



**Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board**

126 N. Salina Street, Suite 200, Syracuse, New York 13202 • Tel. (315) 422-8276 • Fax: (315) 422-9051  
James J. Murphy, Jr., Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

**CNY RPDB Meeting**

**June 27, 2018**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**126 N. Salina Street**

**Syracuse, New York 13202**

(100 Clinton Square Building -Lower Level Conference Room)

**AGENDA**

- |    |   |                  |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Luncheon and Call to Order  | James Murphy     |
| 2. | Approval of Day's Agenda and Minutes from the April 25, 2018 Meeting  | James Murphy     |
| 3. | NYS New NY Broadband Program<br>- Jeffrey Nordhaus, Executive Vice President of Innovation and Broadband, NYS Empire State Development  | Jeffrey Nordhaus |
| 4. | Executive Director's Report<br>- CNY Broadband Working Group<br>- NYS CFA Applications – Round 8<br>- NYS DOT Transportation Alternatives Program<br>- Executive Committee Meeting, July 18 <sup>th</sup><br>- Board Meeting, August 26 <sup>th</sup> | David Bottar     |
| 5. | Old/New Business  | James Murphy     |
| 6. | Adjournment   | James Murphy     |

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Kathleen A. Rapp, Chair

David V. Bottar, Executive Director

### MINUTES

## Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Meeting June 27, 2018

### ATTENDANCE

**Board Members:** Cynthia Aikman, John Becker, Pamela Caraccioli, Dan Dineen, Shawn Doyle, Bethaida Gonzalez, Cydney Johnson, Don Jordan, David Knapp, Steven Lynch, Mary A. Messinger, Jim Murphy, Paul Pinckney, Morris Sorbello, Justin Woods, and Stephen Zabriskie

**Special Guest:** Jeff Nordhaus, Eve Ann Schwartz, Mark Scimone, Paul Lutwak, Kevin Sexton, Steve Tobin, Rocco DiVeronica,

**Staff:** David Bottar, Chris Carrick, Bruce Keplinger, Kathy Bertuch, Debbie Phillips, Mike Rosanio, and Amanda Mazzoni.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

James Murphy called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm at the offices of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and minutes (04/25/18) as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

### 3. NYS New NY Broadband Program

David Bottar initiated the discussion by noting that the purpose of the meeting was to get an update on the status of the State's effort to improve telecommunication broadband service in unserved and underserved areas in NYS. Mr. Bottar referred to a package of information that was distributed to members that summarized the New NY Broadband Program. Following a brief review of this information and, an acknowledgement of special guests in attendance including representatives from Madison County, Mr. Bottar introduced Jeff Nordhaus, Executive Vice-President for Innovation and Broadband, NYS ESD – Broadband Program Office. Mr. Nordhaus provided a power point presentation which summarized the State's broadband program.

Mr. Nordhaus began his remarks by noting that Governor Cuomo launched the New NY Broadband Program in 2015. It was noted that the \$500 million program, funded through capital

resources from bank settlements, is designed to provide funding to telecommunication companies to expand access to broadband at speeds of a least 100 megabits per second in most places of the State and 25 Mbps in the most remote, unserved parts of the State. Mr. Nordhaus noted that the State has already completed two rounds of funding through this program and is in the process of completing the third and final round of funding with the allocation of grant awards totaling \$341 million.

As part of his presentation, Mr. Nordhaus provided detailed information about the State's broadband program in Central New York. It was noted that in Rounds I & II, nine projects were funded totaling \$19.6 million in State funding and \$6 million in private sector match funding and resulting in 6,933 locations being connected to broadband service in CNY. Mr. Nordhaus noted that in 2018, six projects were chosen for funding in Round 3 totaling \$22.8 million in State funding and \$14.7 million in private and federal funding supporting 8,281 new locations being connected in the region. Mr. Nordhaus presented information for how this funding has been allocated for each of the five counties in Central New York.

Mr. Nordhaus noted that companies participating in the State's broadband initiative in Central New York include Clarity Fiber Solutions, Frontier Communications, Haeefe TV, Hughes Network Systems, New Visions Communications Otsego Electric Cooperative, TDS Telecom, and Verizon Communications. Information was also provided showing which companies are participating in each county.

Mr. Nordhaus noted that as a result of these awards and additional State-secured upgrades, that commitment are in place to ensure that 100% of the residents in CNY will have access to high speed broadband service. It was noted that most of this service is being provided through cable and fiber-to-the home technology, with just 1.6% of the locations in the region being served by satellite-based service by the Hughes Network.

In addition to the funding being provided through the New NY Broadband program, Mr. Nordhaus also provided information regarding the State's efforts to secure commitments from Charter Communication to expand their broadband service in NYS. As part of this effort, it was noted that in 2016 the NYS Public Service Commission approved the merger of Time Warner Cable and Charter Communications with several regulatory provisions including the expansion of service to 145,000 unserved locations in NYS, an increase in broadband speeds for over 2 million customers, and the launch of a Statewide broadband program. Mr. Nordhaus noted that the PSC is currently monitoring Charter's compliance with the merger conditions through a range of efforts including field audits. Mr. Nordhaus noted that his office is also monitoring Charter's progress and indicated that Charter has been fined twice by the State in the past year for the failure to meet certain milestone thresholds that were established in the merger agreement.

Mr. Nordhaus continued his remarks by referencing certain online resources that are available through his office which local officials can use to identify broadband service in their respective communities including a residential broadband map at the community and census block level. It was also noted that this online resource can be used to access information about the status of the broadband program funding awards/resources for every county, town, city, and village in NYS.

Mr. Nordhaus concluded his formal remarks by summarizing the overall status of the State's broadband program and noted that his office is available to work with local officials to review and improve broadband service in their respective communities.

At the conclusion of Mr. Nordhaus's remarks, numerous questions and comments were presented by Board members and guests at the meeting. As part of this discussion, comments were made about the accuracy of the Statewide mapping resource that is being used by the NYS Broadband Program Office and specifically how service is measured at the census block versus individual street address level. Mr. Nordhaus indicated his office is routinely updating the resource map and indicated local officials can provide information to his office directly regarding service in their communities.

Mr. Nordhaus also offered the services of his office to help local officials to meet with company representatives to advance broadband projects in their communities. As part of this effort, comments were exchanged about Charter Communication requiring county officials to sign a non-disclosure agreement in order to access information about the company's build-out plans in their respective communities. Members and guests also explored with Mr. Nordhaus the possibility of securing a fourth round of broadband funding and/or other local, state, and federal resources to address any remaining service gaps in the region, particularly in areas that are being served by satellite service. Mr. Nordhaus indicated he would be interested in exploring any new funding opportunities with county officials and staff at the CNY RPDB.

#### **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Bottar began his report by noting that as a follow up to this meeting that the agency would be exploring the merits of forming a CNY Broadband Working Group to coordinate actions with Mr. Nordhaus's office and local broadband companies.

Mr. Bottar noted that staff is currently working on several NYS CFA funding applications which are due to be submitted by July 27<sup>th</sup> – including funding for sidewalk and pedestrian trail project in Pulaski and Homer, a tourism corridor design study for the Rt. 34 corridor between Auburn and Fair Haven, a large mixed-use project in the Syracuse Inner Harbor, a small mixed-use project in the Lafayette hamlet, the completion of a Skaneateles Lake Watershed EPA-Nine Element plan. Mr. Bottar also referenced a flier with information for communities to consider for funding through the NYS DOT Transportation Alternatives Program for local bicycle and pedestrian trail projects.

Mr. Bottar concluded his report by noting the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> and the next full board meeting will be held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was introduced and seconded to adjourn the meeting; the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Paul Pinckney, Secretary