



2007 Annual Report

Mission statement:

Provide all Oregonians with affordable access to broadband digital applications that will improve the Oregon economy, improve the quality of life in Oregon communities and reduce the economic gap between well-served and underserved Oregon communities for present and future generations.

Prepared on behalf of the Council by:

John Irwin, Chairman

December 6, 2007

**OREGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS COORDINATING COUNCIL
2007 Annual Report**

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SECTION ONE -- REVIEW OF 2007 ACTIVITY

1.1 Meetings and Presentations

The Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council (ORTCC) met 8 times over the 2007 period. Videoconferencing and teleconferencing provided opportunity for participation from Council members at remote locations throughout the state. All Council session minutes and reports are posted at www.ortcc.org. Multiple speakers addressed a variety of topics, including:

Public Safety Communications - Oregon Wireless Interoperable Network (OWIN) project

Mike Zanon, OWIN Project Manager

Tom Clemo, Medford Fire Department

Donald Westlight, OHSU

[Note: please see www.ortcc.org for a more detailed listing of OWIN-related meetings and discussion]

Internet Forest Roundtable

Chris Tamarin, Oregon Economic and Community Development Department

Ron Trullinger, Craig Kinsman, and Ray Simila of Qwest

Linda Kimberly, Felix Gutierrez and Keith Grunberg, Charter Communications

Al Grapoli and Mark Reyer, Oregon State Data Center

David Crowe, Dave Barta and Dale Smith, University, Oregon

Milo Mecham, Lane Council of Governments

Dale Seavey, City of Eugene

John Blatt, Civic Affairs/One Economy

Matt Lampe, City of Portland

Jeremy Rogers, the Oregon Business Plan

John Stadter of Leducor Group

Greg Palser, CoastCom

Steve Caldwell and Jere Retzer, NWAX

Joe Franell, City of Ashland

Brad Holden, Blue Mountain Community College

Richard Ryan, Hunter Communications

Mike Prinslow, Southern Oregon ESD

Marian Hammond, Oregon Economic and Community Development Department

Andrea Fogue, League of Oregon Cities

Rich Bader, EasyStreet.

New Curry County public safety radio system microwave backbone network

Phillip Barker, Director of Computer Services, Curry County

WiMAX and fixed wireless technologies to provide carrier-grade telecommunications services

Ian Haight and Jeff Burchett, Freewire Broadband

Oregon Health Network (OHN)

Kim Hoffman, OHSU, Ed Parker, Cathy Britain, and others provided a number of updates on the project.

1.2. ORTCC Submitted Resolutions that Passed in 2007

1.2.1 Internet Forest

SJR 19 - Declares state policy relating to Internet Protocol network.

Status:

- Passed by both Houses, signed by the President and the Speaker and filed with the Secretary of State.

1.2.3 Telehealth

SJR 20 - Declares state policy to promote and facilitate activities by Oregon's health care and education communities and their telecommunications providers to develop network model that provides standards for interoperability and to establish peering point and peering agreements among health care and education networks. This resolution encourages the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council Health-Education Committee to work with health care and education communities and telecommunications providers to develop a telecommunications network model.

Status:

- Passed without opposition on the floor of both Houses, signed and sent to the FCC with the Oregon Health Network (OHN) application.
- Work on OHN continues at a heady pace as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funded the OHN at \$20,182,625 over a three year period (\$6,727,541.67 per year – FCC Order 07-198, November 19, 2007, http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-198A1.pdf).
- ORTCC continues to work closely with the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon (TAO – www.ortelehealth.org) and the OHN leadership group. The TAO began as the Health-Education committee of the ORTCC and the OHN core leadership group includes a number of TAO directors and ORTCC members.

1.3 ORTCC Submitted Measure in 2007 Not Passed

1.3.1 Oregon Internet Exchange Funding

SB 470-A - Directs Economic and Community Development Department to establish and administer grant program for purpose of improving Oregon Internet exchange accessibility, capacity and connectivity and expanding Oregon web-hosting capabilities. Allocates moneys from Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to department to implement program.

Status:

- This bill did not make it out of Ways and Means.

1.4 Other Measures Tracked By the ORTCC

1.4.1 Automatic Dialing

SB 863 - Relating to automatic dialing and announcing devices; creating new provisions; amending ORS 646.608; and repealing ORS 759.290.

Status:

- This bill better known as the “robo calls” bill passed.

1.4.2 Definition of Telecommunications

SB 982 - Provides definition of “telecommunications” and modifies definition of “telecommunications service” for purpose of laws governing regulation of telecommunications.

Status:

- Passed.

1.4.3 Deregulation

HB 2621 – Allows telecommunications utilities to elect deregulation. Specifies manner of making election. Imposes price caps on basic local exchange service and intrastate switched access for electing utility during three-year transition period. Imposes restrictions and price caps on extended area service during three-year transition period. Imposes requirements for primary line basic local exchange service. Authorizes Public Utility Commission to resolve complaints of customers of electing utilities.

Status:

- This bill did not make it out of a House legislative committee
- Bills may be introduced again in the next session unless the issues can be resolved by the PUC.

1.4.4 OECDT Telecommunications Coordinator Position

SB 5508 - OECDT Policy Packages - Governor's Approved, December 2006, Telecommunication Specialist Fund Shift Package #103, [Policy Option Package or "POP #103"]

The position's loaded cost for the next biennium would be \$179,071. The Telecommunications Specialist position was originally funded from the Qwest Telecommunication (SB622) funds. These funds have been fully expended during the current biennium. This package requests lottery funds to permanently fund the position.

Status:

- The ORTCC supported this position.
- This position is now part of the OECDD budget and was approved.

1.4.5 Public Safety

SB 136 - Establishes Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network Department. Transfers State Interoperability Executive Council and duties, functions and powers related to council from Office of Emergency Management to department. Establishes executive committee of council to direct activities of department. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

SB 137 – Authorizes Office of Emergency Management to site radio towers and related facilities needed for wireless interoperable public safety communications in areas zoned for commercial, industrial, farm or forest use. Authorizes local governments to propose alternate sites.

Status:

- ORTCC did not take a position on these measures.
- Neither measure was passed.
- Funding was allocated for continued planning.
- The ORTCC accepted an invitation to fill a seat on the SIEC Partnership committee. Onno Husing, Chair of the ORTCC Public Safety Committee, assumed the role on behalf of the Council.

1.4.6 Special Public Works

SB 577 - Permits Economic and Community Development Department to expend moneys from Special Public Works Fund to provide matching funds for federal grants for telecommunication infrastructure projects. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Status:

- This bill did not receive a hearing.

1.4.7 Telemedicine Reimbursement

SB 519-A - Requires health insurers, and Department of Human Services through state medical assistance program, to cover services performed using telemedicine. Requires Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services and Director of Human Services to adopt rules.

Status:

- The bill did not make it out of Ways and Means.

1.4.8 Universal Service Fund

SB 894-A - Allows Public Utility Commission to adopt rules to conform universal service fund to federal law and related rules to extent that commission determines is appropriate.

Status:

- The ORTCC provided recommendations that served as the basis for this measure.
- Signed into law by the Governor on June 11, 2007.

SECTION TWO -- COUNCIL STUDY TOPICS FOR THE 2008 STUDY PERIOD

2.1 Legislative mandate

Many telecommunications related issues remain in view and others are just now emerging. The Council has the opportunity to include a number of these in its study process, as detailed in Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 769 (2005, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/759.html>):

“The Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council shall study alternative approaches to providing coordinated statewide, regional and local telecommunication services, including providing services to unserved or underserved areas of the state. In addition, the council shall study the manner in which telecommunication investments can be coordinated to facilitate partnerships between the public sector and the private sector and between state and local governments. The council shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology before each legislative session.”

Additional directives in ORS 769 provided to the Council by the Legislature include:

“The Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council shall:

- (a) Encourage the work of regional telecommunications consortia that have emerged throughout the state.
- (b) Encourage state agencies to utilize telecommunications.
- (c) Encourage efforts to provide cost-effective, quality workforce development training using telecommunications infrastructure and facilities to access distance learning opportunities.
- (d) Encourage schools, education service districts and local education agencies in unserved areas to promote broadband access for the surrounding community.
- (e) Encourage public and private entities to seek opportunities for partnership with educational institutions that will stimulate the use of broadband technologies through community projects and public education.
- (f) Recommend ways for the State of Oregon to support innovative efforts that build effective and cost-efficient delivery of distance education supported by telecommunications.
- (g) Encourage the Oregon Telehealth Alliance to continue the work of the council’s Telehealth Committee.
- (h) Facilitate public and private organizations working together in partnership to promote the use of telecommunications infrastructure and new technology.”

SECTION 4. (1) The Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council shall collaborate with health care education providers and members of the health care industry to develop and implement a plan that:

- (a) Ensures that the education and health care communities are able to connect by broadband and other telecommunications infrastructures necessary for distance learning.
 - (b) Encourages cooperative activities among the education and health care communities for the purpose of establishing and implementing curriculum applications that are necessary to fully utilize the connected networks.
 - (c) Fully utilizes the resources of the education and health care networks.
- (2) The plan developed under this section shall include determinations about the technical and financial resources needed to implement the plan.
 - (3) The Economic and Community Development Department may seek funding from the federal government and private sources to develop and implement the plan described in this section.

Given the volume and pace of activity, as well as the finite resources of each of the volunteer Council member's time, the Council will establish its priorities for the upcoming legislative period to ensure a quality work product. The study categories cover:

- Economic Development
- Education
- Healthcare
- Infrastructure
- Public Safety Communication

2.2 Economic Development

2.2.1 Expanded Use of Videoconferencing for Meetings

Access to government

Utilizing available technology to facilitate meetings and for information exchange is important. Exchanges and meetings between urban and rural groups using available public videoconferencing facilities could be a means of establishing an ongoing facilitated dialogue. While one-time conversations are of value, regular (scheduled) discussions are needed if any real changes are to be realized. Videoconferencing can help to bridge the distances, save travel time and reduce petroleum consumption and pollution from use of automobiles.

For example the ORTCC has utilized Department of Administrative Services (DAS) videoconferencing capabilities since our beginning in 2001. As a result we've been able to hold meetings with members from all over Oregon, increasing participation in the Council's work on behalf of Oregonians. The legislature has now commenced use of this mechanism to reach out to citizens so that they can testify before legislative committees. Comments from participants throughout the state resoundingly support this use of existing capabilities and capacity in state managed networks.

For several years when advocating the use of videoconferencing for use in access to government, the barrier of availability of capability and costs were often cited, even in the face of

underutilized capacity already in effect paid for. The biggest barrier now seems to be one of a lack of awareness that we have this capability and that it's relatively easy to use. Folks quickly adapt to the slight communication delays.

Too often we find the multiple meetings held by agencies in Salem scheduled for one or two hours require that rural Oregonians must drive long hours to attend. Rural residents are not isolationists and benefit from the opportunity to participate in governmental proceedings. Agencies often make no provision for participation by rural partners and stakeholders. Costs in travel, lost time and, if one doesn't participate, lack of timely information are enormous. Use of videoconferencing technology can eliminate the distance barrier.

Videoconferencing is turning the world into a virtual global village!

Businesses in Oregon also may benefit from increased use of videoconferencing. Videoconferencing is changing the way companies do business. It enables more frequent meetings between people based in different locations with out the need for costly travel or lost opportunity time. It is bringing decision-makers together, face-to-face, wherever they are, across the country or around the globe. Experts from remote locations can interact with each other in real time. It is bringing education and training to corporations and to students around the world. Any organization which works with or wants to work with remote clients or suppliers stands to benefit from videoconferencing.

Challenges in the delivery of a quality videoconferencing experience (i.e., latency and jitter) are shared across government and businesses. These challenges include technical issues as well as awareness and understanding of how to maximize the use of the technology

- Proposed Approach:
 - 1) The Economic Development Committee will study and make recommendations on ways to expand use of videoconference technologies.
 - 2) The Economic Development Committee will bring its recommendations to the Council for further discussion and action.

2.2.2 State government Web site hosting

Today the state's Web site Oregon.gov is hosted in another state.

- Proposed Approach:
 - 1) The Economic Development Committee will study and make recommendations on ways to encourage hosting of this critical Web site within the state of Oregon.
 - 2) The Economic Development Committee will bring its recommendations to the Council for further discussion and action.

2.2.3 Telework

Telecommuting and telework are synonyms for the use of telecommunication to work outside the traditional office or workplace. Teleworking is benefiting companies and government departments throughout the country by allowing employees to work outside the traditional company environment. Teleworkers can work at home or in a satellite office using a computer and a telephone. Telework provides a win/win situation for employees and employers. Employees are still in the loop but not in traffic.

- Employers reduce operating costs, increased employee retention and morale
- Employees gain flexible work arrangements and save commuting costs

Oregon previously addressed this topic through legislation and executive order:

- Senate Bill 775 (1997 Session),
<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/TRANS/Telework/SB775.shtml>
 - Governor Kitzhaber's EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO 98 – 02,
<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/TRANS/Telework/docs/EO98-02.pdf>
- Proposed Approach:
 - 1) The Economic Development Committee will study and make recommendations on ways to expand use of telework usage by state government and business.
 - 2) The Economic Development Committee will bring its recommendations to the Council for further discussion and action.

2.3 Education Committee

2.3.1 Distance Education

Distance education is any type of learning where students and instructor are separated by time and/or place. It can be delivered using a variety of methods or technologies including modem/on-line computer, video tape, public broadcasting, satellite, or other media.

Distance education is a popular and powerful option for nontraditional learners. Three-quarters of all undergraduates are "nontraditional," according to the National Center for Educational Statistics. Nontraditional students are defined as having one or more of the following characteristics:

- Delayed enrollment—did not enter postsecondary education in the same year they graduated from high school
- Attend part-time, for all or part of the academic year
- Work full time—35 hours or more—while enrolled
- Financially independent as defined by financial aid
- Have dependents, other than a spouse, which may include children or others
- Single parent, having one or more dependent children
- Lack of a high school diploma

The more nontraditional characteristics students possess, the less likely they are to persist in college after the first year or to graduate. Nontraditional learners tend to be concentrated in specific types of institutions. In community colleges, for example, nearly half the students have delayed beginning postsecondary education. Adult learners represent a significant category of nontraditional learners.

- 35 percent of undergraduates are adult learners
- 70 percent of all adult learners are female
- 38 is the median age of undergraduate adult learners
- 80 percent of adult learners are employed

Distance education can also have a high beneficial impact for K-20 students. One example, among many in Oregon, can be found in our statewide virtual school district that provides an administrative umbrella for access to classes, training, supplemental programming, and content partnerships. The inaugural version of the Oregon Virtual School District (OVSD) was available for the Oregon K-12 students at the start of the 2006-07 school year. K-20 students now have more opportunities than ever before to access all of the resources they need to fulfill a rigorous education plan.

Other Distance Education offerings by private sector companies are now being delivered or discussed in the state under the same broadband capacity constraints experienced by all the other sectors.

The virtual school concept does not end with the school facilities. Broadband access in homes is critical. Therefore the need for ubiquitous last “foot” broadband becomes critical to meeting student needs. This is yet another example of why we’re not through with broadband deployment in Oregon, as not all students have ready access to broadband (i.e., at home).

Distance Education has a valuable role to play for a very large population of students of all ages. However, as in many aspects of life, “one size does not fit all.” As such we need to continue to develop our understanding of how best to employ this method of expanding access to education. Meeting the needs of traditional and non-traditional learners will have a direct impact on Oregon’s economy.

- Proposed approach:
 - 1) The Education Committee will study distance education opportunities in Oregon and prepare recommendations.
 - 2) The Education Committee will bring its recommendations to the Council for further discussion and action.

2.4 Healthcare Committee

2.4.1 Telemedicine Reimbursement

Examine a requirement that health insurers, and Department of Human Services through state medical assistance program, cover clinical services performed using telemedicine.

- Proposed Approach:
 - 1) The Telehealth Reimbursement Workgroup will work in close concert with the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon.
 - 2) The TAO is leading this statewide examination and education efforts for legislators, government officials, providers and consumers.
 - 3) Meetings with interested parties will be held to draft a reimbursement bill that is acceptable both to payers and providers.
 - 4) The Telehealth Reimbursement Workgroup will bring its findings and recommendations to the Council through the Healthcare Committee for further discussion and action.

2.5 Infrastructure Committee

2.5.1 Internet Forest

Oregon has been steadily shifting from a natural resource economy that depends heavily on fisheries and forests into an economy that increasingly depends on high technology and the businesses of the “*Silicon Forest.*” The next potential wave of economic development following high tech companies like Intel and Hewlett Packard will be Internet businesses like Google and Yahoo, open-source technology businesses, and the wide spread adoption of e-commerce and other Internet-dependent strategies by Oregon businesses. The concept seeking validation is that Oregon has an opportunity to build upon the success of the Silicon Forest and actively recruit and create the Internet businesses that will be the engine for the next wave of economic growth. Oregon is an ideal location for these businesses and has the potential to become a preferred Internet gateway to the Pacific Rim, to become the “*Internet Forest.*”

- Proposed Approach:
 - 1) The Infrastructure Committee of the ORTCC will address this topic.
 - 2) The Infrastructure Committee’s Internet Forest Work Group will further examine a proposal to develop financial resources for the purpose of improving capacity and accessibility of Oregon Internet exchange accessibility, capacity and connectivity and expanding Oregon web-hosting capabilities.
 - 3) OHN-related funding may play a role here and will be evaluated for potential in this context.
 - 4) The Internet Forest Work Group will work with those who opposed SB 470 during the

session and with key legislators to explore consensus language that can be introduced in the 2009 session.

5) The Infrastructure Committee will bring its recommendations to the Council for further discussion and action.

2.5.2 Route diversity/redundancy

Most Oregon communities have good telecommunication service but have great difficulty recruiting call centers, information-intensive businesses or telecommuters unless they have diverse routing (for reliability) and sufficient broadband capacity. Reliable broadband services are also essential for health care, education and government applications, including public safety.

Diverse routing is needed out of regions such as the south coast, where periodic cuts of the single fiber serving the region are a major economic disadvantage and a public safety hazard.

Ensuring route diversity is a critical task ahead requiring significant collaboration and cooperation, whether it is for health care, education and government applications, public safety for bio-terrorism preparedness or natural disaster recovery efforts.

Oregon has an established route diversity and redundancy policy as a result of HB2304 proposed by the Council in 2003.

"It is the policy of the State of Oregon to encourage and support the rapid deployment of broadband telecommunications services in areas of the state where such services do not exist, to support redundancy of critical telecommunications assets in order to ensure homeland security protections in the state and to ensure that a secure conduit is available for emergency communications and public safety networks in all Oregon communities." [ORS 401.706]

The network reliability it provides is critical for commerce as well as for education, government, healthcare, and public safety.

- Proposed Approach:
 - 1) The Infrastructure Committee will study and make recommendations on ways to encourage additional collaboration to provide backbone network route diversity to all regions of the state.
 - 2) The Infrastructure Committee will bring its recommendations to the Council for further discussion and action.

2.5.3 State telecommunications network consolidation

DAS recently completed a data center consolidation project that purportedly yields a more efficient use of state taxpayer dollars and improved protection of the state's data assets. The opportunity to move the state toward a more efficient approach to its use of telecommunications

infrastructure and services would seem to be of potential benefit. The Council can play an advisory role in this process.

- Proposed Approach:

- 1) The Infrastructure Committee will meet with DAS representatives to discuss ways to promote continued improvements.

- 2) The Infrastructure Committee will bring its findings to the Council for further discussion and recommendations.

2.6 Public Safety Communication Committee

2.6.1 Statewide public safety communication interoperability

Meeting the state's public safety communication needs is critical to the future of Oregonians no matter where they live in our state, rural or urban. The criticality of meeting this need is well-understood by the Council. The Council previously issued a set of guidelines for addressing this complex situation in its "Report of the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council", November 28, 2006, <http://www.ortcc.org/PDF/ORTCCReportJLCIMT20063final.pdf>, pages 32 – 54).

The Council continues to believe that emerging IP-based technologies could have an impact for bridging the myriad radio technologies deployed in Oregon. The ability for law enforcement, emergency medical technicians, fire departments and other related entities to communicate using IP-based technologies during periods of critical need and daily operations deserves continuing study and discussion. Broadband is emerging as a critical communications transport for all manner of public safety preparedness and communication during times of critical need.

- Proposed Approach:

- 1) The chair of the Public Safety Communication Committee, or designated alternate, will continue to attend SIEC meetings to encourage and support development of a statewide shared public safety communication network that provides voice and broadband data interoperability with state and local governments.

- 2) The Public Safety Communication Committee will study Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Information Technology and Telecom procurement rules that today lead to a "one winner take all" approach that results in only one vendor controlling all aspects of a defined procurement. This may be critical for OWIN and for meeting state data networking requirements, because one single vendor is unlikely to be able to serve all locations.

- 3) The Public Safety Communications Committee will bring its recommendations to the Council for further discussion and action

2.7 Continued use of committees

In order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of Council members' time, and to provide opportunity to include more Oregonians in ORTCC processes, the major study work of the

ORTCC will be delegated to designated committees. Committees are chaired by Council members and are open to public participation.

The ORTCC will continue to provide topical educational forums and discussion opportunities. The ORTCC chair and committee chairs will be responsible for identifying speakers and scheduling presentations.

Committee chairs will actively recruit members from communities of interest associated with the study topic. Committee members will be identified to the ORTCC chair prior to the January 17, 2008 Council session. The list of committee members will be posted on the ORTCC Web site.

Listservs are in place to provide for committee email communications. Committees will also meet face-to-face, by videoconference or by teleconference.

Committee study and chair assignments follow.

2.7.1 ORTCC Committees

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Chair(s)</i>	<i>Topic(s)</i>
Economic Development	Art Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telework • State government Web site hosting • Expanded Use of Videoconferencing
Education	Curt Pederson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance Education
Healthcare/Telehealth Reimbursement Workgroup	Cathy Britain Kim Hoffman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telemedicine Reimbursement
Infrastructure	Edwin Parker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Forest • Route diversity/redundancy • State network consolidation
Legislation	Cathy Britain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation preparation and tracking
Public Safety	Onno Husing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety Telecommunication

SECTION THREE -- 2007 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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Position Recruitment Underway, Eastern Oregon Telecommunications Consortium
Position Recruitment Underway, South Coast Telecommunications Task Force
Organization Apparently Inactive, Central Oregon Telecommunications Task Force
Organization Apparently Inactive, North Coast Telecommunications Consortium.

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