

North Bay/North Coast Broadband Consortium

Work Plan: Year 2

**2nd Quarter Report
to the
CASF**

October 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

Submitted December 31, 2015

I. INTRODUCTION

The vision of the **NBNCBC** is to have the persistent digital divide in Marin, Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma counties eliminated.

The mission of the **NBNCBC** is to:

- 1) Develop a strategic broadband plan for each county based on “last mile” community needs, and integrate the county plans into a regional plan.
- 2) Determine current actual broadband access and adoption rates throughout the region.
- 3) Assess and aggregate unmet demand throughout the region, based on a county’s ground-truth data.
- 4) Identify potential funding sources to improve broadband deployment and adoption rates throughout the region.
- 5) Encourage broadband service providers to use identified funding sources to improve broadband deployment and adoption rates throughout the region.
- 6) Work with broadband service providers to develop a long-term strategic plan for keeping broadband deployment and adoption standard, or above, throughout the region.

The overarching goals for the Year 2 Work Plan are:

- to complete the development of community-based “last mile” plans for communities in each county starting with the unserved and underserved communities;
- compile these community plans into a comprehensive countywide broadband plan for each county;
- integrate these county plans into an overall North Bay-North Coast Regional Broadband Plan;
- set the stage to pursue implementation of projects to meet the priority demands in each county and the region; identify potential deployment funding sources;
- work with service providers to make use of funding sources to deploy broadband; and,
- develop and implement meaningful adoption programs.

There are four measurable deliverables in the Year 2 Work Plan.

Deliverable #1 Produce an annual progress report covering: 1) community involvement in the consortium’s activities (*Activity 1*); 2) plans of the major service entities (*Activity 2.2*); and 3) progress of interactions with telecommunications providers (*Activity 2.3*).

Deliverable #2 Produce a progress report that includes: 1) a detailed design for a countywide infrastructure plan for each county (*Activity 3.1*); 2) a synopsis of each “last mile” project plan developed for communities in each county (*Activity 3.2*); 3) status of securing funding for these projects (*Activity 3.3*); 4) status of projects that have been launched (*Activity 3.4*); and, 5) a conceptual design plan for the Regional infrastructure and securing funding (*Activities 4.1*).

Deliverable #3 Produce a report on the progress of an implementation of adoption programs in each county (*Activity 5*).

Deliverable #4 Produce a report on the overall performance of the consortium (*Activity 6*).

II. SUMMARY OF THE 2nd QUARTER

There are six major activities in carrying out this two-year effort. Within each activity, there are several tasks to be executed.

During this second quarter the primary work of each of the counties has been focused on **Activities 3.2 thru 3.4** and **NBNCBC**, as the consortium, has been focused on **Activity 4.1**. At the same time, the counties continue to: 1) be involved the community leadership and maintain community commitment, **Activity 1**; and, 2) consult and involve major community services entities, **Activity 2.2** and 3) work with telecommunications providers, **Activity 2.3**. Counties continue work with community groups involved in carrying out adoption programs, **Activity 5.1**.

NBNCBC measures its performance against these tasks and deliverables in the **Year 2 Work Plan** on a quarterly basis using the Chart 2.2.

Chart 2.2 FY Year 2 Performance Measures: Outcome Metrics

DELIVERABLES	Projected Completion Date	1 st Qtr % Achieved	2Qtr % Achieved	3Qtr % Achieved	4Qth % Achieved
Deliverable #1. Annual Report on <i>Activity 1, Activity 2.1, Activity 2.2, and Activity 2.3</i>	6-30-16	100%	100%		
Deliverable #2. A Progress Report on <i>Activity 3.1, Activity 3.2, Activity 3.3, Activity 3.4, and Activity 4.1.</i>	6-30-16	25%	75%		
Deliverable #3. Report on Implementation of adoption programs <i>Activity 5</i>	6-30-16	25%	75%		
Deliverable #4. Overall evaluation of the consortium’s performance. <i>Activity 6</i>	6-30-16	0%	0%		

It should be noted that Marin County has taken the **NBNCBC Year 2 Work Plan and Deliverables** as a guide and developed its own specific county- based Year 2 Work Plan to reflect its needs and priorities, but remain consistent with the overall **NBNCBC Year 2 Work Plan**. The other three counties are following the **NBNCBC Year 2 Work Plan**.

The following provides details on the tasks and outcomes achieved by **NBNCBC**, as a whole, and by each county this first quarter.

1. Activity #1: ENSURE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT---Deliverable #1

1.1. Engage Community Leadership

- 1.1.1. Involve County Supervisors;
- 1.1.2. Involve cities, towns, census designated places, and tribal communities;
- 1.1.3. Involve school, library, health care, public safety and government agency leaders;
- 1.1.4. Involve countywide advisory groups;
- 1.1.5. Involve community and business groups; and,
- 1.1.6. Inform the community media (newspaper, radio, TV etc).

1.2. Maintain Community Commitment throughout the Life of the Project

- 1.2.1. Conduct annual briefings of the county supervisors;
- 1.2.2. Hold quarterly meetings of the Oversight Committee;
- 1.2.3. Meet regularly with countywide advisory groups;
- 1.2.4. Meet “in-person and hold “open” conference calls with interested groups in each of the counties to discuss and seek input on specific issues and opportunities;
- 1.2.5. Maintain a web site (Being maintained on the BAMC web site);
- 1.2.6. Publish an electronic newsletter semi-annually;
- 1.2.7. Issue special reports, as appropriate;
- 1.2.8. Issue proactive news releases, as appropriate; and,
- 1.2.9. Form ad hoc task forces, as needed.

NBNCBC Consortium. Through the County Managers NBNCBC keeps the region’s Congressman, State Senators and State Representatives informed of the consortium’s activities. Representatives of these officials are invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the NBNCBC Oversight Committee.

The first quarterly meeting of the NBNCBC Oversight Committee was held on Friday October 16, 2016 as the annual in-person meeting in Santa Rosa. In addition to the members of the Oversight Committee and the Management Team in attendance, John Baker, CPUC representative and liaison to the NBNCBC was present as was Katie Gibbs, Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC). Scott Rasmussen, from Congressman Huffman’s Office and Carmel Angelo, Mendocino County CEO, joined by conference call. The agenda and notes of the meeting are posted on the BAMC web site.

Team member Peter Pratt had been working as the liaison to Congressman Huffman’s Office on matters related to our broadband needs and issues. Working with Trish Steel, our Mendocino team member Pratt brought to the attention of the Congressman the issue outages in Mendocino County. In response, on Thursday November 12, 2016 Congressman Jared Huffman held a Broadband Stakeholder Working Forum in Willits, Mendocino County. The purpose of meeting was to have a technical working session addressing the challenges of securing reliable broadband in rural areas of Mendocino County. Participants included local stakeholders, providers, and county, state and federal government representatives and agencies. More information on the outcomes of this meeting is outlined in the Mendocino section of this report. Pratt has been working with Huffman’s staff on the follow-up actions.

Representing the NBNCBC Management Team, Mike Nicholls, Peter Pratt and Trish Steel, met with Assembly Member Jim Wood on December 21, 2015 to discuss the important issue of proposed middle mile network financing in California. The outcome of the meeting is to work with Wood’s staff to review successful models

middle mile federal and state-level investments implemented in Kentucky, New York and Massachusetts, as well as other states nationally.

Marin County. The Marin Board of Supervisors, at the recommendation of the County Administrator; and based on input from NBNCBC Oversight Committee member, Supervisor Steve Kinsey, and from MBTF, voted to set *Internet Broadband Infrastructure* support as the County's fourth ranked legislative policy priority for the upcoming 2016 federal and state legislative years.

This establishment of broadband development in Marin County, as a lead legislative priority for 2016, was based on a written assessment by MBTF of key federal and state legislative initiatives vs. ascertained unmet funding and programmatic needs found to date in the County. This assessment has been supported by the work of MBTF with Congressman Huffman and his staff, as multiple broadband support programs at the federal have been assessed for over a year of mutual cooperation.

In this same Quarter, Congressman Huffman introduced federal legislation (H.R. 4160) aimed at making the largest pool of funding for broadband infrastructure development available at the federal level, the loan funding within the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program of the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (USDA-RUS) more accessible to rural providers. Representative Huffman's bill is co-sponsored by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA-5), and Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN-8). The concept for the bill was initially discussed, in October - November 2014, with Congressman Huffman, his staff, staff of Supervisor Kinsey, and MBTF.

Mendocino County. Mendocino County has had extensive community involvement in broadband issues, especially as the result of the Sept. 3rd telecommunications outage throughout Mendocino County including the temporary loss of 7 public safety answering points (see 2015 Q1 report). The Broadband Alliance launched an online survey in the days following the outage to document impacts to residents, and during Q2 the report developed from this data was completed and is currently on the agenda for January for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. Once adopted by the board, it will be distributed widely.

As noted above, Congressman Huffman hosted a Broadband Stakeholder Working Forum in Mendocino County in November. The Congressman asked key Questions in that meeting, and finding answers to those questions will guide our actions at both the county and consortium level as we search for solutions to our broadband problems. Already these questions have played into topics discussed in various meetings that the Alliance has hosted, such as the USDA meeting (below) and meetings with county staff.

Two public outreach meetings were held in Oct and Nov, in addition to meetings held with county IT, Supervisors, County CEO, Ft. Bragg City councilmen, elected officials, and community groups. NBNCBC County deputy-manager Trish Steel traveled to Sacramento for Assemblymember Wood's hearing on the Digital Divide, and offered comments during public input portion reminding those present that our rural areas are still very much impacted by this divide.

Other activities this quarter included:

- Hosted a public meeting for all interested in USDA funding, with invited guest Rocky Chenille the general field rep for telecommunications from the Rural Utilities Service branch of the USDA
- Encouraging increasing county involvement in broadband issues during meeting with county CEO and Oversight Committee member by suggesting county develop and adopt broadband goals and strategies, and to update the Broadband Plan

Napa County. No major activity.

Sonoma County. Access Broadband Sonoma (ASB) meets with its Oversight Contact on a regular basis to review current progress and has had full monthly meetings with appointed members and guests during this quarter. ASB management has engaged with Joy Road Connect Committee in meeting presentations with potential providers. All ASB meetings comply with Brown Act, are open and available for participation via teleconference. Sonic.com and Comcast representatives generally attend each meeting. Other incumbent providers are cordially invited to participate, but generally are not attending each meeting. Scott Rassmussen from Congressman Huffman’s DC office is now joining the monthly meetings via conference call to provide federal legislative updates. The Technology Manager from the Sonoma County Library made a presentation on the technical advances within the library network. ASB collaborated with the County Health and Human Services Department to facilitate a February workshop with California Telehealth Network and all county health centers. ASB met with County Emergency Services to discuss the process of cell tower mapping within the county.

2. Activity #2: ASSESS, DOCUMENT AND MONITOR THE UNMET BROADBAND NEEDS THROUGHOUT EACH COUNTY

2.1. Assess the Broadband Demands and Needs of all the Communities throughout each County

- 2.1.1. Encourage citizens in unserved and underserved communities, as reported by CPUC reports, to submit ground truth tests, using the CPUC processes; and,
- 2.1.2. Engage the CPUC to correct CPUC Databases and maps based on these public ground truth test results.

2.2. Consult and Involve Major Service Entities in each County—

Deliverable #1

- 2.2.1. Continue to work with the County Office of Education (COE) to understand its progress in providing the school districts and schools access to broadband connections back to the COE;
- 2.2.2. Continue to work with the County Library (LIBRARY) to understand its progress in providing the branch libraries access to broadband connections back to the County Library and through the Library to other libraries in the region and statewide;
- 2.2.3. Continue to work with the major County Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), under California’s Statewide Interoperability plan, to understand its progress.
- 2.2.4. Continue to work with all the health care facilities in the county to understand their progress in implementing their long range broadband plans;

- 2.2.5. Continue to work with the County and municipal government IT organizations to understand the progress they are making in meeting their broadband needs and plans;
- 2.2.6. Continue to work with incorporated city councils, community services districts and other government entities to ensure their broadband needs are being incorporated in community and county plans; and,
- 2.2.7. Produce a written document that reports the progress of these special services entities in achieving their broadband needs and plans.

Marin County. No major activity.

Mendocino County. Mendocino County worked with various entities to better understand broadband needs. In collaboration with our library director, we developed a simple survey for users of the public access computers and library Wi-fi to better assess why residents were using the computers at the library, such as lack of access at home, affordability of home internet, convenience, or saving on personal data caps. Also, The Center for Economic Development Mendocino Business Survey of Ukiah area businesses found that Broadband access is in the top 10 list of “barriers to Economic Development”.

The Alliance has also received attention locally and nationally related to broadband issues and lack of connectivity. The quarter alone has seen these articles/reports:

- Mendocino County was prominently featured in a the national magazine The Atlantic in an article about communities that lack broadband. The article was published on Friday, 11/13/15 <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2015/11/where-the-cloud-rises-from-the-sea/415236/>
- Mendocino County was featured in an article for the online health news site healthline.org which appeared on 11/9/15 <http://www.californiahealthline.org/insight/2015/mendocino-broadband-problems-persist-amid-national-push-for-better-access>
- The result of an extensive interview back in April with members of the Alliance and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) about the Tech Transitions came to fruition in December when the GAO final report was issued. This report is titled Internet Protocol Transition: FCC Should Strengthen Its Data Collection Efforts to Assess the Transition's Effects (GAO-16-167) and can be found from the following link: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-167>

When the CPUC approved CalSpeed app became available for the iphone, we used social media to strongly encourage folks to download and use the app (as we did for the Android version) to provide important data for the CPUC database about areas that lack adequate connectivity.

The Alliance participated in the FCC public process by signing onto submitted comments on the issues of back-up power requirements, 911 continuity order, and Lifeline Reform. The county manager also attended the recent NTIA hosted California Broadband Workshop in November for better understanding of national level issues.

Napa County. No major activity.

Sonoma County. ASB has requested a website update to include CalSpeed app information for iPhone, Android and Desktop use by anchor institutions and residents for improved mapping of county’s broadband resources. A monthly meeting schedule has been instituted with ATT, either by phone or in person for improved communication on provider plans and upgrades to broadband network. A California Telehealth Network workshop with County Health Centers has been scheduled for February. Sonic.net and Comcast routinely provide updates during each monthly ASB meeting.

2.3. Involve and Work with Telecommunications Providers---

Deliverable #1

- 2.3.1. Continue working with current major and local telecommunications providers, wireless ISPs, and cellular providers in the county to learn of changes to their offerings and progress against their plans to deploy broadband to the communities throughout each of the four counties;
- 2.3.2. Ensure all the providers have information on the CPUC reporting requirements and procedures and encourage them to accurately report their data to the CPUC; and
- 2.3.3. Produce a report that documents the results of these interactions with the providers.

Marin County. No major activity.

Mendocino County. Mendocino County has worked with telecommunication providers in Q2.

- We have been following the proceedings related to the transfer of Verizon assets to Frontier Communications and offered feedback via the consortium on issues
- We hosted a third meeting between county public safety and AT&T in October, which dealt extensively with issues related to the Sept. outage. We discussed “what worked, and what didn’t work.”
- We provided requested input to AT&T on our “priority areas” in relation to their acceptance of \$2.4 million in federal CAF2 funds for Mendocino County. Our feedback included county library bookmobile stop locations that currently lack connectivity to be able to do book checkouts.
- The November public outreach meeting featured a presentation by Comcast on their Internet Essentials program. We had representatives from the COE and individual school districts in attendance by special invite.
- We have shared changes in services from specific providers via our social media and meetings. This included announcements by Central Valley Cable for an upgrading of services in the Gualala area with no price increase.
- The NBNCBC/Alliance participated in the Broadband Stakeholder Working Forum hosted by Congressman Huffman, in which AT&T announced that they will have big news “soon” about making their network in Mendocino County redundant. They did make an announcement in December, and we will be meeting with them in Q3 for specifics and details of their network upgrade.

Napa County. Napa continues to work with Valley Internet relative the county needs for broadband into the three Migrant Farm Centers. Hopefully, there will be a project developed for submission to CASF.

Sonoma County. Access Broadband Sonoma (ASB) participated in meetings with ATT and Emergency Service Providers regarding outages along the 101 Corridor.

ASB participated and testified at a meeting with Congressman Huffman on Service Outages and reviewed Sonoma Co outage in 2013. ASB met and encouraged fixed wireless provider Vibrance to provide wireless service to coastal areas from Jenner to Salt Point. All interested fixed wireless providers have CPUC reporting requirements, but have elected not to avail themselves of opportunities in filing of grant requests. Wireline providers are aware of CPUC reporting requirements. Major incumbent wireline providers are hesitant to provide details of future service offerings and other than the announced ATT upgrades along the 101 Corridor, have not disclosed their future plans with ASB. ASB management met with Frontier regarding interconnection of fiber with ATT at TSR.

3. Activity #3: INCORPORATE THESE BROADBAND NEEDS INTO COUNTYWIDE AND COMMUNITY-BASED PLANS

3.1. Develop a Countywide Infrastructure Plan based on the Assessed Needs-- Deliverable #2

- 3.1.1. Secure the endorsement of the county and community leaders to the conceptual design developed in the last quarter of Year 1.
- 3.1.2. Work with committed providers to create a detailed design;
- 3.1.3. Assess the gaps in the current infrastructure;
- 3.1.4. Develop cost estimates to implement this detailed design;
- 3.1.5. Review the detailed design and cost estimates with county and community leaders and participating telecommunications providers;
- 3.1.6. Modify the detailed design and costs; and,
- 3.1.7. Produce and share the detailed design for the county.

Marin County. No major activity.

Mendocino County. See below in 3.4

Napa County. See below in 3.4

Sonoma County. Access Broadband Sonoma (ASB) has presented conceptual maps to county CAO, Oversight Committee Member, ISD Manager and other key county employees. We have reviewed our conceptual maps with major wireline and one fixed wireless provider. Costs have not been estimated during this quarter. Sonoma County is in negotiation with a potential provider for the WilTel asset. Sonoma Marin Area Transit (SMART)/Sonic.net is providing 6 strands of fiber to cities and county from their network.

3.2. Assist Communities to Develop and Launch Projects— Deliverable #2

- 3.2.1. Continue to assist interested communities to develop a community “last mile” project based on the broadband needs of that specific community; and,
- 3.2.2. Identify a committed provider to undertake the project plan for each community.

Marin County. See below in 3.4

Mendocino County. See below in 3.4

Napa County. See below in 3.4

Sonoma County. Access Broadband Sonoma (ASB) continues to communicate with isolated communities regarding last mile projects. Detailed feasibility studies for priority areas have been shared with a potential provider for their analysis and evaluation.

3.3. Develop Time-Action Plan for Implementation

- 3.3.1. Work with committed providers that are ready and able to deploy the needed broadband infrastructure and services to that community;
- 3.3.2. Work with committed providers to pursue securing state, federal, and private funds to launch projects; and,
- 3.3.3. Assist these providers in launching projects in meeting government agency requirements.

Marin County. See below in 3.4

Mendocino County. See below in 3.4

Napa County. See below in 3.4.

Sonoma County. Race Communications responded positively regarding their interest in undertaking a project and filed an application to CPUC for Gigify Occidental (Joy Road Priority Area). ASB has also provided Race with detailed feasibility studies for Dry Creek, Cazadero and Jenner Priority Areas.

3.4. Facilitate and Monitor the Overall implementation of these Community-based Broadband Projects

- 3.4.1 Facilitate and monitor the implementation of these community broadband projects.

Marin County. Infrastructure Implementation I: The Marin Broadband Task Force (MBTF) facilitated the filing of Marin’s first application for CASF Infrastructure funding. The application submittal on November 12 was made by Inyo Networks, Inc. for the Nicasio Broadband Project, in close cooperation with the community-based Nicasio Landowners Association (NLOA).

The application covers ‘Greater Nicasio’ of approximately 210 fully broadband unserved households. This area, centered on the Nicasio Census Designated Place (CDP), covers the first of the seven (7) Priority Areas (PAs) in rural West Marin registered with CPUC by MBTF for targeted last mile investment in the major communities of under- and un- served households in Marin County.

Infrastructure Implementation II: In the sixty (60) days prior to the Nicasio CASF filing, MBTF coordinated the first field engineering survey for a planned middle mile / access network backhaul route from the Inyo - Nicasio proposed hub location to the West Marin central coastal node at Point Reyes Station / Olema.

Multiple routes are now under study for this critical link between the PAs along the coast and the point of interconnection to the high capacity competitive dark fiber

ring (Zayo Skywalker Loop) providing Internet exchange point (IXP) connectivity to the outside world.

Infrastructure Implementation III: In December, MBTF convened the kick-off meeting between Marin’s locally-based cable television system operator, and the strategic development partner that has agreed to support the upgrade of the operator’s access and distribution plant, via CASF and other funding requests, and with network design, engineering, and deployment resources.

Agreement was reached to move forward with grant applications for at least two (2) more of the remaining six (6) PAs in Marin County. The provider and development partner expressed the clear need for MBTF, and Marin County as a whole, to support the deployment of middle mile network routes, as referenced in this section, under *Infrastructure Implementation II*.

Mendocino County. The Alliance is also working with the Mendocino Coast Broadband Alliance in their efforts to get broadband to the Albion community, and to verify and/or correct what is perceived to be incorrect broadband data. We found funding and hired a grant-writer to help a provider with a planned CASF grant application for this area, but unfortunately the project met barriers which appear to be insurmountable. We will continue to work with this community on other ideas for connectivity (one such idea being explored is using mitigation money for a local bridge replacement for broadband), and arranging meetings with other interested providers. This community is part of our request for ongoing consortium support for our Year 3 grant extension workplan.

We also participated in and helped advertise for county Building and Planning Dept their public workshop for the draft ordinance for the permitting of coastal broadband projects. Permitting has been determined to be a barrier to broadband in the coastal region for many years, and this is a step forward to help resolve the issue.

Our county design developed in year 1 was endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Broadband Alliance, and various other individuals. However, for year 2 and beyond (year 3) we would like to continue to develop endorsements and “buy in” from specific county agencies, such as county IT and public safety, in conjunction with the development of county Broadband Goals and Strategies.

Napa County. The Napa team is still working on developing a project to bring broadband services to the County’s three Migrant Farm Centers.

Sonoma County. ASB collaborated closely with Race Communications personnel in preparation for the application to CPUC for Gigify Occidental project. CPUC published the project on 12/24/15. ASB will communicate with Race on a regular basis during the final design and construction phases of the project.

4. Activity #4: INTEGRATE THE COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND PLANS INTO A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION---**Deliverable #2**

4.1. Aggregate the Broadband Needs of the Counties into a Regional Needs Statement

- 4.1.1. Update and aggregate the county broadband needs that are regional;
- 4.1.2. Update the an overall regional design;

- 4.1.3. Working with the counties refine regional broadband design;
- 4.1.4. Develop cost estimates to implement the unfilled gaps in this design;
and
- 4.1.5. Produce and share a project plan for a region project.

NBNCBC Consortium. As reported in the 1st Quarter Report lines on regional maps have been drawn to signify possible routes in several counties, with theoretical points of connection. These pre-designed route outlines have been used by several of the counties as possible examples of intra-county routes, and inter-county points of interconnection.

When CASF and other funding is applied for and awarded for the areas to be served by these routes, development of the segments may take place as qualified carriers, providers, and their engineering resources are mobilized.

Integral to this effort, **NBNCBC** has identified a major need for a fiber-based middle mile infrastructure along the Route 101 Corridor from the Bay Area to the Oregon border to facilitate economic development in the region and to create a more competitive and cost-effective environment for broadband services to this region. We have determined AT&T is the only carrier with fiber installed along the Route 101 Corridor, creating a monopoly for backhaul transport available to other local providers. Furthermore, AT&T will only sell services on its fiber, not enter into Indefeasible Rights of Use (IRUs) whereby other carriers could light their own fiber to compete for the backhaul business.

NBNCBC firmly believes additional fiber-based infrastructure capabilities need to be deployed along the Route 101 Corridor. However, the priority of the Consortium and its individual counties remains the funding of access networks in their communities, and the in-county middle mile / backhaul facilities that are required to serve these communities..

As part of this planning effort **NBNCBC** determined that SMART (Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit) has installed four (4) conduits along 43 miles of its installed rail systems—San Rafael to Santa Rosa. SMART has entered into a License Agreement with Sonic for the use of one of the conduits. Sonic will install 432 strands as a bundle into this conduit. As part of the License Agreement, Sonic is making 12 strands of fiber available to the two counties and cities in the counties to use for their own purposes.

On July 31st **NBNCBC** met with SMART leadership to discuss the potential use of the four conduits SMART has installed on its existing RoW and to better understand the recently signed contract with Sonic. One outcome of the meeting was Farhad Mansourian's offer to facilitate a meeting attended by representatives from SMART, Marin County, Sonoma County, and Sonic. That meeting was held on October 5, 2015 and the parties discussed how best to utilize the 12 strands of fiber Sonic is making available to the counties and cities.

As for the potential use of the other three SMART conduits for the Route 101 Corridor Middle-Mile, SMART officials stated they did not intend to enter into agreements until they were sure of the needs of SMART; that may be two or three years out. From the perspective of **NBNCBC** this SMART asset is critical to the future development of Route 101. Therefore, it will be important to present a compelling case to SMART after **NBNCBC** develops a detailed plan of action.

NBNCBC also learned that WilTel (now part of Level 3) partially deployed three conduits in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties from Point Arena to just east of Petaluma in the early part of this century. Fiber has never installed in any of these conduits by Level 3. As a consequence of Level 3's inaction Sonoma County and five of its municipalities gained ownership of one of these three conduits. Last Spring Sonoma County issued a RFP for its part of this one conduit. There was one bidder, Sonic. On June 30, 2015, **NBNCBC** requested a meeting with the County's Administration before any agreement was signed with Sonic.

NBNCBC met with the Sonoma County Administration on August 10, 2015. As a result of that meeting a follow-up meeting with Sonoma County and Sonic was held on Friday October 9, 2015. As a result of that meeting it was determined the WilTel fiber route was not an asset that could help **NBNCBC** with the Route 101 Corridor. In fact, both Dane Jasper, Sonic, and John Hartwig, Sonoma County IT Director, pointed out that: 1) the WilTel conduit had major gaps in it, and 2) the SMART conduit system actually paralleled the WilTel conduit and was fully completed; no gaps in the path. Also, they stated the SMART conduit passes through communities whereas WilTel does not. They strongly suggested it would be more cost effective for **NBNCBC** to pursue using the SMART ROW between San Rafael and Cloverdale and the NCRA ROW north.

The outcomes of the meeting included:

- Sonoma County and Sonic will continue negotiations to come to an agreement on the County WilTel conduit
- The County will consider requesting an allocation of XXX strands of fiber for its future use, including for the Regional Middle-Mile
- Sonoma County will work with **NBNCBC** and Sonic relative to a plan of action to pursue access to one of the SMART conduits for use in the Route 101 Regional Mile. John Hartwig will coordinate setting up a follow-up meeting.

5. Activity #5: FOSTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADOPTION AND TRAINING PLANS AND PROGRAMS--- Deliverable #3

5.1. Update Data on Existing Adoption and Training Programs

- 5.1.1. Identify existing programs that might be offered in each county; and,
- 5.1.2. Update the assessed need for adoption programs in each county.

Sonoma County. EDB completed a report that analyzes programs throughout the County that offer digital skills and literacy.

5.2. Develop Implementation Plans for Adoption Programs

- 5.2.1. Work with community-based entities within the county to develop a base level program for the county;
- 5.2.2. Work with these entities to identify funding sources to underwrite to enable them to implement the base level program across the county; and,
- 5.2.3. Work with these community-based entities implement tailored programs, where needed.

Marin County. MBTF Member Barbara Thornton, Executive Officer of the Marin Telecommunications Agency (MTA) continues to spearhead MBTF's adoption efforts.

Mendocino County. Mendocino County completed their Adoption Report in March 2015 (<http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/data-and-reports/>) which identified various non-profits and organizations with which to partner for adoption trainings, programs, and grant requests. The Alliance administrative coordinator did extensive grant funding research in this area, and concluded that adoption programs with any chance for successful funding need to be geared towards youth. We are continuing to meet with these groups to determine needs and what resources we have available, with the goal of submitting a grant request to the Bechtel Foundation in Quarter 3 of 2015.

We have also met in December with a non-profit provider for possible collaboration for media-based “info-mercials” to educate residents on the use of broadband.

Napa County. No activity.

Sonoma County. Met with State and Regional USDA and RUS personnel to gain additional knowledge on available grants and loans. Attended a NTIA Broadband workshop with focus on available Federal Funding programs. A Sonoma County formal Adoption report was published in November 2015 and presented to Oversight Committee Member and CAO. The Adoption Report is published on the ASB website. ASB follow up with Comcast regarding expansion of their planned Internet Essentials program for seniors in Sonoma County.

Activity #6: EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONSORTIUM

Deliverable #4

6.1.1 Conduct an overall evaluation of the Consortium’s performance.

This activity will be done in the 4th quarter.