

Washington Broadband Mapping

Data Submission Methodology Report

April 1, 2012



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1 Introduction

This report is submitted along with the fifth data submission for the Washington Broadband Mapping Project. This submission includes all data collected so far 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 four previous reports submitted with previous data submissions on May 1, 2010, October 1, 2010, April 1, 2011, and October 1, 2011 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 26th, 2012 by sending out data update requests and technical data specifications after NTIA announced all final changes on January 17th, 2012. These were sent to a large list of companies which were compiled from multiple lists (FCC 477 list (dated July 29th, 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 to 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 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. In the October 2011 submission, we migrated all data to Census 2010 geography. We continued to use this geography for this submission. All census blocks and road segments continue to be mapped based on 2010 census data set. Any data submitted in 2000 or 2009 format was converted to 2010 for this submission.
2. We requested 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. This had some challenges because some providers were confused with our request, others refused to provide the information, and in some cases, there were mismatches between what they provided before in speed tiers vs. what they were providing in mbps for this submission. This continues to be a work in progress. For this submission, 44% of the participating providers in WA have given us their speed in mbps rather than speed tier.

3. We also requested fixed wireless providers to provide us appropriate information to do propagation analysis. While most providers were open to this idea, due to time limitations and resource constraints, we were successful in getting data for only two providers in WA. One of these providers eventually decided to not allow us to use propagation for their submission but agreed to work with us on this in the future to get better results from propagation. We are using Radio Mobile to do propagation analysis.
4. We continued to not collect data from resellers.
5. Due to our NDA restrictions, last mile infrastructure points, if submitted by providers, are still not being submitted to NTIA.
6. We continue to submit data for satellites in this submission based on NTIA clarifications. We have added an additional satellite provider (StarBand Communications, Inc.) in this submission. We continue to work with Wildblue to improve their service area using Viewshed Analysis to identify areas with no line of sight to satellites. They have indicated willingness to work with us on using viewshed analysis for the next submission.
7. We continued to strive for better participation from Public Utility Districts (PUDs) in Washington. As previously noted, PUDs are public entities at the County level that lay broadband infrastructure connecting to the end users (i.e. such as fiber to the homes) but WA regulations do not allow them to sell directly to the customers (see previous submission report for detailed discussion about this). We added a new PUD – Okanogan PUD to this submission. It is to be noted that the speed for PUDs is likely to be higher than advertised speed due to reasons discussed in the previous methodology paper.
8. Due to NDA restrictions, address points are not included in this submission to NTIA for any commercial provider.
9. Some providers did not submit middle mile elevation or backhaul capacity, particularly when they asked us to reuse previous submission data. Wherever possible, we went back to providers to obtain that information, but it is not available for every record.
10. Terrestrial Mobile Wireless and Terrestrial Fixed Wireless (licensed and unlicensed) were treated as wireless coverage and were delivered as a shapefile. In cases where a provider served using the same technology and spectrum but with different speeds, overlapping areas were removed and the higher speed was assigned.
11. 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.

12. Providers were only willing to indicate on a general level if they served business, residential or both, so we did not get any providers that broke down the type of service by block. Only if the provider stated they only serve business to business customers did we fill in the “category of end user” with a code of 2, otherwise this field was left blank. There are five providers in WA who are identified as serving business customers only. These are:

- 1) Capacity Provisioning, Inc.
- 2) Integra Telecom of WA
- 3) Level 3 Communications, LLC
- 4) TW Telecom of WA, LLC
- 5) XO Communications, LLC

13. The submission 5 provider data model is currently based on the NTIA data model as of 1/17/12.

We have added six new providers in this submission:

- 1) Desert Winds Wireless (fixed wireless)
- 2) Rebus Communications, LLC (fixed wireless)
- 3) Startouch, Inc (fixed wireless)
- 4) Odessa Office Equipment/ACCIMA (fixed wireless)
- 5) StarBand Communications, Inc. (satellite)
- 6) Public Utility District of Okanogan County (fiber)

In this submission:

- 1) 47% of the providers submitted new or updated data whereas for 53% of the providers we reused data from their previous submissions. This is in contrast to 59% submitting new or updated data during the previous submission.
- 2) We have identified 102 potential providers, of which 82 are participating in this map to date and 20 have refused to participate. In addition, 21 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.

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

- 1) Broadstripe was bought by Wave Holdings

- 2) Pend Oreille Telephone changed its name to RTI-Pend Oreille Telecom
- 3) CresComm Services Inc. is now called CresComm WiFi LLC.

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. This submission saw very little activity by way of updates from CAIs. This has been a slow process and we are getting to a point of diminishing returns with this effort. The numbers of community anchor institutions that have responded so far is provided below:

Category	Name	Total	Total with Broadband Information in Submission 4
1	School - K through 12	2299	1773
2	Library	356	356
3	Medical/healthcare	135	54
4	Public Safety	1706	105
5	University, college, other post-secondary	220	180
6	Other community support - government	343	32
7	Other community support - nongovernmental	344	11

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 is 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 is 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 is 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 just make sure everything is formatted to the appropriate specifications.
 - 4) If the wireline provider submits any type of road or line data that does 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 is formatted to ensure that there are no overlapping polygons with the technology type and spectrum. In addition the data is 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 what was submitted. 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 is 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 is all posted to a customized web-mapping tool we commonly refer to as the Provider Portal. All providers were notified once their data was available on the site, and most were 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 is 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. **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 NTIA receipt tool at this time. Any last issues are corrected, and the data is sent to the state for their review.

10. **Submission to NTIA.**

2.2.1 Submission 5: NTIA Submission Data Model Schema Changes

The data model released on January 17, 2012 was very similar to the June 30, 2011 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.

2.3 DATA VALIDATION

Sanborn has continued to perform the same validation on the data as the previous four submissions (details in previous reports and a summarized version provided below). Some minor updates to the validation process are discussed below.

- 1) QC of the data at various steps – this includes when data is received (triage), when it is 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
 - b. We did not use speedtest.net speed data that we used previously for validation as we had our own speed test data that was more current and pertinent.
- 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. For this submission, we added an additional dataset to check against – FCC speed test data. We geocoded the data, used the IP to reverse engineer the provider name and used it to check speeds where possible.

- c. 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 Provided 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.

2.4 UNIVERSE OF CONTACTED PROVIDERS/NON-PROVIDERS

We have identified 102 potential providers, of which 82 are participating in this map to date and 20 have refused to participate. In addition, 21 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.

2.4.1 Non-providers

Advanced Tel, Inc.
Americom Technologies, Inc.
Beaver Creek Telephone Company dba Timberline Tele
Bell South Long Distance, Inc.
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.
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
Lightspeed Networks, Inc.
Matrix Telecom, Inc.
McLeod USA Telecomm (PAETEC)
Navigator Telecommunications, LLC
NextG Networks of California
North County Communications Corporation
North Olympic Peninsula Data Centers
Pac-West Telecomm, Inc.
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
Qwest Communications Company, LLC
Smart Choice Communications, LLC
Stat Network Solutions
Suddenlink Communications
Syniverse Technologies, Inc.
T2 Technologies
Tcast Communications, Inc.
Telecom Pacific
Touchtone Communications, Inc.
TransNational Communications International, Inc.
University Corporation for Advanced Internet
Verizon
Virtual Networking Services, Inc.
Voicecom Telecommunications, LLC
Washington RSA No 8 Limited Partnership
YMAX Communications Corp.
Zayo Bandwidth Northwest, Inc.
Zayo Enterprise Networks

2.4.2 Resellers

Access One, Inc.
Access Point, Inc.
ACN Communication Services, Inc.
Airespring, Inc.
Alliance Group Services, Inc.
Birch Communications
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.
Global Crossing
GlobalCom, Inc.
Highland Internet Services
LightEdge Solutions, Inc.
Metropolitan Telecommunications Holding Company
New Edge Network, Inc.
Norlight, Inc.
Reliance Globalcom Services, Inc.
Silver Star Telecom Washington LLC
Telekenex, Inc
Threshold Communications, Inc.
United Telecom, Inc.
Accel Net Inc.

2.4.3 Non-Responders/Difficulty Contacting

ALEC, Inc.
Bellevue, City of
Fiberlink, LLC
Global Telecom and Technology Americas, Inc.
Greenfly Networks, Inc
Guinness Communications Inc.
Iron Goat Networks
Netlogic, Inc.
Orcas Online, Inc.
Peninsula Telecom of Washington, LLC
Primus Telecommunications, Inc
PUD - Benton
Telovations, Inc.
Towerstream, Inc.
Wanned Technologies, Inc.
WCI Cable, Inc.
WDT World Discount Telecommunications Co., Inc.
Westgate Communications LLC
Windjammer Communications, LLC
World Communications, Inc

X2Comm, Inc.