

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number

31-50-M09058

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

10-27-2011

1. Recipient Name

Nebraska Public Service Commission

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

Nebraska

3. Street Address

300 The Atrium Building, 1200 N Street,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

Lincoln, NE 68508

7. Project / Grant Period  
Start Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-01-2010

7a. End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

12-31-2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

09-30-2011

9a. If Other, please describe:

none

**10. Broadband Mapping**

10a. Provider Table

Number of Providers Identified	Number of Providers Contacted	Number of Agreements Reached for Data Sharing	Number of Partial Data Sets Received	Number of Complete Data Sets	Number of Data Sets Verified
0	0	0	0	0	0

10b. Are you submitting the required PROVIDER DATA by using the Excel spreadsheet provided by the SBDD grants office?  Yes  No

10c. Have you encountered challenges with any providers that indicate they may refuse to participate in this project?  Yes  No

10d. If so, describe the discussions to date with each of these providers and the current status

There were no newly discovered providers which refused to participate during this quarter. We contacted all known providers in the state for data collection. Some new providers submitted data for the October 1, 2011 submittal. These providers either were not providing broadband during prior requests or were not known to the Commission as entities providing service in the state.

10e. If you are collecting data through other means (e.g. data extraction, extrapolation, etc), please describe your progress to date and the relevant activities to be undertaken in the future

We are not collecting data through other means at this time.

10f. Please describe the verification activities you plan to implement

The NPSC has had discussions with third party vendors to perform verification of broadband locations and speeds. The NPSC is weighing their techniques and deciding which methods would be most appropriate for Nebraska. The NPSC has not yet engaged any third party as of the date of this report. The NPSC is developing a tool for the utilization of the speed test information and dead zone location information as well as working with its wireless tower information to develop propagation techniques for verifying the data collected from the wireless providers. This information will be used in conjunction with the drive test data collected previously. Providers also verify the accuracy of the data collected through an ESRI-based software feedback loop.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities?  Yes  No

10h. If yes, please describe the status of your activities

Verification activities are ongoing and we are looking at methods used by vendors in other states to determine which techniques are the most useful for verifying the data collected from the providers.

10i. If verification activities have not been initiated please provide a projected time line for beginning and completing such activities

Verification activities have been initiated but such activities will be improved as the system for data collection becomes more automated. The NPSC hopes to spend more time and resources on verification in the next round of data collection. In addition, the information collected through broadband planning activities will be more fully developed and will therefore be integrated in the April 1, 2012 submission.

**Staffing**

10j. How many jobs have been created or retained as a result of this project?

2.49 FTEs for quarter ending 9/30/11 consisting of .44 FTEs for the NPSC; .39 FTEs for the University of Nebraska; and 1.66 for Apex.

10k. Is the project currently fully staffed?  Yes  No

10l. If no, please explain how any lack of staffing may impact the project's time line and when the project will be fully staffed

There is not a lack of staffing currently.

10m. When fully staffed, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs do you expect to create or retain as a result of this project?

2.49 FTEs.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Executive Director-NPSC	5	10/22/2007
Department Director-NPSC	5	02/17/1976
Attorney-NPSC	5	02/07/2000
Analyst-NPSC	15	07/14/2003
Economist-NPSC	5	05/24/1999
Business Manager-NPSC	2	05/01/2000
Accountant-NPSC	2	11/07/1994
Accountant-NPSC	5	11/14/1977
Regional Coaches-University	39	01/13/2010
Project Director -Apex	12	01/13/2010
Project Manager -Apex	19	01/13/2010
GIS Assistant-Apex	23	01/13/2010
Project Manager-Chico	8	01/13/2010
GIS Manager/Trainer-Chico	20	01/13/2010
GIS Analyst-Chico	32	01/13/2010
GIS Assistant-Chico	36	01/13/2010
Web Applic. Programmer-Chico	6	01/13/2010
Administrator-Chico	10	01/13/2010

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**Sub Contracts**

10o. Subcontracts Table

Name of Subcontractor	Purpose of Subcontract	RFP Issued (Y/N)	Contract Executed (Y/N)	Start Date	End Date	Federal Funds	In-Kind Funds
Apex	Data Collection, Verification, Integration and Display	Y	Y	01/20/2010	12/31/2011	1,376,716	0
Outreach Coordinator	To increase provider participation in Broadband Mapping	N	N	01/31/2012	10/31/2014	260,000	0
Future Best Practices	To strengthen the quality of the mapping data	N	N	01/31/2012	10/31/2014	128,500	0

Department of Economic Development Subcontract with Gallup	Business Survey and Best Practices for Broadband Planning	N	Y	12/07/2010	12/31/2014	175,000	0
Mapping Vendor Years 3-5 TBD	Data Collection, Verification, Integration and Display	N	N	01/03/2012	12/31/2014	701,874	170,750
AIM Institute-Planning Partner via UNL	Statewide Broadband Conference and Broadband Planning	N	N	01/31/2012	12/31/2014	464,179	260,000
Hosting of GIS Database	Contract with the State of Nebraska to host GIS database server	N	N	01/01/2013	12/31/2014	19,200	0
Future Services under contract	Additional contract for data integration, GIS hosting, and enhancements	N	N	01/01/2013	12/31/2014	282,793	0
GeoComm	GIS Mapping Enhancements for Data Verification	N	Y	10/08/2010	11/17/2010	11,207	0

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### Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,665,851      10q. How much Remains? \$3,996,934

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$1,078,322      10s. How much Remains? \$774,312

#### 10t. Budget Worksheet

Mapping Budget Element	Federal Funds Granted	Proposed In-Kind	Total Budget	Federal Funds Expended	Matching Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended
Personal Salaries	\$898,699	\$266,514	\$1,165,213	\$132,715	\$63,676	\$196,391
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$218,410	\$71,284	\$289,694	\$32,406	\$9,429	\$41,835
Travel	\$184,539	\$8,500	\$193,039	\$13,796	\$0	\$13,796
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$233,220	\$0	\$233,220	\$96,468	\$11,651	\$108,119
Subcontracts Total	\$3,419,469	\$430,750	\$3,850,219	\$1,352,232	\$0	\$1,352,232
Subcontract #1	\$1,376,716	\$0	\$1,376,716	\$1,341,025	\$0	\$1,341,025
Subcontract #2	\$260,000	\$0	\$260,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$128,500	\$0	\$128,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$175,000	\$0	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$1,479,253	\$430,750	\$1,910,003	\$11,207	\$0	\$11,207
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$319,795	\$1,075,586	\$1,395,381	\$0	\$979,135	\$979,135
Total Direct Costs	\$5,274,132	\$1,852,634	\$7,126,766	\$1,627,617	\$1,063,891	\$2,691,508
Total Indirect Costs	\$388,653	\$0	\$388,653	\$38,234	\$14,431	\$52,665
Total Costs	\$5,662,785	\$1,852,634	\$7,515,419	\$1,665,851	\$1,078,322	\$2,744,173
% Of Total	75	25	100	61	39	100

### Hardware / Software

10u. Has the project team purchased the software / hardware described in the application?  Yes  No

10v. If yes, please list  
2-Dell Vostro 1520 Laptop Computers w/Windows XP for wireless drive test and verification: \$1228.37;  
1-Dell Database Server and operating system: \$4727.89;  
1-Dell Server and operating system: \$6,965.49;  
1-Mapping Server and operating system: \$646.09;  
Oracle Database License \$5,037.07;  
SQL Software Server License: \$7,351.57;  
Windows Server License: \$637.23  
ESRI ArcInfo Concurrent User License and ESRI ArcGIS Server License \$28,276.28; and  
25 CN50 PDAs w/customer software for door-to-door interviews and data verification; \$39,887.25; and  
Media Prints-Cable Franchise for Nebraska \$2,625.00.

10w. Please note any software / hardware that has yet to be purchased and explain why it has not been purchased

We have purchased all software and hardware expected for this project to date.

10x. Has the project team purchased or used any data sets?  Yes  No

10y. If yes, please list

Tiger Data Files-Available from the Census Bureau  
Various GIS Data sets from the NPSC  
Media Prints-Cable Franchise Boundary Data

10z. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?  Yes  No

10aa. If yes, please list

All project milestones have been included.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

We continue to work with broadband providers to keep them interested in providing broadband data. We have tried to further simplify the data collection and integration methods so that we can focus more time on verification on broadband availability and speed data.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

No additional information at this time.

## 11. Broadband Planning

11a. Please describe progress made against all goals, objectives, and milestones detailed in the approved Project Plan. Be sure to include a description of each major activity / milestone that you plan to complete and your current status

Technical Assistance: Statewide Conference focused on broadband adoption & utilization. Status: Inaugural Connecting Nebraska Broadband Conference will be held November 1, 2011 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Key note speakers are Jessica Zufolo, Rural Utilities Service, and Tom Koulopoulos author of the Innovation Zone. Other sessions include best practice and ISP panels. In Q3, agenda was finalized and program initially marketed. Webinars - focus on creating demand/opportunity for broadband. Status: Broadband 101 was the first webinar in a series that will be held monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Over 40 participants attended as Jay Anderson, American Broadband gave an overview of broadband connections.

Local Planning: Regions are at various levels of the planning process. The Northeast region has met numerous times and identified additional members. In the Southeast and South Central regions a quadrant approach is being taken to include all areas. Initial meetings with members of the Winnebago, Santee and Omaha Tribe found that the overall concern is with access and affordability for individual families and homes.

For more details please refer to the Q1 Supplemental Answers Document.

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

There have not been any particular challenges or obstacles to the grant efforts itself. The planning partners have a strong working relationship. Timing has continued to be a challenge. The process of moving funding through various systems continued through Quarter 3. In addition, many of the regional coaches are also engaged in the county and state fair. We enter the 4th quarter with regional groups moving forward.

11c. Does the Project Team anticipate any changes to the project plan for Broadband Planning?  Yes  No

11d. If yes, please describe these anticipated changes. Please note that NTIA will need to approve changes to the Project Plan before they can be implemented

At this stage there are not any anticipated changes to the current project plan other than those requested by NTIA.

### Funding

11e. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$0

11f. How much Remains? \$0

11g. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$0

11h. How much Remains? \$0

#### 11i. Planning Worksheet

Personal Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontracts Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
% Of Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Additional Planning Information

11j. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?

There are no project milestones that have not been included.

11k. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the Project Team is employing

There were no new challenges or obstacles encountered during this quarter.

11l. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

We believe the question and answer sessions in the webinars are helpful. PB works has also been a great resource.

12. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purpose set forth in the award documents.

12a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official

Shanicee Knutson

Legal Counsel

12c. Telephone  
(area code, number, and extension)

(402) 471-3101

12d. Email Address

shana.knutson@nebraska.gov

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

12e. Date Report Submitted  
(Month, Day, Year)

11-18-2011