



CO L O R A D O

**Governor's Office of
Information Technolog**

Serving people serving Colorado

Broadband Advisory Board (BAB) Charter

December 2020

Version 2.0

Governor's Office of Information Technology
601 E. 18th Ave., Suite 250 | Denver, CO 80203

PURPOSE STATEMENT

This Charter establishes the Broadband Advisory Board, hereafter referred to as “the board,” to collaborate and coordinate with state agencies, municipalities, communities, tribes, public safety, healthcare, education, agriculture, and transportation on broadband connectivity across the state.

BUSINESS NEEDS & STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS

Over the past five years, it has become obvious that closing the digital divide will not happen simply by funding the deployment of broadband infrastructure. Access is only half the battle, broadband policies must be inclusive and support affordable access as well as digital literacy programs to enable adoption. Additionally, it has become increasingly clear that the only way to address these concerns is through collaboration of community leaders, state agencies, and every industry impacted by the lack of access, affordability, and availability of broadband. “Communications services and technological innovations should be accessible and affordable to all because of the implications they have for sustained economic development. The three elements supporting the success of technology in cities are broadband (commonly understood as high-speed Internet) access, broadband adoption (understanding how it can be used) and the effective application of it.” ([National League of Cities, May 2013](#).) It is for this reason that a subcommittee associated with the board and led by the Office of Future of Work (OFOW), focused on ensuring digital inclusion and digital literacy in Colorado will also be established to support Coloradans in their broadband needs.

Another important reason this board has been established is to gain a better understanding of Coloradans concerns, collaborate to direct state funding, expand access to existing assets, and connect the dots with communities to new infrastructure opportunities. The CBO has received overwhelming feedback from Coloradans and local governments concerned about their lack of access to broadband and looking for resources to help them. While this board would not have the authority to direct broadband deployment by the private sector, the board could be a voice regarding where to direct resources and work with agency partners to understand projects that might be available to communities. Most importantly, it would create a place for concerns to be elevated to a diverse group that can consider innovative and holistic solutions.

The governing board will also have an important role to educate policymakers and create accountability and transparency regarding broadband expansion efforts. An annual update will be provided to help create a level of transparency and a shared understanding of the progress Colorado has made and the work still needed to be done.

SCOPE

OBJECTIVES:

- Review and provide feedback on policy and legislation regarding broadband initiatives.
- Convene regular meetings to discuss:
 - Public and private broadband project initiatives;
 - Future demand planning;
 - Recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on meeting current and future demands for economic development, education, healthcare, public safety, and tourism; and
 - Educate citizens, private industry, government agencies, and elected officials on broadband concerns.
- Provide a formalized process to engage and address concerns from citizens, private industry, elected officials, and local and State government.
- Centralize all broadband information from CBO, Department Of Local Affairs (DOLA), and Department Of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) websites into a single website.
- Partner with the Office of Future of Work to create a subcommittee focused on digital literacy and inclusion.

MAJOR DELIVERABLES

As part of OIT's annual performance plans pursuant to the SMART Act (C.R.S. § 2-7-204), OIT will provide an update on broadband collaboration including projects initiated and completed, dollars spent or disbursed, and other metrics including digital inclusion.

BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Delegate	Agency
Anthony Neal-Graves	Sarah Smith	CBO/OIT
Betsy Markey	Jeff Kraft	OEDIT
Rick Garcia	Greg Winkler	DOLA
Patty Salazar	Brian Martin	DORA
Shoshana Lew	Bob Fifer	CDOT



NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Delegate	Agency
Kate Greenberg	Jordan Beezely	CDA
Commissioner Katy Anthes	DeLilah Collins	CDE
Carrie Paykoc	Stephanie Bennett	OeHI
Katherine Keegan		OFOW/CDLE
Kathryn Redhorse	Jenifer Lewis	CCIA
Andy Frohardt		COAG