

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) Board Meeting

May 14, 2026

Online attendance in Microsoft Teams

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of October 16, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes
3. Election of Secretary and Assistant secretary
4. Financial Update:
 - a. October - December 2025 Expenditures
 - b. January - March 2026, Expenditures
5. MOU Extension
6. Capital Projects Fund Update
 - a. Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) Update
 - b. Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program Update
 - c. Digital Connectivity Technology Program
7. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Update
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Chairman Reber called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mary Markle to provide housekeeping and to conduct roll call. Ms. Markle conducted a roll call and confirmed quorum.

Board members

- Secretary Zachary Reber, Office of the Budget, Chairman
- Heidi Secdord, Secretary Russell Redding, Department of Agriculture
- Secretary Rick Siger, Department of Community & Economic Development
- Cathy Hall on behalf of Acting Secretary Dr. Carrie Rowe, Department of Education
- Barb Burba-Filoreto on behalf of Secretary Reggie McNeil, Department of General Services
- Matt Franchak on behalf of Senator John Kane, Assistant Secretary
- Representative Rob Matzie
- Anna Fitzsimmons on behalf of Representative Jesse Topper
- Chloe Mandara on behalf of Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, Secretary
- Sharon Webb on behalf of Chairman Steve DeFrank, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
- Dr. Zachary Adams, Executive Director, Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Designees in Attendance

- Rich Pronesti, Office of Representative Matzie

Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) staff:

- Brandon Carson, PBDA Executive Director
- Brandon Peters, PBDA Deputy Executive Director
- Julia Brinjac, PBDA Director, Digital Community
- Carmela Burston, PBDA BEAD Program Manager
- Felicia Duger, Deputy Digital Director
- Marshall Fischer, PBDA Technology Specialist
- Pam Frontino, PBDA Grants Manager
- Mary Markle, PBDA Executive Assistant
- Chuck Napier, PBDA Director of Infrastructure
- Kalie Snyder, PBDA Public Affairs Manager
- Dylan Wells, PBDA Broadband Technical Specialist
- Sai Prathi, PBDA Data Engineer
- Sue Benedek, Counsel
- Karen Cumming, Counsel
- Britt Muniz, Counsel

In Person & Virtual Guests

Four guests attended in-person and 22 attended virtually.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Reber asked for questions and comments on the October 16, 2025, minutes as presented to the Board. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was made by Matt Franchak and seconded by Secretary Siger. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Election of Secretary and Assistant Secretary

Chairman Reber called for nominations for Secretary of the Board. Nomination of Senator Phillips-Hill was made by Matt Franchak and seconded by Anna Fitzsimmons.

Chairman Reber called for nominations for Assistant Secretary of the Board. Representative Matzie nominated Senator Kane. Secretary Siger seconded the nomination.

Secretary Reber called for a motion to elect the Secretary and Assistant Secretary. Motion was made by Barb Burba-Filoreto and seconded by Matt Franchak. Motion passed.

4. Financial Update:

October – December 2025 and January – March 2026 Expenditures

Chairman Reber invited Brandon Carson to present expenditures for October-December of 2025 and January – March of 2026.

Mr. Carson stated that expenditures across the ARPA Capital Projects Fund programs totaled approximately \$24.5 million over the last two quarters. With approximately \$13.8 million supporting reimbursements to Broadband Infrastructure Program subgrantees, and approximately \$9.6 million supporting Multi-Purpose Community Facilities projects.

Turning to the BEAD program, Mr. Carson stated that line-item expenditures were approximately \$693,000 during the two quarters. He added that those costs primarily reflect planning and implementation activities, as no subgrantee funds have been awarded.

Mr. Carson added that MOU-related expenditures totaled just under \$1.5 million, which remains in line with fiscal year projections.

5. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Extension

Chairman Reber asked Brandon Carson to provide an overview of the MOU.

Mr. Carson reminded that PBDA maintains an MOU with DCED to provide staffing and administrative support for the broadband programs currently being managed.

Mr. Carson stated that expenditures for the first three quarters of the fiscal year were approximately \$2 million. The expenditures represent approximately 63% of projected annual costs and are approximately 10% below budgeted projections through March-end 2026.

Mr. Carson added that for the next fiscal year, DCED estimates expenditures of approximately \$3.2 million, representing only a 1% increase over the current year's projected operating costs. He concluded by sharing the staff recommendation of the Board's approval of the MOU extension to June 30, 2027.

Chairman Reber asked for a motion to approve the MOU. Matt Franchak made a motion which was seconded by Barb Burba-Filoreto. Motion passed

6. Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Update

a. Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) Update

Chairman Reber invited Julia Brinjac to provide an update on the CPF BIP grant program.

Ms. Brinjac shared that 53 projects were awarded \$204 million in funding. To date, \$22.2 million has been reimbursed with \$24 million set to be released in the next few weeks. She added that over 14,000 locations are served and 18,000 are under construction. She updated on project status and went on to highlight the projects of Claverack and Alleghenies Broadband; both in the first stage of closeout. Ms. Brinjac added that as part of a closeout, PBDA verifies locations determined to be not servable. Finally, Ms. Brinjac offered a general overview of Verizon's projects which include 23,000 locations.

Brandon Carson added that the team recently visited a project nearing completion. They received positive feedback from residents and were pleased to see an example of an impactful, quality project.

In reference to December 31, 2026, deadline for project completion, Mr. Carson further stated that U.S. Treasury offered new guidance that will allow for requests for a six-month

extension. PBDA will consider requests from grantees that meet requirements for the extension and, if warranted, will submit those requests to U.S. Treasury for approval.

b. Multipurpose Community Facilities Program

Julia Brinjac provided an update on the Facilities Program, reminding that 49 projects were approved with over \$44 million awarded, and apprising that to date, over \$17 million has been paid in reimbursements. She offered a project status update, noting that three projects are complete, 32 are under construction and 14 are in pre-construction. She shared updates on specific awardees including the Cambria County Library and Northern Schuylkill CEBA. In response to Secretary Siger, Ms. Brinjac confirmed that there are no extensions for the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program or the Digital Connectivity Technology Program, and all projects are on track for completion by the end of 2026.

C. Digital Connectivity Technology Program (DCTP)

Brandon Peters then updated on DCTP reminding that 167 grantees have been awarded over 14,000 laptops valued at \$20 million. Based on awardee reporting, at least 236,000 Pennsylvanians have benefited from access to DCTP through digital skills training, workforce development, and telehealth. He added that in partnership with the Department of Labor & Industry, the SkillUp PA platform is being implemented with over 2,400 courses launched. Following the second round of the program, one awardee withdrew from the program, and another reduced the number of laptops requested, resulting in the availability of 80 laptops. PBDA recommends that Church of the New Covenant and the Anna Middletown Adult Learning Center be approved to receive these remaining laptops.

Chairman Reber asked for a motion to approve. Representative Matzie made a motion with Matt Franchak seconding. Chairman Reber asked Mary Markle to conduct a roll vote.

Board Member	Voting Designee	Vote
Chairman Reber		Yes
Secretary Redding	Heidi Secord	Yes
Secretary Siger		Yes
Secretary Rowe	Cathy Hall	Yes
Secretary McNeil	Barb Burba-Filoreto	Yes
Senator Kane	Matt Franchak	Yes
Representative Matzie		Yes
Representative Topper	Anna Fitzsimmons	Yes
Senator Phillips-Hill	Chloe Mandara	Yes
PUC Chairman DeFrank	Sharon Webb	Yes
Zachary Adams		Yes

7. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) UPDATE

Mr. Carson stated that NTIA approved Pennsylvania's BEAD Final Proposal, and the Commonwealth has executed the Notice of Award with NIST, marking the transition from

planning to implementation.

He added that the Final Proposal includes 69 projects provisionally selected from 20 applicants, with more than \$711 million in BEAD funding leveraging hundreds of millions more in private investment. Projects include approximately 130,000 locations across all 67 counties in the commonwealth with 58% to be served with fiber, 5% with hybrid fiber-coaxial, 14% with fixed wireless and 23% with low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite.

Mr. Carson acknowledged the approximate \$400 million in additional BEAD funds available to Pennsylvania. He stated that federal guidance on the use of those funds is expected in the coming weeks.

Mr. Carson also reminded the Board of the deployment period under the BEAD program, noting that provisional grantees have up to four years to complete projects. He explained next steps, including:

- Distributing the draft BEAD Grant Agreement template with the anticipated goal of executing agreements no later than July 31, 2026.
- Collecting network designs and identifying potential environmental and historic preservation considerations to support efficient project delivery.
- Registering BEAD projects in NTIA's permitting system to coordinate federal agency permitting requirements for provisional grantees.
- Hosting a series of regional roundtables to engage local governments, industry partners, and other stakeholders to discuss next steps on selected projects.
- Working with state agency partners, including PennDOT, DEP, State Historic Preservation Office, DCNR, Fish and Boat Commission, and the Game Commission, to streamline state-level permitting and project coordination.

Chairman Reber thanked the Board and their staff as well as PBDA for their efforts on the BEAD program.

8. Public Comment

Chairman Reber asked Ms. Markle to conduct public comment. Hearing none, Chairman Reber moved onto adjournment.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Reber noted that the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2026, and asked for a motion to adjourn. Matt Franchak motioned, and Secretary Siger seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.