



COLORADO

Broadband Office

Governor's Office of Information Technology

COLORADO BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD Public Comment Policy

Purpose

The Colorado Broadband Advisory Board (the “Board”) is charged with, among other activities; (i) reviewing and providing feedback on policy and legislation regarding broadband initiatives; (ii) convening 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; (iii) educating citizens, private industry, government agencies, and elected officials on broadband concerns; and (iv) provide a formalized process to engage and address concerns from citizens, private industry, elected officials, and local and State government. These functions require and benefit from public input. This policy is intended to set parameters concerning such public comment.

Principles

The Board believes public input is critical to the Board’s decision-making. Accordingly, the Board wishes to provide the public with considerable time to comment, and it is the goal of the Board to listen and consider the comments sincerely with the ultimate goal of developing insights that will help the Board accomplish its objectives.

However, the Board also recognizes the importance of promoting public comment that is respectful, promote efficient use of Board time, and be respectful of the persons in attendance.

In particular, the Board believes public comment should:

- (1) be free of abusive, degrading, demeaning, or unnecessarily provocative behavior, whether towards the Board, others in attendance, or any other third party; and
- (2) follow reasonable time limitations to (a) promote equal of opportunity among the public, and to allow other speakers to speak, (b) respect the time of all persons in attendance or watching online, and (c) avoid usurpation of the discussion and objectives of the meeting by public comments, or otherwise preventing the Board from carrying out meetings and completing the Board’s business.



This Policy seeks to implement these objectives.

Policy

1. General. It shall be the policy of the Board to allow time for public comment during each meeting. The Board will endeavor to hear as many public comments as scheduled time for comment permits and as the Chair so allows.
2. Allowance for Public Comment. Public comment shall be allowed in two instances: (1) during designated periods at the beginning of each meeting, and (2) prior to every formal resolution that is made by the Board.
3. Beginning of Meeting Comments. Public comments at the beginning of each meeting shall be limited to **three minutes** unless additional time is allowed by the Chair.
4. Formal Resolution Comments. Public comments prior to formal resolutions of the Board shall be limited to **one and a half minutes** unless additional time is allowed by the Chair. For purposes of this policy, “formal resolutions” shall include any written position resolutions or policies adopted by the Board following a vote of the Members.
5. Prior Actions. The Chair requests that no public comment occur for business items for which the Board has already decided or on issues for which the Board has already held a prior public comment period.
6. Conduct of Speakers. Public commentators shall not use profane or obscene language or gestures. The Board will not tolerate intimidation or harassment of any person. The Chair may cut-off speakers who violate this provision.
7. Presentations. Persons who wish to request time to present to the Board may do so by may do so by submitting a request via the Board’s online Request Form.

