

February 11, 2025 Meeting - Seattle Community Technology Advisory Board

Topics covered included: Digital Equity Strategic Plan; January Telecom Forum Follow-up; Initial presentation of committee work plans for new committees; Committee Updates

This meeting was held: February 11, 2025; 6:00-7:15 p.m., via Webex and in City Hall Room 370

Attending:

Board Members: Phillip Meng, Coleman Entringer, Omari Stringer, Isabel Rodriguez, DeiMarlon Scisney,

Public: Dorene Cornwell, Sanchit Gera, John Kelso, Janice, Lassana Magassa

Staff: Jon Morrison Winters, Vinh Tang, Cass Magnuski

13 In Attendance

Phillip Meng: Let's move right into it. Thanks so much for joining the February meeting of the Community Technology Advisory Board. Good evening, everyone. Let's get started with a round of introductions.

INTRODUCTIONS

Phillip Meng: It's great to see everyone this evening. Before we get started, we have two motions on the table. First, can we get a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14 meeting?

DeiMarlon Scisney: I so move.

Phillip Meng: Thanks, D, can I get a second?

Omari Stringer: Second.

Phillip Meng: Thanks, Omari. All in favor? All opposed? Motion passes. Can I get a motion to approve the agenda for the February 11 meeting?

Isabel Rodriguez: Motion to approve.

Phillip Meng: Thanks, Isabel. Can I get a second?

DeiMarlon Scisney: Second.

Phillip Meng: Thanks, D. All in favor? That's all of us. (Motion passes.) Let's get started. We are thrilled to learn more about the Digital Equity Strategic Plan. Jon, the floor is yours.

DIGITAL EQUITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Jon Morrison Winters: Great. Thank you, Phillip. I came in a couple of minutes early, but I forgot to verify in terms of the slide show.

Vinh Tang: I've got it. It's ready.

Jon Morrison Winters: Okay, it's ready. We will go ahead and share the slide show. I will dive right in. Good evening, everyone, I am Jon Morrison Winters, digital equity program and broadband manager for the City and Seattle and Seattle IT. I am very pleased to be able to be here to represent the incredible digital equity team. I have been in this role with the team for about two and a half years. I just consider myself really privileged to be able to do this work with and ally with communities in the City of Seattle. So, I am very happy to be able to join CTAB this evening and talk about it. Sometimes, I'm here in my role as staff support for CTAB just running equipment and things like that, but I'm happy to be here today to talk with you about the work that we do in digital equity.

Here is what I am going to be talking about this evening. It is pretty straight-forward. I have identified five components here to talk through. I am going to do a Digital Equity 101. Most of you probably don't need that, but I don't want to assume anything, and I think it is always good to have a little bit of context. So, I will provide that. I am going to do a little bit of a recap, sort of a year-end review of 2024, and then look ahead to 2025 and beyond. The 2025 work plan is still in draft, even though we are in February, but we are going to focus on that. And I will talk a little bit on our strategic plan and strategic initiatives going forward. I hope we have time for Q&A. We'll see if there is time.

So, 101, at the highest level, is our digital equity vision, which is here on the slide, but it is that everyone has the information technology capacity they need for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. This has not changed. This has remained really consistent for the years that we have been doing digital equity work. Regardless of any changes at the federal level, and some will talk about this work in different ways, but this is not going to change. So, you have my commitment and the City's commitment.

In terms of how we achieve that digital equity vision, we developed this framework, and I will give credit to David Keyes and others who have been doing this work for many years. Many of you know that David Keyes was on the digital equity team, and just retired last year. But this was a framework that was developed to identify how digital equity is achieved and what the various components are. So, essentially, going back to that vision, digital equity is about everyone having the IT capacity that they need and the tools that they need to be able to fully participate in our community. /And these have

been identified as the four legs of the stool, if you will, for the things that people need. Very simply, they need internet access, they need access to devices to connect to the internet, digital skills and tech support, so the skills to use devices and tech support and training; and then the last leg of the stool is applications and services. We don't talk about this one quite as much, at least in the day-to-day work in digital equity, but it is extremely important. Obviously, your devices are your hardware that have applications and services as your software component, and also embedded within there the understanding and importance of accessibility and human-centered design. That's a component, as well; it is just built in.

On this slide, I have the logo here of Digital Inclusion Trailblazers. This is a logo and it's a program of the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. NDIA has done a lot of work, and some of this, again, was work that the City of Seattle was a true trailblazer on, as it says here. But a lot of this was developed by the City of Seattle and now has been adopted by cities across the country, in terms of understanding the role of local government and digital equity work. So, this is the criteria that is identified by NDIA, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance as this is what cities can do now for promoting digital equity and furthering digital equity in the community. They have five categories here: funding, participation, meeting engagement, policy change, and planning and data. And in our case, we participate in all of these ways. We directly fund digital equity programs through our Technology Matching Fund, and we directly fund Digital Navigator Projects. We participate in local digital equity practitioner networks, including DELN, which CTAB is a member of, as well. We engage community around aspects of digital equity. Just as one example, our recent focus has been low-cost internet. So, I will get to this on a later slide, but the portable connectivity program last year -- that was a federal nationwide program that had been. And since then, we have been looking at other ways to get people connected and that has been a focus of our community engagement. It was a focus of our community engagement in 2024. In terms of policy change, we are engaged in policy conversations. We are engaged in conversations with advocates around State-level policy and local policy. So, that's a part of our work. And then, in terms of planning and data, yes, as many of you know, we conduct the Tech Access and Adoption Study every four or five years. We also do community needs assessment and write plans. Most recently, one of the major plans efforts that we've been engaged in is the Internet for All Seattle initiative.

I didn't want to insert a policy slide here. This is just in recognition of the strange times that we are in, both in general, I think, but also for this work. I mentioned the Affordable Connectivity program. That has ended, and no current conversation that I am aware of in terms of that program coming back. So, we have had to pivot there in recognition that that was a key component of digital equity in terms of addressing that challenge of affordability and will be represented in the Tech Access and Adoption study, not only the last one we did last year, but in prior years, too. We know that affordability is a huge issue. So that was a blow in 2024. It's a lot of uncertainty, and I don't have anything to say, really, about what is going on at the federal level, because it's really chaotic. So, we don't really have a lot of certainty or clarity on what is going to happen. I do know and can say that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act -- it's not just act, it's the

law, and these grant programs are in the law. So, regardless of what the federal administration tries to do, they are in the law. So, it is an open question of how they are going to be implemented now that we have a new federal administration. But, that includes the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program, and the n the two grant programs from the digital equity and capacity grants. The City of Seattle is not receiving funds directly from any of these programs. But that said, they are very important programs for digital equity across the country and in some local communities, so we'll certainly be continuing to monitor what happens with these and we will engage as we can. There is a lot of uncertainty over what is going to happen with those programs.

Omari Stringer: (unintelligible) administered through the states. Is the State of Washington getting grants from those programs?

Jon Morrison Winters: Yes. Great question. The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (*BEAD*) program and the Digital Equity Capacity Grant programs are both administered through the State. So, what that means exactly is -- there is not a lot of certainty about what is going to happen in these programs, but I think there is a little bit more of a hedge there, if you will, or these might be a little bit safer, because the money has pretty much been allocated in this State. It's a multi-step process for the funds actually to flow, but more or less, they are on their way and the State, as I know, has already started to spend, at least on the planning site for *BEAD*, and then for the capacity grant, as well. They've developed a plan and they've hired and the work is starting. So, as far as I know, that will be moving forward. For the competitive grants, that's a direct federal competition. The idea of the program is that they will directly fund projects, and it's competitive across the country. Before the Biden administration ended, they came out with recommendations, recommended projects. So, that is more up in the air, I think, right now.

Omari Stringer: Do you know what department those are administered through?

Jon Morrison Winters: Yes. I want to say all three. I'm actually not sure about three, but I do know that the digital equity grants are through the *NTIA*, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Please stop me at any time if you have questions.

Omari Stringer: Thank you.

Jon Morrison Winters: The next item, just to note, on this slide is at the State level, too, programs are in jeopardy. The Digital Navigator grant program is a program that was funded in 2023 to distribute \$30 million. And then, for the 2024 fiscal years, it was cut in half down to \$15 million, but that still continued. For the current proposal for the 2025 fiscal year, it's zero dollars. And that, I think, just reflects the fiscal reality of the State right now. They are in a tough spot financially, so they are looking for cuts. I know that there are advocates involved who are trying to make the case that this program should continue. The State Digital Navigator grant program -- the City of Seattle does

not get a direct grant from that. We did partner with the Workforce Development Council on a grant project for the 2023 fiscal year, when it was \$39. We partnered with a project there, and there is work being done in the local community, particular by the Equity in Education Coalition, a coalition of agencies that are now an umbrella organization looking for funding at the State level.

Just real quick, in terms of the state of practice of digital equity, I'm just going to call these two bills out as bills that we are watching, and that are currently active in the process, going through the legislature. SB 1503 is the Digital Equity Act trailer legislation, and it primarily cleans up and clarifies the role at the State level, of the Department of Commerce, which is where the State Broadband Office resides, and the Office of Equity. So, it is clarifying in several respects. And also, it updates what is defining broadband at the State level, to a faster speed, basically so it is more in line with the current definition of broadband service in terms of what defines being served. It's 100 MB down and 20 MB up is the new definition. It used to be 20 by three or 25 by three or something like that. So, it's a faster speed, and it's more in line with the current definition of broadband. That's one of the things that that bill does, and then again, it just kind of clarifies roles and things. So, that one is very related to digital equity and it's working its way through the legislative process. And then, SB 1517 is actually a funding bill. Without giving too much detail, that would create a funding stream for digital equity through a device tax, similar to the sales tax as it applies directly to the internet-connected devices. I would encourage you to go onto the State legislative web page to read those bills and do your homework on those.

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1503&Year=2023&Initiative=false>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1517&Initiative=false&Year=2023>

But those are two that are in the Legislature right now for digital equity

Finally, again more on funding. A lot of digital equity work across the State and across the country was funded with pandemic stimulus funds. Those are gone. And we know, at the local level funding has dried up, as well. So, a lot of uncertainty and unknowns. I wanted to just include all of this as context, and then to say, regardless of this context, we again, are still very committed to this work and how we are going to move forward.

From chat: Phillip Meng 2/11/2025 6:16 PM • For those joining for the first time, David Keyes has been a longtime champion of digital equity - from onetime CTAB member to longtime Seattle Digital Equity Adviser!

From chat: 2/11/2025 6:16 PM •

More about David and David Keyes Day 🎉: Today is David Keyes Day in Seattle! - National Digital Inclusion Alliance

From Chat: DeiMarlon "D" Scisney- CTAB Pos. #2 2/11/2025 6:41 PM • With local funding in decline and the loss of pandemic stimulus funds, how can we ensure that digital equity programs remain sustainable long-term?

How does the City plan to address the potential loss of the State Digital Navigator Grant Program? Are there alternative funding sources being explored?

Phillip Meng: One quick question. I'm thinking about the recent drop-off in funding. Is that mostly stimulus funds that are running out, or are there any underlying drivers there that we should be aware of?

Jon Morrison Winters: Good question. At the State level, a lot of this work was funded with pandemic stimulus. The State may have used other funds, as well. They have filled funding gaps, so regardless of the source of funds -- the particular State program, the Digital Navigator program, is looking at cuts there. In terms of locally, a lot of our digital equity work, certainly TMF, and the staff support and the rest of the digital equity team is funded by the cable fund, and so that is specifically related to cable television. I have kind of a dual role and vision to digital equity and broadband. I also am the manager of the Cable Office. We look at that, and we have our cable franchise that produce fees that then pay for this digital equity work. Because that is specifically tied to cable television and the video portion of the cable service, as people are cutting the cord, that is resulting in a decrease in funding. So, at the local level, that is part of the story, that long-term decline in revenues, and on top of that, there is the issue of the pandemic stimulus funds going away, and then the City general fund, as well, which is a challenge right now.

So, the work continues, and we have had a lot of successes in spite of all of these challenges and uncertainties. We have had a lot of successes in 2024. So, I just wanted to highlight a few things here. In 2024, we invested \$525,000 in community programs with the annual TMF and Digital Navigator grants. (unintelligible), that's the program that provides free internet for nonprofits. So, that's continuing a very important program for the nonprofits to use. On the planning side, we finalized the Tech Access and Adoption Study in 2024. A lot of the research (unintelligible) in 2023. But it was finalized in 2024. And then, we continue to implement the Internet for All Seattle plan. And then, we also pivoted, and looked ahead to what the next stage of Internet for All was going to look like. I'll speak on that a little bit today, but we did some of that work in 2024, so that's establishing a framework for 2025 and beyond. And then, in terms of coalition building, that continued, obviously. CTAB is a very important partner. I appreciate all of the work and advocacy that you do. And our Digital Equity Learning Network and other groups. And then, the ACP outreach grant. I mentioned the Affordable Connectivity Program earlier. That program, unfortunately has gone away now. While it was still in existence, we had received a grant to do some outreach. That grant, unfortunately, went away when the ACP ended. We weren't able to use that grant for other things. We had to give those funds back.

With that said, we did get the funding and were able to include a low-cost internet program, specifically the program through Astound, and is included in CiviForm now. If any of you are not familiar with that, CiviForm is like a tool that folks can go to that is online that connects them to any number of services through the City Utility and Discount Program through Parks and other programs, and so it is bringing everything into one place that assists with affordability in the City. So, we are pretty happy to get that internet program included in CiviForm, partially because it makes a lot of sense, but also partially in response to ACP going away. We were trying to identify what we could do.

Finally, in 2024, we also said goodbye to David Keyes. I already name-dropped David earlier. That was a bittersweet moment, but we are happy to send him off into retirement. That is David Keyes in the picture there, with then interim CTO Jim Loter, proclaiming David Keyes Day.

the title of my presentation was Digital Equity Strategic Planning. I wanted to talk a little bit about the work that we did in 2024, and how we are now incorporating that into a work plan for 2025. This is in recognition that Internet for All was a huge undertaking. It was an initiative that we were really focused on in the years immediately during and after the Covid pandemic. And we are in a different place in 2024 and now 2025 than we were in 2020 and 2021. All of these uncertainties and challenges that I mentioned, many of them are new just in the last year or two, and so we are having to respond to them. We are having to pivot in some ways. We asked ourselves, as a group, we asked how can we do this work. This was not a community needs assessment. We did not do a lot of community engagement specifically around the strategic plan. And part of it is recognizing that we are building on work that has already been done for Internet for All, and again, we are not changing our vision of digital equity. We are not tackling those really basic elements of Internet for All. But we are asking ourselves how are we going to do this work going forward, and are there opportunities that we can have to really approach this work strategically. The question was how to strategically move forward into the next phase of Internet for All, as well as recognizing the new data that we had when the Tech Access and Adoption Survey started coming out and to incorporate that into our (unintelligible).

For today, what I want to share with you all is the work that we did or were able to do the work around strategic planning. One of the outcomes of that was recognition of four strategic focus areas. These are in alignment with the City's broader efforts around One Seattle initiatives. And that was one of the key learnings that we took away from the work that we've been doing. And strategic planning was -- we want to be in alignment and strategic planning, and it makes a lot of sense to be in alignment with the City and with other departments and the work that is happening in other departments. These are the four strategic focus areas. I am happy to talk to you if you have questions about these, and talk through these a little bit more at the end, but in terms of specific implementation activities under each of these four strategic focus areas, a lot of that is still to be confirmed. We are having conversations, as well, with City leadership. Like how big do we want to go with this? But right now, I want to share with you in CTAB the

four strategic focus areas, which are: To enhance interdepartmental collaboration for citywide goals to be in alignment with One Seattle. A lot of our greatest successes have been from work that we have done interdepartmentally. I will just call out again Sylvia Forman for her effort who strongly supported a champion like Mayor Harrell. And we want to be a part of that. In terms of building strategic partnerships, this is something that we have talked a lot about and have had some limited success within the past, but we really want to continue looking at that, how we partner with technology and telecommunications sectors, and how we partner with philanthropy to increase our collective impact. And this entails just working together across silos, and it also entails our recognition that there is a lot of money in Seattle, a lot of funds out there; and there's a lot of interest in supporting the type of work that we do. We just have to have those conversations and build those partnerships about how we work together. We are very pleased that last year and in past years to be able to partner with Verizon, and last year with Comcast, as well. They directly funded some TMF projects. Those are the types of partnerships that we are interested in understanding how we can come into alignment with other organizations and have collective impact with our partnerships. The third item on here is supporting community-driven solutions. That's really the work that we have been doing and will continue to do. And that includes things like both TMF, as well as understanding what the needs are in the community. We did the Tech Access and Adoption Study in 2023 and 2024. We are already looking ahead and anticipating doing the next Tech Access and Adoption Study probably in four years or so. So, we have some time, but we want to understand the needs of our community as best we can and continue to incorporate data that we receive in terms of the services that we provide. And then, finally, this is about a lot of the work that we do. I mentioned that the work that I do includes not only digital equity, but also operating the Cable Office, so there is a resident services component to our work, both in the Cable Office and the reality is that a lot of the calls and contacts the Cable Office receives are about internet and broadband, so there is a real clear crossover, and we directly interact with the residents, and it is about continuing that and making sure that we are keeping the needs of Seattle residents at the center of what we do, so that's a piece of it, as well.

These are the four pillars to our work going forward. And I'm very happy with what came out of our strategic planning and the process that we are going to deal with moving forward in these ways.

Again, we are in February, so a little bit late. We are still in draft so we can just finalize a few things here. But just to put some kind of numbers on it, and this is in alignment with Seattle IT's new CTO, with a real emphasis on identifying measures, and being able to measure and just demonstrate what we are doing. So, we are putting some numbers on this. Some of these things are things that we have been counting and been keeping track of, but setting specific roles. So, we are setting specific goals around signing up residents for low-cost internet programs. The funding goal for TMF, that's pretty set at that level, but we are also talking about this Digital Navigator project with some specific numbers that we are going to finalize. But the finding for Digital Navigators is there, as well. And we are also looking at some new and innovative ways to support digital programs. Outreach, obviously, is a huge component of what we do, and it's called Out

There. And this is kind of a holdover from last year. It was a little bit delayed, actually, on translating some of the Tech Access and Adoption Study materials into other languages, so we're going to get that done so we can cross that off our list. It's very important for us to be able to report back with community members who have participated in the Tech Access and Adoption Study. That was delayed due to David Keyes' retirement. But we are moving forward with that this year. And then, the other goals related to our ongoing administration of the Office of (unintelligible). So, this is kind of in a nutshell what the digital equity team and Seattle IT does, and again focuses on the numbers for 2025. That is pretty much it. I think the next slide is the last one, and it's really questions and discussions. I want to acknowledge that I don't go into a ton of detail on our strategic thinking, so I was thinking about some questions and things that we can discuss, but I also don't want to use too much of your time. I will go back to you, Phillip Meng, to decide when we end Q&A.

Phillip Meng: There is quite a bit that I would be interested in discussing. Actually, if you don't mind before we get into discussion, on the last page, what are the translation plans for the Tech Access and Adoption Study?

Jon Morrison Winters: It is specifically around the communities that were engaged during the planning process. I don't have that list, and I should know. But again, it was a couple of years ago. But one thing that was identified in the planning process as important is the loop back, the feedback loop with the community. And I will admit that we didn't do that as quickly as really we should have, but I'm happy to say that we are finally moving forward on that, and we are partnering with Inclusive Data

Phillip Meng: They deal with focus groups.

Jon Morrison Winters: Yes. They are in good relationship with communities and are assisting with some of that and I'm glad that we are wrapping that piece up.

Phillip Meng: I remember the multi-language focus groups' engagement on the survey.

Jon Morrison Winters: Yes.

Phillip Meng: Okay, so thank you for the extra question. Let's go into Q&A open to the floor. Would anyone like to get started? D?

DeiMarlon Scisney: Yes. Thank you. I do have a couple of questions. I put them in the chat. One of them being, with local funding in decline, with the loss of pandemic stimulus funds, etc., how can we ensure that the digital equity programs can be sustainably long-term?

Jon Morrison Winters: Yes, D, I literally had some discussion questions almost word for word. That is a hugely important question right now. So, I think we are fortunate in Seattle to have political will and interest and alignment on these issues, and a

recognition of the importance of digital equity. I am a believer that where there is a will, there is a way. So, I believe that we will find it locally. You know, that's not to say it's not going to be challenging, and I am happy to talk through some thoughts about that. The reality is that there are other communities around the country that are going to be much more impacted and it's going to be much more challenging, honestly, particularly in communities that don't have the local funding, or honestly, the network that we have in Seattle. I am really concerned about that, but certainly, in terms of our work locally, we do continue to have strong local support that we are going to have to lean on. That's the short answer. In terms of exactly how we do that in our strategy, we continue to be interested and are exploring opportunities for public-private partnerships. I feel like in government that is oftentimes a thing that is kind of floating out there that is really ambiguous that brings up the question of 'can we actually get it done?' Fortunately, we do have a good track record. I mentioned the partnerships with Verizon and Comcast, so expanding on those types of partnerships is, I think, a piece of the puzzle. At the same time, I don't think that that is the only solution. And so, I get in more conversations with groups like the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) around whether or not there may be options to address the loss of cable franchise fee revenue, because this is not just a problem for us, it's a problem for communities across the country, and certainly in Washington State, where cable franchising is local, and that's been an important source of revenue for local governments. So, that is something that we are looking into. I certainly hope that we can get something done in 2025 or very soon.

DeiMarlon Scisney: Got it. And I am looking forward to this rather Socratic discussion around this. But, the second question that I have is how does the City plan to address the potential loss of the State Digital Navigator grant program? Are there alternative funding sources being explored?

Jon Morrison Winters: Thank you. We do include Digital Navigators as an eligible project through the Tech Matching Fund, and we funded Digital Navigator projects in 2024. I expect that we will again in 2025. The concept of Digital Navigators was, and continues to be, a key idea in digital equity in terms of coming out of the pandemic and in terms of our understanding of how we address digital equity needs and close the gap. So, there continues to be a lot of discussion and conversation around Digital Navigators, and how to support Digital Navigators. With the State program, again, we were not funded directly by that program. There was some work being done locally, but some of the work that was being done locally was, unfortunately, already being done last year when that pot of funds went from \$39 million down to \$15 million. So, I know that there were community-based agencies that were scrambling to find other funding or in some cases had to cut their Digital Navigator programs. So, certainly not ideal and we are sort of in the same boat because that \$15 million does go down to zero. I know that there is advocacy right now with the State legislature both from organizations that rely on that funding as well as the community to see if maybe something could be done to address that with the State budget. But again, there is just not enough wiggle room in the State budget right now. But again, we do have local funding. Obviously, it is fewer dollars, but we do have local funds going to Digital Navigators, and we are talking to

partners about innovative approaches in Digital Navigators, as well. A similar theme as with public/private partnerships, but not necessarily with industry, but maybe with our nonprofit partners and with our other agencies that are doing this work. We are having conversations around -- and I hate to use the phrase 'do more with less,' but that is really the reality. Are there ways that we can innovate to make sure that the support that people need with digital navigation is still there, in spite of the loss of funding.

DeiMarlon Scisney: Awesome. Thank you. I will limit myself to two questions.

Phillip Meng: Thanks, Jon. Thanks, D. And Dorene, thanks for being so patient. The floor is yours.

Dorene Cornwell: At the beginning, you talked about essential services, one of the four of your early five. I wonder -- I have a question. Does the City have ways to measure that? Or is that also like things like health care move online, or just access to different electronic payments. Is the expectation that some of that will come from the user-base side? If you are a health care institution, you're going to be doing this and this as pieces of connectivity in Digital Navigation so that people can use your services? Has the City thought about that at all? That is my basic question.

Jon Morrison Winters: Thanks for asking, Dorene. We have thought about it. I would say in terms of whether or not we are measuring that, this is a tricky one. And I think that I maybe mentioned earlier, with the legs of the digital equity stool, this is the one -- to some extent, this is my opinion, but I think that it is pretty clear that we have done less in that area than in some other areas. As you probably know, I came to this role from Aging and Disability Services, and did a lot of work with the Northwest Universal Design Council, and honestly, I think that some of the conversations that we had in those setting were really enlightening to me, and that go above and beyond what the City was talking about. Now I know that the City is talking about this a lot more now in terms of City services. This is not something that my team does a ton of work on in terms of what City services and City web access. That's what other teams in Seattle IT and around the City are super focused on that and making sure that we are meeting our ADA requirements. And as you probably know the standard, where web content meets guidelines. That is a standard by which the City is required to live up to now. So, there is a lot of conversation on that, and my team has not had much direct conversation about that, but I think it is absolutely related and is absolutely a component of what is called out here as digital equity. We will continue to think about that in terms of how that plays out, both in our work plan directly, and then how we're measuring and how we're doing in those areas. I think that's a good question, and I would love to hear from you and CTAB.

Dorene Cornwell: Okay. So, I have one more point and a question. The is actually that I have been impressed with the level of inter-departmental cooperation and consistency about accessibility standards. I got invited to do a little presentation last year for global accessibility. And it was really fun to hear from different customer facing internal people, and it was just really fun. Of course, I had fun doing a little PowerPoint.

So, I just wanted to say, 'good job on that score.' The other question was about the Tech Access and Adoption Study. I know there were some specific focus groups. There's a language translation piece, but there is also just a data analysis piece. When there were specific focus groups, were there places where the focus groups were really strongly different from the overall population or from each other? I know that there were several different focus groups. It's just about how to make sense of the data, and how to prioritize the public interaction was the thinking behind that?

Jon Morrison Winters: That's a great question. I don't, off the top of my head, have a recollection of real distinct differences among the different focus groups. The great thing is that we have all of that in detail. We definitely can go back and look. The focus groups, I think and if I recall correctly, most happened in 2023, but it was early in 2023. Maybe even in 2022. So, it was a while ago. It was unfortunate that we are now just getting back to getting this translated and sent back out, but that is definitely something we can look at. There is a wealth of information and details about the Tech Access and Adoption Study that are all available, and we keep them publicly available.

Dorene Cornwell: Anybody can look at it. I know that the previous Tech Access and Adoption Study when I sat on one of the committees, we were saying, 'oh, let's mess around with the data.' And so we looked at the income distribution of who had filled it out in a specific language. And there were very low income people and a few much higher income people who, the assumption was, were some kind of tech workers, or some different kind of employment. Anyway, I keep meaning to go and play with the data, and I haven't gotten it done, but to your point, everybody who is new here, get out there and if you like to play with data, talk to Jon. There, I sent you some more work to do.

Jon Morrison Winters: Dorene, if you heard me chuckling, demographically, that's really interesting, and it aligns with -- not super related to the topic at hand -- but some of what I've heard around makes it interesting to think about how that plays out in particular focus groups or other groups that are focus groups. I don't have anything on that right now, but it would certainly something to look into.

Dorene Cornwell: That will be cool It's time for somebody else to ask questions.

Phillip Meng: Thanks, Dorene, for always bringing such questions. Are there any other questions on the table. I wouldn't worry too much about timing. We will have a very light agenda after this. Please do not be shy. If anyone else has a question or comment. with that, thanks again, Jon, for sharing all of this information about the digital equity program here in Seattle. Folks on the call should probably know how to get in touch if there are any other questions.

From chat: Morrison Winters, Jon 2/11/2025 6:55 PM • Thanks everyone. Here is my contact info for any follow-up: jon.morrisonwinters@seattle.gov 206-684-0498

JANUARY TELECOM FORUM FOLLOW-UP &

INITIAL PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE WORK PLANS FOR NEW COMMITTEES

Phillip Meng: Unfortunately for everyone, you have to hear me speak for a little while. We have two items to quickly discuss. One is the January Telecom Forum follow-up, and the second is on plans for new committees. These items are still in progress. Let me share the slide deck. For today, we have mostly a progress update. There are still things that are very much in motion. First things first. I want to thank everyone again for participating in the Digital Equity and Telecom Forum, which always is the highlight of our year. We have a new compilation of (unintelligible) that are on display. I want to recognize Coleman Entringer for leading that effort. The hope is that we will present this at the next CTAB meeting based on the findings from the forum in January. The second follow-up, and as I am looking at the participants, I am not seeing the folks who asked questions in January, but I just want to confirm that we are following up on these questions. We know that some folks left their email addresses in the chat for the January meeting, and so we will try to get in touch and make sure that anyone who asked a question is able to hear back from the Telecom representatives. That is the quick update on the Telecom Forum. Coleman, do you have anything else to add here?

Coleman Entringer: No, I think that is a great recap. We are currently waiting on responses from our representatives, so I will follow-up again, probably tomorrow morning. I should have that by the time of our next meeting. I also want to give a shout out to Sanchit Gera on the call, as well, for helping out in the Digital Equity Committee. and helping us to put together the forum.

Phillip Meng: Coleman is also too kind to say that part of the reason why the compilation is not done yet is because I have been terribly slow in sending over the template. We are very much looking forward to sharing this content in the next meeting. Now onto committees. Actually, I want to start with this process update. We now have a one-stop form to sign up for committees. With five committees going, I know that folks were still deciding, still thinking about what they want to join. We really want to make it as simple as possible. So, I will share this, the link to this form, shortly. The idea here is that this will help all of our committee leaders to organize what their preferred committees are and manage membership a little bit more easily. That gets me more to a question that I want to bring up for the group here, in committee planning. I know that a lot of these conversations are still underway. I know that some folks are still deciding about their interest in committees. I want to take this opportunity to discuss and get alignment, particularly for board members, on their interest in joining each of the three new committees. I apologize if I haven't gotten the names quite right. This is based on either our conversations or expressions of interest in past meetings. The ask to everyone is -- I will send around the survey with committee membership, and also reach out to board members individually. And it would be great if folks can help to finalize their participation on the new committees.

DeiMarlon Scisney: This isn't formal, but I would probably like to move from Digital Wellbeing to Privacy and Cybersecurity. My whole book publishing is around data privacy and my day-to-day work with my company, as well, is with data management

and data privacy. So, I do feel that I would do better in that area. I just wanted to note that.

Phillip Meng: You got it. Thanks, D. And I know that we just had a conversation about that about 20 minutes ago. My apologies. I haven't made the updates yet. Again, this is informal. Somebody mentioned Digital Wellbeing, which I thought we should include just to get some interest across the board, and particularly where we may need to think about adding (unintelligible). I want to take the opportunity, too, since we have some first time CTAB folks on the call. To quickly explain our committee system, committees are very much the heart and the life blood of CTAB. You've heard about the progress that is being made on the Telecom Forum. That is largely driven by our fantastic Digital Equity Committee. We are really thrilled to be standing up new committees with a great group of people. These committees are open to both board members and to all community members to be fully engaged. And so, if you are interested in continuing to remain involved with CTAB, we would highly encourage folks to sign up for a committee and get involved with the body of work. And there are always options to take part in multiple committees, or change the degree of your involvement over time.

Sanchit Gera: I know you mentioned that you are going to send out a link for committees. Is that specifically for board members, or does that apply to...?

Phillip Meng: That's for everyone. Thanks for clarifying. That's important. And if possible, perhaps we can get the form up on the web site, and then have digital chats. Great. Any questions about these points?

DeiMarlon Scisney: Is there a deadline by which you want the form?

Phillip Meng: Of course, committee membership is continuous. So, there is never a deadline, *per se*. My ask to board members, since we really want to get meetings ticked off. I understand that there is still some decision-making going on, but we want to develop a clear body of work soon. My ask is before our next meeting in March, to have a decided committee so that we can get meetings fully (unintelligible).

Janice: And are there existing committees, or are these all three of them?

Phillip Meng: These three are new. Our existing committees are Digital Equity, and Outreach. Those are also on the form. Please feel free to reach out to me, and for these committees, to Coleman Entringer, and to Femi Adebayo, and DeiMarlon Scisney is you have any questions. We will leave our contact information in the chat.

Janice: Sounds good.

Phillip Meng: I just shared the form in the chat. And then, as always, folks can reach me by email. All right. That concludes the regular portion of our agenda. On to

committee updates, starting with Outreach. D, are there any updates that you would like to share?

From chat: Phillip Meng 2/11/2025 7:04 PM •

Form to sign up for sub-committees: CTAB sub-committee signup 2/11/2025 7:04 PM •
Email: phillipmeng98101@gmail.com

From chat: Coleman Entringer 2/11/2025 7:04 PM • Feel free to email me at coleentringer@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to the DEI committee listserv as well

COMMITTEE UPDATES

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

DeiMarlon Scisney: No updates as of now. The main thing is that I thoroughly enjoyed partnering with Coleman Entringer in regard to the Outreach for the event, but again, I would like to create a central database as it pertains to contacts and outreach. So, next steps from that, I would like to connect with Coleman and a couple of other individuals to help spearhead that and then come back, hopefully before the next meeting with some running version of that database. I'm learning a little bit about the tools, because I don't know what central repositories we are using. I think it's Microsoft, also maybe a One Drive, and things like that. But yes, just really getting everything organized in a way that has a process to where we can just flick a button and reach out to the people that we need to reach out to. That is all of the updates that I have as of now.

From chat: DeiMarlon "D" Scisney- CTAB Pos. #2 2/11/2025 7:06 PM • Outreach Committee

info@thedataguys.org

812-568-4411

Phillip Meng: Thanks, D. I appreciate the work on the Telecom Forum. That's a good segue to the Digital Equity Committee. Coleman, Dorene, or anyone else who is part of the committee, any updates?

DEI COMMITTEE

Coleman Entringer: I think our primary update is just around the materials that we are sending out to follow-up on the Telecom Forum. As mentioned earlier, we aim to have those closed out by the next CTAB meeting, or hopefully, a little bit earlier. We will continue to follow up on that, and then we will be planning for the rest of the year.

Phillip Meng: This may be more of a committee topic at this point in the discussion. But also, we want to think about the Council questionnaire again on digital equity issues. I think it is particularly good timing coming off of our forum with Councilmember Hollingsworth last December. And the questions are already ready to go, so I think it might be a light lift.

Coleman Entringer: Yes. I totally agree. We have pretty much everything locked and loaded for the questionnaire, more or less, so I think that would be a pretty quick win for us if we want to go for it. We will add that to our next agenda, as well.

Phillip Meng: All right. Finally, public comment and announcements. Is there anything that folks would like to share? If not, again, thanks so much to everyone for joining. It's great to hear about all of the efforts that are in progress. And we will see you in March.

ADJOURNMENT