

Sub Committee on Public – Private Partnerships
March 29, 2010
Meeting Notes

The Subcommittee on Public Private Partnerships first resolved that there are no legal impediments to the formation of public-private partnerships for the delivery of high speed broadband service to unserved or underserved areas of the State.

Interested parties from the broadband industry cited examples of public-private partnerships that are underway around the State. (See attached attendance list.) The industry representatives agreed that, absent economic incentives such as grants from e-NC, some of those deployments would not have been possible because these business decisions are made in the context of for-profit business. There was discussion of supply versus demand and "take rates" in the competitive environment.

Rep. Tolson stressed the need to ascertain the "will" of providers to enter into public-private partnerships. Rep. Tolson noted the importance of outlining realistic "parameters for workable public-private partnerships" with an clear understanding of expected outcomes. Rep. Avila expressed the view that the unserved should be the priority and that the highest speeds are not necessary for the type of use most needed by families in unserved areas.

It was noted that representatives of the Golden Leaf Foundation and cities and towns were not in attendance today and that having those groups at the table and participating is very important.

Rep. Tolson stressed that the subcommittee is solution oriented and after thorough discussion of relevant issues, Rep. Tolson asked the interested parties to:

- (1) Submit to the subcommittee a brief written overview of any suggestions they wish to make concerning the development of public-private partnerships for deployment of high speed broadband services in unserved and underserved areas of the State.
- (2) Provide to the subcommittee information on successful public-private partnerships in which they are already participating so that an inventory of current efforts can be compiled.

Committee staff was directed to analyze the information submitted in advance of the next subcommittee meeting. The Golden Leaf Foundation, the NC Assn of County Commissioners and the NC League of Municipalities will be asked to submit suggestions and to participate in the subcommittee process.

ATTENDANCE LIST
Sub Committee on Public – Private Partnerships
March 29, 2010

Members:

Rep. Joe Tolson

Rep. Marilyn Avila

Staff:

Peter Capriglione

Phyllis Pickett

Interested Parties:

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