

MINUTES

KENTUCKIANA REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (KIPDA)

REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

**MEETING CONDUCTED THROUGH ZOOM
AND STREAMED ON THE AGENCY'S YOUTUBE PAGE**

July 12, 2022

The Regional Planning Council of the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency met at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 12, 2022, via Zoom video conference. Members in attendance were:

Mr. Ryan Libke, Planning and Zoning, Shelby County, Kentucky
Mr. Craig Myatt, Road Engineer/Supervisor, Shelby County, Kentucky
Mr. Jim Urban, Director of Planning & Zoning, Oldham County, Kentucky
Honorable Todd Pollock, Judge/Executive, Trimble County, Kentucky
Mr. Mike King, Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, Kentucky
Ms. Emily Liu, Louisville Metro Government, Jefferson County, Kentucky
Mr. Brian Davis, Louisville Metro Government, Jefferson County, Kentucky
Mr. Keith Griffie, Chief Financial Officer, Bullitt County, Kentucky
Mr. Thomas McIntyre, representing Judge David Voegelé, Judge/Executive, Oldham County, Kentucky

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

REPRESENTING

Justin Carter	KIPDA
Hayden Kandul	KIPDA
Dustin Duncan	KIPDA
Ryan Lloyd	KIPDA
Randall Embry	KIPDA
Rachael Miller	KIPDA
Shelby Somervell	GLI
Hilda Legg	Broadband Communities Magazine

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lloyd called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROLL CALL

Ms. Miller called roll. A quorum was present.

MINUTES FROM APRIL 12, 2022

Mr. Griffee moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, April 12, 2022, Regional Planning Council meeting. Mr. Libke seconded. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

KIPDA UPDATES

Mr. Lloyd stated that he and Mr. Carter have been working on the Cleaner Water Grants program projects and in the process of communicating with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) to get those projects moving along. They are waiting on some second-round funding from KIA to serve as supplemental funding to fill in some gaps for funding those projects.

Additionally, Ms. Wilson is working on a Resiliency Plan for the KIPDA region and has been doing quite a bit of survey work in order to include the wants and needs from members of the community into the Plan.

Ms. Kandul stated that KIPDA staff have also been working on the big 5-year update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has designated KIPDA as the Economic Development District for the region, which means that KIPDA is required to complete and update the CEDS Plan. A previous goal in the Plan was to form a CEDS Committee, and the kick-off meeting of that Committee was held on June 15, 2022. The components of the CEDS Plan were reviewed at the meeting and overarching goals for the regional CEDS Plan were established.

KIPDA staff disseminated the S.W.O.T. online survey shortly after the meeting to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the region as well

as capital improvement, regional service priorities, and strategic target sectors. KIPDA staff is hoping to receive a lot of responses to the survey.

The next CEDS Committee meeting will be held on July 20, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

COUNTY QUARTERLY UPDATES

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Mr. Davis stated that the county is looking to update its land development code reform and is holding public meetings to obtain input on that reform. The county is also working on potentially adding two new form districts workshops.

SHELBY COUNTY

Mr. Libke stated that the City of Simpsonville's comprehensive plan project has been awarded to a consultant, and work will begin on the City's comprehensive plan in the next month or so.

TRIMBLE COUNTY

Judge Pollock stated that the county is working on its broadband connectivity. The county is also working on a few water connection projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Lloyd stated that the next Regional Planning Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

BROADBAND ISSUES PRESENTATION

Ms. Legg, Rural Broadband Consultant with Broadband Communities Magazine gave a presentation on broadband issues in Kentucky. When broadband becomes available in a community, it is transformational and creates opportunities for consumers and businesses alike such as creating jobs, working remotely, and attracting and retaining businesses.

Communities pursuing broadband want affordability, digital literacy, and the ability to attract businesses. The pandemic shed light on how the digital divide continues to separate the haves from the have-nots. Digital skills enable people to apply for jobs online, fill out college applications, and avoid the risk of having their roles replaced by automation. A lack of digital skills, which some have called a pandemic of its own, is tied to the lack of affordable broadband services.

Fiber-based broadband is a medium that offers unlimited bandwidth, and it offers communities a chance to revitalize with networks that will grow to meet current demands and future needs.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will allocate a total of \$42.5 billion for the country to update broadband coverage. Initially, a minimum of \$100 million per state will be disbursed to determine areas where there is need for broadband infrastructure. After the broadband mapping process is complete, the federal government will then allocate \$37.2 billion to the state entities based on a formula that considers the percentage of the nation's unserved and underserved rural areas.

The state entities will then decide how to distribute those funds via a grant process guided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). This process will be similar to the broadband funding that was provided under the American Recovery Act under the Obama administration, which was also administered by the NTIA, but with the difference of letting states control who wins the grants with the NTIA providing oversight.

Broadband providers will be required to match at least 25% of the funding they receive from another source or use their own funds for the match. The providers will have to work with states and show that they can provide these matching funds as required. There might be limited waivers of the matching fund requirement for the most difficult to reach areas, but the funds are not meant to be completely free money.

For purposes of the broadband funding, unserved areas are defined as those with internet speeds slower than 25 download or 3 upload megabits per second. Underserved areas are those with speeds slower than 100 download or 20 upload megabits per second. Grants will be prioritized for unserved areas over underserved areas, and states are expected to prioritize high-poverty areas as well. Applicant

providers will also be judged based on the broadband speed they can provide, the expediency with which they can complete the project, and the amount of matching funds they contribute.

The second-largest part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is an affordability support program with \$14.25 billion in initial funding to support a \$30 monthly subsidy for low-income consumers over five years. This initial funding will be accomplished by revising and extending the Emergency Broadband Benefit program and renaming it the Affordable Connectivity Program.

The landmark infrastructure bill also includes the Digital Equity Act, which provides an additional \$1.5 billion over five years for digital literacy. The money will fund programs that increase the ability of individuals and communities to access and use the internet by training people in online skills.

Finally, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes an additional \$1 billion for middle-mile broadband infrastructure projects, which are projects that do not connect to an end user, and \$14.2 billion for the Affordable Connectivity Program. It helps schools and libraries provide remote services and began in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lloyd stated that the next Regional Planning Council meeting will be held on October 11, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Judge Pollock moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McIntyre seconded. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.