

November 15, 2020

Progress Report to the Governor and Legislature



NITC

Nebraska Information
Technology Commission



State of Nebraska
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Executive Summary

The Legislature established the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) in 1998 to provide advice, strategic direction, and accountability on information technology investments in the state. This progress report highlights many of the significant accomplishments of the Commission and fulfills the requirement of Section 86-518 to submit a progress report to the Governor and Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year.

In particular, significant progress has been made on the following priority areas designated as strategic initiatives by the NITC.

State Government IT Strategy. The objective of this initiative is to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the use of information technology by Nebraska state government. The strategy has utilized a hybrid centralization model combining elements of both the centralized and decentralized IT management models. Enterprise technologies are centralized with agency-specific activities remaining with the agencies.

Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure. This initiative promotes coordination of geospatial data and GIS programs, guides policy, provides guidance on data accuracy requirements, coordinates dissemination of data through NebraskaMAP, and strengthens data sharing through partnerships to ensure access to quality geospatial datasets for governmental business needs and the public. The state of Nebraska has complete LiDAR coverage and several Federal agencies are funding a refresh of some of the early LIDAR collections (2009-2011) in the state, to upgrade the data to match the recent LIDAR Collections. The GIS Council continues to review the GIS standards because of changes in technologies and applications. The OCIO GIO team has rolled out the Statewide GIS Enterprise Platform for agencies to use. The OCIO GIO team and agencies have been working on developing and updating internal and public facing web mapping applications and dashboard applications. The OCIO GIO team worked with Department of Health and Human Services to develop and support the Nebraska COVID 19 dashboard.

Digital Education. The primary objective of the Digital Education Initiative is to promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis. NITC staff assisted the Nebraska Department of Education as it developed the Hierarchy of Digital Learning Needs and CARES Act guidance for Nebraska school districts and private schools in an attempt to address the Homework Gap. NITC staff partnered with the Nebraska Library Commission and Public Service Commission as the NUSF-117 Nebraska Special Construction Matching Fund program was created to incentivize new fiber construction for public libraries in rural areas.

Network Nebraska. Participants in Network Nebraska are reducing costs and stimulating investment in Nebraska’s telecommunications infrastructure. During the 2018-2020 time period, the K-20 demand for Internet has increased by 27% as the unit cost has decreased by 68% over this same period. The Office of the CIO worked with the State Purchasing Bureau and education entities across the State to competitively procure 260 fiber Ethernet circuits with the largest RFP in the 14-year history of Network Nebraska. The Education Council is in the process of preparing a report to the NITC called “Nebraska K-20 Educational Activities and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic”.

Rural Broadband and Community IT Development. The NITC Community Council and staff have supported rural broadband and community IT development in several ways. NITC staff has provided staff support to the state’s Rural Broadband Task Force. NITC staff also provided assistance to staff of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to review applications for the Rural Broadband Remote Access Grant program which was funded through the CARES Act. The NITC Community Council and its partners developed a number of resources and educational materials to help Nebraska communities and regions improve their broadband service, including county fact sheets, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund webinars and materials, and broadband cases studies.

eHealth. Nebraska continues to be a leader in health information exchange. NeHII has over 6,000 registered users and includes health information on over 4 million patients. Data sharing participants include 20 general acute hospitals, 41 critical access hospitals, 2 children’s hospitals, and 186 clinic/ambulatory facilities. In addition, 212 long-term post-acute care facilities are NeHII users. Nebraska’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was the first PDMP to include all medications. The PDMP has over 7,000 registered users and has been queried over 612,000 times. The eHealth Council has identified data governance as an area in which to further study and address.

Other Progress and Priorities

- Over the past two years, the NITC has also realized significant achievements in each of the seven criteria set forth in Section 86-524(2).
 - The NITC’s vision is being realized and short-term and long-term strategies have been articulated and employed. The NITC has developed a vision statement, goals, and strategic initiatives to articulate its vision and to highlight technology projects which have strategic importance to the State of Nebraska.
 - The statewide technology plan prepared annually by the NITC has been an effective vehicle for identifying key projects, building stakeholder support, coordinating efforts, and communicating with policy makers.
 - The NITC website serves as an information technology clearinghouse. In addition, the Community Council produces a blog to inform stakeholders of new research and
-

developments. The Community Council is also using social media to share information about broadband development in Nebraska.

- In order to encourage interoperability and standardization, the NITC has adopted over 90 technical standards and guidelines.
- Recommendations made by the commission to the Governor and Legislature have assisted policy and funding decisions. The review process and prioritization of new IT projects provides policy makers with information about the objectives, justification, technical impact, costs, and risks of proposed systems. Additionally, the NITC has provided staff assistance to the Rural Broadband Task Force. Several of the task force's recommendations were included in LB 992 which was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Ricketts on August 15, 2020.
- The NITC encourages and facilitates input and involvement of all interested parties by engaging in collaborative processes, involving five advisory councils, the Technical Panel, and numerous workgroups and subcommittees. Information is publicly distributed and public input is encouraged.

The Rural Broadband Task Force has encouraged input and involvement from interested parties by inviting over 50 stakeholders and subject matter experts to share their knowledge and expertise as speakers, panelists, or participants in task force or subcommittee meetings. The task force also provided opportunities for public comments.

- The NITC is addressing long-term infrastructure innovation, improvement, and coordination through Network Nebraska and by supporting the Rural Broadband Task Force.
- NebraskaMap was redesigned and upgraded for more user functionality. In 2019 ESRI did an article highlighting the NebraskaMap redesign.



NITC Staff from Left to Right: Lori Lopez Urdiales, Tom Rolfes, Rick Becker, John Watermolen, and Anne Byers.

Introduction

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) was established by the Legislature in 1998 to provide advice, strategic direction, and accountability on information technology investments in the state. Chief Information Officer Ed Toner currently serves as the governor-designated chair of the NITC. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, approved by the Legislature, and represent elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education, communities, the Governor, and the general public.

The NITC conducts most of its work through six advisory groups: the Community Council, Education Council, eHealth Council, Geographic Information Systems Council, State Government Council, and Technical Panel. Each council establishes ad hoc work groups to prepare recommendations on specific topics. The Office of the Chief Information Officer provides support for the NITC, its councils, the Technical Panel, and ad hoc groups.



NITC Commissioners gather at the Jul. 12, 2018 NITC meeting at the AIM Institute in Omaha. From Left to Right: Senator Bruce Bostelman, Ed Toner, Dr. Terry Haack, Walter Weir, Dorest Harvey, Tom Nutt, Shonna Dorsey, Shane Greckel, and Dan Spray.

Section 86-518 directs the NITC to submit a progress report to the Governor and Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. This report fulfills this requirement. Over the past two years, the NITC has realized many significant achievements in each of the seven criteria established by the Legislature in Section 86-524(2). This report details those achievements.

Realization of Vision and Employment of Strategies

The vision has been realized and short-term and long-term strategies have been articulated and employed.

The NITC has developed a vision statement, goals, and strategic initiatives to articulate its vision and to highlight technology projects which have strategic importance to the State of Nebraska. The NITC continues to make progress toward the realization of its vision. However, because technology constantly presents new challenges and opportunities, the NITC's vision will continually evolve.

Vision. The NITC vision statement is to “promote the use of information technology in education, health care, economic development, and all levels of government services to improve the quality of life of all Nebraskans.”

Goals. The NITC has established four goals:

1. Support the development of a robust statewide telecommunications infrastructure that is scalable, reliable, and efficient;
2. Support the use of information technology to enhance community and economic development;
3. Promote the use of information technology to improve the efficiency and delivery of governmental and educational services, including homeland security;
4. Promote effective planning, management and accountability regarding the state's investments in information technology.

Strategic Initiatives. In 2004 the NITC began identifying priority areas as strategic initiatives. Each strategic initiative includes measureable action items. The development of the action items has been a collaborative effort involving many individuals and entities. These efforts have been successful in gaining cooperation of many stakeholders. The strategic initiatives form the core of the NITC's annual Statewide Technology Plan (https://nitc.nebraska.gov/documents/statewide_technology_plan.pdf).

The current list of strategic initiatives includes:

- State Government IT Strategy
- Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Network Nebraska
- Digital Education
- Rural Broadband and Community IT Development
- eHealth

The past two years have brought significant progress in each of the strategic initiatives. A summary of each strategic initiative follows.

State Government IT Strategy

This initiative focuses on the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the use of information technology by Nebraska state government. The strategy has utilized a hybrid centralization model combining elements of both the centralized and decentralized IT management models. Enterprise technologies are centralized with agency-specific activities remaining with the agencies.

Top priorities include:

- Security
- Consolidation
- Availability

The following graphic illustrates the priorities of the OCIO:



Action items supporting this initiative include:

- Implement same sign-on for certain enterprise applications;
- IT cost efficiencies;
- Operationalize IT and project governance;
- Consolidate on STN domain;
- Data center consolidation;
- Network migration (new world);
- Application process maturation (DevOps);
- Staff onboarding, offboarding, and transitioning;
- Application portfolio management; and
- Enterprise content management.

Recent accomplishments include:

- Creating a single help desk solution for multiple agencies;
- Migrating enterprise email to the cloud;
- Establishing a Risk Mitigation and Compliance team within the OCIO;
- Upgrading CCTV from analog to digital;
- Providing enhanced services to agencies in response to COVID-19 including additional VPN, MFA, soft phones, laptops, and auto attendants;
- Implementing a phased migration to a consolidated domain;
- Implementing a phased migration to a consolidated data center; and
- Implementing a phased network migration to “new world.”

Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure

Mapping and geospatial data support the economy, safety, environment and overall quality of life for Nebraskans. More than \$35 million has been invested to date in core framework data throughout local, state and federal stakeholders. Coordination and management of these activities are essential to reduce duplication of efforts and provide cost savings to our taxpayers.

The GIS Council develops strategies, standards and policies related to the creation and use of geospatial data and geographic information system technologies for Nebraska. The council's interagency and intergovernmental coordination efforts focus on facilitating data sharing, coordinating joint database development, developing GIS enterprise services, data and system standards, and education. The council represents

GIS Council Mission

To encourage the appropriate utilization of GIS technology and to assist organizations to make public investments in GIS technology and geospatial data in an effective, efficient, and coordinated manner.

Nebraska Revised Statute - §86-569 through §86-573

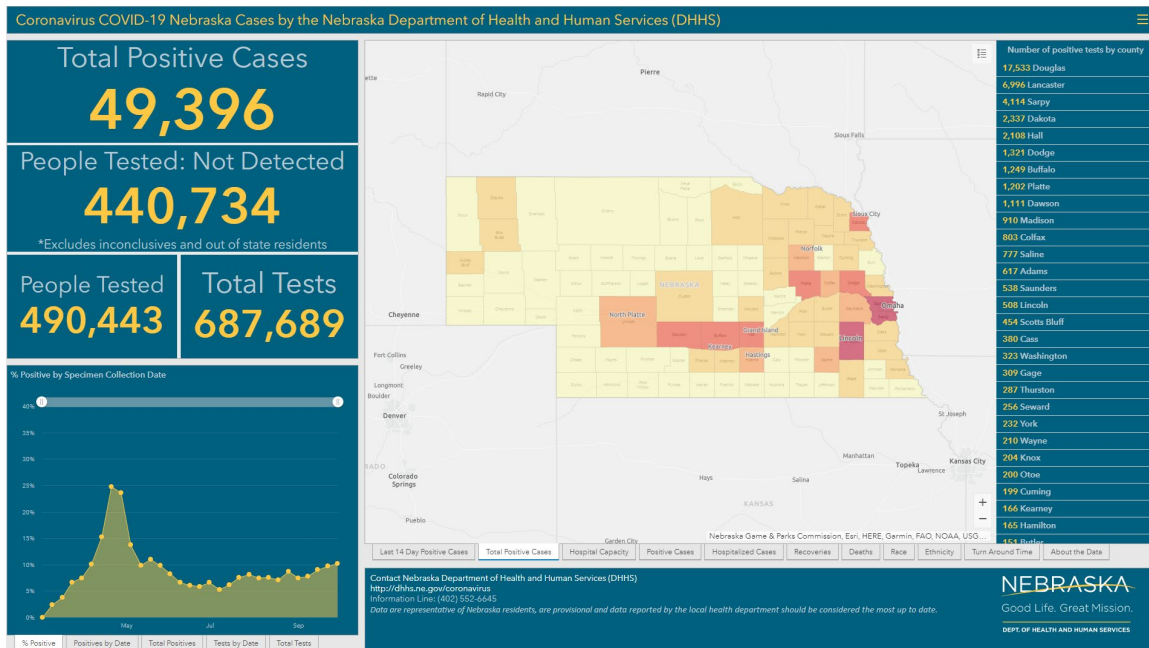
“Geospatial technologies incorporate GIS, global positioning systems (GPS), remote sensing such as imagery and Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), and other geographic data and information systems. GIS is a tool to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and visualize all types of geographic data.”

state, local and federal government agencies and other stakeholders needing access to data. The council is affiliated with nationally coordinated efforts through the Federal Geographic Data Committee and the National States Geographic Information Council.

This initiative promotes coordination, guides policy, provides guidance on Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) data accuracy requirements, and strengthens data sharing through partnerships to ensure access to quality geospatial datasets for governmental business needs and the public.

The major components of this initiative include:

1. Facilitating the creation, maintenance, analysis and publishing of quality NESDI data and information systems.
2. Encouraging data sharing and provide widespread access to data and services through NebraskaMAP.gov.
3. Developing and implementing NESDI layer standards and guidelines.
4. Facilitating technical assistance and education outreach opportunities for furthering the adoption of the NESDI and geospatial applications.
5. Achieving sustainable and efficient allocation of resources to support the implementation and wise governance of GIS services and geospatial data.



The Geographic Information Office continued leading public outreach efforts using the enterprise mapping platform, which led to the statewide, Covid-19 Nebraska Cases Dashboard in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, in Spring 2020.

The objective of the NESDI is:

“To develop and foster an environment and infrastructure that optimizes the efficient use of geospatial technology, data, and services to address a wide variety of business and governmental challenges within the state. Geospatial technologies and data will be delivered in a way that supports policy and decision making at all levels of government to enhance the economy, safety, environment and quality of life for Nebraskans.”

NESDI Framework Layer Assessment. The NESDI comprises of geospatial data layers that have multiple applications and are used by a vast majority of stakeholders. They are consistent with the Federal National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) “7 framework layers” and provide additional layers of particular importance to Nebraska stakeholders. The current priority layers for the state include imagery, elevation, street centerlines, address points, and land records.

NESDI Data Layers

- Survey and Geodetic control
- Transportation (roads, rail, air, etc.)
- Cadastre/parcels
- Elevation
- Aerial imagery
- Hydrography
- Political and administrative boundaries
- Addresses
- Soils
- Groundwater

Metadata standards (NITC 3-201 Geospatial Metadata) have been developed specific to the needs of Nebraska stakeholders while maintaining compliance with the metadata standards from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

The following are other accomplishments for the priority data layers.

Survey and Geodetic Control. Survey and geodetic control need to be taken into consideration for good quality data to exist in the future for several of the NESDI framework layers—particularly if multiple data sets are used in combinations for analysis and decision making. Some of the State’s current data sets were created for specific purposes with given budgets. As the use of geospatial data has grown, there are now other needs for the data. Some of these additional uses require a greater level of spatial accuracy.

Recommendations are being implemented including the need for control in standards and data acquisition plans. Survey and geodetic control recommendations have been identified and are included into recent NITC standards for elevation, imagery, street centerline, and address points.

A low-distortion projection (LDP) project is in progress under the direction of the State Surveyor’s office with assistance with other registered land surveyors of Nebraska. The LDP will create the best ground to grid solution with control established using recognized local control. This will lead to a better source data for all GIS horizontal calculations that improves all of our spatial data sets. Survey and geodetic control recommendations have been identified and included into ongoing data collection projects. There is a federal goal for implementation of this project in 2022 to coincide with the 2022 Federal Datum change.

The state has been working with BLM and have a signed MOU to share data with control points for Federal and non-federal lands. The state surveyor's office is the steward of this data.

Elevation (LiDAR). This action item establishes the Nebraska Statewide Elevation Program. It is led by the Elevation Working Group which facilitates the acquisition, maintenance, and sharing of a statewide elevation dataset by developing standards and specifications for LiDAR point clouds and derivative products. It further develops alternatives for systematic and cost-effective acquisition of these products and defines a program of stewardship for managing and publishing the data.

The Elevation Business Plan was approved by the GIS Council on March 26, 2015. The plan outlines the business case for LiDAR statewide. The plan takes a comprehensive approach and details the organizational needs, technology and human resource requirements, required product deliverables, funding requirements, legislative support, implementation plans, and a marketing and outreach strategy. The Elevation standard has reached its defined milestone with complete coverage for Nebraska and will be reconvening in the future to address plans for Nebraska based on the upcoming 3D Nation report compiled by the plan being USGS and NOAA

LiDAR data and its derived products are expected to have a benefit to cost ratio of five to one, with a project value of \$23 million to taxpayers in Nebraska.

Imagery. This action item establishes the Nebraska Statewide Imagery Program which sets out to coordinate the acquisition, delivery, and data sharing of imagery products and services. All government entities can participate with the program.

The core product is a statewide aerial ortho-image that meets the minimum horizontal accuracy requirements and a spatial resolution of 12 inch or better, preferably flown during the "leaf-off" period for trees. Obliques and other value-added products and services will also be included in the program. The requirements from federal standards (i.e., National Emergency Number Association) are also driving the need for greater spatial accuracy of imagery in order to meet needs to develop and create street centerline and address points for Enhanced/Next Generation 9-1-1.

The business plan was approved in 2017 and was updated in 2019 to address changes in technologies and policies with regards to federal partners and funding. The Imagery Working Group has identified a need for preserving historical aerial photographs and the OCIO-GIO continues to collaborate with the Natural Resource Conservation Service

Light Detection and Ranging

LiDAR is a technology that is used in conjunction with GPS technology, an aerial collection platform, and a processing computer to collect data points that can be used to define the location of objects that reflect near infrared light, including the land surface, structures and vegetation.

(NRCS) who is digitizing and georeferencing historic imagery in cooperation with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Land Records. This action item enables the integration of different local government land records information into a statewide dataset.

A Nebraska Statewide Parcel Geodatabase Development and Implementation Plan was finalized in 2015 with input from several county assessors. The plan outlines expectations of the State's public records request and a timeline going forward to obtain core parcel data and GIS files on an annual basis. The state has developed statewide data aggregation workflows, a data schema/model, and appropriate map services to extend data for business operations. All counties have digitized parcel data have been collected and aggregated into the statewide database since 2015. This effort has also leveraged a data sharing partnership effort by working together and identifying state level data that can also go back to counties to support their needs. This is an ongoing endeavor in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Revenue- Property Assessment Division and County Assessors.

Currently all parcels in Nebraska are digitized in some form. The Nebraska State Records Board has provided more than \$924,485 in grant assistance to digitize and create geodatabases utilizing the data. In 2013, five counties were awarded State Records Board grants totaling \$117,065 for digitizing land parcel information.

Street Centerline Address Database. Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) is working on compiling and quality checking various spatial (GIS) data sets such as street centerlines and address points that will be used for various transportation, emergency management, public safety (i.e., NG9-1-1), economic development and other related applications.

Efforts started in 2015 to communicate the recent street centerline and address standards to those involved with public safety and emergency management. The standards were presented to the State Enhanced 9-1-1 Advisory Board to address questions and to begin to develop partnerships to further build recommendations to transition to Next Generation 9-1-1. A Statewide Street Centerline and Address Data model with data definitions have been developed. This will be used to further communicate to participants who use state funds for projects developing street centerline and address data for the state in order to begin standardizing efforts going forward.

A business planning effort started in 2016 to begin defining data stewardship roles and responsibilities, data processing and workflows, costs, and plans with current E-911 and future NG9-1-1 coordination efforts. A review of federal requirements and national efforts has been completed and will be included in the business plan.

The Statewide Nebraska Street Centerline Database (NSCD) and Nebraska Address Database (NAD) have been developed with coordination between the Nebraska Department of Transportation and the Office of the CIO. Both databases have relationships in attribution and geometric placement. The Department of Transportation

finished a federal street centerline project with US Federal Highway Administration and is beginning to incorporate the geometric framework to improve the existing street centerline data for the state. The NSCD and NAD is currently being stored at the Office of the CIO in the State's GIS Enterprise Platform.

Until seamless address data becomes available to the state, several state agencies have partnered towards a shared service for a statewide enterprise license agreement to acquire statewide address and demographic data for the state. It is available to any state agency, city/local government, other state eligible political subdivision, college, or university (except University of Nebraska Medical Center). The state has leveraged the data to be made available in several formats and map services. This data will also assist the development of addressing points to be used in combination with the street centerline database.

NebraskaMAP. NebraskaMAP (<http://www.NebraskaMAP.gov>) is the online gateway to get access to



Nebraska's authoritative geospatial data. The NebraskaMAP clearinghouse was replaced in 2018 with a new and improved platform to deliver data and information on various platforms. The system integrates with the State's GIS Enterprise platform and has more than 150 data sets and over 35 web mapping applications. The site averages over 1800 views per day.

All state agencies that use geospatial data are working together to reduce duplicated datasets and streamline the data sharing process. This has been done by consolidation and the creation of Nebraska Enterprise GIS platform (NEGIS). This allows users in state agencies to accessing data in a sole location for the most current information. The new system formalizes communication with all statewide data stewards to keep data current while exercising the importance of authoritative and quality data for public consumption.

The next phase of the project is to partner with other data stewards who share public data through local and county governments and other political subdivisions. The website may eventually include a component to provide an easier way to view and access available imagery, LiDAR and other raster and large file size datasets for Nebraska.

Network Nebraska

Participants in Network Nebraska are reducing costs and stimulating investment in Nebraska's telecommunications infrastructure. Network Nebraska is represented as a compilation of three major sub-networks: The University of Nebraska network, State and County Government network, and the K-20 Education network. Each network has its own management staff, but takes advantage of co-location facilities, Internet and telecommunications contracts, and shared infrastructure wherever possible.

In order to develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes quality of service to public entities, the State of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska began aggregating their backbone network services into a core network backbone in 2003. In 2006, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 1208 which named the statewide network as Network Nebraska, and tasked the Chief Information Officer (assisted by the University of Nebraska) with "providing access to all education entities as soon as feasible, but no later than July 1, 2012." Network Nebraska is also expected to "meet the demand of state agencies and local governments...Such network shall provide access to a reliable and affordable infrastructure capable of carrying a spectrum of services and applications, including distance education, across the state."

Network Nebraska has succeeded in lowering the unit cost of Internet service to participating entities through aggregated purchasing power. By combining Network Nebraska's K-20 Internet purchases and peering into five state contracts of over 100Gbps, the K-12 E-rate-eligible price has gone from \$.53/Mbps/month on July 1, 2018 down to \$.18/Mbps/month on July 1, 2020, a 66% decrease in unit cost. This will benefit all current and future Network Nebraska schools, ESUs and colleges that purchase their Internet service from the statewide master contract.

Benefits of Network Nebraska also include flexible bandwidth utilization, Intranet routing, lower network costs, greater efficiency, interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing, increased collaboration among educational entities, new student learning opportunities, enterprise network management software, and better use of public investments.

Network Nebraska has also stimulated investments and competition in telecommunications infrastructure. As the State bid connectivity to large regional areas of schools and colleges, the telecommunications companies responded with fiber Ethernet service pricing that greatly reduced the costs to educational entities.

The development of the K-20 education network has increased the number of distance education courses available to Nebraska students. Through Zoom interactive videoconferencing, Nebraska high schools and community colleges exchange over 306 courses per year (2020-21). World languages, mathematics, language arts, and performing arts courses continue to be popular offerings leveraged by rural students.

Due to advances in WAN Ethernet technology, Network Nebraska-Education is now able to reach every education entity in the State through six core aggregation points: Grand Island, Kearney, Lincoln, Scottsbluff, and two locations in Omaha.

The development of the K-20 Education network has increased the number of customers served by Network Nebraska. Data and Internet customers currently include the three state colleges, all six community colleges, two tribal colleges, the University of Nebraska system, over half of the private colleges, and 243 school districts under 17 different educational service units. The Nebraska K-20 Education network is completely funded by Participation and Interregional Transport Fees from its 293 members.

Cybersecurity has been a priority area of the Education Council since the most recent update to the Statewide Technology Plan. The Education Council and Network Nebraska Advisory Group continue to promote and provide cybersecurity training experiences for Network Nebraska members.



Members of the Education Council meet with Governor Ricketts, to discuss Network Nebraska's progress toward affordable and reliable infrastructure.

Network Nebraska has been made possible through a cooperative effort of the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP). CAP is composed of several operational entities: Office of the CIO, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications with policy assistance from the Nebraska Department of Education, Public Service Commission, and the NITC.

In 2009, the NITC Education Council chartered the Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG). These 16 members, representing all of the major K-12 and higher education communities, have been instrumental in helping guide Office of the CIO decisions concerning network infrastructure, services, and fees.

Network Nebraska is not a state-owned network. Facilities and circuits are leased from private telecommunications providers in the state, allowing the State of Nebraska and members of Network Nebraska to act as anchor tenants.

Digital Education

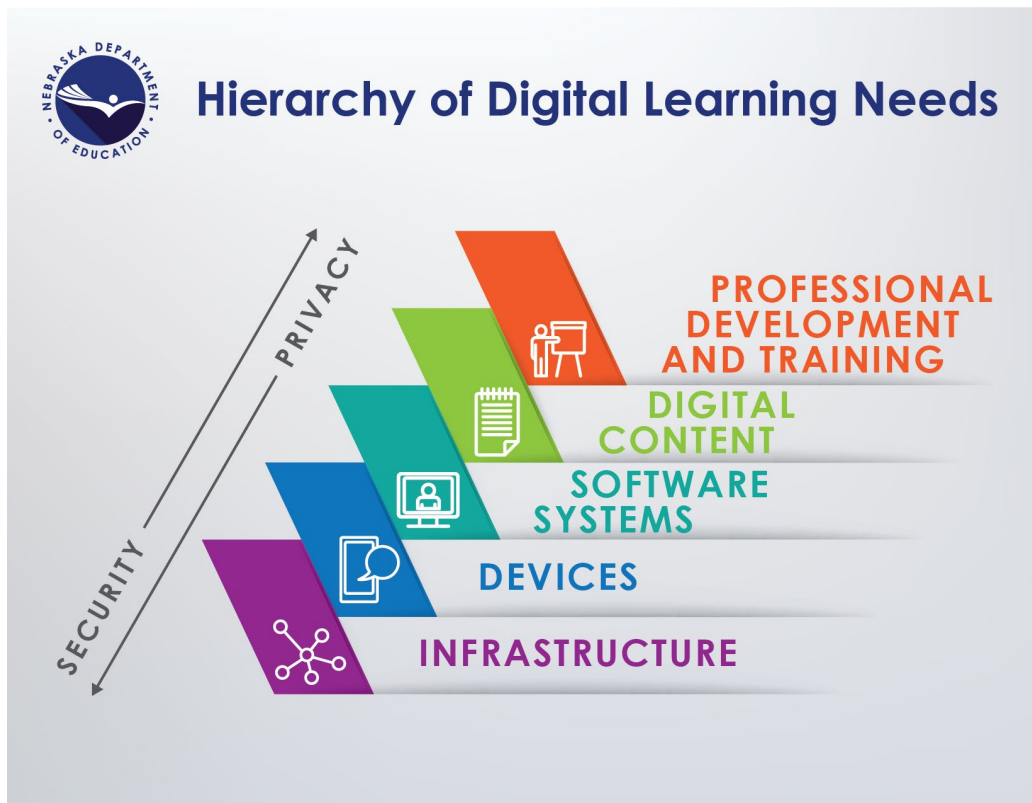
The primary objective of the Digital Education Initiative is to promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis.

The initiative is dependent upon adequate Internet connectivity and transport bandwidth for learners, instructors, administrators, and for educational attendance sites. A minimum acceptable level of classroom technology will have to be established for the initiative to be successful.

The primary components of the Digital Education Initiative include:

- A statewide telecommunications network with ample bandwidth capable of transporting voice, video, and data between and among all education entities (See Network Nebraska.);
- Distance insensitive Internet pricing for all Nebraska education entities;
- Development of a statewide eLearning environment so that every teacher and every learner has access to a web-based, digital curriculum;
- Development of a statewide digital resource library so that any teacher or learner will be able to retrieve digital media for use in instructional and student projects;
- Synchronous videoconferencing interconnections between all schools and colleges;
- The means to coordinate and facilitate essential education opportunities for all students through a statewide student information system; and
- Regional Pre-K-20 education cooperatives that vertically articulate educational programs and opportunities.

Establishing a robust Digital Education environment is critical to Nebraska's future. So much of what teachers, students, and administrators do today is dependent upon Internet-based information and communication. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the sudden shift to home-based remote learning, the Nebraska Department of Education, in cooperation with the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, and Network Nebraska, developed the Hierarchy of Digital Learning Needs. The five layers are based on an adequate infrastructure (student internet access). Affordable, reliable broadband access for students became a critical component for remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Nebraska has continued to make progress in the ratio of students per computing device in the classroom. Educators and administrators are urged to achieve the goal of 1:1 computer (or Internet-connected device) availability.

The benefits of the Digital Education Initiative would include:

- Greater technical capacity for schools and colleges to meet the increasing demands of a more diverse customer base;
- More equitable and affordable Internet access for Nebraska schools and colleges;
- A comprehensive web-based approach to curriculum mapping and the organization and automation of student assessment data gathering and depiction;
- The availability of rich, digital media to the desktop that is indexed to Nebraska standards, catalogued, and searchable by the educator or student;
- A more systematic approach to synchronous video distance learning that enables Nebraska schools and colleges to exchange more courses, staff development and training, and ad hoc learning opportunities.

Student equity of access to the internet has become a high priority action item of the Education Council since the most recent update to the NITC Statewide Technology Plan. So, the Office of the CIO partnered with the Nebraska Library Commission and Public Service Commission to develop the Nebraska Special Construction Matching E-rate fund

for schools and libraries. The matching funds from the FCC's E-rate program and the Nebraska Universal Service Fund will increase the discount for special construction of fiber by as much as 20%, which could dramatically reduce costs and increase transport speeds for the participants.

The furthering of the Digital Education initiative and completion of the Digital Education action items requires the participation of many education-related entities. The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) are cooperating on aggregated purchases of computing devices and a statewide learning management system as part of the COVID-19 response.

Rural Broadband and Community IT Development

The NITC Community Council and staff have addressed rural broadband and community IT development in several ways:

Rural Broadband Task Force. NITC staff has provided staff support to the state's Rural Broadband Task Force. The Rural Broadband Task Force was created by LB 994 in 2018 to "review issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska." The task force's first report was submitted to the Legislature on Oct. 31, 2019. The report is available at:

<https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>

Rural Broadband Remote Access Grants. NITC staff provided assistance to staff of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to review applications for the Rural Broadband Remote Access Grant program which was funded through the CARES Act. Governor Ricketts allocated \$40 million for broadband grants. Over 100 applications were submitted. Sixty-one grants totaling approximately \$29.5 million were approved.

Broadband Resources. The NITC Community Council and its partners developed a number of resources and educational materials to help Nebraska communities and regions improve their broadband service, including:

- [Broadband case studies](#)
- [County broadband fact sheets \(developed by the Nebraska Library Commission and the NITC Community Council\)](#)
- [Six Steps to Better Broadband](#)

Staff of the NITC and Public Service Commission also worked with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to develop materials and host a series of

webinars for Nebraska communities and telecommunications providers on the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.

eHealth

Nebraska continues to be a leader in health information exchange. NeHII has over 6,000 registered users and includes health information on over 4 million patients. Data sharing participants include 20 general acute hospitals, 41 critical access hospitals, 2 children's hospitals, and 186 clinic/ambulatory facilities. In addition, 212 long-term post-acute care facilities are NeHII users. NeHII in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services serves as Nebraska's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Nebraska's PDMP was the first PDMP to include all medications. The PDMP has over 7,000 registered users and has been queried over 612,000 times. As NeHII has matured, it is providing services to help practices reduce the burdens of clinical quality reporting in addition to providing health information at the point of care.

The eHealth Council has identified data governance as an area to further study and address.

Improved Coordination and Assistance to Policymakers

The statewide technology plan and other activities of the commission have improved coordination and assisted policymakers.

Statewide Technology Plan. The statewide technology plan annually prepared by the NITC has been an effective vehicle for identifying key projects, building stakeholder support, coordinating efforts, and communicating with policy makers.

The current plan was approved in 2018. The plan focuses on seven strategic initiatives:

- State Government IT Strategy
 - IT Security
 - Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure
 - Network Nebraska
 - Digital Education
 - Rural Broadband and Community IT Development
 - eHealth
-

These initiatives were identified by the NITC and its advisory groups. These groups include representatives of a wide array of entities, including health care providers, education, local government, the private sector, and state agencies. This process has proven to be effective in building stakeholder support. These initiatives are collaborative projects involving many entities both inside and outside of state government. The statewide technology plan provides a method of communicating the importance of these initiatives, progress made, and plans for further implementation. The plan is submitted to the Legislature and the Governor. The primary role of the NITC in these initiatives has been facilitation and coordination. The success of these initiatives testifies to the NITC's effectiveness at facilitation, coordination, and communication with policymakers.

The Chief Information Officer and the advisory groups of the NITC are occasionally called upon to provide analysis or review of technology initiatives, explanation of state-specific information technology data, and other requests as needed by the Governor and Legislature.

Rural Broadband Task Force. By providing staff support for Nebraska's Rural Broadband Task Force, the NITC has assisted policymakers by studying issues related to rural broadband availability and by making recommendations. The Rural Broadband Task Force was created by LB 994 in 2018 to "review issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska." LB 994 was introduced by Senator Curt Friesen, Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.

The 14-member task force is chaired by Ed Toner, CIO for the State of Nebraska and Chair of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. The task force's first report was submitted to the Legislature on Oct. 31, 2019. The report included findings and recommendations on:

- Broadband availability;
- Broadband data and mapping;
- Alternative technologies and providers;
- Nebraska Universal Service Fund and reverse auction;
- Public-private partnerships and broadband planning;
- Digital inclusion, homework gap and leveraging E-Rate funding; and
- Broadband infrastructure funds.

The report and supporting appendices is available at:

<https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>.

Ed Toner provided testimony highlighting the task force's recommendations to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee's Interim Hearing on LR 166 on

December 4, 2019. The task force and its subcommittees have continued to meet. The task force will submit another report to the Legislature and Governor Ricketts by Nov. 2, 2021.

Members of the task force include:

Ed Toner, Task Force Chair, Chief Information Officer, State of Nebraska and Chair, Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Senator Curt Friesen, Chair, Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, Nebraska Legislature

Senator Bruce Bostelman, Nebraska Legislature (selected by the Executive Board)

Mary Ridder, Commissioner, Nebraska Public Service Commission

Tony Goins, Director, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Steve Wellman, Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Zachary Hunnicutt, Farmer, Hunnicutt Farms, Representing Agribusiness Community

Isaiah Graham, Vice-President, Homestead Bank, Representing Nebraska Business Community

Tom Shoemaker, President, Pinpoint Communications, Representing Regulated Wireline Telecommunications Industry

Daniel Spray, Owner, Precision Technology, Inc., Representing Wireless Telecommunications Industry

Timothy Lindahl, CEO/General Manager, Wheat Belt Public Power District, Representing Public Power Industry

Anna Turman, Division CIO, Catholic Health Initiative, Representing Health Care Providers

Andrew Buker, Executive Director of Infrastructure Services, University of Nebraska, Representing Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions

Ron Cone, Director of Network Information Services, ESU 10, Representing Rural Schools Offering Kindergarten through Grade Twelve

Policy and Funding Recommendations

Recommendations made by the commission to the Governor and Legislature have assisted policy and funding decisions.

Section 86-516 (8) directs the NITC to “make recommendations on technology investments to the Governor and the Legislature, including a prioritized list of projects, reviewed by the technical panel,” as part of the biennial budget process. Technical reviews of information technology projects are conducted by a team of reviewers. Projects are then reviewed by one or more of the NITC’s advisory councils and the Technical Panel. Using information from the review process, the NITC makes recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The review process and prioritization of new IT projects provides policy makers with information about the objectives, justification, technical impact, costs, and risks of proposed systems.

In 2020, eight projects were reviewed as part of the biennial budget process. Recommendations on these requests were submitted to the Governor and the Legislature.

Policies, Standards, Guidelines, and Architectures

Policies, standards, guidelines, and architectures have been developed and observed.

In order to encourage interoperability and standardization, over 90 standards and guidelines have been adopted. The development of standards and guidelines has helped the State of Nebraska achieve greater interoperability and efficiency. The process encourages public input from all involved constituents. Most standards are developed by a work group consisting of stakeholders from state government agencies and other interested entities. The Technical Panel recommends standards and guidelines to be considered for adoption by the NITC.

A full listing of the NITC Standards and Guidelines are listed at this website:
<https://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/index.html>

Information Technology Clearinghouse

An information technology clearinghouse has been established, maintained, and utilized of Nebraska's information technology infrastructure and of activities taking place in the state involving information technology, and the information flow between and among individuals and organizations has been facilitated as a result of the information technology clearinghouse.

The NITC's website (www.nitc.nebraska.gov) serves as an information technology clearinghouse, providing access to information including resources for communities, health care providers, and educational entities, the GIS community, and state government. The NITC website is the official repository for agenda, minutes, and documents for the NITC, its councils and their workgroups. The section on "Standards and Guidelines" provides access to all technical standards and guidelines adopted by the NITC or under development. The Community Council and its partners have developed resources to help Nebraska communities and regions improve their broadband service. Links to these resources are available from the websites of the NITC and the Rural Broadband Task Force (ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov). Network Nebraska has its own project website, with information designed for current and prospective participants (<http://www.networknebraska.net>). The NITC website also includes a link to NebraskaMAP (<http://www.NebraskaMAP.gov>) which provides public access to geospatial data in Nebraska. Additionally, NITC staff members handle requests for information on technology projects and development and facilitate the exchange of information.



NITC Commissioners hear reports from its advisory councils.

Input and Involvement of Interested Parties

Input and involvement of all interested parties has been encouraged and facilitated.

The NITC engages in collaborative processes, involving five advisory councils, the Technical Panel, and numerous workgroups and subcommittees. Additionally information is publicly distributed and public input is encouraged through the NITC's website and through e-mail distribution. NITC staff also present information on NITC initiatives at conferences, workshops, and meetings across the state. The list of NITC Commissioners, council members, and Technical Panel members is included in this document.



Active work groups and subcommittees over the past two years include:

- State Government Council—Security Architecture Work Group
- Technical Panel—Accessibility of Information Technology Work Group
- Technical Panel—Intergovernmental Data Communications Work Group
- GIS Council—Street Centerline-Address Database Work Group
- GIS Council—Imagery Work Group
- GIS Council—Elevation Work Group
- Education Council—Network Nebraska Work Group
- Education Council—Digital Education Work Group
- Education Council—Network Nebraska Advisory Group

Additionally, the Rural Broadband Task Force has encouraged the input and involvement of interested parties in several ways. Between September 2018 and October 2019, the member task force and its subcommittees met 40 times to examine issues related to rural broadband and to develop recommendations. Over 50 stakeholders and subject matter experts were invited to share their knowledge and expertise as speakers,

panelists, or participants in task force or subcommittee meetings. The task force also provided opportunities for public comments during two meetings and received 23 written comments on drafts of the recommendations and the report. A list of speakers and invited stakeholders as well as comments received are available at:

<https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>

Infrastructure Innovation, Improvement and Coordination

Long-term infrastructure innovation, improvement, and coordination has been planned for, facilitated, and achieved with minimal barriers and impediments.

The NITC is addressing long-term infrastructure innovation, improvement, and coordination through Network Nebraska and by supporting the Rural Broadband Task Force.

Network Nebraska. Network Nebraska has aggregated statewide telecommunications to a common infrastructure, generated considerable cost savings to public entities, and decreased the unit cost of Internet service by leveraging the consolidated demand of all participating entities. Since September 2003, Network Nebraska has grown to serve the data and Internet service needs of all state agencies with outstate circuits, the University of Nebraska's four campuses, all six of the state's community colleges, all three state colleges, and all but one of the 244 school districts under 17 different educational service units. The number of customers is expected to continue growing due to the favorable Internet rates and the high quality of service offered by Network Nebraska. The Network Nebraska K-20 network is one possible alternative for them to interconnect with each other and purchase less expensive Internet.

Network Nebraska has been made possible through a cooperative effort of the State of Nebraska Office of the CIO, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, with policy assistance from the Nebraska Department of Education, Public Service Commission, and the NITC. This partnership is known as the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP).

The first phase of the State multipurpose backbone became operational in September 2003, serving Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island with the second phase following in February 2004, extending service to Norfolk, Kearney, North Platte, and the Panhandle. In July 2008, the Network Nebraska K-20 backbone interconnected Grand Island, Lincoln, and Omaha, and Scottsbluff was added in 2012. The University of Nebraska has multiple statewide Internet contracts for Network Nebraska that have dramatically reduced the unit cost of Internet access to Network Nebraska participants. By leveraging Internet2 and InterExchange Carrier peering relationships, an additional 40 Gbps of

Internet egress has been made available at substantially lower costs than commodity Internet.

Network Nebraska is not a state-owned network. Facilities are leased from private telecommunications providers in the state. In this way, the state hopes to stimulate private investment into Nebraska's telecommunications infrastructure.

Rural Broadband Task Force. LB 994, which was introduced by Senator Curt Friesen, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Ricketts on April 17, 2018, created the Rural Broadband Task Force. LB 994 charges the task force with reviewing "issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska." Ed Toner, Chair of the NITC, serves as the chair of the Rural Broadband Task Force. The NITC is providing support to the Rural Broadband Task Force.



Cullen Robbins gives an overview of broadband terms to members of the Rural Broadband Task Force, Sept. 24, 2018.

In particular, LB 994 specifies that the task force shall:

- a. Determine how Nebraska rural areas compare to neighboring states and the rest of the nation in average download and upload speeds and in subscription rates to higher speed tiers, when available;
- b. Examine the role of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund in bringing comparable and affordable broadband services to rural residents and any effect of the fund in deterring or delaying capital formation, broadband competition, and broadband deployment;
- c. Review the feasibility of alternative technologies and providers in accelerating access to faster and more reliable broadband service for rural residents;
- d. Examine alternatives for deployment of broadband services to areas that remain unserved or underserved, such as reverse auction programs described in section

- 4 of this act, public-private partnerships, funding for competitive deployment, and other measures, and make recommendations to the Public Service Commission to encourage deployment in such areas;
- e. Recommend state policies to effectively utilize state universal service fund dollars to leverage federal universal service fund support and other federal funding;
 - f. Make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature as to the most effective and efficient ways that federal broadband rural infrastructure funds received after the operative date of this section should be expended if such funds become available; and
 - g. Determine other issues that may be pertinent to the purpose of the task force.

The task force shall present its findings in a report by Nov. 1, 2019 and by November 1 every odd-numbered year thereafter.

The task force held its first meeting on Sept. 24, 2018. More information on the task force is available at:

<https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>.

Awards and Recognition



In 2019 ESRI did a case study on NebraskaMap, “Nebraska’s ArcGIS Hub Site Bridges Gap between Citizens, Government”.¹



Nebraska received a grade of “B” in the Center for Digital Government’s Digital States Survey in 2020.



Nebraska received a grade of “B” from the National States Geographic Information Council’s Geospatial Maturity Assessment in 2019.

¹ <https://www.esri.com/en-us/landing-page/product/2019/nebraska-office-cio-case-study>

The State of IT: Nebraska 2020



6 advisory groups assist the NITC:

- Community Council
- Education Council
- eHealth Council
- GIS Council
- State Gov't Council
- Technical Panel



Over **90** standards and guidelines have been adopted by the NITC.

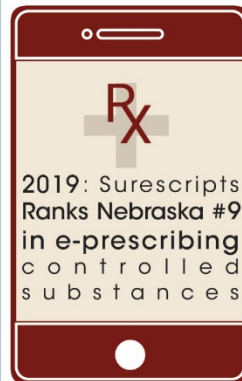
The Network Nebraska statewide consortium

is comprised of **293** entities and serves over 425,000 students and staff with internet, distance learning, and other network management services.



Since the State and University of Nebraska began cooperatively bidding for statewide internet in 2007, the unit rate has been reduced by **99%**. Nebraska K-12 entities pay \$0.11 per Mbps per month for internet access after E-rate discounts are applied.

The Rural Broadband Task Force and its subcommittees held **30** meetings and invited over **50** stakeholders and subject matter experts to prepare its report **submitted in Oct. 2019**.



Over **4 million** patients have data in NeHII's master patient index.

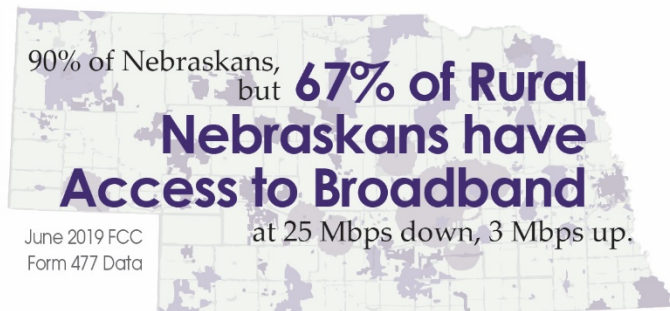


6,000+ health care providers are registered users.

90% of Nebraskans, but **67% of Rural Nebraskans** have **Access to Broadband**

June 2019 FCC Form 477 Data

at 25 Mbps down, 3 Mbps up.



Advisory Group Members

Technical Panel

Kirk Langer, Chair, Lincoln Public Schools

Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska

Jeremy Sydik, University of Nebraska

Ed Toner, Office of the CIO

Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications

Community Council

Rod Armstrong, Co-Chair, AIM, Lincoln

Pam Adams, American Broadband

Chris Anderson, City of Central City

Jay Anderson, NebraskaLink

Randy Bretz, TEDxLincoln Curator

Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library

Shonna Dorsey, Mutual of Omaha

Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library

Connie Hancock, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

Johnathan Hladik, Center for Rural Affairs

Timothy Lindahl, Wheatbelt Public Power District

David Lofdahl, IT Consultant

Megan McGown, Great Plains Health

Judy Petersen, Central Nebraska Economic Development District

Nichole Reiner, Department of Economic Development

Mary Ridder, Nebraska Public Service Commission

Danny Rockhill, BankFirst

Mehmet Can Vuran, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission

David Young, City of Lincoln

Education Council

Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Burke Brown, District OR-1 Palmyra/Bennet

Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools

Chad Davis, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 2-Fremont

John Dunning, Wayne State College

Stephen Hamersky, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School

Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Community Schools

Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools

Chuck Lenosky, Creighton University

Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University

Alan Moore, ESU 3-LaVista

Gary Needham, ESU 9-Hastings

Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska

Tom Peters, Central Community College

Carla Streff, Northeast Community College

Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

Ed Toner, Office of the CIO, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services

Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System

SuAnn Witt, Nebraska Department of Education

eHealth Council

Kathy Cook, Co-chair, Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Health Department

Marty Fattig, Co-Chair, Nemaha County Hospital

Kevin Borcher, NeHII

Gary Cochran, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Cindy Kadavy, Nebraska Health Care Association

Jan Evans, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska (nominated)

Dr. James McClay, Nebraska Medicine

Dr. Shawn Murdock, Midlands Family Medicine, North Platte

Ashley Newmyer, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health

Dave Palm, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Jina Ragland, AARP (nominated)

Todd Searls, Praesidio Healthcare Consulting

Brian Sterud, Faith Regional Health System

Anna Turman, Catholic Health Initiative

Linda Wittmuss, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health

Bridget Young, Visiting Nurse Association

GIS Council

Timothy Cielocha, Chair, Nebraska Public Power District

Casey DunnGossin, Nebraska State Patrol

Steve Rathje, Department of Natural Resources

Claire Inbody, Department of Transportation

Chad Boshart, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Han Liu, Department of Health and Human Services

Lash Chaffin, League of Nebraska Municipalities

Trinity Chappellear, Governor's Policy Research Office

John Beran, State Surveyor

Tim Erickson, Clerk of the Legislature

Eric Herbert, Omaha Metro Area Sarpy County GIS

Doug Hallum, Conservation and Survey Division – UNL

Danny Pitman, Sarpy County Assessor's Office

Kea Morovitz, Public Service Commission

Vacant, Federal Liaison

John McKee, Jefferson and Saline County Emergency Management

Jeff McReynolds, City of Lincoln, Lancaster County

Chuck Wingert, Nemaha Natural Resources District

James W. Ohmberger, Office of the CIO

Devarsi Majumder, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Lesli Rawlins, Nebraska Geospatial Professional Association

Mike Schonlau, Member at Large-Omaha/Douglas County

Ruth Sorensen, Department of Revenue

Gary Morrison, Department of Environmental Quality

Matt Tinkham, Member at Larger – Surveyors

Baily Gibson, Member at Large- Hall County

Don Linqvist, Member at Larger – Precision Agriculture

State Government Council

Ed Toner, Chair, Office of the CIO

John Albin, Department of Labor

Don Arp, Jr., Crime Commission

Chris Ayotte, Department of Revenue

Col. John Bolduc, Nebraska State Patrol

Dennis Burling, Department of Environment and Energy

Colleen Byelick, Secretary of State

Trinity Chappellear, Governor's Policy Research Office

Dean Folkers, Department of Education

Jill Gradwohl Schroeder, Workers' Compensation Court

Dorest Harvey, Private Sector

Jason Jackson, Department of Administrative Services

Rhonda Lahm, Department of Motor Vehicles

Kelly Lammers, Department of Banking and Finance

Kim Menke, Department of Natural Resources

Jim Ohmberger, Office of the CIO, Enterprise Computing Services

Jayne Scofield, Office of the CIO, Network Services

Robin Spindler, Department of Correctional Services

Corey Steel, Supreme Court

Devin Townsend, Department of Transportation

Vacant, Department of Health and Human Services

Rod Wagner, Library Commission

Lee Will, DAS—Budget Division

Appendix

Policy Objectives and Review Criteria

Section 86-518 directs the NITC to submit a progress report to the Governor and Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. This report is offered in fulfillment of that requirement.

Section 86-524 further directs the Appropriations Committee and Transportation and Telecommunications Committee to conduct a joint review of the activities of the NITC by the end of the calendar year of every even-numbered year. Section 86-524 also provides three objectives and a list of criteria for evaluating progress. This report is intended to provide information to assist the Legislature in conducting its review.

Policy Objectives

Section 86-524 states: "It shall be the policy of the state to:

1. Use information technology in education, communities, including health care and economic development, and every level of government service to improve economic opportunities and quality of life for all Nebraskans regardless of location or income;
2. Stimulate the demand to encourage and enable long-term infrastructure innovation and improvement; and
3. Organize technology planning in new ways to aggregate demand, reduce costs, and create support networks; encourage collaboration between communities of interest; and encourage competition among technology and service providers."

Review Criteria

Section 86-524 states: "In the review, the committees shall determine the extent to which:

1. The vision has been realized and short-term and long-term strategies have been articulated and employed;
 2. The statewide technology plan and other activities of the commission have improved coordination and assisted policymakers;
 3. An information technology clearinghouse has been established, maintained, and utilized of Nebraska's information technology infrastructure and of activities taking place in the state involving information technology, and the information flow between and among individuals and organizations has been facilitated as a result of the information technology clearinghouse;
-

4. Policies, standards, guidelines, and architectures have been developed and observed;
5. Recommendations made by the commission to the Governor and Legislature have assisted policy and funding decisions;
6. Input and involvement of all interested parties has been encouraged and facilitated; and
7. Long-term infrastructure innovation, improvement, and coordination has been planned for, facilitated, and achieved with minimal barriers and impediments.”