MEMORANDUM

To: NWCCOG Council

From: Liz Mullen, Executive Director & Nate Walowitz, Regional Broadband Coordinator

Date: August 17, 2016

Re: Broadband Project Planning

The Regional Broadband Steering Committee met on June 6th and August 12th to develop the following proposed list of projects and goals for the NWCCOG Regional Broadband Program for 2017 - 2020.

For 2016 - 2017:

1. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

   The 2016 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) has a section for broadband as a component for economic development. The survey results and fiber/telecommunications resource information will document progress since the 2012/2013 Broadband Strategic Plan documentation effort was complete.
   - Measure existing capacity vs what customers and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) are buying
   - Identify shifts in market documentation
   - Conduct spot tests
   - Document what is available vs received
   - Identify what are customers interested in buying
   - Map network infrastructure to support higher bandwidth
   - Develop a good set of metrics around this effort

2. Continue to serve as a neutral broker/connector for providers, government, businesses and consumers.

3. Provide technical support to DOLA and participating local governments for projects and planning.

4. Begin to aggregate information on demand and infrastructure to form building blocks for NWCCOG regional middle mile infrastructure and interconnectivity project.

5. Identify opportunities to leverage our resources with federal grant dollars by working regionally to get funding for regional opportunities

6. Coordination with the other COGs – to leverage benefits and improve communications regionally

7. Stay engaged with public safety broadband policy and planning.

8. Conduct outreach and education to local governments and rural electric cooperatives regarding regional progress and opportunities.

For 2018 - 2020

The broad goals and desired outcomes for the next three years are:

- Evaluate a regional network to connect all counties providing:
  - Low cost bandwidth (Cost per MB)
  - Geographic redundancy to multiple POPs
  - Utilize incumbent broadband and electric services providers
  - Connect with adjacent regions

- Identify funding for local and regional efforts (grants, loans, other funding streams)

- Assist local governments and/or ISPs with last mile buildout

- Results: Lower prices and better service

Proposed Milestones
- By July 2018
  - Redefining/revisiting regional issues including updated asset inventory
  - Proposal to address 'Regional Network"
  - Proposal and definition of potential need for bandwidth aggregation that includes schools , healthcare and other CAIs
  - Develop and publish recommendations
- 2018 – 2020
  - Implement approved strategy for "Regional Network"