

BROADBAND ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAAC)
PERMITTING WORK GROUP
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REPORT TO BAAC

by
Gordon Bruce, Chair
October 18, 2012

The Permitting Work Group has met four times in 2012. The following summarizes the activities of the Group:

I. Permitting Work Group Recommendations

Based upon its discussions, the Work Group agreed on the following recommendations that could be instituted to expedite deployment:

- (1) Create a centralized database that includes all pole calculations and life expectancies. This will expedite review of pole requests, allow identification of what infrastructure needs to be fixed, and assist providers in determining routing of their networks.
- (2) "Make ready" existing underground infrastructure, including consolidation of cables to free up space in conduits, and place inventory into a database.
- (3) Create a new alternate path as an option for providers. The process, funding, and rules for this will evolve over time.
- (4) Streamline easement process under C&C of Honolulu. Chair Bruce will circulate prior proposal submitted to the Council. If all members agree, the proposal will be submitted by the Work Group to the BAAC with the recommendation that the BAAC support its passage.
- (5) Streamline DOT Use and Occupancy process by use of a standard form and fee structure.
- (6) Streamline C&C of Honolulu permitting process. Once the C&C of Honolulu approves a design, subsequent permit requests using the same design should receive cookie cutter approval through an electronic filing.
- (7) Create fee/fund to pay for shared database for poles. Incorporation of all pole load information (existing, proposed, reserved) into database will allow for load calculation in advance.

II. Compilation of Procedure Flowcharts for Broadband Infrastructure Projects

The Work Group has compiled flowcharts and timeline documenting the various processes and procedures for broadband infrastructure deployment. The following documents were provided to or created for the Work Group by its members:

Hawaiian Telcom

1. Procedures to Request Attachment to Hawaiian Telcom, Inc. Poles or Occupation of Hawaiian Telcom Conduits (August 1, 2010) (Guidelines)

HECO

1. HECO Facilities Attachment Program Process (Flowchart)
2. HECO-Only Pole Attachment Request (Flowchart)
3. HECO Service Requests Flow Chart

City & County of Honolulu

1. Timeline for Obtaining City & County of Honolulu Easement for Attachment or Running of Cable Lines

Joint Pole Owners

1. Joint Pole Manual – By Hawaiian Electric Co., Inc.; Hawaiian Telcom, Inc.; City & County Of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction; and State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Highways Division (November 25, 2005)

State

1. Simplified DOT Permit Process

III. Demonstration Projects

In response to request from Keali'i Lopez, DCCA Director, Work Group has been working to identify potential broadband infrastructure projects that could be overseen by the Work Group in order to gather information on specific permitting and approval "choke points" and other impediments to infrastructure deployment. This information can then be used to identify specific legislative proposals that could expedite deployment and information sharing across the counties on ways to expedite the process.

IV. Create Centralized Database of All Pole Calculations and Life Expectancies

The Work Group has agreed that the creation of a shared master database of pole information would expedite pole access. The City only has listings of the location of properties, which can be shared at no cost. HECO has an existing database. The Work Group generally agreed that it should start first with basic statewide information, such as pole location in GIS format, pole identifier, and pole owner. Issues raised for discussion include:

- (1) need for “buy in” by all pole owners
- (2) method of funding of database
- (3) funding for maintenance of the system
- (3) ownership of the system
- (4) who has access to database

Chair Bruce is to report to BAAC on centralized database and request letter from BAAC to HECO regarding the sharing of pole location information, identifiers and owners.

V. Streamlining of C&C of Honolulu Easement Process

Chair Bruce provided the Work Group with members with proposed C&C of Honolulu ordinance and draft administrative rules that would allow City’s IT Director to set procedures, fees and terms for use of city property by telecommunications providers. Chair Bruce explained that the proposed ordinance would take the Council out of the easement approval process and place responsibility for approval with the IT division. HT and OTW have been asked to review and provide comment on whether they would support these proposals. These comments have not yet been provided.

VI. Standardize Form and Fee Structure for DOT Use and Occupancy Process

The Work Group believes that infrastructure deployment may be expedited by the creation of a standard form and fee structure for DOT’s use and occupancy process. This is a Work Group recommendation that has been identified as a current project.