

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Performance Progress Report**

2. Award Or Grant Number

31-50-M09058

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

04-19-2011

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:

03-31-2011

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

Community Internet Systems, Swiftel Communications and Future Technologies previously refused to participate in the project. The NPSC's contractor requested third round data from all known broadband providers including these providers. The named providers have not supplied broadband data. Swiftel is a reseller of Sprint service. Sprint has provided broadband availability data to the NPSC.

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

N/A

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

In addition to the verification tools used by Apex and its subcontractors, the NPSC plans to engage a third party vendor to perform verification of broadband locations and speeds. The NPSC, however, is waiting until it has final approval of its supplemental award before taking further action with this vendor. The NPSC is also developing a methodological tool which will allow it to better utilize the speed test data provided by the FCC and compare that with the data collected from providers.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities?  Yes  No

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

Verification of the April 1, 2011 data submission was completed by Apex and subcontractors. The NPSC will be taking a larger role in the data collection, verification and coding as described in the supplemental grant. The NPSC is working on a transition plan with its vendor.

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

Verification activities will be ongoing throughout the duration of the project.

**Staffing**

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

4.30 FTEs for 1Q 2011 consisting of (1) .44 FTEs for the NPSC; (2) 3.37 FTEs for Apex/CSU; (3) .484 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

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?

4.30 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
Project Director- Apex	19	01/21/2010
Project Manager-Apex	28	01/21/2010
GIS Assistant-Apex	69	01/21/2010
CSU Project Trainer	33	01/21/2010
CSU Project Analyst	5	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	14	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	8	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	20	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	14	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	5	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	19	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	37	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	9	01/21/2010
CSU GIS Assistant	9	01/21/2010
CSU Web Programmer	13	01/21/2010
CSU-Administration	22	01/21/2010
CSU-Project Director	14	01/21/2010
Survey Manager-University	48	01/21/2010

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	1,265,802	0

Add Row

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## Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,533,991      10q. How much Remains? \$4,128,794

10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$1,056,376      10s. How much Remains? \$796,258

### 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	\$103,553	\$48,206	\$151,759
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$218,410	\$71,284	\$289,694	\$25,594	\$7,481	\$33,075
Travel	\$184,539	\$8,500	\$193,039	\$6,238	\$0	\$6,238
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials / Supplies	\$233,220	\$0	\$233,220	\$66,398	\$11,651	\$78,049
<b>Subcontracts Total</b>	<b>\$3,400,269</b>	<b>\$430,750</b>	<b>\$3,831,019</b>	<b>\$1,277,008</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,277,008</b>
Subcontract #1	\$2,372,590	\$170,750	\$2,543,340	\$1,265,801	\$0	\$1,265,801
Subcontract #2	\$260,000	\$0	\$260,000	\$11,207	\$0	\$11,207
Subcontract #3	\$128,500	\$0	\$128,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #4	\$175,000	\$0	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subcontract #5	\$464,179	\$260,000	\$724,179	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$338,995	\$1,075,586	\$1,414,581	\$21,237	\$979,135	\$1,000,372
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$5,274,132</b>	<b>\$1,834,734</b>	<b>\$7,126,766</b>	<b>\$1,500,029</b>	<b>\$1,046,473</b>	<b>\$2,546,501</b>
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$388,653</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$388,653</b>	<b>\$30,844</b>	<b>\$9,903</b>	<b>\$40,746</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$5,662,785</b>	<b>\$1,852,634</b>	<b>\$7,515,419</b>	<b>\$1,530,872</b>	<b>\$1,056,376</b>	<b>\$2,587,248</b>
% Of Total	76	24	100	59	41	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;  
 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

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 Broadband Map is online and has been publicized. Both the Nebraska Broadband Map and The National Broadband Map have been used in demonstrations by the planning team in our Regional Broadband Forums as discussed further below. The next step will be to complete our Broadband website which will contain all broadband mapping and planning info as well as a consumer feedback link.

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing  
The NPSC experienced a number of challenges and obstacles in this quarter collecting, integrating, and submitting the broadband data. From prior communications with the industry, we focused more heavily on the efforts to obtain latitude and longitude information so that provider data could be integrated more accurately in the national and state broadband map. The NPSC wants to make sure that the broadband provider's data is accurately depicted-- particularly in areas where rural addressing is not available. Some of the other issues related to coordination and communication between the NPSC and its vendor and communication with the industry. We have been working through these issues by trying to find ways to streamline the collection, verification and submission process. We are working to improve the data input model template which will save providers time and resources for future rounds of data collection.

In addition, we have regularly scheduled weekly conference calls with our contractor to discuss outstanding issues and concerns. The NPSC has worked with a number of broadband providers individually to address concerns related to their data submissions and the resources expended by the providers to comply with the data submission requirements.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project  
We experienced some confusion last quarter finding the most recent and critical Program Office instructions on the Wiki site. It would be more helpful for us if the Program Office would send the data model and instructions directly to the grantees to make sure that we have the correct and most recent version of the data model/submission requirements. The Wiki is helpful for discussions about questions that come up and resolutions for those issues. It has also been extremely valuable as a guide for best practices. However, we find it is difficult to decipher which Program Office models/templates to use.

## 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: Additional survey questions identified to understand broadband importance to Nebraska businesses. The annual Nebraska Business Report, [www.NebraskaAdvantage.biz](http://www.NebraskaAdvantage.biz), highlighted the planning activities.

### • Technical Assistance:

o Statewide Conference to be held Q42011. Status: Location reserved and identified potential members for external conference planning team.

o Entrepreneur Development and Acceleration System (EDAS) – an entrepreneurial mentoring program that includes a focus on leveraging technology for the future. Status: Mentors were certified in Q1 and businesses and entrepreneurs have been identified.

o Broadband portal serving as a source of information on broadband efforts. Status: Site map updated in Q1. The domain name has been secured - [broadband.ne.gov](http://broadband.ne.gov). A temporary site, <http://go.unl.edu/nebroadband> has been created until portal, <http://broadband.ne.gov>, is launched.

### • Local & Regional Planning

o Regional Planning Teams to create broadband plans regionally. Status: Regional Coaches attended training. The following are highlights from first 3 forums:

o Northeast Regional Forum - 44 people attended in Norfolk. Participants represented local telephone companies, Internet service providers, education, municipalities, agri-business, healthcare, economic development, industry and consumers. Eighteen people expressed interest in being part of a northeast planning effort.

o Western Nebraska Regional Forum – 55 people attended in Gering. Opportunities identified included decentralizing business & employees and educational opportunities. Eight individuals indicated that they were willing to serve on the broadband planning team.

o North Central Regional Forum –25 people representing a wide variety of communities and industries attended in Valentine. Availability is a barrier in this sparsely populated region. Eleven people agreed to serve.

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 planning grant efforts. 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. The broadband portal has also been held back as we await the decision on future funding. 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. As the regional forums were scheduled, we needed to rent space in a number of locations. We would request to use up to \$2,000 for the regional forums to pay for the rental and coffee.

**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?

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

Please see the attachment for additional information on the broadband planning activities for 1Q 2011.

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)

07-05-2011