Please use your raise hand, feature in zoom to queue Director Bailey Kremlin to call on you to speak.

Now, committee, member, roll call, State CIO and Director Bailey Kremlin. Here

President Reynolds, here

Chief Deputy Director Miller.

Theresa.

Director Tovar.

definitely keep it for direct requires here secretary here, here.

Senator Mcguire.

Senator

Assembly, member Burner.

Assembly Member, would

Supervisor Alejo.

I'm here zooming in from Austin, Texas. Thank you.

Supervisor Starkey.

Valerie Starkey: I am here on Zoom

Director Bailey Kremlin, we have a quorum.

Thank you. I also like to personally thank the California Department of Tax and fee Administration for allowing us to utilize their boardroom. We have a great team here today to support us, and we can't do it without you. So thank you very much. today, we're going to hear project updates from Cdt, Cal, trans. Golden State net and CPU. C.

Are there any committee members that would like to provide any brief comments. Before we get started I will first look to my colleagues on the dais, if you have any comments before we get started, and then we'll go to the members. that are connecting remotely. So any questions?

All right. I see none on the dais. Do we have any members that want to make any comments

remotely.

Nick, any I do. Fantastic. All right. We'll go ahead and get started with the executive report, which is Mr. Mark Monroe.

Good morning chair members Mark Monroe, the deputy director for the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative. And we're excited to be able to Come to our third quarterly meeting of the year, and to be able to provide an update on the project.

as I think everybody, you know. Know. Certainly this. This project is a priority for the administration, and really an early effort in in in a broader infrastructure. the efforts to

that. We're gonna really help a lot of Californians. And so it's, it's very. It's a high priority. And we're we're glad to be a part of it to be able to provide an update on it. I think as we can kind of go to the next slide here, I think we'll

as everybody hopefully is aware. we've been, we've moved into the execution phase for this project in terms of going. You know, we we spent a lot of time really trying to go through and plan a lot and do a lot of planning efforts in the the first year. And so, we're really really moving into the that, we're really

into the execution phase. At this point our primary focus has been optimization. And trying to take a look at the all of the State's needs and weigh them against the funding available, and we'll be providing some updates on that this morning.

since we last met the Some. Some might be aware that we that that Cdt received a 73 million dollar Federal grant from the N. T. I. A. that is, included in it is one of our funding sources now.

that's we received word of that about a month ago, and very excited about that. And similarly, we're you know, we we want everybody to know we are. We've actually started to receive the critical materials that we had had gone out and ordered, and we'll be talking a little bit about that. But we actually started to to re receive a fiber and conduit in anticipation of moving towards construction

this morning. we will be Cdt. We will be providing an update on the on our optimization efforts. And how we we're we're planning to implement the project going forward cal trends will be providing an update on. It's a and pre-construction efforts as it moves towards towards actually being able to start construction. of certain segments.

and gold goldenstein at our third party administrator will be reviewing some of the the the work it's doing regarding engineering. some of the the outreach work that it's done as well as business development.

and then the Public Utilities Commissioner will be provided an update on its last mile efforts which are so key to to syncing up with the middle mile to make sure that we have, we're able to provide end in connectivity

with that. That's the end of my executive report out.

Oh, he's on zoom. Okay. Sorry he's on zoom as well acknowledged that he is on from a roll call perspective. Is there any questions regarding the agenda before we get started?

Anybody raising a hand? Virtually. Nick?

Okay. The next agenda item is department of technology project. Update? Mr.

All right, very good. So, we, we're going to be, I think you know. Certainly the members in the public have been waiting for this, you know, for for for a number of months to

kind of see where all of this optimization work has landed. And so we're gonna be talking through that to to start, though, I wanted to just review real quickly where we started

2 years ago, you know, when this, when Sp. 156 was passed and the initial Arpa funding was provided estimates were in the 8,000 8,100 mile range in terms of what that network would need to look like. some of the the the estimates that that we had worked on with Caltrans at the time, based on on on past projects. It had had and they were. They were limited in Caltrans build roads for the most part, but they had actually.

I've done some some fiber work in the past, and so we had estimates in the range of \$455,000 per mile And so based on those funding levels kind of that, that initial anticipated scope of the project

and the the funding available. there was, initially anticipated that the network would be composed primarily or 75 of of of construction and 25 of these in feasible rights of use or leases. I'm just kind of reference them as leases in the in this presentation. But those broadly how we envision putting together and and developing the the statewide network. go to. We can go to the next slide.

we've made it a number. We we we've done a a lot to really explore all the alternatives and the time since, and and so we have updated information, updated assumptions that are really feeding our analysis at this point.

so some may remember that we worked with the public Utilities commission. They went through a robust public process and analysis. and then worked with. We worked with the go with Golden State net, our third party administrator to develop what would be the the ideal map in terms of a minimal network that that reached all of the

unserved communities throughout the State, and we will provide, provided the an ideal level of resiliency. And so that that we came out last last May with a at the 10,000 mile map that we've all been kind of looking at has been posted on our website since then that we've been talking through At the same time we went out to bid

for construction, for up to half the network in terms of the the quantity of miles we've as the bids have come back. They've been 40% higher than I think we were anticipating understanding that. a there's, you know, we we've had some robust inflation in the time since, but also understanding that the the Federal opera funds that we're using and all of the other funding that's being made available

throughout the the country. means that there there is an increased demand for labor and and expertise. And so I think we we? We're that's our understanding of, really. Why, why, a lot of the costs are coming in higher than anticipated.

And then what's what I really want to draw our attention to and we we've talked about this in the past as well is

our implementation approach. So in addition to going out for construction bids. We also went out for using an it's called an Rfi squared process where we went out to industry and really looked for any and all alternatives. And this could include leases. It could include leases of specific components of infrastructure as well as join, fill to really try to cast as wide in that as possible. It's possible

and and so that that's a another enormous effort that we that we have gone to. And we've learned that there's a lot more opportunities available there than I think we were expecting, and at a at a better cost more cost, effective rate than we were expecting overall. So these are some of the the, the important updated assumptions that we have going into and and finalizing our optimization process

going to jump to the next slide.

So in terms of what we we're gonna be talking about here is a phased approach. we have you know. We went through and looked segment by segment of the full 10,000 mile map we looked at. where again, where all of the unserved communities were and and really the distance to the the network, I think that's also a a key element. Also going through looking at the resiliency we had built into the 10,000 mile network

and and then again trying to make use of all of the most

most cost effective approaches to the project. And so, this is. These are our leases and our joint builds, and even some purchase opportunities. And so the this is this is really the a lot of the key information that's fed into the phased approach. Or we we're going to be talking about here. can we go to the next slide?

So in terms of our objectives, you know, we we talk about the maximum coverage and of unserved households. we

in in in terms of the the overall map we we looked at 5 miles from the network. We looked at 10 miles from the network. Just try trying to find make sure that as we selected as as we decided where and and when and how to to go about the project. We were maximizing that that coverage we also and I think this has come up in, in. You know several several conversations since that we last met.

in terms of meeting the the State's labor objectives any, regardless of the the way that we develop this regardless of whether Caltrans is building it a partners building it or you know, even if we're going to be leasing infrastructure, that is, that is going to be installed specifically for the State. under all those circumstances the State pays

prevailing wage. And so we want to make sure that that's that, that that everybody understands that. we are meeting that meeting, that commitment.

similarly. we are looking at to maximize the linkage. You know, we talk about providing middle mile that that really need that last mile linkage. And so we we want to. make sure that as the Public Utilities Commission, for example, goes out with their their Federal funding account grant application process is currently open. that applicants have the

an up to date map to understand where they would need to connect to where those opportunities are, and we work on a a weekly basis with the public utilities commission to to kind of update our shared information there and then. The the last objective here is to really maximize all the funding available. And so at this point, there's a 3.2 5 billion dollars that is being provided in general.

and then, as noted, we have, in the last month received approval for a 73 million dollar grant from the Ntia.

bringing our total to the 3.8 7 billion.

Shall we move to the next slide?

So what we see here is phase one, we talk about a phased approach. the the folk. The focus here is phase one. This here is a map of 8,300 miles proximately this is what we believe with the current funding level. that that we can afford to develop. this would be developed within the the Federal arpa timeframes.

We have to have all of those funds under under contract by the end of 2,024 with the funds liquidated and with the an operational network by the end of 2,026. And so given the funding level and given all of the the analysis that we've done. This is where the this is the, the, the, the 300 mile map that we have landed on. there's been some discussion. in certainly, at the last of it may C as well as others where

looking at kind of how we're delivering it. And so I I think a a key point we wanted to to focus on here is that when we look at the this map here, I hope folks can see it. It is about two-thirds blue. What that means is, the blue represents

alternative methods of developing, of delivering the network alternatives to do this standalone construction. And so that would be leases. That would be joint builds. And so what we see up here is that The overall architecture is we will.

Releasing approximately 4,500 miles. is what we would expect. We're still in negotiations trying to finalize some of these deals. So we we're we're limited in how much we can share in terms of more specific details. But we did want the members and the public to understand. You know, the various ways that we're considering. And really, if they can look at a map and be able to see how their segments are are going to be delivered. So

In in terms of that, we This also reflects 1,800 miles of Caltrans Standalone construction. that that will be moving forward with those of the the orange sections.

or or the yeah. And then and this the blue also includes 500 miles of purchases. So and again, we note that the 73 million dollars in in Ti grants is is put it as included in here. And this is

this is we can. We can go ahead and go to the next slide here. But one of the the key things, and and and this looks a lot like it did last time in terms of when we look at the

overall 10,000. We just we just looked at the 8,300 mile map when we look at the overall, 10,000 mile map. this is still the architecture we would expect, and we can see. I think Caltrans is hard to read there, but I think it's about 35%

that would would still need to be constructed between phase one and phase 2 but we can see here. And I think this this really illustrates that

by by sharing the cost of development, sharing the cost of construction. and with with industry, we've really been able to make the funding go significantly, further than it otherwise would, and and was was really envisioned 2 years ago. So I think you know, the team has done a lot of really good work to, to look at every alternative, to make this, to to make phase one is as expansive as possible, and to reach as many of the unserved communities. as again.

regardless of where this is, we're pursuing 288 count fiber and the same frequency of access points. this is gonna really limit our vulnerability to in terms of having to build at high cost areas. and in the end the State will own and and manage the network.

We can go to the next slide here.

Now in terms of phase 2. we we're looking for alternatives to how we can develop that as well. one of the key components we'll be looking at is we move to construction is exploring design alternatives. reduce number of conduit, perhaps, or depth. There's there's a number of design decisions that we want to explore with the construction contractors. to see if we can save some

save some money there and construction any fate savings would be would then go to phase 2, and so And and we would be doing that an incremental basis. So that was something we'd be coming back and reporting to the the member or to the

similarly, we talk about the you know the the sync up with last mile funding So as the the Poc is going forward with with funding last mile projects. there can be essential middle mile components. that might be included in that. And so to the extent that those are Some segments are necessary, you know, in in phase 2

to really provide that connectivity for those last mile members, or for the last the the last mile communities that's that's another alternative. perhaps for for closing the gap in some areas, and then there's always the the the the

yeah

obvious solution of of of continuing to look for other Federal funds. We know that the Federal funds as well as other sources where a as as as broadband, it really becomes

it could continue to become available nationwide

a next slide.

This here is the the timeline. I apologize. The A lot of what's been done is kind of grayed out to the point where it's not terribly visible here. But the the really, the the key. 3 points I want to point to are the quarter one through 3. Here the optimization phase, one development that we're we're presenting here. That was that's been the the major focus of of trying to get to where we're at today with the phase of the phased approach.

We can see that. We're expecting cal construction to begin in the in the months to come here. and Caltrans will be talking a little more about that and then Another key point I want to note is that when we look at completing the project. We look at the Arpa deadline by the end of 2,026.

you could note there that the least segments we expect to be on online and be able to start providing connectivity. in mid 2,025. So overall when it comes to the Arpa deadlines, we we're about 18 months ahead of schedule and similarly, when it comes to the the leases, and when we're going to be able to provide some connectivity

through through the leases. that also is, again, 18 months ahead of where, a lot of the other construction will likely be able to come online

next slide.

all right. And the last thing I want to point out here real quick. Here is I mentioned earlier, we we started to receive. We've now received

over a thousand miles of fiber as well as the over a thousand miles of conduit. So One of the one of the early steps we took last year was to go out for procurement for materials that we knew would be hard to get materials. We knew that there would potentially be constraints as the rest of the country ramped up and really worldwide. And so we knew we wanted to get get in the front of the line, if you will, and so to that point we

went out and and pro pro procured several 1,000 miles of material, and that is begun to be delivered. You can see here we've been able to come to a or visit a, a, a local site where it's being stored. so just a e to to share with you some really of some material progress in the project.

With that I will

that. That that's the end of my update.

Thank you, Mister Monroe. I'd also like to acknowledge Assembly member burner has joined, and so thank you very much. And we would like to open it up to the members here in the room. If there's any questions, and then I'll then open it up to members that are online. Any questions for here in the room.

Yes, I I do have a question, and 2 thing. One is Thank you for that. Grey barred I think was fun at the vendor with all the supply. That was great to see it. Just kind of massive

volume of lines, and can't do it. And if I mean, we're talking about that. What's only a portion of what the state of California going to have on this middle mile. But just that is just overwhelming. So really, appreciate the work that the team it's doing.

and the your leadership got Mark and or Mr. Monroe and the and the director for continue to move the ball forward. my question is specifically on I think there was an earlier slide. I think a slight 10 that talks about that, regardless whether it was a lease, a built by Coulter, or join, built, or possibly even the purchase which that's at this is 500 mile only.

The designed requirement for all of that is 288. this front.

Yeah, yes, no, thank you for that question. what I'll what I'll say is, yes, that's been our. That's been our intent. As we as we approach all of the partnerships in terms of the design, is being able to have that. I I'm not. I can't see for certain that every single mile will that will be available, and that's the only limitation is what what? What materially is available. But but yes, that is

That has been our approach to all of this, and I think it's something that we're Fortunately, all of the network will have that same same fiber count and the same same frequency of access.

Okay, that's good. And then also the the fact that again, regardless it it either whether it's a lease or build, or join Bill or by. I also saw the ballistic to California will be owning and managing the network.

So from that aspect, it's really, you know, it's less relevant how those network miles it'd be obtained. But the ownership, the the ability to maintain it as well as the requirement. Having, you know, Ada fiber, Count, it's a a standard requirement for all of these. Yes, that is correct, and so Cdt. Will have full full ownership to make sure that. that the public is getting the the highest quality service. Great. Thank you for that.

And I I wanted to first. my colleagues go first. I I wanted to ask a question. When will the map be available? I know folks are taking pictures of it, and it's fairly small on the screen. Can you? Miss Road? Let folks know when that will be available on the website?

My first answer will be as soon as possible. I think our team is already working on being able to add this as a layer to our public website map, and so I would say, I expect it within a month. and I'm hoping within a a week or 2 I it's

I can get back to you with with some more specifics on that. But I know that the team has already been working on on being able to update that. And in our system. So it's we want to make sure everybody can have access to it as soon as possible. the other thing I I will also note, is that by next week but early next week we normally will have the slides from the Middle Model advisory committee

posted on our website. So the map that was perhaps difficult to see here this morning. will be there and and much, much more visible.

Thank you, Mr. Morrow. All right. President Reynolds. Thanks no questions, but I did just want to thank Mr. Monroe for the presentation, and commend you for all the work I know. This is a huge project, and in particular, in securing the ntia grant the additional funding the the the dollars that we're looking. Here are a huge and and every bit counts. And so I I wanted to know that that's great to get that additional funding. So thank you.

Thank you. All right. I'd go ahead and open it up to the members.

online, can you? I can't see the screen. So I apologize. So if maybe at least, yeah, if you could call on the numbers for me.

Assemblymember Wood: Yeah, thank you. great

assembly. Remember what we're I I know you don't mean to sound like a robot. But for some reason the cell phone doesn't seem to be working.

can we try again?

Assemblymember Wood: Yeah, there we go.

and here.

But and you're right.

I know we can't hear you, but maybe we versus So maybe we do, we have Wi-fi. So we we're we're we go ahead and try to figure out a way to do a call. In in the meantime, that is there another member that might have a question while we get the technical difficulties. Resol for Assembly member would.

There's

Assembly Member Burner.

Assemblymember Boerner: Yes, I want to thank you, and I'm sorry that I joined a little bit late. So if you covered this already or if it's later on the agenda please feel free to table this question. I really appreciate timeline. Appreciate the detail you know. One of my biggest concerns is how the middle mile will work with in mile, and you had mentioned in your presentation that they could cover it. How is that going to logistically work? That's the first question. And the second question is because we have a public asset.

Assemblymember Boerner: and we should use it for a public benefit. How are we ensuring that those who are tapping into the middle mile.

Assemblymember Boerner: who are providing a low cost option for our unserve and underserved communities are getting priority in that process.

Sure. So first of all the the question on the on the the the mechanics of being able to connect. The way I've described it in in the past is that? you know. Not at not all. Communities, not all unserved communities are on a State highway.

And so there has been. There's always been an understanding that there would be other mo other. What we'll call middle mile needs to get back to the state network. the this. And and so I I think we've the the the Public Utilities commission calls that the the other essential middle mile. So what I'd say is, we've always, I I think that's always been accepted as is perhaps certainly 1 one alternative for for grant application requests and then

and and so the this, if, say, a city needed to build 7 miles out to the highway system. And now, given this, they're going to, you know, need to build another 3 along along that route to get to where the the phase one ends. Then then I that that's that's still something we would then continue to work with to to work with the last mile provider on, to make sure that we connect, and the same way that we would, we would have before

that kind of answer. Your question.

Assemblymember Boerner: It answers the first part of the question. the second part has to do with

Assemblymember Boerner: you know, because our middle mile network is a public benefit, how we, ensuring that we're prioritizing those that are serving disadvantage unserved under serve communities at a lower cost and an affordable rate has priority and and tapping into cost.

So a couple of elements, I think, is we're still developing the kind of the the business aspect of it. or I think we we envision a certain The Sp 156 says that the network has to be a for a a affordable, and has to be offered at or below market rate. So I think that that's our first guideline as we're as we're moving forward.

What I'll say, too, is that when it comes to capacity our our network is going to be able to with with 288 count fiber. we we should not be bumping up against any limitations right away when we talk about certainly lit service. We'll be able to handle that very easily. We talk about dark fiber services. Those were what we anticipate looking at those and

and and and and and and and and of limiting and capping the amount that any one carrier would have access to so that we are able to keep it competitive and and make sure that there's plenty of access So I think we we've looked at it, as you know, maybe 5 or 10% of the fibers. So just to make sure that that it continues to provide a maximum accessibility to to unserved communities.

Assemblymember Boerner: Okay.

thank you. As I'm looking for burner for the excellent question we are going to go ahead and go back to someone. Member would.

Assemblymember Wood: can you hear me now?

Perfect.

Assemblymember Wood: Okay. I don't know why. My, why the other isn't working. But anyway, thank you. I just want to say thank you to Mr. Monroe for the maps and and all of the work. I'm I am curious. you know. Phase 2

Assemblymember Wood: and not. We don't really know when that's going to roll out, or or and and how that parts of that are going to be prioritized. unless I I'd love to hear you comment on that a little bit, and I I guess I'll go back to, because I've got a specific area of concern in my district.

Assemblymember Wood: in the West county of Sonoma County, where there's a pocket of probably about 10,000 people out there. on the way out, and there's about

Assemblymember Wood: And that's now phase 2. And this is as we look at underserved communities. This is part of one of the poorest areas of my of my district in the in this county, anyway. So so I'm just curious as to

Assemblymember Wood: you know, as you move into phase 2. How how are you prioritizing that? this is an area is also prone to flooding, prone to fires. So the ability to access information and services? is already challenging. so this you know, I'll say I'll just say right now I'm disappointed to see that that's now a phase 2 project. But so I am curious as to how how you're going to begin prioritizing. some of the phase. 2 projects.

yeah, I don't thank you for that question. yeah. I mean, obviously, if if a if funding or available, we would, we we really aspire to the full 10,000 miles. what I'll say is that as we part of our analysis was to look at which communities and and and try to get as as much of the the network to within 5 miles of unserved communities as possible. And so when we look at that, I think.

or I want to say we're in the 70 to 80% range in terms of within within 5 miles. So the So so some of those, certainly, I think.

will

the last mile funding can be used to be able to tie back to where the middle mile is but also with regards to how we'll use any savings and any feature funding. I think one of our priorities is for for any miles that are further away than than than 10 miles. I think that's been a key focus. looking forward into phase 2 we haven't developed a robust process yet for how we're going to to implement that. But

but I think that that's the other side. Is that for for a lot of the State. I I think 80 is within within 10 miles. And and so we're looking at focusing any funding. At least, you know,

high priority and and focusing new funding or focusing any savings on some of those communities that are further than 10 miles away.

Assemblymember Wood: Okay, well, my, my staff actually corrected me. That's actually about 20,000 people that are live along or close to a state highway that that is on the original maps. And so we're just I think there's gonna be about 20,000 people that are probably going to be disappointed as as as as I recognize it' be a lot of people that are disappointed that that we're gonna that we're

Assemblymember Wood: that we all find ourselves in the situation. That's going to be a second phase. I understand I'm not, you know. I understand why we are where we are so but these are

Assemblymember Wood: poor folks that been waiting for long, long time. So Hopefully we can

Assemblymember Wood: underserved in many, many, many ways, and now and now also feeling pretty underserved here as well. So, anyway, thank you for that. I appreciate it.

Luis A. Alejo: Thank you. Assembly member. Would any additional questions before we go to the next agenda? Item, we have a comment from Supervisor Alejo. Okay, Supervisor Lejo. Yeah, thank you. Everyone. I'm here at the National Association of Counties Conference. so my question in relation to that is for Mark is what? What's the plan to kind of

Luis A. Alejo: roll out this new additional information with the map. I think it's important to keep the public informed and educated, and as well as the press. local government associations. so maybe if you could just speak to now that we have this map and it's going to be posted on the website in a couple of weeks. maybe what? What the plan is to? Maybe send that out

Luis A. Alejo: to the press, and so that the public could just, and the public could be able to be more aware of of the map. And it's a good visual but I think you would. It would. I think that it's an important phase of the project to to be a little intentional and try to make sure that we're getting the public know that

Luis A. Alejo: this this additional information is out there now?

sure. Thank you for the question. so a a couple of answers. First of all. you know, we we had talked about about the fact that the Public Utilities Commission is currently taking accepting grant applications for their Federal funding account. and so we, we've we've provided this map to the Public Utilities commission to be able to make that available. so that's going to be made public.

I believe today, or or very shortly, I don't. I'll I'll let the public. I'll let the public facilities commission answer that question. But but I think it. It's a high priority for all of us at that. Get out there. So that as the last mile communities to your point. consider their

alternatives and and and and are developing their grant applications. they'll have the the clearest understanding of where they need to build back to

in terms of announcing this. And well, one of the things that we do is at Cdt is to put out a a a monthly newsletter that provides links and updates on broadband for all that includes information relative to the Middle Mile Broadband initiative. And so we would, we would be able to include a link to the map in that, and to to help to use that to be able to provide updates to the public

Luis A. Alejo: great. And and what about progress? Just to with

Luis A. Alejo: Internet service providers, ISPs

Luis A. Alejo: and wanting to utilize the middle mile network that we're we're making progress on. Is there any updates? Or is that a negotiation? Still, I just wanted to get an update on participation from the ice ice piece.

Yeah. So when we

I I don't know if you're able to to see the map there. But as you know. given the Federal funding and the timeframes we're talking about. we have, we work very closely with the Public Utilities Commission to make sure. We all understand that that there's a a shared understanding of where the middle mile network will be So the last mile providers know where to connect. And that's one of the reasons. It was a high priority for us early on to be able to get maps out there as soon as possible. And so

That that's been 1 one piece of that as we move forward here. Now that we've got a clear idea of phase one we're continuing to reach out. one of the things that

that. My colleague here Scott Adams will be reporting on a bit later, is, or are the workshops that we've had over the last

of the last few months? and lot of lot of engagement around the State, and it and a key component of that has been sha getting information from communities, from from the municipalities, from jurisdictions, from providers, anybody and everybody to be able to present to them the middle mile.

and to be able to make those connections. And so we're we're proactively trying to gather that information gather their information and reach out and and and start being able to to tell them. Give them the specifics about the network, and talk about timing and the mechanics of connectivity.

Luis A. Alejo: Thank you.

Thank you. President Reynolds. yeah, thank you and I was wondering if we could take a moment to have Deputy Director Maria Ellis comment on the timing of the posting of the map since that was raised in the last question. Excellent suggestion. Thank you. Okay, Maria Ellis. Thank you. President Reynolds

and committee members. Yes, we are certainly with a map being released today, we are working with Cdp to to ensure that we're gonna get that up as time in a timely manner as possible. We will be working when I give my update. we'll be happy to work with any applicants. that have questions about this into the future. But we'll probably be more in the 1010, 10 days to 2 week time.

Thank you for the clarification. Appreciate that from?

Are there any additional questions. yes, we have. Supervisor Star Keys, and real great Supervisor, Starkey.

Valerie Starkey: Thank you. And and I want to echo that the hard work that has been put into this is appreciated. I I just want to point out that phase 2 is is.

Valerie Starkey: I'm hoping that it will be on our radar as something that can quickly be addressed, because just in my county alone 39 miles are being built. But there's still 42 miles in a Major Chunk, of our highway system that that isn't going to be served in phase one. So I would like to point out that.

Valerie Starkey: I I echo everything. Assembly number would said. As far as I understand it, I can appreciate it, but I'm really hoping that a phase 2 is is on the horizon, and that we start anticipating how we can accomplish that.

Thank you, Supervisor Starkey.

any additional questions.

All right, we'll go ahead and go to the next. I actually, if I could. chair. Just just one more comment. I you know the great question. And and really I think these are you know, Mr. Murray, and and folks are just. You know, this is reflecting, while there's good progress on face, one that people that are not in face, one is still going to feel left behind right. And I think we just acknowledged the fact. And and that's why it is really good to

here the way to re iteration that the aspiration and the commitment is continue to work towards the full 10,000 mile, because that is what the needs are right, it, despite whether it's funding is available or not. One thing I want to clarify Mr. Morrow is the fact that

when the funding becomes available available for phase 2 it's not if when, because it's either from the savings of the construction that Cal, trans and others gonna continue to work on either is from continue funding that you know, at the Federal level, which, when it continue to demonstrate progress in order to earn more investment to State of California as well as the collaboration with other.

that the CPU had to look at what it's called essential middle mile, not to, not to a further take away the last mile, because last mile has its dedicated purpose. But that middle, the essential middle mile potentially is a possibility

when all those combination come together to fund phase 2, the prioritization. I want to make it crystal clear. If if you can validate that

that is going to be prioritized. Those households are unserved.

affected by the phase. 2 as opposed to in phase. 2. There's combination of unserved as well as there's some resiliency, you know, kind of a design, so can you affirmatively say that the phase 2 prioritization will be on the unserved households?

Yes, absolutely okay.

Great. Thank you. Thank you. Secretary Tom.

All right next agenda item is from Caltrans. Update Janice. Remember what has his hand up? Oh, sorry, sorry, I said. We never would. No, and I apologize. I apologize for the second question. I I don't like to do that. But I just a question once again for Mr. Monroe.

Assemblymember Wood: Do we have any sensor idea of, you know, with the 8,300 miles in phase one. how many, how many potential households are affected? What ha! What percentage of

Assemblymember Wood: people? Are we still leaving behind? temporarily? while we get to phase 2. In other words, how how much of our goal are we reaching in the 8,300 miles versus the people that are what's left out in the, in the, in the second phase, 200. And if you don't have that. I know that's probably difficult to put together, but I think it would be helpful, for, you know, is this is this proportional

Assemblymember Wood: I I you know, or or is the face one, you know, getting our biggest bang for our buck and and so I just I kind of want to know what this means in the big picture. Is that you know, what is it? What is

Assemblymember Wood: the completion of phase one potentially do for us? And and and reducing the number of people who are no longer able to access the middle mouth.

Sure, sure. you know this is something that we are very focused on And what I'll say is, when we look in in terms of the 8,300 miles we estimate that it gets to almost 85 of the States.

unserved households. And so it's, it's really has been more focused on getting to those households. and and it's and and making sure that as as few communities as possible or that as many sort of communities as possible or served.

Assemblymember Wood: Okay, all right. Okay, thank you.

it's real, can you? How? What that 85% tile means?

what? What number of households I know you've calculated that number. Can you put it on the record? Sure. So when when a lot of this was being developed a couple of years ago. I believe the we. We were tracking a total of about 675,000 households. throughout the state that were broken into a number of communities. that were unserved.

And so that's been a key focus of of of of the program is trying to get to all of the the the communities that those households are located in. And so when we talk about 85, we're I think there's a about a hundred 100,000 of those households maybe a little more that that fall into the phase 2 and then the removal. we've got over 570,000 households that are being covered by phase by phase. One.

Thank you for the clarification.

All right. Any other questions I want to make sure I don't miss anybody. is anybody online?

Okay? All right. Second agenda item is from Cal. Trans. Update Miss Janice bitten.

All right. Thank you. And good morning. Share Bailey Kremlin's committee members and members from the public. my name is James Benton. I'm the Assistant Deputy Director over the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative for Caltrans, and we'll be providing the Update on the progress being made for the Caltrans portion of the middle mile network. So next slide.

So with the development of the faced approach that Mr. Monroe just presented, Caltrans is expected to construct approximately 35% of the middle mile network, with an emphasis on the 1,800 miles in phase, one

for this chart, as shared with April M. A. C. Meeting. We reported on the delivery progress for the full 10,000 mile network. and the Calories project teams are now updating their project limits and work plans to focus on the phase one Caltrans construction locations.

So we will provide an update on this information at the next Mmac meeting, representing those projects.

I would like to note that the work performed by to date on miles that will now be delivered through alternative delivery methods will be shared with Cdt. To support their delivery of the network

next slide.

So as as we've been focused on, Cal trans remains steadfast and getting the work underway and in the hands of the contractors and shovels in the ground.

We are maintaining close coordination and partnership with Cdt.

With the evolution of the phased approach. Caltrans wants to ensure alignment and concurrence on critical optimization decisions and make certain that we are getting the work in the hands of the contractors in the shortest timeframe possible.

So I want to note that Caltrans, ongoing coordination with Cdt and our State and Federal resource agency partners to ensure programmatic efforts are in place for Caltrans. Constructive projects could also be available for the alternative delivery, such as joint bills.

So for those joint build projects constructed in the State highway right away, Caltrans will share with the joint builders the programmatic approaches available to them.

Caltrans will also share our guidance document with the joint builders to inform them of policies, flexibilities, and streamline approaches, as well as help to help facilitate the partnership between the districts and and the joint builders.

Further, Cal. Trans. Will also be the Nepa lead, which allows us to leverage our Nepa assignment, and us the associated Streamline approvals for the alternative delivery locations.

In fact, the Caltrans districts in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties are currently coordinating with Arcadian in preparation of their construction of the 306 mile joint build between Los Angeles and needles in Southern California.

And so, even as Caltrans offers this support and guidance, I want to highlight the ongoing progress. Caltrans teams are making on the environmental right away, permitting and approvals for the miles that we will be constructing. And I will touch on those in the next slide.

So for the approximately 35% of the network that Caltrans will construct. We are verifying the optimization decisions for the project segments and confirming the schedules. I'm sorry. Go back, not ready to move forward.

So we are verifying the optimization decisions for the project segments and confirming the schedule so that we can report on the delivery plan at the next

And in the meantime we have been coordinating with contractors to identify opportunities for innovations in the construction methods, and we will continue to engage with them, as Mr. Monroe mentioned, to also get input on the installation of the infrastructure to identify any additional cost saving opportunities.

Okay, next slide.

And as mentioned that previous Mmac meetings we benefit from the Cal trans. Established partnerships and relationships that we have with our programmatic partners and and permitting partners.

So some programmatic permitting that we've talked about. One is the statutory exemption with sequel that was provided via a Sd. 156.

The other is the Caltrans, Nepa assignment from Federal Highway Administration. another one, the stormwater permit required by the State Water Board, also referred to as the Construction general permit.

and also the programmatic agreement for the Cultural and Historical Preservation approvals through the State Historical Preservation Office, also referred to as the Section 106 Programmatic agreement

since the last Mmac. Meaning the Us. Army corps of Engineers, has issued their programmatic permit, also referred to as the Regional general permit under the section 404 of the Clean Water Act

and close on its heels. We anticipate the State Water Board to issue it. Section 401 programmatic permit related to water quality and waste discharge requirements. and, lastly, for every project, even with the programmatic approach it approaches, the district. Teams are applying a strategy of avoidance.

As they conduct studies and perform field reviews, they can adjust the project to avoid the need for certain permits.

And then, as I mentioned earlier these programmatic approaches for environmental permission. I'm sorry. Environmental approvals and permits are available for the alternative delivery, such as the joint build efforts.

The streamlining process developed for caltrans to construct

The broadband projects are also available to the joint builders should they choose to utilize them. and because of Caltrans Neepa assignment, the joint builders will benefit from the Cal trans. Programmatic permitting option, such as the section 106 programmatic agreement that I mentioned earlier

right next slide.

And so, as I mentioned, calories, is focused on handing work over to contractors and getting shovels on the ground. This slide shows one of the first work orders we expect to issue for a 10 mile segment, and Mendocino County on State Route 20 from the junction of us 101 to the Lake County line.

We also anticipate, is doing a work order for a nearly 8 mile segment on Interstate 5 in Shasta County. and by the end of this year we anticipate issuing work orders to contractors for more than a dozen segments across the State.

This includes projects in the various counties, including Lake San Joaquin, Alameda.

Santa Clara, Los Angeles, Ventura, Riverside, and San Diego counties.

This concludes the Caltrans Update. Thank you for your time.

Thank you, Ms. Benton. All right. just any of the members in on the diocese have any questions.

the comments

I feel like, I'm the most talkative. Sorry guys I know it's Friday morning you guys want to get. I get this done. thank you. miss mentioned for that update. I just one thing I want to to. Maybe I get a clarification on There was a lot of work that was being done on the pre-construction

planning, you know, for the 10,000 my are here regardless whether it's construction or lease. And and I appreciate how trying to doing that just really from a time saving aspect.

Now that there's more certainty in terms of with the combination of the couch and bill and join Bill, there's still good 50% construction still going on. So is it. Is it true that the even the join build constructors will be able to take advantage of all the pre construction work, the permitting work specifically, that is already in progress. So ultimately, the goal here is to save time

and move. You know these construction faster. E, regardless who's actually, you know, doing the actual construction work. Yeah. So any work product that we produced on any of those miles? regardless of Caltrans building or not, we will be handing over to Cdt, and then they can share that with with their other partners, with the the other delivery methods. So absolutely everybody can leverage any of that work that has been completed.

That's great to hear. And then and then follow our question to that that, even though the face one is about 8,300 mile. That phase 2 is so very much in progress, and all of those pre construction work would also, in in fact, become a time saving when phase 2 is, you know, it's about to. You know what? When that is ready to trigger. So all of those permitting work, everything will be ready. Yeah. So we're not stopping on the phase 2

miles. We're continuing to focus on, or we're continue to focus on the phase one as the priority. But we are continuing to work on the phase 2 miles as well. Excellent! Thank you for that.

Thank you. Secretary. Tongue. All right? Do I have any members online that have any questions?

No, again, one more time in the room.

Thank you, Miss Benton. Excellent a progress there the next update we have is from Golden State net. And Tony.

thank you very much. Director.

I'm Tony Naughton, President, chief operating officer of Golden State, and that, and I'll start out by saying it's great to be here in person for the first time at this meeting.

and thank you for that opportunity. I'm going to provide an overview today on the significant amount of work volume for network development and then early business and product development since the time of the last. And then they see meeting that Golden State net has been engaged. And this includes network planning and Google construction. And I am using planning network engineering procurement support operational and support

Support Service planning product management and business development. All provide Updates on all those areas in this presentation. It's also worth noting that over the last 90 plus days Golden State. And that has grown significantly. And it's a direct down contractor staff engaged in this execution project over the next 2 to 3 years.

if we can go to the next slide, please.

there's been quite a bit of work going on with regards to network development and engineering of the network. This includes right of way and permitting and that work is getting towards completion, especially with regard to network routes that go beyond and off of the calories right away in certain limited instances.

with regard to huts and hut systems which I've spoken about previously in meetings the specifications and analysis work for those are nearing completion, and and have been largely completed for a while, although the last remaining locations

particularly those with regard to off route off right away. those are really the remaining few that need to be finalized

as well as analysis of power loads and heat dissipation within those huts to ensure that they perform and the equipment inside of them perform in an optimal fashion. additionally, acceptance testing protocols and processes both for the optical fiber assembly as well as the Hu systems. Assemblies are being worked out as part of the

Qa and quality control processes that we are focused on for these 2 assemblies.

there are also multiple procurement processes that we are providing support for. Of course, in the past I've mentioned back office systems, as they are called for things like customer relationship management billing inventory, those types of things. And of course, we're continuing to support the procurement efforts with regard to both the active and passive electronics that will

support this network system.

it's worth noting. Also, there's been significant work done recently with regard to the network lab that we will need in conjunction with this effort specification and and

procurement work for that laboratory. The lab is quite important to validate the design of the network management, overlay

validate and confirm optimal configurations for network devices long before they're ever deployed in the field. So we can make sure that the network is not only optimal in its performance, but also can be upscaled with capacity as needed in the years ahead.

if we can go to the next slide, please.

So we've been working very closely always with Cdt, of course, and and and always with couch rounds with Cdt, a significant amount of work product has been created to integrate the work product and and and planning efforts from all the agencies involved. so that all joint or job order contractors have clear indication and direction as to what their responsibilities will be.

With regard to both hut and fiber assemblies, both of which are civil engineering as we've referred to in the past. we're putting quite a bit of work on the development approach for the construction of these assemblies and particularly those as I mentioned a moment ago, that are in some limited instances off or beyond the Cal trans. Right of way

The significant and complex tasks are involved here. even though they are limited in number. and it it has to do with getting off that right away and continuing on with construction of the optical fiber plant. And then, of course, the you know, assemblies themselves.

and doing in a way that maximizes efficiency. So that when we have so-called boots and machinery on the ground that have fulfilled their construction work to the end of a caltran right away. But the route carriers beyond that, right away those resources can remain there and and continue on to continue with that work and meet up with the right of way down the road, so to speak.

we're coordinating with Cdt and Caltrans to develop workable processes and approaches for field engineering inspection of the optical fiber assemblies and the hut systems assemblies to make sure they are meeting our specifications. And of course we'll perform in an optimal way once the network is in production itself.

and in a network of this size. That's a considerable effort and quite important to ensure that we minimize network events and and interruptions and service to the highest degree possible

and and operate the network in a in a reliable, consistent fashion. As I said before, as a carrier class type of network is the standard of performance that we are intending to bring to this to this operation. if we can go to the next slide, please.

I think it's also worth noting that we're now in the early stages of business development and product management. as the operator of the network under the third-party

administrator agreement. We, of course, will be taking these services and products to market on behalf of of Cdt along the lines of business development and sales current key activities include refinement of the go to market plan for direct sales and channel distribution sales

revenue forecasting both near term and long term because the network, of course, must be self sustaining, and have the ability from revenues generated

to support. Maintenance and operation costs over the years ahead planning, recruiting, and building a sales organization that will consist of account executives and sales, engineers and sales administration. And the process is needed to run the sales and go to market effort in as optimal fashion as possible.

on the product management side. This involves analysis of market geographies. first of all, of course, accounting for unserved and underserved areas carriers and service providers who will serve those areas and other areas as well and and government and enterprise customers who will be able to take advantage and use this network if they care to, as an open access network as we've talked about in previous meetings.

we're further developing the product service catalog from the standpoint of the customer marketplace, the requirements by customer type projecting product and service market demands

true product management for the products and services that will be offered on this network and that also, of course, quite an importantly, includes economic and pricing analysis for the products and services. And as Mr. Monroe mentioned those must be provided other Sp. 1 56 at or below market rates. So there's quite a bit of a product economic analysis work taking place in that regard.

quite important to note, here is the amount of work that we have been engaged with alongside Cdt to engage and participate in multiple outreach meetings around the State

focused on broadband equity. These have been local and regional community outreach meetings, focusing on program solutions for towns, cities, regions, and quite importantly, of course for tribal communities around the State.

There have been ongoing communications that work with numerous tribes both those on the Cal friends right of way and those that are not on the Cal trans. Right of way. numerous individual and regional tribal meetings have taken place to provide information about this network

and especially after those meetings after those regional and local meetings I referred to follow up meetings with tribal representatives and other community members on site to make sure that they have a full understanding of the capabilities and service offerings of this network as well.

we've worked closely with Cdt. As well to be a key source of information. 2 tribes and other community organizations about multiple available funding sources for the development and connection of last mile networks in addition to the funding available from the CPU C, there are other Federal programs

that Cdt and and Gs on are making sure communities and in particular tribal communities are aware of and can take advantage of

it's also worth noting here. A very important type of work involving the tribes. And that's negotiation and coordination with tribes in cases where network routes may be crossing tribal lands. a very important aspect. given the nature of tribal lands. And we're spending quite a bit of time on that effort as well. and with that, said, that actually concludes my presentation. I'm happy to address any questions you may have.

Thank you, Mr. Notton. It's pleasure always to get an update for a third party administrator. this time, I'm going to go to online first to see if there's any questions.

None of this time. Okay, any. I would like to.

Okay, President Reynolds.

Thank you. and thank you very much for the presentation as very detailed and informative as usual. So I really appreciated it. I've question about Just to make sure, I and the public understand the terminology. You refer to a network lab and the procurement and specifications that you're working on for that. Could you explain what that is?

A a contained environment not on the production network itself, and in most cases heavily utilized in advance of deployment of network or network segments. it's essentially an environment that allows us to make sure, first of all, that the network management system, which, of course, is responsible. it's a piece of software that monitors the network on a 724365 basis, making sure that is, set up and configure

properly. a network orchestrator tool which is intended to. not only perfect the devices on the routing and switch config routing and switching devices themselves. But to optimize those configurations as software on the routing and switching devices

and then certain other types of network engineering testing, if you will with regard to application support network security always good to

CDTFA - Audio: specify and confirm these various kinds of capabilities in our offline environment before we're actually deploying network in the field. So it's a, it's really a a confirmation and testing environment, if you will.

Okay, great. And then I appreciate the summary of the community and tribal outreach. And I know that. All of the State entities have been doing a lot of outreach, including the work that Mr. Adams is doing, and that Cpc. Staff is doing, and I just

wanted to make sure that Golden State net is coordinating the outreach, and and that your extended invitation to reach out to Cpc. Staff. If we can provide any of

to the extent that we don't have.

I? Just this week. I've had some discussions along those lines and one of our staff members is particularly familiar with the processes and individuals at

the Commission. And she is working to really, create a a continual interface and communication and information provision for these purposes. we're we're more than ready to do that now. And we want to make sure we're well coordinated with the Poc. As well as with our agency partners.

That's great. Thank you.

Thank you.

Probably folks have seen on the presentation thus far, and there's more to come right. It is a very complex work involve from, you know, building the middle mile as the the super digital highway. And then we're gonna hear from CPU C on what that coordination looks like on the last mile, because with that the last mile doesn't mean anything right to ultimately lead to every household gets connected. And from there there's a whole outreach program. I know we're gonna hear from

Mr. Adam, later on, that the whole digital equity plan that is being created from all of these engagement that you all had. So they did the literacy and all of that making it affordable, which is the the you know, all those needs, all, like all the start, needs to align in order for this work. So from that aspect, I you know I would just called out, not only to our third party administrator, but Cdt CPU cow trend.

for even you know the contractors who's helping all of these construction. this is a massive undertaking. and I I I don't know if people realize how historic this can be, and also how massive and complex this can be. So to the degree that

everybody understand their role impacts other so that they are for encourage that level of coordination. I think it would go a long way that even though all of this complexities behind the scene, but by the time our community hears it. Our household, those needing to this is simple for them, right? They don't have to figure out all the alphabet soups. What this all this means. So that's maybe one more of a statement than a question.

and and well noted if I'll go ahead. Yes, and 2, I was actually sorry. So that's more of a statement. And 2 I do want to applied. you know. Go to saying that for you. Continue effort. again. A lot of conversation right now is just getting, you know the the Myos bill meeting our commitment with a 10,000 mile, and then how is the last mile coordinated.

But the whole operating of the network go to market. And you know, testing all the connection before it is going to turn on

those work, it's really, you know, requires a lot of planning ahead as well. So the last thing we want is you have line ready, but they're not ready to turn on. That's just gonna be, you know, we losing time over that. So I just want to plot you off a continue or are already moving ahead on the business development plan from go to market strategy as well as getting the network to be turned on, because all of these

will become a on a flow basis.

Right? We're not waiting for 2026, or whatever the year after is, as soon as these lines becomes available, gets connected last mile or go. So I appreciate you guys, this proactiveness on that.

Well, thank you, Secretary, we appreciate the acknowledgment of those things. with regard to your first point it's interesting. Because actually, Director Bailey, Kremlin and I were touch on this this morning in an earlier discussion. there are multiple concurrent activities going on in the execution of this develop a of this network?

and that's a bit different than it would be. For example, in a typical commercial network build in a commercial network deployment and and build effort. I would say it's more sequential in nature and sequences in those efforts can overlap and typically do in this effort. It would be more accurate to describe, to describe it as if we are engaging and executing multiple sequences more or less, all at the same time. And that has to do with 2 2 things.

First and foremost, a very important aspect of this entire program, which is time to service. How quickly can we deliver this to those who need it most, and those who need it? Most, of course, are unserved and underserved communities and households and small businesses, and those on service places, and second, of course, the time constraints under the Federal funding of this program

which we are not assuming will be extended in any fashion.

and therefore the concurrent execution of all these sequential activities as one single activity does indeed, to your point require quite a bit of planning, coordination, communication and trust.

And we're. We've been very focused on that challenge since

the early days, going back nearly 2 years ago, and we continue to enjoy the opportunity to work very closely with Cdt, with Caltrans, with Poc. and in particular, the communities that are to be served by this important and historic program.

Because I think it's important to note. And we all know this. But I'll say it. This, this effort is about people. It's about serving people who have not been served. And in most instances they need this, the most

tribal areas.

urban locations and major metropolitan centers neighborhoods of color. these are the objectives of this program

as well as servicing others. in in the State and and also providing an opportunity for those who are on the enterprise or service provider side to expand their network usage and capabilities in a more affordable fashion, which I think is good for the commerce of California as well.

So again. Thank you for this opportunity.

Yes, Mr. Mickeyver.

I know we're press for time. I'll try to make it a very direct question. Hopefully a quick answer. You spoke at length about the huts. Can you talk about one of the public's benefit? What is a hut? Sure you can talk about Cal trans role in delivering the huts? We talked primarily about the installation, I think of fiber and conduit. And then how many huts are we talking about?

I'll address the last question first, if I might. So I don't forget. over the 8,300 miles in phase one. We currently are looking at approximately, if not exactly 161 huts.

and these huts perform multiple functions, the primary function of which is a reamplification of the signal on the optical fiber. Approximately every 50 miles the the signal has to be re-emplified. So it doesn't diminish

And that's the traditional and primary purpose of these huts in this program. We're also using the huts as an important of distributed way of aggregating access to the network. as Mr. Monroe has mentioned, we're in relative terms to the commercial carrier world. For example, we are generously dropping access of vaults about every half mile

and these can accommodate license from last mile providers and other customers or users who otherwise wouldn't be able to necessarily use a so-called layer to transport circuit from an existing provider in their area to access the network. So amplification of the signal and reamplification access. And then a third important use of the huts has to do with distributed co-location of 2 important things.

our network switching infrastructure, the routers and switches that will provide these services are being distributed as closely to the virtual edge of the network as possible by placing them in huts as opposed to more centralized locations, such as central offices or data centers. So getting that switching fabric out there to the edge of the network improves performance and and latency for everyone and keeps

local traffic local as opposed to having to transit it to an exchange point that can be, and typically would be hundreds of miles away just to come back for an interaction between 2 people, or who are in a single geographic location.

So the other aspect is co-location of third party servers. There will be, enterprise and civic community organization customers who wish to place their network presence or network usage, application and services on servers. And these these huts, though not extraordinarily large in size will be large enough to accommodate

co-location For these purposes. the huts are not technically data centers, but they are being engineered and specified, and will be deployed as if they are small versions of data centers, if you will, both for network integrity purposes, and also to maintain a very good strong security around these huts, since they will be unmanned. We don't want these hut assets to

be vandalized or abused, of course, in any way possible that would endanger the operation of the network

is Ben. Can you speak to the role of Caltrans with the delivery that? Yeah. Sorry you did ask about that? Yeah. So we are working closely with Cal France in this regard, because the huts and the hut systems that go inside the huts are part of civil engineering, and this is an important piece of it, not only in terms of the coordination we're doing with Janice and her team

right now, but once we're in the deployment and execution processes in the field. the quality assurance inspectors I mentioned earlier will play a key role.

certainly on the fiber assembly construction, but especially on the hut and hut systems, to ensure quality assurance to ensure they can. They pass acceptance testing, as I've mentioned before. The huts are a very critical aspect of this. We want to avoid situations where you have problems with any of the huts from day one, of course. My experience over many years has been where you have that type of issue in an amplification, facility, or reamplification facility. It

if it can, so to speak, become a problem, child, if you will. And we want to make sure we avoid that problem by making these cuts perform as perfectly as possible from day one. So we're we're on the quality assurance part of the fiber and how to subways. But it's particularly important. It's always important, but especially with regard to the hut and not systems assemblies which are very complex, and there are 161 opportunities to do it right. The first time, and we intend to do that.

Thank you. That's excellent question. All right. I think that concludes the Golden State net. Update, we'll go ahead and a couple of questions online. Oh, I apologize. Okay.

Luis A. Alejo: thank you very much. I wanted to take a moment just to recognize the work, and I'll reach to our tribal governments. I think that's that's an area that doesn't get spoken about very much. So my question was just

Luis A. Alejo: a. And to the point about

Luis A. Alejo: the information being provided to tribal governments for connecting last mile. Could you elaborate more on whether tribes are applying to draw on those

resources. and also whether they they're provided any technical help. with these types of last mile projects

Luis A. Alejo: and and all the other requirements that come along with with Grants

Supervisor, and I think that would probably be an excellent question for CPU. C. Maybe if I go ahead and we? I don't know. If you want to answer that question. Now, if you want to go ahead and include it as part of your presentation.

I, I'm certainly happy to answer it now. I was going to touch on a little bit. But yes, we've done some excellent engagement in in partnership with Cdt. Which Scott will talk about shortly.

and specifically to tribes of the we've done 4 regional probably 3 regional and one statewide virtual consultation.

jointly and have done some great engagement from that and gone great feedback that is going to be part of the record for us on our B proceeding. In addition. As a result of that, the CPU. C has also received requests from 26 requests for individual consultations, and we will be Scott. We are scheduling those currently, and we'll be doing conducting those as part of the be proceeding.

Luis A. Alejo: Thank you.

Thank you, Miss Alice.

All right. Assembly number one
Assemblymember Wood: by pass.

Okay.

you, he said. He will pass. Oh, thank you. All right. We'll go ahead and go to what's going on with the office of broadband and digital Literacy with Scott Adams. And thank you, Mr. Norton, for everything that you do.

Thank you. Chair Bailey Kremlin and Good afternoon committee members and members of the public. my name is Scott Adams. I'm the deputy director of Broadband and Digital Literacy at the Department of Technology, and it's my pleasure to give a a brief but important update on the stakeholder engagement that has gone on over the last couple of months since the last meeting if we could move to the next slide, please.

so really wanted to stress. I think it's been reiterated before that bribe in for all. And the related programs are incredibly complex and multifaceted, interdependent, and complementary. to get to the goal which is to serve residents and have them thriving in this technological world that we're doing. So to that end. we have taken great care. Both the Department of Technology, the Public Utilities Commission, Cal Trans and other State agencies.

and have engaged with thousands of California residents and stakeholders over the last many months on all of the broadband for all programs and initiatives, and specifically the middle and the last mile because it's really important to to always appear, those 2 together, given how critical they are to to one another, and

the various formats that we've engaged with folks have been in you know, large scale virtual meetings. in person, regional meetings. to get out behind that

computer screening to really hear the lived in community experiences in person. Because that's what's most important. as others have noted. There's been many individual meetings and consultations with cities, counties, tribes, other entities. And we do communicate as a deputy director. Monroe had mentioned through a a monthly

broadband for all email update that we all collaborate on

in him built a a database of about 5,000 California stakeholders and partners that we communicate on a monthly basis with about updates on all the various points and house information on the broadband for all portal and other supported websites. So if we could go to the next slide, please

really want to let the the images speak for themselves, and not so much the words, and so the the big highlight. I know. Tony touched about it in part of Gsn's update, and Maria spoke briefly. But We've been on the road for the last several months and have conducted what amounts to 20 broadband for all digital equity and feed planning regional planning workshops and every economic region throughout the State.

and have conducted 3 separate group tribal consultations in partnership with the public utilities Commission. that are aligned in the the, you know Southern California tribes, the Central California tribes and the Northern California drives and but is really important for you all to know, because we've heard Secretary Tong mentioned the the complex nature of the

these programs. And you know, just to understanding and navigating how these work and complement one another. The focus of these workshops has been to really

update residents on the existing broadband for all investments and efforts which included the middle mile, the last mile, and the massive statewide mobilization to facing moment in the Fcc affordable connectivity program which is critically important to adoption. and not necessarily a sequential step, but something that happens concurrently. these workshops have also provided

the Department of Technology and Poc a critical opportunity to engage directly with residents and community based organizations and local jurisdictions to get their direct feedback on inputs for the State's digital equity plan and the bead plan which you're going to draw down. additional, you know billions of Federal dollars, or already have to support the aims of broadband for all

And then, lastly, what we have also done. Hearing from the committee in the legislature and The the ecosystem is built in a broadband infrastructure, planning workshops. At each of these

regional planning workshops, where we had the department of Technologies, middle mile, broadband, initiative team and Gsn go over the the construction, evaluation map and kind of talk through how the middle mile was going to impact their

communities and entities within there. and then, you know, Poc really would do the next portion of the workshop and and explain. Here's the suite of last mile programs that you know whether it's the California Advance Service Fund or all that, Maria. Speak about the programs. I don't want to steal her thunder, but our intent was to get those 2 entities, together with localized Ps and planners and other entities

that we're looking to leverage both to support their understanding of.

that the programs are available, but how to tap into them and work as expeditiously as we are on that. Another point, I would say, is that our team and gob is also built in a component of that to educate folks about the local jurisdiction permitting playbook, because as important as permitting is to the middle mile. It's going to be equally important to expediting the deployment of the last mile

infrastructure programs that are funded by our our projects that are funded by the Poc programs. So

just want to say it's been incredibly valuable experience. I think that. the opportunities helped our individual entities come together in partnership and and really present one face of California. for broadband for all

and it's allowed us to have a deeper understanding of the communities and their very specific needs. And so what we'd like to leave you with is to add some dimension to what these workshops look like is If we go to the next slide.

courtesy of the San Jo King Valley regional broadband consortia and the folks at Csu Fresno. They actually produce a 2Â min short of the workshop that we did down in Fresno. We wanted to play that for you. So you got a a sense of what those events look like.

Thank you. I'm going to have the video.

Samaurrii Coleman: We all live in a state that has been thinking about Broadband for many years, and it's just needed some additional tools to make sure there is broadband at all. So We are very excited to to partner with California and each of you into the counties across the State. Because so many of you

Samaurrii Coleman: I've been working on this and saying there is an issue for a while. But now is the time, you know, to really take your knowledge. Take your experiences and turn them into a plan

Samaurrii Coleman: that results in actual blocking. In actual training. We have imminent need here, and even though we are one of the most progressive states in the country, there are still huge disparities in some of our rural communities in the central battle

Samaurrii Coleman: that

Samaurrii Coleman: it impacts adoption. And we have students doing homework in their course. We have students doing homework on the city dust, because that's for a lot better, because they don't have broadband and they don't get. They live in person, and everything's personal.

Samaurrii Coleman: I have 2 to live in. Aven up.

Samaurrii Coleman: They'll give them a Wi-fi, but it doesn't make a difference, because there's no activity out there. One of the ways is by trying to expand the universe of broadband providers. So we're not just relying solely on Internet service providers. They're trying to get our accounting entire city to charge like powers, authority, our tribes to bring broadband to those places that have been ignored. So all of us.

Samaurrii Coleman: you have to work together to make sure that folks, the communities in the region to know about this program, and they're able to connect to another part.

Thank you, Mr. Moreau.

You can do you have another slide that you want to cover?

I I just want to state what an what an heartfelt this really is taking what we're doing and working so hard behind the scenes and putting it out there where it really matters. And obviously, Cp, C. C CPU, Golden State net. Cdt, California emerging technology fund, the Cpos, the individuals, the leaders that that showed up locally all across the State, the tribal leaders.

Just to talk to us about the barriers and making sure that we were staying true to the true north of why, we're all doing this. So my hats off to everyone that participated in just excellent work. Thank you. Thank you. chair, Billy Kremlin. And I really wanted to thank you for team that up is that none of these regional planning workshops could have occurred without the really support and close collaboration of the regional

partners that we had, and so chief among them the you know, the the regional broadband, good sources throughout the State, the metropolitan planning organization, Skag and Sand, down in Southern California, and a number of other Cdos like Oakland, undivided, helping put together the Barry event. It really was a team effort. And so you know it it. In addition to expanding and bringing this state team closer, I think it helped us.

I can just build you know, a broader state team. with the other folks. So thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you for your leadership. I'm going to go ahead and open up remotely to any of the members that have any questions or comments.

Okay, not at this time. I will look to my left and right to my colleagues.

All right. Well again. Thank you so much for.

And we're going to go ahead and shift to the next agenda item, which is the Public Utilities Commission and Miss Maria Ellis.

Hi, good morning, committee members again. My name is Maria Alice. I'm the deputy director for Broadband at the California Public Utilities Commission. I'm going to talk a little bit about our programs under Sb, 156 for last mile and some other related programs.

Next slide, please.

I want to start first with the Federal funding account, which provides almost 2 billion dollars in grant silver reliable broadband to help close the digital divide to unsert communities. The goal of this fund is to provide direct connection to unsert locations and end users.

I am thrilled to announce that, as of June thirtieth, and the CPU C is now accepting applications for this count

for program eligibility. locations that the locations that are eligible for this program are those that are lacking reliable wire line connection, capable of 25 megabits per second up down and free upload.

Additionally, after funding the expectation is that the service that is provided is 100 megabits per second. Symmetrical.

a variety of entities are, as you know, our option eligible for this, including local governments, tribes, joint powers, authorities, isps

a variety of individuals and and into pardon me, individual organizations. I want to touch very quickly on the connection between our partners in middle mile applicants that are proposing to connect back to Middle Mile as part of their last, my applications will be required to consult with Cdt.

First, before submitting their applications to ensure that that is properly coordinated, and in addition there is a rubric. There is a point allocation within our rubric. for these applications. If it's connected to the State middle mile and certainly, as all the other presenters have mentioned, we continue to work really closely on this as an update our our information very regularly to ensure that we are good alignment.

Next slide, please.

one of the things. Oh, I'm I'm so sorry. Can you go back? One? Thank you. That was

one of the things that I want to mention here is the application window for the for the Federal funding account, like I said, opened in June thirtieth, and it will close in September 20, ninth, 2,023

at 4 pm. It's very specific timeframe. that's a 3 month window. The reason that we've allocated such a long window is because we know that this is a new Grant program, and we want to be able to provide people the time and energy from inside our agency to to to help them in their developing their applications. We do anticipate awarding the first round of grants in in the first quarter of 2024, and at that same quarter, opening up a second round of applications.

and then there will be an additional round of of of of applications. as set forth in the state budget.

We encourage anyone who wants to know more about how to how to access this resource and all of the tools that we've developed to check out our website next slide, please.

So this slide is out of order. can you please move to the next slide?

Things that?

Thank you.

yes. Next slide.

Thank you.

Since we know that these slides are made available publicly. we wanted to be able to provide folks some resources that they can point to for the if they are interested in applying. the these are all linked to resources here. it includes our obviously our web page, our Grant portal, our video tutorials, and what you see on the side. There is just a map, a snapshot of our public map that indicates the areas that are eligible. for funding because they are unserved.

Next slide.

right? onto the local area. local agency technical assistance. Pardon me, this program was also funded out of Sp 156 and provided 50 million dollars in technical assistance to both local governments and or tribes. to launch work. Basically the foundational work that it takes to launch a network or expand a network

from this 45 million dollars. 45 of that was set aside for for for non-trival communities. So local governments. 5 million was set aside for tribes and tribal nations.

we actually have a dashboard on our website that has information about the awards that we've made and applications we've received, and if you look at the map on the side there, that is a snapshot of that dashboard

since August 2022 through this June we've received 126 applications requesting 56.6 million dollars.

obviously more than we had then was available. of these, 26 applic. 126 applications, 56 out of the 58 counties in California were covered.

While we are no longer taking applications at this time. I do want to note because we are either fully committed and or requested. We have some applications that we've just received that we are evaluating. I do want to note an important resource for tribes. the California Advanced Services Fund has a Tribal Technical assistance fund that continues to be available for tribes to tap into so that they can continue their work. And in on, on on that front.

I think this program just illustrates the fact that we have been so oversubscribed just illustrates the need and the demand from communities and tribal nations to be able to kind of be masters of their own destiny in terms of closing the digital divide and so we continue to hear requests for more funding on this front.

Next slide, please.

California advanced services funds. So this continues to serve as an important tool in under broadband for all closing the digital divide.

we made some program improvements. on several of these fronts last year to the adoption account and to the broad broadband, the consortia account, and also made adjustments into the infrastructure account to implement some of the legislative requirements required for project eligibility.

This year the Commission is exploring improvements to the public housing account. specifically to low income housing development and mobile parks

on the adoption side. These grants are meant to help entities and community-based organizations. deliver digital literacy and broadband access programs.

The CPU C awarded 32 projects in in January, from the cycle that ended in January 2,023, we awarded 32 projects of for a total of 2.7 2 million dollars. In July one the application. That just window that just closed we received 87 applications requesting 14.2 4 million.

And I just want to note here that while we were on the road together during this road show and all of the engagement that we're hearing

we continue to hear not only the importance of having basic access to this technology, but also education around how to use it. And so we do understand. You know, the fact

that we've received. so many applications in this last round really illustrates the need for digital literacy. education and resources in the State.

in for the infrastructure. Grant accounts. we. This subsidizes the cost of last mile and middle month infrastructure to expand call it communications to to end users in California. we just close our last window for funding on June first, and we received 73 applications requesting

527 million in pro and programming. And so that is by far, I think our our largest request to date for this fund.

The public housing account and the So, as the name states is on, is the title talks about is really targeted towards helping bring connection to housing that is either put low income housing or public housing, and where it's expanded that definition to also address other kinds of housing where we know particularly the Spanish tweeting, might be dwelling this

award in. In the January 2,023 cycle, we awarded 31 grants for total 1.5, 2 million, and recently, we just received 14 grants to requesting a total of a little over 873,000

next slide, please.

I'm not going to talk about this slide much. I just wanted to share a little bit about the the tools that are are available to us one thing. we. I talked about the Technical the technical assistance. That's the lot of fund. And I've talked about the Federal funding on the California Advanced Services Fund, which is all of those 6 public purpose programs.

one thing to note is that we are currently working on the long lost reserve program. And we that, it is an expectation that Commission may take some action on that later this year.

Next slide.

Okay, so I want to go back up to the top, because I think I my slides are out of order here. So I'm going to start with speed.

So you know, under broadband for all we've got these great resource and tools that we've brought together under, with all of our joint efforts, And and the leadership from the Governor, and the Legislature under broadband for all, and Sp. 156.

We now have another tool in our quiver, if you will, which is the B program and in late June the Hare Biden Harris Administration, in conjunction with the Ntia, announced, the California will be receiving 1.8 6 billion in Federal funding for the broadband equity access and deployment program otherwise known as bead

So we are extremely thrilled. to be to have this award. And this is just again, like another opportunity for us to be able to close that last mile and really bring connection to all Californians.

The primary again similar to Ffa. The primary goal of bead is deploy reliable. Last mile service to all in serve locations in California, and for the purposes of this program the Ntia has and has defined unserved as those lacking access to speed at 25 megabits per second download and 3 upload

and via reliable technology. And they have to find the Ntia has to find reliable technology as fiber advanced cable wireless connections, and where this is not feasible, fixed wireless and other alternative technologies can be considered.

the CPU, you see, is moving forward with establishing rules. for the through this public deliberative process. we are again, part of what of the goal of Cpc. And being on the road with T. Cdt. And others not, was not only to talk about our joint efforts overall under Sv. 156, but also to start getting some intel and insight into that could feed into our bead program and knowing that this was coming down the pike

And so we've received a lot of that, and a lot of those that will be attached to as part of the record. It's part of the preceding open rule making that we have. We go to the next slide

timeline.

So this reflects a very high level timeline for bead. We are, as mentioned. We are just wrapping up our initial set of engagements with Cdt. Specific to be the C. P. You will be doing ongoing engagement, and as I mentioned,

as a result of the joint engagement. We've now got 26 requests for one on one. Consultations with tribal nations, with Cpc. Specific to bead and again, those will be part of the record. notable is that we just released one of the requirements for Ntia for this funding is the release of a 5 Year Action Plan. The CPU. Has just published this on July seventeenth, for public comment.

the. We will be receiving comments on initial comments on this through August seventh, and reply comments through August fifteenth, A August eleventh. Pardon me.

We will submit this plan, and all related comments to Ntia on August 20, eighth.

and then from the time from August to December, we'll be spending a lot of time working on what is called an initial plan which is due to Ntia by the end of this year.

that initial plan really lays out the meat and the the nut simple, I guess, if you will, of the program that we will be developing it will take into account all of the work and engagement that we're doing and provide that the the outline for what we hope to accomplish with this program, so that will be delivered at the end of 2023.

In early 2,024. We hope to have an approval for that program from Ntia, and that will launch us into what is real. Essentially, a 365 day window, in which we will run it, run a

challenge process to establish eligibility map for the bead program and also run an application process and a solicitation process for applications.

All of this will get wrapped up into what is called our final proposal, which is due to Mti. Like, I said, 365 days from the time the initial proposal is approved.

and once we get approval we can continue with our grant making.

that is a very high level timeline. We will continue. We will be sure to provide additional details as to the committee, as we're moving forward, because we know that this will be an important tool. again, to to build out the vision that we've laid out under broadband for all.

and apologies for the mishap with the slides.

Well, you did a wonderful job. Be able to navigate that. So, thank you, Miss Alice. I will open it up to the members here at the dais to ask questions, Secretary Tom.

and not so much of a question. Just a appreciation for both Miss Alice and Mr. Adams to talk about your community engagement to get lots of feedback. And again, I I know that that you know we're talking about here is a very, very complex of, you know, so many moving parts and coordination and timing. And and you know, with the map Update how you pivot to some of the central middle mile to deal with the last mile

with it updated minimum. So all of that, I just just again. Just command for you guys this effort and then to tight coordination between the organization.

Thank you. Secretary Tongue, President Reynolds, can I just second that? That was a fantastic comment. I completely agree. there's a lot going on, and I really appreciate the outreach to communities and to tribal governments. And then the close coordination among all of the agencies. So thank you very much for all of that.

Thank you. Present Reynolds. Any other comments.

online questions. Okay. Online

assembly. Member burner, please. Assembly Member burner.

Assemblymember Boerner: Thank you. and thank you for that presentation. And you did do an excellent job navigating the the slide. I was trying to figure out why we were talking about June thirtieth opening when I was looking at the beads, and it occurred to me that it might be out of order. So when you go back and look at the latter, Grant, because one of the things I think you probably know I'm very concerned about is

Assemblymember Boerner: you've done all this outreach, but we know we're not getting everybody in California who's unserved, and we know the middle mile, you know, with the phase 2 not being yet funded like in my district. There's, you know, nothing that's been phase one, for example, for the middle mile.

Assemblymember Boerner: So when we're looking at that, one of the things that occurred to me when I'm listening to your presentation was, you had this over over subscription to latta grants, which means people need help

Assemblymember Boerner: and not everybody got the help. So when you look at the distribution of the grant.

Assemblymember Boerner: the latter grants that we're given. Do you feel that matches the proportionality of the unserved like? Did we get the most bang for a bus fuck with that, and imagine the proportionality of the unserved population.

Assemblymember Boerner: and if they didn't get a lot of grant, how are we helping them? really navigate all the many broadband programs that are out there right now, whether it's speed or ffa, they don't all have the same requirements. They're all slightly different.

Assemblymember Boerner: and for some of our very high capacity really engaged counterpart. I think they probably have it together. And then there's going to be unserved areas that don't have that kind of local capacity to help apply for the grant and and do this so I don't know if you can speak to any of that.

Certainly. And thank you. Thank you for the question.

so I would say that we we we were able to hit 56 out of the 50 counties, which I think is is phenomenal. that said, we do understand that there is outstanding need. currently, that is all the funding that is available. At this time, however, one of the things that we have done under with establishing our programs is we've developed what we are calling. And we're still continuing to stand up what is called a peace worker unit within our division to really help

package if you will provide information and resources and one to hand to local communities and tribal governments as you're thinking about developing their applications. And so and as part of this, they've developed a great resource specific to tribes that brings together every resource. You know that we have at our fingertips.

And our partners have it. Our finger, their figure tips to on one page, right? So that folks can have that resource. And so one of the things that they're doing is they're meeting with each county and having an intake with each county in California to ensure that they will to share information, assess their readiness. What are their needs? And so we've we've tried to build that in knowing that we didn't have enough, possibly enough funding. We are trying to do that through more

one on one help with our case worker team.

Assemblymember Boerner: Sorry. And did you find you said you kind of 56 of the 58 counties. But the the unserved population isn't evenly distributed within California. So

when you look at you know, I don't know. I'm sure you've looked at this, but if you look at the map of where the most need is?

Assemblymember Boerner: Do we have communities that have not gotten that a grant

Assemblymember Boerner: but have high need?

Assemblymember Boerner: How and how are we going to? You can go to the counties, but not not all. Counties are equally engaged. in the process.

Assemblymember Boerner: So it's not to me. The measure of proportionality isn't 56 to 58 counties. That is great, that you got 56 to 58. That is wonderful.

Assemblymember Boerner: But the the proportional need isn't distributed.

Yes, agreed And the counties. The 2 counties that we are aware of that did not get. Our grants currently are at San Francisco and Stanislas.

and so we? We? I can't say with the exact, you know. I I can certainly come back with that information to this committee at their next presentation. But the the intent of that. Those grants are that, of course, with the Federal funding account, with an emphasis on disadvantaged communities. The intent of the lot of grants is to help them build out networks that would reach those unserved communities specifically.

Assemblymember Boerner: if it is at a later time, or you can just send it over to my office. That would be, or, you know, maybe to to this group. I don't know if we need to have it in a future meeting, but I think it's really critical, because I I always bring up the example of ocean sun. We shouldn't pick on ocean side because I no longer represented a rapidly in it for 4 years. But ocean side does have a disadvantaged community in my old district. That's where the greatest need was, and then the greatest unserved population was.

Assemblymember Boerner: and

Assemblymember Boerner: they don't have the capacity. They don't have a community group that is reaching out to you guys and figuring this out

Assemblymember Boerner: and so that that remains a concern, and especially how the programs all work together. you know, especially considering that there will be some areas of the State. I think if I don't want to speak for something, Member would. But if somebody member would, was bringing up the example of his 20,000 that we're all right on a freeway that aren't going to have you know their middle mile phase 2. How are we gonna help them with that, because it is. It's very complex, I think, for us. Then we do this

Assemblymember Boerner: a lot as part of our jobs even more complex when you don't have the kind of community activists and and advocates from those communities. So I think that's something we need to still be watching.

Thank you. A simple member Burner. Is there any other questions from our remote members?

Okay, we're going to go ahead and we'll move on to public comment. miss, I'll be up. Bavarado. We please provide public comment and provide guidelines to make sure. I know we have people that are in the room and also online that would like to make comment.

Yes, thank you.

In order to ensure everyone who wishes to make public comment has the opportunity to do so. We respectfully request one person per entity and 2 min per person.

The order of public comment will be in person. Comments

zoom and phone comments and emailed comments submitted prior to the meeting. for in-person comments. Please form a line at the podium for zoom. Please use the raise hand feature in the lower toolbar

for phone. Please press Star 9 to raise your hand.

Emailed comments received received prior to the meeting will be read at the end.

We will start With the first person in line at the podium.

Good morning. My name is Patrick Mesick. I'm the director of Oakland, and divided here to uplift the voices of historically red line communities predominantly black and brown folks who have been bypassed by public and private investment for decades. It is in these very communities urban bipolar communities where nearly 3 quarters of disconnected Californians live.

2 years ago, when Oakland was named one of the 3 urban communities selected for the initial middle mile investment. I remember it like it was yesterday. It was one of the best days of my life.

For weeks we had mobilized the entire community to participate in the process and it had worked. I remember picking up the phone, and the first call I made was to a community elder, a member of the Naacp and mentor to celebrate

in exuberance. I shared with him the news, and in a very even voice he responded to me. what makes you think that this time will be different.

I wish the optimization map had been made public before the hearing. But hearing Assembly member would say that for communities are now relegated to the unfunded phase. 2. I can again hear the community elders voice in my ear.

What makes you think that this time will be different?

I have no issue with the State. Taking a focus on the maximum coverage of unserved households, I stand alongside my tribal brothers and sisters and rural communities that have been bypassed by public investment, and I understand that priority.

But to use this for both middle mile and last mile, we have to assume that the State can accurately identify these locations. And I can tell you

for a fact that these Ffa maps, these the interactive California broadband map is fiction.

Please don't take my word for it.

please, Google, interactive California broadband map F, a last mile map and then just zoom into the wealthiest community in your area. What you will see, are dense clusters of unserved locations. And you can demonstrably just go on comcast website type. In the address. You'll see that they have. They have service.

Then go over to the historically red line urban communities and you'll see just a peppering, potentially of unserved locations virtually ineligible for funding. It's true, across California. Look at Presidio, look at Malibu mansions that are unserved. Go to the Tenderloin, East Oakland, Boil heights time and again.

so I strongly recommend that the state do an analysis of the median income? alongside phase, one middle mile segments and phase 2. That's unfunded to see which communities are most impacted by this phased approach.

I have a lot of trust in my partners at the State, and so I hope that we keep our promises to the families of East and West Oakland. So, assuming that that's met, I think the most important topic and pivot and focus area should be on differential rates, we met with an ISP earlier this week, and they got some deliberate insight into the cost of the network, and they were surprised how expensive it was going to be to tap into the network and shared with us that as a

low revenue density community, if the cost of Backhol is too high, they can't build out in our community

market rate was named today. Market rate isn't working market rate hasn't worked for tens of thousands, urban, unconnected. So I implore that the cost matrix incentivizes build out of modern telecommunications, infrastructure in these low revenue, low revenue density communities

to close. I want to leave you with the same question that the Albert Elder left with me 2 years ago. What makes you think that this time will be different? Thank you.

Thank you.

Is there any other public comment in the boardroom.

I see none. I will go ahead and shift to my remote team. Are there a hands raised, and I'm gonna leave it up to Miss Alberto to call on them.

Yes, I will call on Dr. Larry or Zaren.

please unmute. Can you hear me now? Yes.

Dr. Larry Ozeran: thank you very much. Well, thank you for holding this public hearing.

Dr. Larry Ozeran: I'm Dr. Larry's room with clinical informatics, a health technology consultancy.

Dr. Larry Ozeran: My focus is ensuring. All Californians have equal access to health services. So I appreciate the comments and questions from assembly members, burner and Wood. My questions are in a similar vein. It sounds to me, like the State, is working effectively to make the most of these broadband funds, and I applaud the work to date. However, I have concerns about how we're entering broadband access for every Californian at an affordable price. When this project is completed and service providers start selling access

Dr. Larry Ozeran: in regards to pricing. There's a lot of room below market rate that would still be unaffordable. As the last commenter mentioned. I was wondering

Dr. Larry Ozeran: at what point will you get to a target? Is a target in user pricing \$10 a month that everyone can afford? Or is it some number higher than that?

Dr. Larry Ozeran: And in terms of universal access.

Dr. Larry Ozeran: We're currently at risk. Again, as the previous speaker mentioned that private companies will cherry pick only the most profitable broadband endpoints

Dr. Larry Ozeran: to the points made earlier by Mr. Monroe, Assembly, Member Burner, and Secretary Tom.

Dr. Larry Ozeran: These efforts are all connected. The middle mile process is the leverage the State has for the last mile process, and I didn't hear any detail about how the middle mile last mile linkage Mr. Monroe mentioned, would work

Dr. Larry Ozeran: if we want to ensure statewide coverage. How are we ensuring

Dr. Larry Ozeran: during the contracting process for access to middle mile infrastructure that all of the parties will ensure access to all homes and businesses in the state.

Dr. Larry Ozeran: are you looking at assigning percentages of homes serve to amount of bandwidth access? Are you considering planning a lottery for assigning which last mile segments these entities must serve

Dr. Larry Ozeran: as the previous speaker mentioned. If we don't include a requirement that these communities be served, there is a high probability that they won't be served so

Dr. Larry Ozeran: ultimately we have to get to the point of what is your plan to ensure that we take advantage of the middle mile process to eliminate the risk of dark last mile fiber and actually get broadband for all. Thank you.

Thank you. We will now go to Jeff below.

please. Unmute

Geoff Belleau - CA: morning you could hear me. Great! Thank you. My my name is Jeff Bell. I'm the Department of Education. great to hear about the update. I know our schools and K. 12 are eagerly waiting for the middle mile to be built out so they can connect

Geoff Belleau - CA: our last few schools that are still. get to have high speed. And of course, as others mentioned, looking forward to the connection out into the community. So you know, kids can do their learning as well as families do everything else they need to do also. So again, appreciate the update, and thank you for your time today.

Thank you. We will now go to Emily. Con.

Please unmute.

Can you hear me? Okay, yes.

Emily Cohen: great thanks. Good afternoon. My name is Emily Cohen. I'm the Executive Vice President of United Contractors

we represent California is a Union signatory contractors across the State of of all sizes and scopes. I just wanted to weigh in today on Mr. Monroe's presentation and express our serious concerns

with the recent redistribution of State government contracts for work related to this historic investment in broadband infrastructure.

Emily Cohen: following what seemed to be a great partnership between the State and the industry to expeditiously install this much needed infrastructure. Cdt has now changed course to a direction

Emily Cohen: that really negatively impacts the Union construction industry. And we are concerned

that the changes being made by Cdt to the procurement process result in thousands of union jobs being lost.

Emily Cohen: months of continued project delivery delays and significant financial harm to our Union signatory California construction contractors

who were awarded these projects, and in good faith

Emily Cohen: have invested in new equipment materials and planning

Emily Cohen: to ensure that they could perform the work to the State's expectations. our construction firms were asked to submit a bids for this work through through a Cal. Trans.

Emily Cohen: They were awarded this work through Jocks or Cmgc. And to date. No work has begun. In some cases the first work orders for Jocks are now delayed until September thirtieth, 6 months into their 12 month master service agreements.

Emily Cohen: and while jocks are not guaranteed work, these contractors have collectively spent millions of dollars and hundreds of hours preparing bids and hiring up in preparation to perform this work, and they've given up hundreds of millions of dollars in additional work opportunities in California. In anticipation of performing this work

Emily Cohen: we are concerned that Cdt is preparing to redirect significant portions of this work to out of State non Union contractors, which would result in about 8 million Union man, hours being lost each year, which is thousands of union jobs.

Emily Cohen: and

Emily Cohen: we, you know, no information has been shared with the contractors who are left sitting and waiting, and it's unclear of Cdt. Plans to hold any newly awarded companies to the same public work standards, including prevailing wage. I know that. Mr. Monroe said that there would be prevailing wage. But it's very unclear what that rate would be

Emily Cohen: if they would have apprenticeship standards and follow State and Federal Dbe requirements, or if these companies plan to self perform any of the work, and so on. in addition to the Jock awarded projects. Approximately 2,300 miles has been awarded through Cmgc. Contracts, and many of those projects are delayed as much as 6 months.

Emily Cohen: So we really believe that it's in the best interest of Cdt. And Cal. Trans. In the State of California. To begin work on this as soon as possible. You have, until the end of 2,026 to accomplish the goal of delivering the project

Emily Cohen: and fully utilizing these funds.

Emily Cohen: it is our goal and the goal of our Union partners to partner with the State, to deliver this important project to the people to the people of California as effectively as possible. Your time has expired

moving to Sarah McCormick.

Please unmute.

Sarah McCormick: Hello, thank you, and thank you to the chair and members of this advisory committee. I also wanted to thank all of the dedicated staff from the various entities that presented. I'm calling in from the city of Fort Bragg, on the Mendocino coast.

Sarah McCormick: we are considered a rural socioeconomic disadvantage community and do have some underserved. But most of our challenges is reliability and those that aren't connected because of affordability issues.

Sarah McCormick: in response. We are really taking that challenge on. And with the lot of funds, our develop developing a municipal utility to deploy bond broadband to our community at an affordable rate.

Sarah McCormick: and I wasn't able to see on the map if the middle mile isn't. If our section of California State one is included in the first phase. but I just wanted to call in anyway, just to kind of put on the record. that we are willing to partner to bring middle mile here. We have only a single Internet back hall that's provided by at T and at T is the the only provider at this time.

Sarah McCormick: Some months ago we had road construction going on, and somebody had cut through that back hall connection, and our schools were out. Our hospital was out, and it was. It's just ridiculous. At this point we have to close down our schools because

Sarah McCormick: we don't have connectivity, so I kind of wanted to do a shout out from the rural community, and also thank everybody, because this is crazy, complicated, and I know you're juggling a lot of different considerations. So thank you.

That concludes our zoom and phone calls. Next, we'll move to the email to public comment. We received one prior to the

meeting. It is from Ross Miller. Question, when will fiber cable in Nevada be installed and ready to use?

That concludes our comments

too much.

2 more

okay.

Coming back to.

We have additional comments in this. This is Amy Hamlin.

Please unmute.

Amy Hamblin: Can you hear me?

Amy Hamblin: This is Amy. Thank you. This is Amy Hamblin, with next Gen. Policy, and calling in to both applaud Cdt. And all the other State agencies and local and regional partners that were involved in the monumental effort, to ensure that the public and especially underserved communities, were part of the process. of

Amy Hamblin: figuring out how to actually put together a State visual equity plan. What? That, what that looks like, what, in fact, digital equity is so wanted to really give a tip, our hat to everyone involved in that effort.

Amy Hamblin: And then also, I wanted to call attention to the fact that the current requirements

Amy Hamblin: currently disadvantaged big ISPs and process and just wanted to bring some awareness to that, and and express our concern about that, and just to really encourage the CPU to do whatever they can to support smaller ISPs in that process.

Amy Hamblin: Thank you.

Thank you. We will now move to Ernie Pacheco.

please, and

Ernie Pacheco: Hello, Ernie Pacheco. Communication workers in America. I'm the broadband lead for for District 9, which is call for an event. Why, I'm actually in the field and tools today with really spotty service. So I've been hearing about every for every 5 words everyone's been saying today. I did want to speak up. And first of all say, thank you to Mark and the Scott and the others working on this. It's amazing how far Ernie Pacheco: we've come. this is an immense project. and it's looking like we actually be able to pull this off

Ernie Pacheco: one of the statements, though, concerning labor goals I want to echo. A previous commenter is from Cwa's position. While there. Yes, there is prevailing wage. We do not believe that as currently drafted. there is equity for workers in the actual building of this network. there's a lot of different kind of workers there are. There are people that will be digging ditches, laying conduit whatnot, but

speaking solely for cwa.

Ernie Pacheco: Our members who place, the fiber rack, the fiber case, the spi fiber, splice fiber, repair

Ernie Pacheco: maintain and operate the networks. This is this, historically, our jobs. We don't feel that the current language captures equity for the workers. But we are engaged with with Cdt in caltrans and discussions. On this we look forward to. considering that conversation. I'll leave it there. Thank you.

you.

Director. That concludes our comments. Thank you very much. And just a comment on that they they they do at Cdt. And Caltrans are looking forward to the labor discussions that we are going to have here in the next few weeks. So with that I would like to open it up to the members here. If there's any comments closing statements.

I don't see any here. Oh, Mr. McCain. I want to express my appreciation for everybody working on this. This is a lot of work. It's really hard work, but for a lot of benefit, anyhow. Thank you to everybody.

Thank you, Mr. McKeever.

All right. Does there any comment? from any members? Remotely. All right. Well, thank you. Everyone this, concludes, our Middle Mile Advisory Committee today. we heard a lot from our presenters and from the public, which we really appreciate. And our next meeting is Friday, October twentieth, 2,023,

from 10 to 1130. With that we will adjourn today's meeting. Thank you.