

## MEDA Broadband Committee Meeting

May 17, 2021

2pm

**Participants:** Adam Vauthier, Corey Hageman, Russ Fletcher, Brit Fontenot, Tom Kaiserski, Mehmet Casey, Jennie Stapp, Kristian Richardson, Tracy McIntyre, Allison Corbyn, Paul Reichert, Bethany Chinadle, and Gloria O'Rourke.

### Discussion:

- **SB297**

- Tom said there will be a Commission announced for Broadband late today.
- Jennie has talked with Scott Osterman about the mapping component. An approach and proposal is in process.
- What do the CRDCs need to know to act on projects? Or will it be up to providers/installers to obtain funds?
- Municipalities can partner under certain situations
- Providers are still looking for final guidelines and rules. Tribal rules are also.
- This group could provide resources/education for the Commission.
- **Priorities established for spending. How to align the stars for the right support at the right time. More details are still needed.**

- **Next steps:**

- MEDA aware of the process and how to obtain the benefits of the bill.
- Establish our priorities for funding.
- Engage with the commission work.

### Chat:

#### From Russ Fletcher

Washington State Removes All Barriers to Municipal Broadband

This critical leap forward in Washington drops the number of states with laws restricting community broadband to 17.

<https://matr.net/news/washington-state-removes-all-barriers-to-municipal-broadband/>  
Google will bring Starlink satellite connectivity to enterprises in late 2021

SpaceX has unveiled its second major cloud infrastructure deal to bring satellite-powered internet and cloud services to Earth's farthest reaches. The Elon Musk-led company

<https://matr.net/news/google-will-bring-starlink-satellite-connectivity-to-enterprises-in-late-2021/>  
Bill To Spur High-Speed Broadband Projects In Rural Communities

A bill to remove barriers for communities seeking to use Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants to develop high-speed broadband access was introduced in the House of Representatives today by Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Sam Graves (MO-06) and Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS).

<https://matr.net/news/bill-to-spur-high-speed-broadband-projects-in-rural-communities/>

From Russ Fletcher to Everyone: 02:08 PM

Stepping into the future – Lewistown, Montana Library selected for broadband pilot program

"A lot of libraries across the state have the same problem we do," said Lewistown Library Director Dani Buehler. "The internet was installed a while ago and needs to be updated."

<https://matr.net/news/stepping-into-the-future-lewistown-montana-library-selected-for-broadband-pilot-program/>

Starlink receives nearly \$73 million for more than 29,000 sites in Montana.

SpaceX won bids to provide internet across Montana, including swaths of Lincoln, Flathead and Glacier counties and small pockets along the Hi-Line at Cut Bank, Shelby and Havre. SpaceX also will serve an area east of Bigfork.

<https://matr.net/news/starlink-receives-nearly-73-million-for-more-than-29000-sites-in-montana/>

FYI - Re- Starlink - From Scott Osterman : I have heard it is \$500 to install/setup and \$100/month. For some, that may seem cheap, but for many, that is still a very high price comparatively. To my knowledge, there is no subsidy to support the install or monthly fees for Starlink. I will let you know how many subscribers there might be today. I have heard a number, but need to validate it before I say anything. Will keep you posted.

Joe Biden's Broadband Push Could Be Worth Billions To Wireless And Cable Companies

All the major carriers stand to benefit if the Biden buildout goes forward.

<https://matr.net/news/joe-bidens-broadband-push-could-be-worth-billions-to-wireless-and-cable-companies/>

Call for Reviewers – NTIA Broadband Connectivity Programs

Help America Advance its National Objective of Broadband Access for All!

<https://matr.net/news/call-for-reviewers-ntia-broadband-connectivity-programs/>

**Paul** - And \$20 Million or less could subsidize almost everyone without broadband getting Starlink for a year or two immediately.

**Next meeting: May 24, 2021 2pm**