



# Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating Council

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## Report to the Energy & Technology Committee Connecticut General Assembly

**April 20, 2010**

# CBICC: MEMBERSHIP

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- **Louis Manzione**, *Council Chair*, Dean, College of Engineering, Technology & Architecture, University of Hartford
- **Robert P. Vietzke**, *Council Vice Chair*, Executive Director, Internet2
- **Michael A. Chowaniec**, Area Director, Government Affairs, CT Cablevision
- **Burton B. Cohen**, Partner, Murtha Cullina LLP
- **Robert Earley**, Director of Government Relations, Comcast
- **John R. Emra**, Regional Vice President, AT&T
- **Jack McCoy**, CIO, Town of Manchester
- **Anthony M. Santino**, Independent Businesses
- **William L. Vallée Jr.**, Principal Attorney, Office of Consumer Council

## EX-OFFICIO

### Representing the Chairman of the DPUC

- **Robert H. Mundy, Jr.**, Lead Rate Specialist, Telcom Unit, DPUC

### Representing the Secretary of OPM

- **Patrick O'Brien**, Policy Development & Planning Division, OPM

# **CBICC MISSION STATEMENT**

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**Monitor and report on trends and developments at both the state & federal levels to help assure that Connecticut remains a leader in deployment & adoption of broadband & related technologies.**

**Translate this into a competitive advantage for the state's businesses, political and legal institutions, as well as benefiting the state's citizenry as a whole.**

# Accomplishments to Date

- **Nine Quarterly Meetings (First Convened July 2008)**
  - Plus a number of sub-committee meetings & meetings with members of state government in various capacities.
  - Six subject matter experts have addressed the Council
- **CBICC Official Website: [www.ct.gov/cbicc](http://www.ct.gov/cbicc)**
  - Includes Council's enabling legislation; information on upcoming meetings; meeting archives.
  - CBICC's Statement of Principles & accompanying submittal letter to the governor, April, 2009.
  - Links to the state's broadband providers; relevant state/federal agencies; broadband oriented non-profits & news organizations.
- **Important Contributions to the State's Proposals for ARRA Funding**

# General Recommendations

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## ➤ **Deployment & Adoption**

- Assure Connecticut extends its position in deployment & adoption as a competitive advantage for the state’s businesses & citizens.**
- Grow broadband service adoption by continuing to advance infrastructure rollout & supporting internet awareness programs.**
- Encourage additional investments in educational networking, public safety, public television & general government network activities that will further enhance broadband usage.**

# General Recommendations

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- **Provide Guidance to Government**
  - **General Assembly continues to look to the CBICC as a valuable resource for information & direction regarding broadband issues.**
  
- **Funding**
  - **Implement a modest funding plan to provide administrative support to the Council**

# Specific Recommendations

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**The CBICC has determined that our state has work to do on deployment to ensure that high-speed broadband connectivity is universally available, especially in the more rural portions of Northwest & Northeast Connecticut.**

## **Specific Recommendations (2)**

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- 1. The state should itself allocate funds to allow for the construction of broadband service to unserved areas where broadband via wireline or wireless technologies is not already available.**
  - One way to accomplish this goal may be through tax credits & other incentives offered to private entities willing to shoulder the burden of developing infrastructure & community-based usage, enhancing opportunities in unserved areas of the state.**

## Specific Recommendations (3)

- 2. The CBICC believes that its statutory role includes encouraging & enabling public/private partnerships that stimulate investments in the creation of world-class, high-capacity & high-speed broadband networks.**
- 3. The CBICC would like to commence work on a state-wide, comprehensive [Broadband Implementation Plan](#) to realize the full potential of broadband Internet in the state. That plan would be based on an inclusive & balanced blend of infrastructure expansion, together with efficient community outreach programs, to stimulate demand & adoption.**

# Connecticut Broadband Implementation Plan

should include the following components

- 1. Identify steps needed to expand & deploy broadband infrastructure in unserved areas to ensure that all state residents & businesses have access to affordable & reliable service.**
- 2. Develop & provide a baseline assessment of broadband deployment in Connecticut.**
- 3. Identify & track the areas with low levels of deployment, the rate at which residential/ business users adopt broadband service & other related information technology services, & possible suppliers of such services.**

# Connecticut Broadband Implementation Plan

(components continued, 2)

- 4. Identify barriers to the adoption of broadband service & information technology services.**
- 5. Promote shared services, technologies and expertise across municipalities & school districts enabled by interconnected municipal fiber-optic & wireless networks.**

# Connecticut Broadband Implementation Plan

(components continued, 3)

- 6. Collaborate and coordinate with broadband service providers & information technology companies to encourage deployment/use to achieve improved technology literacy, increased computer ownership & home high-speed Internet use among state residents & businesses.**
- 7. Facilitate information exchange regarding usage & demand for broadband services between public & private sector users.**

# Assure that the **Connecticut Broadband Implementation Plan** is inclusive

- The CBICC's **Broadband Implementation Plan** should be a comprehensive, state-wide high-speed Internet deployment & adoption strategy that fully leverages existing relationships & proposed collaborations with necessary parties including:
  - Broadband service providers; information technology companies; mapping companies; state & local governments; geographic information agencies & councils; community anchor institutions; consumer & public interest groups; Indian tribes; minority & vulnerable populations; industry & other such parties with pertinent experience or involvement with broadband technology & usage.

# SUMMARY

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- **Broadband Internet is an economic & educational enabler for Connecticut. The state must stay at the forefront of broadband access & adoption to remain competitive at the highest levels of the global economy.**
- **The CBICC has demonstrated that it can be an effective and objective voice in guiding the General Assembly on critical broadband policies.**
- **The State needs to address the unserved & under-served populations that still exist in the state.**

# SUMMARY

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- **The CBICC recommends leveraging public/private collaborations and the use of state incentives to the private sector to grow access & adoption for all state citizens.**
- **The CBICC recommends the creation of a comprehensive strategic plan to realize the full potential of broadband Internet in the state.**
- **The plan should include infrastructure expansion, together with efficient community outreach programs, to stimulate demand & adoption.**



# Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating Council

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**END**