

NTIA Conference 2015

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Deb Socia: Good morning. Hi, my name is Deb Socia. I'm the Executive Director for Next Century Cities. We are a coalition of over 100 cities working to ensure next generation access is available to everyone. On behalf of Next Century Cities and NTIA, I'm very pleased to welcome you to Digital New England, a summit for regional broadband leaders. I have to say I'm a native New Englander having grown up in Massachusetts, and I'm so proud to see how really interested people in this part of the region are in being together in this space to talk about broadband. Today we hear about successes and barriers from broadband leaders here in New England and across the country. All of whom are working to realize the power of high speed affordable and accessible broadband.

I want to encourage you to post on social media, I am an avid Twitter person and I hope you will tweet using #DigitalNE. Also for the wireless, the access code is PumpkinSpice. Very appropriate time of year for pumpkin spice.

I want to take a moment to recognize our sponsors for this event. Please raise your hands when I mention your names.

Our Platinum sponsor is Tilson Technology, thank you very much. Our Gold sponsors are GWI, NextGen, and 1st Light, and our Silver sponsors are Maine Fiber, Axium Technologies, and Frontier. Thank you all very much for helping us make this happen. Without their support our work to bring this event together would have not been possible. I thank you all and I also want to make sure to thank staff members from Senator King's office, the NTIA folks and the Next Century Cities folks who all participated to make this happen.

I know you're as eager as I am to hear from our outstanding speakers, so let's get to it.

This morning I am honored to introduce Doug Kinkoph, Associate Administrator of NTIA, our partner in planning this event. Doug has a long history of working in legislative affairs and in the private sector, and for the last six years has applied his many skills to his work at the NTIA. Please join me in welcoming Doug Kinkoph.

Doug Kinkoph: Good morning and thank you for joining us here in Maine today. NTIA is thrilled to be partnering with Next Century Cities, and thank you Deb to put on today's workshop. My name is Doug Kinkoph, I am the head of the BTOP and Broadband USA programs at NTIA, which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

One of our key missions is to promote the deployment and adoption of high speed internet services so that all Americans can fully participate in the digital society. I think most of us would agree that broadband infrastructure is as vital as roads and sewer systems, electrical lines, and bridges. For communities an advanced telecommunications system is critical for driving growth, attracting businesses, creating jobs and remaining competitive in the information age economy.

For individuals, access to broadband is critical to have access to educational resources, healthcare information, government services, and social networks. These days it's practically impossible to apply for a job or even do homework without broadband access. NTIA has been working on multiple fronts to ensure that citizens have access to the tools and skills needed to share the benefits of broadband. Above all we are striving to close a persistent digital divide that breaks down a long geographic, socioeconomic, racial, and other demographic barriers.

Three things that we've been working on. One, most of you are probably familiar with the Broadband Technology Opportunity program, we are winding that down. It was funded by the 2009 Recovery Act, invested more than \$4-billion and roughly 230 projects nationwide that worked hard, all of you and many of you are here, to expand access and adoption to high speed internet service. Second, earlier this year we announced that a new initiative called Broadband USA, providing support to communities across the country seeking to expand local broadband deployment and adoption. Broadband USA is offering technical assistance, tool kits, guides, and other resources and today we'll be posting a federal funding guide up on the website, and there are some soft copies out in the lobby, as one of our new guides. The goal is to build a lessons learned and best practices that we've collected over the years to BTOP and share them with communities throughout the United States. Now at the same time we are spearheading the Commerce Department's work on the new interagency working group called the Broadband Opportunity Council. The council which is the Commerce Department is co-chairing a partnership with the Department of Agriculture which has joined us here today. Released an important report last week outlining recommendations on how the federal government can promote broadband investment competition within the scope of existing agencies, missions, programs, and budgets. There will be a lot more on that later today throughout the panel and other comments.

With that I want to keep my remarks short. I am very excited for the panelists. I think we have a great group and a great discussion. I look forward to meeting with many of you throughout the day.

With that let me introduce Larry Strickling. Larry is the Associate Secretary for Communications and Information Administration. Larry was sworn in, in June of 2009. He is my boss. In this role Larry serves as administrator for the National Telecommunication Information Administration. The Executive Branch Agency that is principally responsible for advising the president on telecommunications and information policy. A technology policy expert with more than two decades of experience in the public and private sectors. Larry's focus includes leading initiatives to expand broadband internet access, adoption in America, and to ensure that the internet remains an engine for continued innovation and growth. After joining NTIA, Larry had responsibility for the development and deployment of the BTOP programs and the state broadband initiative. Additionally under Larry's watch, NITA launched America's first public searchable nationwide map of consumer broadband internet availability, and crafted a 10 year plan that the agency is now implementing to nearly double the amount of commercial spectrum available for wireless broadband. Larry also oversees NTIA's efforts on a host of domestic and global internet policy and administrative issues.

Please join me in welcoming Assistant Secretary Larry Strickling.

Lawrence Strickling: Thanks Doug. I'll be back talking with you all at lunchtime so I'm going to save all the substance for then. But I do want to just welcome you all, it's a great turnout today here in New England. We're very glad you all have made the trip here to Portland to sit with us and share your wisdom with us for the day. I also want to thank Doug and Deb Socia, and of course the wonderful team at NTIA for organizing today's workshop.

With that I would like then to turn to introducing our first item on this morning's agenda which will be Keynote Conversation involving some of the luminaries in broadband, including your own Senator Angus King. Let me introduce our three panelists, we'll get them up here and we'll get going.

First as I mentioned, we're very privileged to have Senator Angus King here today. I think those of you from Maine know he's been your Senator since January of 2013, and before that he served two terms as Governor of Maine. In both of these positions he's been an absolute champion for expanding broadband in this state and in rural America in all of our 50 states. I have followed his many activities in this space. Most recently he introduced the Digital Learning Equity Act of 2015, which aims to narrow the digital divide by supporting innovative ways to ensure that students stay connected both inside and outside the classroom. He's been involved in Health Information Technology, he's been an active participant and commenter on activities in the administration including the Broadband Opportunities Council work that I'll be talking more about at lunchtime and which you'll be hearing about along the day. We're very happy to have him here, I will mention he's a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Virginia School of Law but now lives in Brunswick, Maine. I'm not sure what your connection is with Bowdoin up there, but a wonderful town.

Our second panelist from the White House is David Edelman, he is Special Assistant to the President for Economic and Technology policy, works both at the National Economic Council and at the Office of Science and Technology policy, but he only gets paid one salary. In that role he leads policy development and coordination on issues relating to the digital economy, including broadband competition and access, high tech intellectual property, online privacy, technology trade, and internet governance. Prior to his time at the White House he served as a policy advisor in the State Department's Office of Cyber Affairs where he was responsible for developing U.S. diplomatic strategy an international legal doctrine on cyber issues. He holds a B.A. from Yale and both a Master's and a Doctorate in International Relations from Oxford University. Most pertinent to this audience, he's been involved in broadband activities as long as he's been at the White House, and most notably was the architect of the President's \$10-billion Connect Ed initiative and he's currently leading its implementation.

Our moderator for this discussion who probably ought to be a panelist herself is Susan Crawford, Professor at Harvard Law School and a co-director at the Berkman Center there at Harvard. Previously she served as President Obama's special assistance for Science Technology and Innovation policy where she was one of the principle architects of the Recovery Act Broadband grant program. In addition to helping set up that program she served as a very able mediator between NTIA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, because you can't anything in government without a little competition and we found ourselves competing with each other a little bit in terms of attracting grants and awarding grants. Many times we had to call Susan in to help out in that regard, but it was all for good. It was all to get the money out as fast as we could and to get projects built as fast as we could. As long as she's

been involved with the White House she's been on various lists of fast-rising people in America. In 2009 Fast Company named her one of the Most Influential Women in Technology, in 2013 Time Magazine named her to their Tech 40, the most influential minds in tech. And then most recently she was named one of Politico's 50 Thinkers, Doers, and Visionaries. Susan received her B.A. and J.D. from Yale.

With that let me bring our three panelists up and we'll get going with our Keynote Conversation. Thank you.

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