Federal Communications Commission

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

FCC Federal Communications Commission

BROADBAND.GOV BETA

National Broadband Plan

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Overview

- What is the National Broadband Plan (**the Plan**)?
- How can <u>you</u> contribute to the development of the Plan?
- What are the **next steps** in the process?

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("Recovery Act")

- Allocated <u>$7.2 billion</u> for grants and loans to expand broadband deployment
- Directed the **FCC** to submit to Congress "*a report containing a national broadband plan*"
  - <u>Due date</u> : **February 17, 2010**

Contents of the Plan

- The Plan must "seek to establish that all people of the United States have access to broadband" and "establish benchmarks for meeting that goal"
  - Analyze **mechanisms** for ensuring **access**
  - Develop a strategy for achieving **affordability** and **maximum utilization**
  - Evaluate the **status** of broadband **deployment**
  - Advance important "national purposes", such as "**public safety and homeland security**"

Chairman Genachowksi: the Plan must be "data-driven"

www.broadband.gov

- Contains information about the Plan and related initiatives
  - Upcoming <u>broadband workshops</u> (Aug. 6–Sept. 3)
    - Schedule, contact info, instructions on how to register and how to suggest topics and questions
    - PSHS workshop: **Aug. 25**
  - News updates and information on events and proceedings related to the Plan

*Countdown to Feb. 17th: **185** days and counting!*

Notice of Inquiry (NOI)

- Adopted by the FCC on April 8, 2009
- Sought comment "to inform development" of the Plan
  - Stated that the Plan "*must reflect an understanding of the problem, clear goals for the future, a route to those goals, and benchmarks along the way*"
  - Posed <u>specific questions</u> and invited comment more generally on issues "*relating to the adoption or implementation*" of the Plan
- <u>Comment Date</u>: **June 8, 2009**
- <u>Reply Comment Date</u>: **July 21, 2009**

- How best to promote **interoperable**, wireless-based communications?
  - Relationship between the Plan and the FCC's ongoing <u>700 MHz</u> proceeding?
- What **services** are most needed?
- How to ensure **physical diversity** and **redundancy**, and improve **hardening** of network assets?
- How can existing **spectrum allocations** (*e.g.* <u>4.9 GHz</u>) meet the needs of public safety?

NOI: Public Safety and Homeland Security Issues (cnt'd)

- What are the **costs** for public safety of obtaining broadband service, applications, or devices?
- What **funding sources** are available?
- Are broadband networks used for **mission-critical** communications?
- What **models** (*e.g.* statewide networks) have been successful? What are their limitations?
- What **policies** would best promote Next Gen 9-1-1? Cybersecurity? Pandemic preparedness?
- How can the FCC **coordinate** with other federal agencies? With state, local and tribal entities?

NOI Comments

- Over **8,000** pages of comments submitted
- Verdict: a weak overall record
  - Too focused on aspirational goals, not enough on ways of getting there
- What was missing?
  - Useful **data**
  - Analysis of trade–offs among various approaches
  - Clear presentation of ideas and "seriousness of purpose"
  - Strategies for implementing ideas

Public Safety and Homeland Security: What is still needed?

- More and better **data** about both <u>current</u> and <u>future</u> broadband needs
    - Concrete plans and benchmarks on how to improve **interoperability**
    - Analysis of the **spectrum allocations** necessary to support both current and future broadband services
    - Data on the **costs** of deployment and other costs
    - What **applications** are most needed?
    - What are the **requirements** of public safety for their communications networks?
    - Other useful **data**

Next Steps:
FCC Broadband Workshops

- Designed to "promote an **open dialogue** between the FCC and key constituents" on matters related to the Plan
  - Opens up the *ex parte* process, so "the public can see the debate as it unfolds"
  - Compresses multiple meetings and presentations into each workshop
- Presenters include **technical experts, business strategists** and **economic experts**

PSHS Broadband Workshop

- **Date**: Aug. 25th, 9:00 a.m.
- **Location**: FCC, Commission Meeting Room
- **Coordinator**: Jennifer Manner
- **Live Video Link**: www.broadband.gov/workshops.html

PSHS Workshop: First Panel

- Focusing on the use of broadband applications by **first responders** to communicate information and prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies

- Topics: interoperability, redundancy, the costs of providing broadband access to public safety

PSHS Workshop: Second Panel

- Focusing on the impact of broadband technology on particular **homeland security** issues

- <u>Topics</u>: cybersecurity, bioterrorism, pandemics, critical infrastructure vulnerabilities; current and future public safety use of managed IP–networks

Additional Next Steps

- *Ex parte* meetings
  - Useful for presentations that involve technical data or proprietary information
  - "Permit-but-disclose" rules apply

- **Field hearings** outside of Washington, D.C.
  - Likely to be held throughout the fall
  - Dates and locations TBD—check www.broadband.gov for updates!

- Other events and proceedings—stay tuned!