



Technical Working Group to the Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board

July 11, 2024 – 9:00am

Regular Meeting

Alaska Broadband Office - Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

This meeting will be virtual only.

Online Meeting Details: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 2243 890 530 682; Passcode:teCcVt

Call In: 907-202-7104; Phone Conference ID: 236 886 073#

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
- IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings
 - a. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2024
- V. Staff Reports (None)
- VI. Unfinished Business
 - a. Discussion Item: Prioritization of Non-Fiber Technologies
- VII. New Business (None)
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Working Group Member Business from the Floor
- X. Next Meeting Date
 - a. Thursday, July 18, 2024 – 9:00am
- XI. Adjournment



SBAB Technical Working Group Agenda Statement

Meeting Date:	July 11, 2024
Item Number:	IV.a
Item Title:	Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2024
Submitted By:	Alaska Broadband Office Staff
Recommendation:	Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2024
Attachments:	1) June 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Summary Statement:

The Technical Working Group needs to review and take action on minutes from previous meetings. The draft minutes from the June 19, 2024 are attached for review and consideration.



Technical Working Group of the Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Minutes for Regular Meeting - June 19, 2024, at 9:30 AM AKST.

These draft minutes were prepared by staff and have not yet been approved by the Technical Working Group.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Daniel Kirschbaum, Martin Marshall, Christine O'Connor, Matthew Peterson, and Michael Willmon.

Staff Present: Thomas Lochner, Director; Lisa Von Barga, Deputy Director; and Kalynn Himes, Administrative Specialist.

Members Absent: Tony Dodge, Mathew Narus.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Christine O'Connor called the meeting to order at 9:33am.

Kalynn Himes called the roll, and five members of the Technical Working Group were present. Quorum was met.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Martin Marshall to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Matthew Peterson. Approved by Unanimous Consent.

III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None this meeting. Previously, Shawn Williams from PDI requested a review of the potential conflict of interest by members of the Technical Working Group providing the technology prioritization. Mr. Williams explained it was likely several members of the Technical Working Group would be participating in the development of applications for the upcoming Alaska Broadband Grant Program (using BEAD funds) in which this technology prioritization recommendation may be used. Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor, responded that she was in the process of addressing the issue with the Department of Law.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

a. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 7, 2024

Motion by Michael Willmon to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 7, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Matthew Peterson. Approved by Unanimous Consent.

V. Subcommittee Reports

None.

VI. Staff Reports

None.

VII. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion Item: Prioritization of Non-Fiber Technologies

Christine O’Conner began the discussion by thanking Michael Willmon for putting together the technology prioritization matrix for use by the Working Group. She also reminded the Working Group the recommendations they, and the Statewide Broadband Advisory Group, provide to the Alaska Broadband Office are advisory only.

Michael Willmon provided an explanation of the matrix and the descriptions he provided.

All members of the Working Group participated in a detailed discussion about the purpose of evaluating the technologies, the varied ways in which the technologies would be applied to different projects, the ways the technologies should be evaluated, and the format of the recommendation deliverable that is the most useful.

Each member shared thoughts on creating a concrete scoring matrix, that can show what works best where and the cost difference as every application will be different. Each member is going to individually work on their input for this scoring matrix and will discuss as a group at our next meeting on July 2, 2024.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Public Comment

None. Sara Chambers explained she would follow up on Public Comment from previous meeting.

X. Board Member Business from the Floor

None.

XI. Next Meeting Date

It was determined the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, from 9:00am-10:30am.

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Michael Willmon to adjourn. Seconded by Matthew Peterson and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13pm on June 19, 2024.



SBAB Technical Working Group Agenda Statement

Meeting Date:	July 11, 2024
Item Number:	VI.a
Item Title:	Discussion Item: Prioritization of Non-Fiber Technologies
Submitted By:	Alaska Broadband Office Staff
Recommendation:	None. Discussion item only.
Attachments:	1) Prioritization Matrix; 2) NTIA Guidance Document

Summary Statement:

The Working Group will have a discussion about the different non-fiber technologies during the meeting, and how best to provide a recommendation to the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board that provides general guidance and structure for evaluating competing projects with different technologies.

The previously created prioritization matrix is attached, along with the NTIA Guidance Document on alternative technologies.

SBAB_TWG_Prioritization_Matrix

Primary Column	GEO	MEO	LEO	6Ghz	11Ghz	18Ghz	23Ghz	80Ghz	2.5Ghz	3.65Ghz	4.9Ghz	2.4Ghz	5.3Ghz	5.4Ghz	5.8Ghz	60Ghz
1 Transport Area (Middle Mile/Last Mile)	Middle/Last	Middle/Last	Middle/Last	Middle (Long Haul)	Middle (Long Haul)	Middle (Short Haul)	Middle (Short Haul)	Middle (Short Haul)	Last	Last	Last	Last	Last	Last	Last	Last
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Performance (Yes/No)																
3 Download Bandwidth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 Upload Bandwidth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5 Latency	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Cost (1-10)																
7 Engineering		4	4	4	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
8 Material		3	3	3	6	6	5	5	5							
9 Installation		5	5	5	8	8	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
10 Mobilization/Demobilization		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
11 Testing		4	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
12 Other																
13 <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Operating Cost (1-10)																
14 Spares		4	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
15 Power/Fuel		3	3	3	8	8	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
16 Labor		2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
17 Other																
18																
19 NOTES:																
20 1. This is a matrix built solely on the Agenda statement																
21 2. Values provided are only relative and could be very																
22 3. Values provided are only this engineers high level																
23 4. There may be other ways to prioritize these																



Reliable Broadband Service & Alternative Technologies Guidance

*Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment
(BEAD) Program*

January 2024



This document is intended solely to assist recipients in better understanding the BEAD program and the requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program. This document does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific application requirements set forth in the NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the NOFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this document.

OVERVIEW

The **Infrastructure Act** defines “**reliable broadband service**” as “broadband service that meets **performance criteria** for **service availability, adaptability** to changing **end-user requirements, length of serviceable life**, or other criteria, other than upload and download speeds, as determined by the Assistant Secretary in coordination with the Commission.” 47 U.S.C. § 1702(a)(2)(L). For the purposes of this definition, the Assistant Secretary adopted the criteria that Reliable Broadband Service **must be (1) a fixed broadband service that (2) is available with a high degree of certainty, (3) both at present and for the foreseeable future**, and found, after coordination with the Commission, that the definition of Reliable Broadband Service set forth in the NOFO best meets those criteria.

KEY DEFINITIONS:

1

Reliable broadband service (RBS): The term “Reliable Broadband Service” means broadband service that is accessible to a location via:

- fiber-optic technology (*BDC technology code 50*)
- cable modem/hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) technology (*technology code 40*)
- digital subscriber line (DSL) technology (*technology code 10*)
- terrestrial fixed wireless technology utilizing entirely licensed spectrum (*includes spectrum licensed by rule*) or using a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum (*technology codes 71 and 72*).

2

Priority broadband project: The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that will provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises.

3

Qualifying broadband: To a location that is not a CAI, qualifying broadband is Reliable Broadband Service with (i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds; “qualifying broadband” to a CAI is Reliable Broadband Service with a speed of not less than 1 Gbps for downloads and uploads alike and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

4

Alternative technology: Alternative technology is any technology that does not qualify as reliable broadband service; includes unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) and low-earth orbit satellites (LEOs). Alternative technologies must still meet the BEAD technical requirements.

5

BEAD technical requirements: For the purposes of BEAD, speed must be not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads. 95% of latency measurements during testing windows must fall at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time.

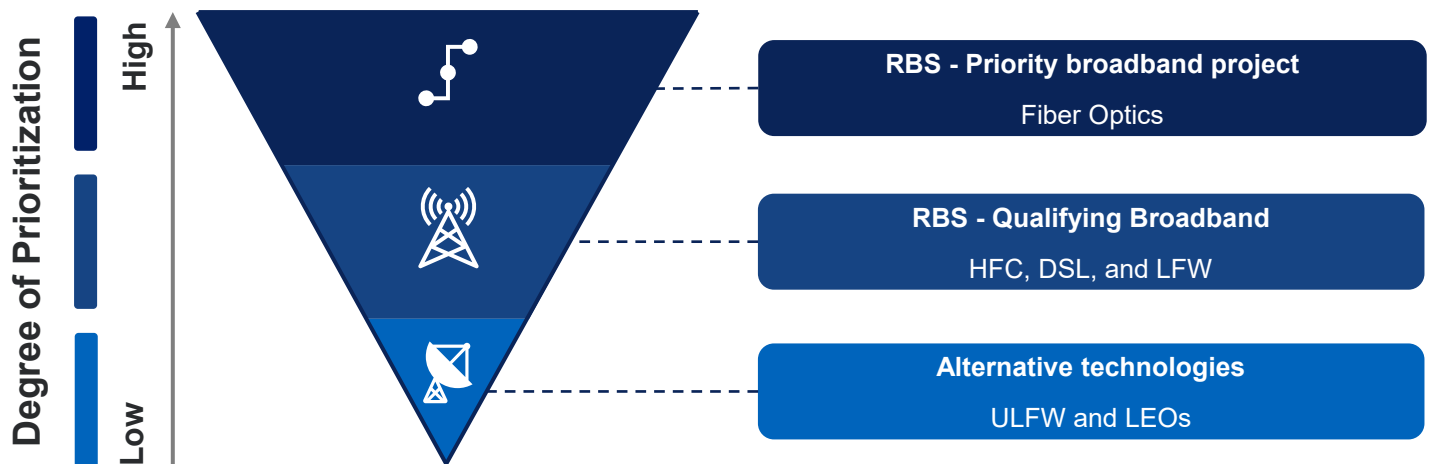


Figure 1 - Broadband Technology Prioritization

WHEN CAN ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES BE USED?



Default Selection Process:

Single Proposal: If there is only one proposed Priority Broadband Project in a given location that is below the Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT), it automatically becomes the default winner.

Exception: A different project may be chosen if the Eligible Entity requests, and the Assistant Secretary approves, a waiver for an alternative project.¹



Competitive Selection Process:

Multiple Proposals: In cases where multiple proposals exist and are deemed Priority Broadband Projects, and meet all other subgrantee qualifications (gating criteria), the Eligible Entity must use its approved competitive process to select the best project based on established selection criteria.



High-Cost Fiber Proposals:

Exceeding EHCPLT: If all fiber project proposals in a project area exceed the cost threshold, the Eligible Entity has the discretion to consider other reliable broadband services or alternative technologies².

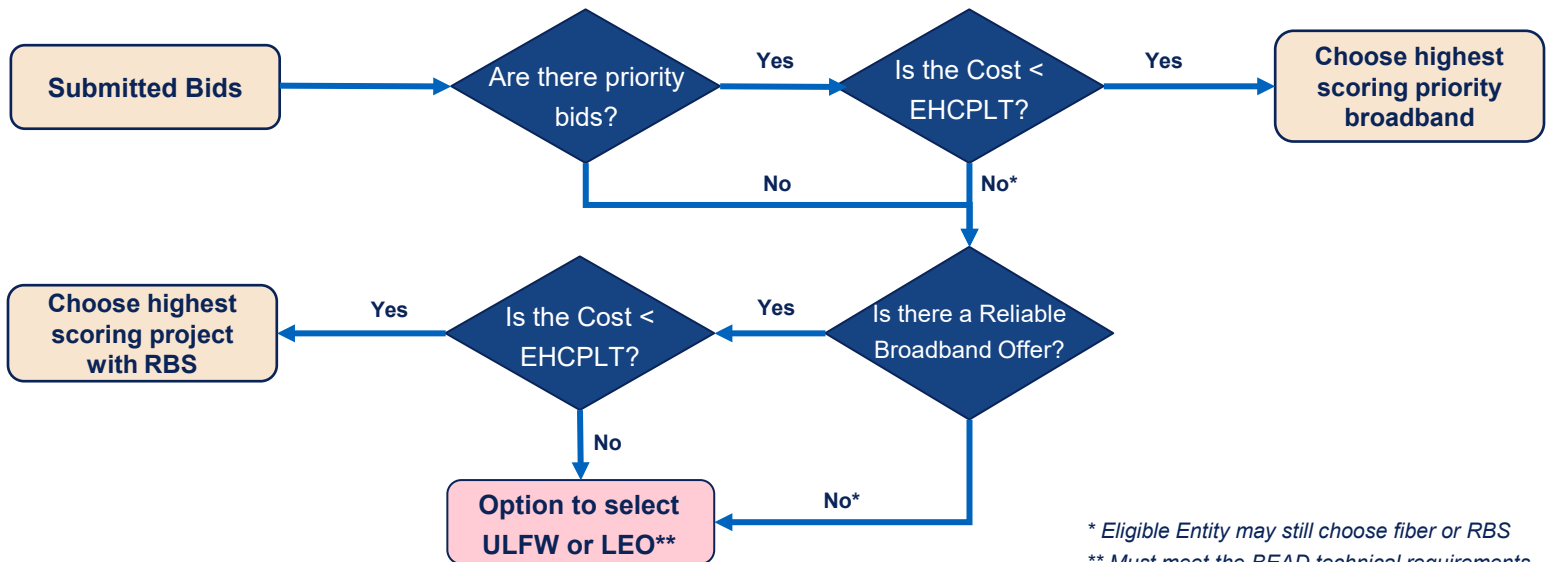


Offer Solicitation and Scoring:

Solicitation: The Eligible Entity is permitted to request proposals for all technology types at once, including alternative technologies.

Scoring Criteria: Non-fiber (other last-mile broadband deployment projects) must have their own criteria, which can differ from the criteria for fiber projects (priority broadband projects). Examples: evaluation of long-term technical sustainability and the speed tiers for assessing affordability.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY BROADBAND PROJECTS



¹ See BEAD NOFO, Page 42- Footnote 63 - *The Eligible Entity need not seek a waiver before rejecting a project whose costs, on average or for a given location, exceed the Eligible Entity's Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold.*

² Eligible options that comply with BEAD technical requirements including unlicensed fixed wireless and low-earth orbiting satellites.