

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) Board Meeting

October 16, 2025

Commonwealth Keystone Building
PUC Hearing Room #1
400 North Street, Harrisburg

Online attendance in Microsoft Teams

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the August 22, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
3. Financial Update: July-September Expenditures
4. Capital Projects Fund Update
 - a. Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)
 - b. Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program (Facilities)
 - c. Digital Connectivity Technology Program (Technology)
5. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Update
6. Subcommittee Visioning Update
7. 2026 Draft Meeting Schedule
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Chairman Monson 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 Uri Monson, Office of the Budget, Chairman
- 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
- Rich Pronesti on behalf of Representative Rob Matzie

- Anna Fitzsimmons on behalf of Representative Jesse Topper
- Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, Secretary
- Joel Cheskis on Behalf of Chairman Steve DeFrank, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
- Dr. Laura Dimino, Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Designees in Attendance

- Chloe Mandara, Office of Senator Phillips-Hill
- Heidi Secord, Department of Agriculture

Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) staff:

- Brandon Carson, PBDA Executive Director
- Brandon Peters, PBDA Deputy Executive Director
- Greg Alliger, PBDA Broadband Project Manager
- Tim Arthun, PBDA Policy & Program Specialist
- 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
- Dr. Stephanie Perry, PBDA BEAD Project Specialist
- Kalie Snyder, PBDA Public Affairs Manager
- Sue Benedek, Counsel
- Britt Muniz, Counsel
- Leigh Walter, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs
- Justin Backover, DCED Press Secretary

In Person & Virtual Guests

Four guests attended in-person and 22 attended virtually.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Monson asked for questions and comments on the August 22, 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. Financial Update: July – September Expenditures

Brandon Carson presented the 1st quarter expenditures for the Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Plan (CPF-BIP), Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program and BEAD. He noted that the \$7.3 million in expenditures included \$4 million to BIP subgrantees and \$3 million to Multi-Purpose Community Facilities subgrantees. He added that BEAD expenditure was just under \$278,000 in administrative expenses, with no subgrantee expenses, as funds have not yet been awarded.

MOU expenses for the quarter totaled \$511,000 for the 1st quarter, which is 16% under budget for administrative costs.

Addressing the impact of the Federal Government shutdown, Mr. Carson stated that communication from National Telecommunications Information Association (NTIA) and the US Treasury indicates that the draw down will continue, allowing PBDA to continue to process invoices and reimburse subgrantees.

4. Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Update

a. Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)

Greg Alliger stated that all contracts are finalized, with 34 projects under construction and 19 in the pre-construction phase. He added that from March through September \$7.1 million in reimbursements were processed. Thirteen projects are nearing or currently providing service and approximately 13,000 locations are defined by the FCC as served. Mr. Alliger shared the speed data map as one example of a resource illustrating progress.

b. Multipurpose Community Facilities Program

Tim Arthun provided updated on the Facilities program noting that 49 projects are in pre-construction, under construction or complete with several more expected to be complete by the end of 2025. He added that 28 subgrantees submitted invoices and \$6.84M in reimbursements were processed.

Mr. Arthun presented images of projects including renovation to the Wyoming County Health Center and Northland Library.

c. Digital Connectivity Technology Program (DCTP)

Dr. Stephanie Perry stated that the DCTP has executed 158 contracts with over 13,000 laptops allocated. Through DCTP, educational and social service facilities and organizations are enhancing their workforce and digital literacy training. As of October 10, 2025, there were 408 registrants for the SkillUp PA. Dr. Perry highlighted the partnership with Corry Higher Education Council whose community in Erie County is accessing laptops through CHEC's rural empowerment initiative.

Secretary Redding as about data on usage for the facilities program. Mr. Arthun replied that data will be available as expenditure reports come in.

5. BEAD Update

Brandon Carson stated that the Final Proposal was submitted to NTIA on September 4th and included the 107 projects provisionally selected by the Board. He added that NTIA's curing has warranted administrative changes to location data and further negotiation and justification for project costs. This has resulted in a reduced BEAD spending amount, but he noted that this is subject to change pending NTIA's final approval. Mr. Carson also noted that PBDA continues to work with service providers and NTIA to ensure alignment with federal guidance and requirements.

Mr. Carson noted that PBDA has begun discussions with provisionally selected subgrantees to ensure that projects move forward immediately upon receipt of final approval.

Mr. Carson concluded by reiterating that as PBDA moves from planning to implementation, the focus remains on executing strategies for universal access.

Joel Cheskis asked about the 90-day period that was previously discussed. Mr. Carson confirmed that NTIA committed to approval within 90 days of the September 4th submission date and that is still expected.

Secretary Redding asked how curing impacts the original 21 applicants. Mr. Carson replied that those applicants remain but some projects from applicants have and may continue to change.

Mr. Cheskis asked if the technology will change due to curing.

Mr. Carson confirmed that there are and will be changes to technology but there have not been huge swings.

Matt Franchak asked about PBDA's role in supporting permitting and pole attachments.

Mr. Carson responded that PBDA supports these efforts as it works closely with PUC's working groups and plans to form other working groups to work closely with subgrantees.

6. Subcommittee Visioning

Brandon Peters acknowledged the significant role of the subcommittees, noting their input on the structure of Broadband Serviceable Areas, contributions to the Initial Proposal. He added that they were instrumental in developing workforce priorities and in supporting all PBDA's community outreach efforts.

Mr. Peters explained that as PBDA moved from planning to execution, it recognized the change in the role of the committees. He stated that committee members were surveyed over the summer, with feedback suggesting that committee meetings have become more informational than interactive. He added that having fulfilled their intended purpose, PBDA recommends that the subcommittees, in their current form be dissolved. Mr. Peters thanked the committee members and noted that PBDA will continue its collaboration with them and the entities they represent.

Chairman Monson asked for questions.

Senator Phillips-Hill stated that she supports the proposed transition and recognizes that staff resources must be where they are most needed. She added that as implementation begins, execution issues will need to be addressed, such as pole attachments and railroad rights of way and she expressed the importance of maintaining industry experts as trusted partners and advisors.

Chairman Monson noted that as issues develop, the Board can develop committees that are targeted to implementation.

Chairman Monson asked for a motion to approve the dissolution of the subcommittees. Motion was made by Secretary Siger and seconded by Dr. Dimino.

Mary Markle conducted a roll vote.

Board Member	Voting Designee	Vote
Chairman Monson		Yes
Secretary Redding		Yes
Secretary Siger		Yes
Secretary Rowe	Cathy Hall	Yes
Secretary McNeil	Barb Burba-Filoreto	Yes
Senator Kane	Matt Franchak	Yes
Representative Matzie	Rich Pronesti	Yes
Representative Topper	Anna Fitzsimmons	Yes
Senator Phillips-Hill		Yes
PUC Chairman DeFrank	Joel Cheskis	Yes
Dr. Dimino		Yes

Motion passed.

Secretary Siger added his thanks to the subcommittees and reiterated the continued need for support and input from the private sector and stakeholders.

7. 2026 Board Meeting Dates

Chairman Monson informed that the 2026 Board meeting dates have been selected with special meetings to be held as needed.

January 15, 2026

April 16, 2026

July 16, 2026

October 15, 2026

8. Public Comment

Chairman Monson asked Ms. Markle to conduct public comment.

Brian Barno President of Broadband Cable Association of Pennsylvania stated that addressing issues and minimizing delays is imperative and that to do so, PBDA must continue its dialogue with providers.

Jim Mercante of Chester County thanked PBDA and commended the staff and the Board on their work.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Monson noted that the next regular Board meeting is January 15, 2026, and asked for a motion to adjourn. Matt Franchak motioned, and Secretary Siger seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:37am.