

# Washington Broadband Mapping

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## Data Submission Methodology Report

April 1, 2013



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## Data Submission Report (April 1, 2013)

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# 1 Introduction

This report is submitted along with the seventh data submission for the Washington Broadband Mapping Project. This submission includes all data collected to date per the requirements of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program (Docket No. 0660-ZA29) Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and formal and informal clarifications to it. Specifically, it includes broadband data collected from broadband providers and community anchor institutions data compiled from various sources for the State of WA. The State of WA has retained a mapping contractor, The Sanborn Map Company, to perform the work related to the Mapping Grant for this project. Data from the previous submission is now publicly accessible via the WA Broadband Program (<http://wabroadbandmapping.org/>).

**This document is a supplement to the six previous reports submitted with previous data submissions on May 1, 2010, October 1, 2010, April 1, 2011, October 1, 2011, April 1, 2012 and October 1, 2013 respectively.** Therefore, it builds on the documents provided with those submissions. Rather than repeat the contents of the previous report, this document makes incremental updates on various topics where changes have been made in the methodology or reiterates the methodology used. Please refer to the previous documents for further details.

## **2 Overall Project Status**

### **2.1 DATA COLLECTION**

This section details data collection related to NTIA deliverables which include broadband data and community anchor institution data.

#### **2.1.1 Broadband Data**

For this submission, Sanborn started data collection efforts on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 by sending out data update requests and technical data specifications. These were sent to a large list of companies which were compiled from multiple lists (FCC 477 list (June 30, 2011), a list provided by the Washington UTC, Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA)) and from any providers that were identified through other sources such as web research, planning meetings, State outreach, etc. Sanborn also uploaded the final data for each provider in NTIA format from the previous submission on the Sanborn Provider Portal. The providers were encouraged to use the provider portal and update their information on it.

We followed the same contact and follow-up protocols as the previous submissions. In brief, this involved following up with already participating providers after sending them a letter requesting data updates. For newly identified providers, we contacted them three additional times and offered any/all support to make this as easy as possible. We provided a due date for submission but worked with providers who needed more time. If participating providers did not submit updated data and did not respond to our efforts to contact them, we reused their existing data.

The following are some of the important changes or no changes:

1. We continued to request all providers to provide us their speed information in mbps rather than as a speed tier. We did this in order to better validate the data, analyze served/underserved, and identify the breakdowns in speeds within a given tier. However, we have found over the last few submissions, this has caused some confusion between what we are asking for (speeds in mbps) vs. typical speeds. Given that many providers are not providing this information, it is hard to use the data effectively for analysis and we may consider going back to the NTIA requirements in the next submission.
2. As in the previous submission, we also requested fixed wireless providers to provide us appropriate information to do propagation analysis. We helped improve data for 1 provider this submission, added 5 new wireless providers and sourced data for them from various sources such as Link Technologies. For those WISP providers that provided us the data to accomplish propagation, we used Radio Mobile to do propagation

analysis and iterated with the providers until the parameters were suitably selected to produce the appropriate output. Propagation analysis results were provided to the providers for review through our provider portal and Google kmz file formats to ensure validation.

3. We continue to not include resellers in the submission.
4. Due to our NDA restrictions, last mile infrastructure points, if submitted by providers, are not being submitted to NTIA. Likewise, address points are not included in this submission for any commercial provider.
5. We continue to submit data for satellites in this submission based on NTIA clarifications. In this submission, Hughes Net submitted an entirely new set of data during the validation stage. The data mapped out census blocks served by two different satellites, but there was no confirmation provided by Hughes about what to do with the gaps left over. We are submitting the data as is.
6. If a cable based wireline provider provides both DOCSIS 2.0 and DOCSIS 3.0 service to the same area, the block or road was listed only once with a technology code of 40.
7. Providers were only willing to indicate on a general level if they served business, residential or both - we did not get any providers that broke down the type of service by blocks or road segments. If the provider stated they only serve business to business customers we fill in the "category of end user" with code 2, or if they told us specifically that they serve only residential, we used code 1. Those that did not confirm their end user codes, we calculated as a 5 unless we know from other sources that they needed to be something else. There are six providers in WA who are identified as serving business customers only. These are:
  - 1) Cogent Communications, Inc.
  - 2) Capacity Provisioning, Inc.
  - 3) Integra Telecom of WA
  - 4) Level 3 Communications, LLC
  - 5) LightSpeed Networks, Inc.
  - 6) Orcas Power & Light Cooperative
  - 7) TW Telecom of Washington LLC
  - 8) XO Communications, LLC
8. This submission is being made based on the NTIA data model as of December 2012 provided by NTIA on the SBDD site.
9. Terrestrial Mobile Wireless and Terrestrial Fixed Wireless (licensed and unlicensed) were again treated as wireless coverage and were delivered as a shape. In cases where a provider served the same spectrum with different speeds, overlapping areas were removed and the higher speed was assigned. The exception to this rule is where a provider is using the

same spectrum, but delivering different underlying technologies such as 3G, 4G, or 4G LTE. In this case a continuous polygon is being created that represents the area that is offered for both 3G and 4G even if these polygons overlap.

10. **In this submission, for landline broadband, we removed blocks and roads that are in water-only census blocks. We communicated this to providers at the beginning of data collection to make sure they would let us know if they really served on blocks that were water only and no population (i.e. situations of docks or houseboats or other unforeseen situations).**
11. Where providers told us to reuse data from previous submission or did not respond to our data request, we are resubmitting data that were submitted in S6. Because of the removal of water we have some differences in counts for roads and blocks even when no data updates were submitted by a provider.
12. In the final stages of processing this submission we noticed that some providers are delivering street segments that appear to be new roads that have been constructed since the 2010 data was created, but they are not in the official Census 2010 geometry data. These roads were dropped from the submission, but we are going to look into a process to add these roads to the next submission if they can be verified as accurate. **Some guidance on this from NTIA may be useful so all states are doing this consistently.**
13. In this submission, we also found that some providers were using street segments that collapsed multiple census streets into a single segment. We have used manual processes to select roads in the census data for such providers.

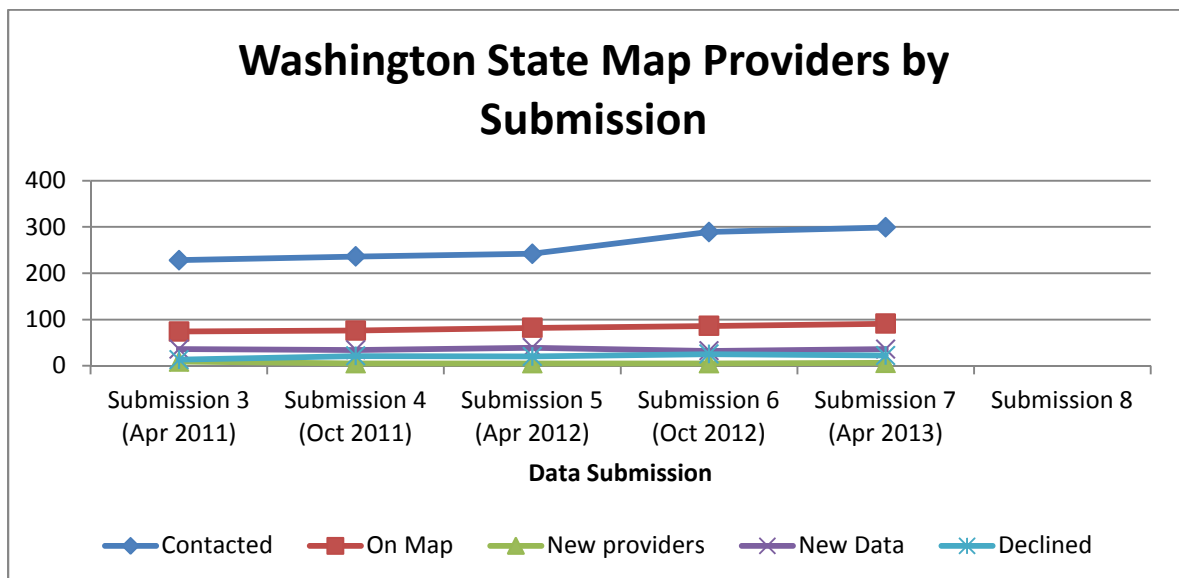
We have added the following new providers in this submission:

- 1) Ptera Wireless Inc. (fixed wireless)
- 2) LS Networks (Lightspeed Networks) (wireline but business only service)
- 3) Spectrum Online Services (fixed wireless)
- 4) Inland Cellular (wireless)
- 5) TV Association of Republic (wireline) – service area derived from local knowledge and web research
- 6) Kitsap PUD (wireless) – Municipal WIFI service area derived from knowledge of towers and speed tests conducted by WA State Broadband Office.

In this submission:

- 1) We have contacted a total of 299 providers in WA of which 9 providers were contacted for the first time.
- 2) We have identified 113 potential providers, of which 91 are participating in this map to date and 22 have refused to participate. In addition, 24 providers have not responded to our efforts to contact them and we are not sure whether any of these providers are actual providers or not. A list of the non-responders, resellers and non-providers is provided at the end of the document and all of these potential broadband providers were contacted. Even if some providers were identified as non-providers or resellers in previous submissions, we continue sending out data request letters to these providers in case their status has changed in any way.
- 3) Approximately 40% of the providers submitted new or updated data whereas for the remaining providers we reused data from their previous submissions. This is in contrast to 37% of providers submitting new or updated data during the previous submission.
- 4) In this submission, based on guidance from NTIA, we have estimated service areas for two providers where we were able to based on local knowledge and web research – these were TV Association of Republic and Kitsap PUD. In the latter case, the full extent of the area is not captured – only where local knowledge provided valid coverage area, these areas were included in this submission.

The following chart shows the level of participation in the various submission in the last two years.



During this submission period, we had the following changes in providers:

- 1) Broadstripe was bought by Wave Division Holdings. The data from the two are merged now under Wave Division.
- 2) Black Rock Cable was also bought by Wave Division Holdings. Most of the assets for Black Rock Cable were dark fiber and the Wave Division contact was not aware of the data at this time.
- 3) Covad Communications is now Megapath Corporation

### **2.1.2 Community Anchor Institutions Data**

The community anchor institutions data continues to be crowd-sourced through the online data gathering application created by the Sanborn Team.



## 2.2 DATA PROCESSING

We started with the following base data:

### Census Blocks:

For this submission, Census 2010 data was utilized. The data was set up as follows:

- Block size (AREA) is calculated combining the 2010 land area (ALAND) and water area (AWATER)
- AREA is converted from square meters to square miles to calculate square mileage (SMI).
- If the SMI of a block is less than or equal to 2, then the less than or equal to 2 square mile indicator (LE2SMI) is set to true.

### Road Segments:

2010 Tiger Line IDs (TLID) were used for data processing for this submission. The data was set up as follows:

- The GT2SMI (Greater Than 2 Square Mile) indicator is set to True when:
  - The 2010 road segment is completely within a block that is NOT less than 2 square miles
- Only minimum and maximum address ranges and a single zip code for each road segment are maintained.

All data received went through the following processing steps:

1. **Triage:** All new data were quickly reviewed to understand what was received, and in what format. We also made sure we had all the required components for NTIA's data model, such as their FRN and advertised speed information. We also screened for any known issues that we might have seen before (such as Excel 2003 spreadsheets that cut off at 32k row).
2. **Ingest:** At this time the data are actually brought into our systems. Each provider is set up with a unique file geodatabase to store their information. Record counts of what was received are logged so that we can validate that we did not drop anything in processing.
3. **Data Processing:** In this step, the data goes through a number of ETL routines to convert the raw proprietary information into a format similar to the NTIA format. The exact routine utilized depends on how the data are received.

- 1) When a wireline provider submits a service boundary, we select all the blocks and roads inside that shape.
  - 2) If a wireline provider submits a customer address list, the points are geocoded, and then the appropriate block or road segment is selected.
  - 3) If a wireline provider submits block and road information using Census data, we make sure everything is formatted to the appropriate specifications.
  - 4) If the wireline provider submits any type of road or line data that do not directly correlate to the TIGER data set, we convert the lines to TIGER by selecting the road centroid and spatially selecting the closest segment in our data set. If the road is in a block less than 2 square miles, then the block is selected. Some manual cleanup is also applied to make sure we do not accidentally drop any road segments that should have been processed.
  - 5) Wireless provider data are formatted to ensure that there are no overlapping polygons with the technology type and spectrum. In addition the data are cropped to the state boundary.
  - 6) After each round of processing, we make sure that we only keep unique records. A unique record is defined as having a unique combination of FRN, Block/Road ID, and technology type. If there are multiple records with different speeds, but all else is equal, then we select the maximum of the advertised speeds.
4. **QC Review:** All data are then sent to a different analyst to perform a thorough quality control review on the processed data set. Record counts are compared to original submitted data. The QC staff also make sure the ETL scripts and routines populated all of the right fields.
  5. **QA Review:** Data are then sent to another team for Quality Assurance Review. In this step the data are not only double checked against what was originally submitted, but it is also brought up inside standardized ArcMap templates that allow us to make sure our results make sense. This often involves comparing the new data set with prior submissions, as well as looking for any possible technology or speed anomalies and verifying against third-party datasets (as discussed in more details in the next section).
  6. **Provider Review:** Processed data are all posted to a customized web-mapping tool we commonly refer to as the Provider Portal. All providers are notified once their data are available on the site, and most are given five business days (with the exception of a couple who were provided three business days) to review the data and respond. In this site, providers can log on and visually see their processed data in a map

format. It also allows them to overlay their raw data to help them validate that we did indeed process things correctly. The provider portal also has a suite of markup tools that will allow the providers to edit their data, including adding or removing service areas, and making changes to the data attributes.

7. **Comment Processing:** All comments and feedback received from the provider portal are then reviewed and applied to the processed data set. This updated data set goes back through our QA and QC processes, and if time allows, back out to the Provider Portal, for the provider to review and sign off.
8. **Data Append:** After all of the individual data sets are processed and approved, we run an append process which merges all of the individual provider data sets into one geodatabase. This is also the point where our team will do any final transformations to get our working data model into the latest NTIA publishing format.
9. **Submission Comparison Check:** Starting with this submission, an additional check was added to our quality review process. An application was written that compares the individual provider's unique data that is stored in their unique file to that which is stored in our final appended file and the NTIA submission data. Any variation in each of these data files is thoroughly investigated and resolved. This was done to assure no data loss or data transformation issues. We also compare the submission 5 dataset to the submission 6 dataset, review any variations and assure that the changes found can be documented as being requested by the provider.
10. **Final QA/QC:** A series of quality checks are run on the final appended data sets to ensure it is ready for submission to NTIA. We also run the latest version of the NTIA receipt tool at this time. If any issues are flagged as failing they are reviewed and corrected. All warnings are also reviewed and either corrected or documented in the attached document which explains that we have validated this data and it should be accepted. Any last issues are corrected, and the data are sent to the state for their review.

## 11. Submission to NTIA.

## 2.3 DATA VALIDATION

Sanborn has continued to perform the same validation on the data as in the previous six submissions (details in previous reports and a summarized version

provided below). Some minor updates to the validation process are discussed below. We also publish our validation methodology online at <http://wabroadbandmapping.org/MapValidation.aspx>

- 1) QC of the data at various steps – this includes when data are received (triage), when they are processed through the various processing steps discussed above, etc.
- 2) Spatial checks against public and commercial datasets
  - a. For WA, we continued to use the following datasets for validation:
    - i. Exchange Boundaries: for DSL boundaries
    - ii. MediaPrints: for Cable and Fiber boundaries
- 3) Speedtest data and other data collection for verification
  - a. We continue to use speedtest data collected through our interactive map and community anchor data crowd-sourced for validation purposes.
  - b. We also incorporated any feedback we received through the interactive map – this included feedback such as incorrect speeds, incorrect boundaries, missing provider or areas of no service, etc.
- 4) Verification by providers – processed data are uploaded on our Provider Portal for providers to review both the outcome of data processing and any issues that we found in the third-party and crowd-sourced validation. Issues pertaining to a particular provider are highlighted and shown in the portal for those providers only. Issues that are global and cannot be assigned to a particular provider are shown to all providers (e.g. there are no providers in this area, or we tried to get service here and heard x from A provider, y from B provider, etc.). Previously, we were highlighting these issues through a letter but in this submission, we have integrated the feedback through the Provider Portal. We make additional calls to providers who have issues. Planning workshops and local validation – we have looked into any issues that the State Planning team has identified and brought to our attention.
- 5) This submission, we also did a significant amount of data validation at the statewide level and used change maps to see if there were any significant aberrations in the data. The WA State Broadband Office helped in reviewing the data at the statewide aggregation.

## **2.4 Submission 7: NTIA Submission Data Model Schema Changes**

The latest data model released was released in December 2012 and was very similar to the previous data model. No substantive changes were noted and changes related to allowable speed and technology of transmission combinations. Most of these combinations have exceptions to them and hence were not being completely disallowed by NTIA.

## **2.5 UNIVERSE OF CONTACTED PROVIDERS/NON-PROVIDERS**

We have contacted a total of 299 providers in WA of which 9 providers were contacted for the first time.

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### **2.5.1 Non-providers**

Advanced Tel, Inc.  
Aircado, Inc.  
Americom Technologies, Inc.  
Axxcess Internet  
Beaver Creek Telephone Company dba Timberline Tele  
Bell South Long Distance, Inc.  
Bellevue, City of  
Big River Telephone Company, LLC  
Bluebird Wireless Broadband Services, LLC  
Cbeyond Communications, LLC  
CCS, LLC  
CIMCO Communications, Inc.  
Clear Talk  
Convergia, Inc.  
Cordia Communications Corp.  
CTC Communications Corp.  
CTG3/Bandwidth Builders  
DigitalBridge Communications Corp.  
DONOBi  
Eastern Sub-RSA Limited Partnership  
Eltopia Communications, LLC

Enhanced Communications Network, Inc.  
Enventis Telecom Inc.  
Extenet Systems, Inc.  
First Communications, LLC  
Harbor Communications, LLC  
Horizon Telecom, Inc.  
IDT America, Corp  
Infotelecom Holdings, LLC  
Inland Long Distance Company  
Matrix Telecom, Inc.  
Maverick Wireless  
McLeod USA Telecomm (PAETEC)  
Navigator Telecommunications, LLC  
Netlogic, Inc.  
NextG Networks of California  
North County Communications Corporation  
North Olympic Peninsula Data Centers  
Pac-West Telecomm, Inc.  
Plexicomm, LLC  
Public Communications Services, Inc.  
PUD - Asotin  
PUD - Clark  
PUD - Cowlitz  
PUD - Ferry  
PUD - Jefferson  
PUD - Kittitas  
PUD - Klickitat  
PUD - Mason #1  
PUD - Skamania  
PUD - Snohomish  
PUD - Stevens  
PUD - Thurston  
PUD - Wahkiakum  
PUD - Whatcom  
Qnect  
Queenanne.net  
Sisna  
Skyline Telecom  
Smart Choice Communications, LLC  
Stat Network Solutions  
Syniverse Technologies, Inc.  
T2 Technologies  
Tcast Communications, Inc.  
Telecom Pacific  
Touchtone Communications, Inc.  
TransNational Communications International, Inc.  
University Corporation for Advanced Internet  
Virtual Networking Services, Inc.  
Voicecom Telecommunications, LLC

Wanned Technologies, Inc.  
Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership  
X2Comm, Inc.  
YMAX Communications Corp.  
Zayo Bandwidth Northwest, Inc.  
Zayo Enterprise Networks

### **2.5.2 Resellers**

Access One, Inc.  
Access Point, Inc.  
ACN Communication Services, Inc.  
Airespring, Inc.  
Alliance Group Services, Inc.  
Amerion  
Birch Communications  
Blue Mountain Internet's HyperSpeed Internet  
Broadcore, Inc.  
Broadview Networks Holdings, Inc  
BullsEye Telcom, Inc  
Cincinnati Bell Any Distance, Inc.  
Computers 5, Inc. d/b/a LocalTel  
Digizip.com, Inc.  
Ernest Communications, Inc.  
Galaxynet Wireless  
Genext  
Global Crossing  
GlobalCom, Inc.  
Greenfly Networks, Inc.  
Highland Internet Services  
J & N Cable Systems, Inc.  
Liberty Bell Telecom LLC dba DISH Network Phone &  
Light Tower Fiber Long Island LLC  
LightEdge Solutions, Inc.  
Metropolitan Telecommunications Holding Company  
NetRiver  
New Edge Network, Inc.  
Norlight, Inc.  
OlympusNet  
OlyPen  
One World Telecommunications  
OpenAccess  
OrbitCom, Inc.  
Reallinx, Inc.  
Reliance Globalcom Services, Inc.  
Silver Star Telecom Washington LLC  
Telekenex, Inc  
Threshold Communications, Inc.  
United Telecom, Inc.

### **2.5.3 Non-Responders/Difficulty Contacting**

Abba Communications  
ALEC, Inc.  
Cortland Communications /Seattle DSL  
Envision Technologies  
Global Telecom and Technology Americas, Inc.  
Guinness Communications Inc.  
Internet Expressway  
MultiMeg  
Orcas Online, Inc.  
Peninsula Telecom of Washington, LLC  
Primus Telecommunications, Inc  
PUD - Benton  
RapidWiFi  
Saddle Mountain Wireless  
Stroh Publications  
Telebyte NW  
Telovations, Inc.  
Towerstream, Inc.  
WCI Cable, Inc.  
WDT World Discount Telecommunications Co., Inc.  
Webbworks  
Westgate Communications LLC  
Windjammer Communications, LLC  
Winfield Wireless

### **2.5.4 Not-Participating**

Accel Net Inc.  
Cactus International, Inc.  
DASH Wireless  
DAVIS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
Eastern Oregon Telecom  
eVolve Business Solutions LLC/Cincinnati Bell Inc  
iFiber Communications  
Internet Xpress  
Interstate Telecommunications, Inc.  
Master Mind Productions, Inc  
Meriplex Communications, Ltd.  
NCI Datacom  
NextWave Wireless Inc./WCS Wireless License Subsid  
Noel Communications Inc.  
noWYR  
Pend Oreille Valley Network, Inc.  
Rabbit Meadows Technology, LLC  
RioNetworks /UIDC Telecom



San Juan Cable  
Spectrum Networks  
Symplified Technologies,LLC  
Thunderbird Broadband