S.B. 214
UTAH BROADBAND CENTER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Senator Chris Wilson
District 25
PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

• The State of Utah is expected to receive as much as $400 million in federal funding, exclusively for broadband

• Funds will be provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which Congress passed last fall

• The Utah Broadband Center will be responsible for the distribution of these funds

• S.B. 214 created the Utah Broadband Advisory Commission to work in tandem with the Utah Broadband Center
Details about the Utah Broadband Center

- Established prior to the 2022 legislative session, and recently amended in 2021 and 2022 code
- S.B. 214 (2022) outlined requirements:
  - Develop the Statewide Digital Connectivity (Strategic) Plan
  - Administer the Broadband Access Grant Program via the Strategic Plan
  - Ensure efficiency with expenditure of funds and avoid duplication of efforts
  - Maximize the leverage of federal funding
  - Account for benefits and costs to the state of current broadband infrastructure
  - Work with the Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission, and give them a yearly report
BREAKDOWN OF THE "STRATEGIC PLAN"

• Also referred to as the Statewide Digital Connectivity Plan
• Required by the Federal Government for distribution of broadband funding
• Will include strategies to
  • Implement broadband connectivity statewide
  • Promote digital equity
  • Apply for federal infrastructure (and additional) funds
• The Utah Broadband Commission and Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission will work together on the plan
  • Ensures that federal funds are spent in a way that considers statewide interest, not specific groups or communities
S.B. 214 Outlined Requirements:

- Make recommendations to the Utah Broadband Center, with respect to:
  - The development of a Statewide Digital Connectivity (Strategic) Plan
  - The application for and use of broadband funds
- Solicit input from stakeholders
- Work with private and public entities who may help with implementation of the strategic plan
- Review strategic plan drafts and recommend changes
- Automatically repeals after 5 years
BREAKDOWN OF UTAH BROADBAND CENTER
ADVISORY COMMISSION MEMBERS

• 9 members in total:
  • 2 members of the Utah State Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate
  • 2 Members of the Utah State House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House
  • Executive director of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget or their designee
  • 4 Individuals who currently work in the public sector, appointed by the Governor
    • Should have professional experience in broadband/broadband infrastructure, applying for federal grants, or financing infrastructure
  • One member of the Senate and one member of the House will be designated as co-chairs
QUESTIONS?