

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number

31-50-M09058

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-23-2012

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:

12-31-2011

9a. If Other, please describe:

N/A

**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 that refused to participate this quarter. We continue to be proactive in our efforts to identify and inform new providers of our efforts and the benefit of their participation in the program. With the exception of the previously identified providers who have refused to participate, all known providers with broadband capabilities are participating.

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 been approached by various vendors which propose to collect speed and pricing data. The NPSC has weighed their techniques to determine if they would in fact provide quality and accurate validation of existing data but are still concerned that data being used is very narrow in both modality and speeds. 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 wireless providers. This 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. The NPSC is currently in discussions with its new vendor to develop wireless propagation techniques. The NPSC has also shared exchange and cable boundary information with its new vendor.

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 techniques will be continually reviewed and improved throughout the project. The NPSC is having discussions with its new vendor about incorporating the data collected through the planning activities, broadband surveys, exchange and cable boundary maps, wireless propagation data, and determining which resources may be useful for data verification.

**Staffing**

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

2.17 FTEs for the quarter ending 12/13/2011, consisting of .44 FTEs for the NPSC and 1.73 FTEs for the University.

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

For the quarter ending 12/13/2011, the project was fully staffed.

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

2.17 FTEs as fully staffed.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Executive Director	5	10/22/2007
Department Director	5	02/17/1976
Attorney	5	02/07/2000
Analyst	15	07/14/2003
Economist	5	05/24/1999
Business Manager	2	05/01/2000
Accountant	2	11/07/1994
Accountant	5	11/14/1977
Project Manager-University	33	01/13/2010
Regional Coaches-University	48	01/13/2010
Cultural Liaison Coaches-University	12	01/13/2010
Conf. Coordinator-University	8	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	N	01/20/2010	12/31/2011	1,376,716	0
Outreach Coordinator	To increase provider participation in Broadband Mapping	N	N	07/01/2012	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
BroadMap	Data Collection, Verification, Integration and Display Years 3-5	Y	Y	01/06/2012	12/31/2014	701,874	170,750

AIM Institute-Planning Partner (under contract with UNL)	Statewide Broadband Conference and Broadband Planning	N	N	09/27/2011	01/31/2014	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? \$1,783,936      10q. How much Remains? \$3,878,849

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$1,092,251      10s. How much Remains? \$760,383

### 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	\$157,363	\$72,154	\$229,517
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$218,410	\$71,284	\$289,694	\$37,125	\$10,437	\$47,562
Travel	\$184,539	\$8,500	\$193,039	\$16,428	\$0	\$16,428
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$233,220	\$0	\$233,220	\$99,490	\$0	\$99,490
Subcontracts Total	\$3,419,469	\$430,750	\$3,850,219	\$1,425,929	\$13,627	\$1,439,556
Subcontract #1	\$1,376,716	\$170,750	\$1,547,466	\$1,341,025	\$0	\$1,341,025
Subcontract #2	\$749,847	\$0	\$749,847	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$260,000	\$0	\$260,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$128,500	\$0	\$128,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$904,406	\$260,000	\$1,164,406	\$84,904	\$13,627	\$98,531
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	\$1,736,335	\$1,075,353	\$2,811,688
Total Indirect Costs	\$388,653	\$0	\$388,653	\$47,601	\$16,898	\$64,499
Total Costs	\$5,662,785	\$1,852,634	\$7,515,419	\$1,783,936	\$1,092,251	\$2,876,187
% Of Total	75	25	100	62	38	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: \$646.09;

1-Mapping Server and operating system: \$646.09;

Oracle Database License: \$5,037.07;

SQL Software License: \$7,351.57;  
Windows Server License: \$637.23;  
ESRI ArcInfo Concurrent User License and ESRI ArcGIS Server License: \$28,276.28;  
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

One of the ongoing obstacles is keeping providers interested in providing the best data possible within the time constraints of the program and the time constraints they may have. To mitigate this, the NPSC created a data input tool which was designed to make it easier for providers to submit their data and make updates. The NPSC has also been open to accepting data provided in different formats and on different time lines. The NPSC has also worked one-on-one with smaller providers and new providers to assist them with the data collection and validation efforts.

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

The NPSC recently changed mapping vendors. The NPSC and BroadMap executed an agreement for broadband data collection, integration, verification and display on January 6, 2011. Over two dozen new nondisclosure agreements have been signed by providers, the NPSC and BroadMap. Our kick-off meeting with BroadMap will be held on January 31, 2012 in Lincoln. The NPSC, the broadband planning partners, BroadMap, and broadband providers have several meetings scheduled January 31 and February 1, 2012.

## 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 Broadband Connecting Nebraska Conference held November. Over 140 attendees were present from across Nebraska. 93% rated the conference as informative/very informative and 88% are likely to attend another broadband conference. Plans are underway for the 2012 conference to be held October 2nd. Webinars - focus on creating demand/opportunity for broadband. Status: Over 40 participants attended the first four webinars. 94% of the participants have indicated that the topic was relevant to adoption and utilization of high speed internet and 94% plan to attend future sessions. Topics for the monthly webinars in Q4 include: Health Information Exchange and Healthcare Transformation; Tablet Integration in a Small Business Environment. Webinars are archived at [broadband.nebraska.gov](http://broadband.nebraska.gov).

### Local & Regional Planning

Regional Planning Teams to create broadband plans regionally. Status: Quarter 4 highlights include: Educators are using the recently revised "Engaging People. Linking the World" workbook in the planning process. The workbook, available at [broadband.nebraska.gov](http://broadband.nebraska.gov), explores how high speed internet is being used across 13 sectors including: leadership, economic development, infrastructure and tele-literacy, adoption & inclusion. The workbook can be downloaded at [broadband.nebraska.gov](http://broadband.nebraska.gov). Assessment quizzes are also in an online format to gather additional information.

The "Engaging People. Linking the World" Broadband Planning Workbooks translated into Spanish and available at [broadband.nebraska.gov](http://broadband.nebraska.gov).

The Broadband Conference in November attracted members from planning teams across the State of Nebraska.

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. We have a strong working relationship with the planning partners. The process of moving funding through various systems was a challenge in 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?

See the attachment for additional information related to question 11a.

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

There are no other challenges or obstacles at this time.

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

The Webinars and the grantee workspace have provided valuable information. We appreciate the guidance and clarification from the Program Office.

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)

01-30-2012