

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number

31-50-M09058

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-24-2011

1. Recipient Name

Nebraska Public Service Commission

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

State 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:

12-31-2010

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

As reported in previous quarterly reports we have had some providers who refused to provide data for this project, namely Community Internet Systems, Inc., Swiftel Communications (reseller of Sprint), and Future Technologies. No new providers refused to provide data during this quarter. We have been having discussions with new data submitters and assisting them with the submission of 3rd Round data. The NPSC developed a data input tool (Data Input Model) which we hope will improve the quality of the data submitted. This model is coded in Excel so that it validates the required input fields and forces responses to be within the ranges specified by the NTIA's business rules. One challenge during this quarter is persuading providers to use this input tool rather than sending data in their own format. We also have had a few providers that just tell us the data hasn't changed and requested we accept what they have given in round one or two submissions. We are working with providers so that we have a uniform and mechanized process (to the extent that we can) for data submittal.

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 also collected data through the field, mail, and phone surveys and wireless spectrum drive tests.

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

In addition to the verification tools used by Apex and its subcontractors, which include a broadband provider feedback loop and data collected through the surveys and drive tests, the NPSC has had discussions with a third party vendor to perform verification of broadband locations and speeds. The NPSC is also considering purchasing data from other sources for verification and is currently obtaining pricing information.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities?  Yes  No

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

Data is currently being collected for Round 3. Verification activities will be commencing as it relates to this data for the April 1, 2011 submission.

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

The verification activities will be ongoing throughout the project.

## Staffing

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

1.77 FTEs for 4Q 2010, consisting of: (1) .99 FTEs for NPSC;(2) 0 FTEs for Apex; (3) .494 FTEs for the University; (4) and .29 FTEs for GeoComm Inc.

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

n/a

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

1.77 FTEs for 4Q 2010.

10n. Staffing Table

Job Title	FTE %	Date of Hire
Executive Director-NPSC	20	10/22/2007
Department Director-NPSC	20	02/17/1976
Attorney-NPSC	10	02/07/2000
Analyst-NPSC	25	07/14/2003
Economist-NPSC	5	05/24/1999
Business Manager-NPSC	2	05/01/2000
Accountant-NPSC	2	11/07/1994
Accountant-NPSC	15	11/14/1977
Project Director-Apex	0	01/21/2010
Project Manager-Apex	0	01/21/2010
CSU Project Manager	0	01/21/2010
CSU Project Trainer	0	01/21/2010
CSU Project Analyst	0	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	0	01/21/2010
CSU Web App. Programmer	0	01/21/2010
CSU Administration	0	01/21/2010
Survey Manager	0	01/21/2010
Survey Manager-University	48	01/13/2010
Survey Data Entry-University	1	01/13/2010
GIS Specialist GeoComm Inc.	25	10/08/2010
GIS Supervisor GeoComm Inc.	4	10/08/2010

Add Row

Remove Row

## 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	2,372,590	170,750
Outreach Coordinator	Outreach to Broadband Providers and Assist in Data collection and integration	N	N	01/02/2012	12/31/2014	260,000	0
Future Best Practices	Verification of Broadband Data	N	N	01/02/2012	12/31/2014	128,500	0

Add Row

Remove Row

## Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,397,953      10q. How much Remains? \$4,264,832

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$1,043,340      10s. How much Remains? \$809,294

### 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	\$92,464	\$38,806	\$130,247
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$218,410	\$71,284	\$289,694	\$23,011	\$6,506	\$31,006
Travel	\$184,539	\$8,500	\$193,039	\$1,685	\$0	\$6,099
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$233,220	\$0	\$233,220	\$1,346	\$11,650	\$87,383
<b>Subcontracts Total</b>	<b>\$3,400,269</b>	<b>\$430,750</b>	<b>\$3,831,019</b>	<b>\$1,233,950</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,233,950</b>
Subcontract #1	\$2,372,590	\$170,750	\$2,543,340	\$1,233,950	\$0	\$1,233,950
Subcontract #2	\$260,000	\$0	\$260,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #3	\$128,500	\$0	\$128,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$464,179	\$260,000	\$724,179	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$175,000	\$0	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$338,995	\$1,075,586	\$1,414,581	\$33,911	\$979,135	\$1,013,046
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$5,274,132</b>	<b>\$1,852,634</b>	<b>\$7,126,766</b>	<b>\$1,386,367</b>	<b>\$1,036,127</b>	<b>\$2,501,731</b>
Total Indirect Costs	\$388,653	\$0	\$388,653	\$11,586	\$7,213	\$16,397
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$5,662,785</b>	<b>\$1,852,634</b>	<b>\$7,515,419</b>	<b>\$1,397,953</b>	<b>\$1,043,340</b>	<b>\$2,518,128</b>
% Of Total	75	25	100	57	43	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 Lap Top Computers w/Windows XP for wireless drive test and verification: \$1228.37;  
1-Dell Data Base 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;  
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.

\*All of the above-listed equipment was purchased in previous quarters. We did not have any expenditures for hardware/software during 4Q 2010.

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

N/A

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

The Nebraska online map has been made available to the planning partners, government officials and broadband providers. The next step will be to publicize the availability of the broadband map and receive feedback from the public.

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

>There were several addresses provided that when coded defaulted to the city/state centroid. To get better accuracy and to eliminate duplicate records, the project team has worked on improving the e911 dataset.

>In addition, to help us with validation the NPSC created a data input model which will automatically validate certain fields and identify errors.

>There are several wireless providers that did not provide Antenna data which would allow the NPSC's vendor to verify the coverage area using its propagation model. Drive tests may be conducted in some of the lower confidence areas so that we can independently verify the coverage.

>While we are accepting all voluntary data submissions from the providers the completeness of the data sets varies widely from simple PDF shapefiles to exact latitude/longitude coordinates of every address passed. It has been challenging to obtain meaningful data from some providers that we can verify and provide to NTIA in the manner specified. However, we have been working through these challenges on an individual case basis. We also hope that the data input model employed by the NPSC (if used by the providers) will help simplify the process for the providers and help the NPSC obtain a more accurate and complete data set.

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

Just for clarification on the staffing table in section 10n above: The FTE counts and percentages are reduced in 4Q as compared to previous quarters, in particular for Apex and CSU. This reason for this is the instruction that this report be consistent with the ARRA report submitted earlier this month related to FTE counts for the quarter. The NPSC was invoiced in the previous quarters for the work performed by Apex during 4Q 2010. The NPSC did not receive an invoice for work performed by Apex (and its subcontractor CSU) during 4Q 2010, therefore no monies were reported and no FTE allocations were made for Apex and CSU. If this is an incorrect way to report this, please let us know.

## 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

- Capacity Building

o Business Surveys to create and track technology benchmarks for businesses. Status: Businesses are surveyed using DED's BR&E program. Data is being collected across the state by DED and 20 additional communities. Implementation of additional broadband survey questions will begin in Q1 2011. A report of data collected during Fiscal year 2009/10 is anticipated during Q1 2011.

• Technical Assistance

- o Statewide Conference focused on broadband adoption to be held Q42011. Status: Drafted logic model to guide conference planning. Potential dates, locations, planning committee members and speakers/presenters were identified Q4.
- o Best Practice Videos highlighting early adapters and utilizers of broadband. Status: Began development selection criteria for video content.
- o Entrepreneur Development and Acceleration System (EDAS) – an entrepreneurial mentoring program that includes a focus on leveraging technology for the future. Status: More than 30 mentors were identified in Q4 and anticipate identification and selection of up to 300 entrepreneurs/businesses in Q1 2011. Certification of mentors will be held in March 2011
- o Broadband portal serving as a source of information on broadband efforts. Status: Site map drafted in Q4 2010. Domain name secured - broadband.nebraska.gov.

• Local & Regional Planning

- o Regional Planning Teams to create broadband plans regionally. Status: Six UNL Extension Educators identified as regional coaches to work with regional planning teams. A training session will be held in 1Q 2011. Regional Forums will be conducted regionally to present broadband mapping and mail survey results, to solicit feedback, and to kick off regional planning efforts. Status: Forums have been scheduled for March and April 2011.
- o Community Planning - North/South Omaha to create a plan to increase adoption in this area. Status: Identified preliminary list of community partners to engage in developing and implementing outreach effo

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 delay in the administrative details waiting to utilize the funds has caused some timing challenges. We continue to plan for the future; however, if there are further delays several projects will need to be postponed. This will especially be true for the proposed Statewide Broadband Conference being planned for the fall 2011.  
 Originally, we were planning to hold regional forums in the fall 2010; however, we will now be holding in late spring 2011. This adjustment in the schedule was made to better incorporate the mapping data in the discussions.

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. During the 4th quarter, the planning team members reviewed and completed the guidance 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

11i. Planning Worksheet

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?

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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)

02-14-2011