

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA

BOCC Special Meeting/Virtual Work Session
June 28, 2021
Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Due to current public health concerns, the Board of Commissioners is conducting a Special Meeting/Virtual Work Session on June 28, 2021. Members of the Board of Commissioners will be participating in the meeting remotely. As in prior meetings, members of the public will be able to view and listen to the meeting via live streaming video at orangecountync.gov/967/Meeting-Videos and on Orange County Gov-TV on channels 1301 or 97.6 (Spectrum Cable).

(7:00 – 8:00) 1. Orange County Broadband Task Force Update

(8:00 – 9:30) 2. Closed Session

“To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged,” pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(3)

To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(4).

3. Adjourn

Orange County Board of Commissioners’ meetings and work sessions are available via live streaming video at orangecountync.gov/967/Meeting-Videos and Orange County Gov-TV on channels 1301 or 97.6 (Spectrum Cable).

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: June 28, 2021

**Action Agenda
Item No. 1**

SUBJECT: Orange County Broadband Task Force Update

DEPARTMENT: Information Technologies,
County Attorney

ATTACHMENT(S): None

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jim Northrup, Chief Information Officer,
919-245-2276

John Roberts, County Attorney, 919-
245-2318

PURPOSE: To receive an update regarding the status of the Orange County Broadband Task Force. This update will explain the process of Task Force meetings and where the Task Force is to date in relation to having meetings with potential vendors and to discuss the goal of issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to find a partner willing to implement the “future proof” fiber network that meets the requirements for the \$5,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds that were allocated in the FY21-22 Budget.

BACKGROUND: On March 3, 2021 the first Task Force meeting was held. There have been nine meetings to date occurring every other Wednesday at 5:30 PM. These virtual meetings are publicly advertised and some members of the public beyond the committee members have been present at all meetings. Approved minutes from each of the meetings and recordings can be found on the County website. <http://orangecountync.gov/broadband>.

At the September 1, 2020 Board of Orange County Commissioners Business meeting, a petition was submitted by Commissioner Earl McKee to create an Orange County Broadband Task Force.

The Board subsequently discussed the proposal further at its November 17, 2020 Business meeting, including the composition of the Task Force and following charge:

The Task Force charge will include but not necessarily be limited to:

1. Discuss broadband solutions that will improve the quality of high speed internet services to Orange County residents;
2. Recommend a plan to the Board of Orange County Commissioners that will expand reliable high-speed internet services to all county residents and businesses.

On February 2, 2021 the Board appointed residents to this Task Force and asked the State Broadband Infrastructure Office, Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, Orange County Schools and Durham Technical Community College to send representatives to participate as well. The Broadband Task Force members are as follows:

Special Representation	Appointee
County Manager (Designee)	Travis Myren, Deputy County Manager
Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools Superintendent (Designee)	Doug Noell, Chief IT Operations Officer, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Orange County Schools Superintendent (Designee)	Dr. Monique Felder, Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Dawson, Deputy Superintendent
NC Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) Representative	Jeff Sural, Director, NC Broadband Infrastructure Office (NC BIO)
Durham Technical Community College Representative	Victoria P. Deaton, Compliance Specialist, Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion
Board of Commissioners - 1	Commissioner Earl McKee
Board of Commissioners – 2	Commissioner Sally Greene
Orange County Resident – At Large	Vasu Kilaru, Orange County Resident
Orange County Resident – At Large	Paul Cardillo, Orange County Resident
Orange County Resident – At Large	Todd Broucksou, Orange County Resident
Orange County Resident – At Large	Patricia Hull, Orange County Resident
Orange County Resident – At Large	Terri Buckner, Orange County Resident

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact associated with receiving the update.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPACT: The following Orange County Social Justice Goal is applicable to this item:

- **GOAL: ENABLE FULL CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

Ensure that Orange County residents are able to engage government through voting and volunteering by eliminating disparities in participation and barriers to participation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: There is no Orange County Environmental Responsibility Goal impact associated with this item.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends that the Board receive this update.