



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
BROADBAND TASK FORCE AGENDA**

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Bennett Administrative Center

102 E. Main St., Urbana

Committee Members:

Jon Cagle

Bailey Conrady - Chair

Lorraine Cowart

M.C. Neal

Mike Smeltzer

Matt Sullard – Vice-Chair

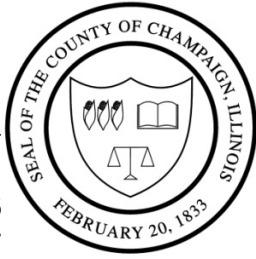
Eric Thorsland

Jeff Wilson

Agenda Items

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. July 30, 2025
- V. Public Input**
- VI. Communications**
- VII. New Business**
 - A. Update from Volo (*information only*)
- VIII. Other Business**
 - A. Date of next meeting
- IX. Chair's Report**
- X. Adjournment**

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
BROADBAND TASK FORCE AGENDA
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
Wednesday, July 30, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room
Bennett Administrative Center
102 E. Main St., Urbana

MINUTES – Subject to Approval

Members Present: Stephanie Burnett, Matt Sullard, M.C. Neal, Mike Smeltzer, Eric Thorsland, Jeff Wilson, Jon Cagle

Members Absent: Bailey Conrady, Lorraine Cowart

Others Present: Kait Kuzio (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Sullard called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Mr. Wilson to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Smeltzer. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. March 10, 2025

MOTION by Mr. Thorsland approved the minutes of March 10, 2025; seconded by Mr. Wilson. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

None

VII. New Business

A. Update from Volo (information only)

Peter Folk and Jason Young from Volo provided an update on the broadband project. Peter noted that a lot has changed since the project began, and that the County was fortunate to start when it did, given that some areas later became ineligible or limited due to changes in grant funding parameters. Phase 1, which focuses on backbone infrastructure was funded in 2024, the grant period ran October to April,

and that phase has been completed. Approximately 650 easements were required, and about 270 have been acquired to date. Easement acquisition delays occurred, primarily due to negotiations with owners. The Farm Bureau assisted with these negotiations.

They experienced supply chain delays in the delivery of duct, which is now on hand, and fiber delivery shifted from August to November, though they do not see a big delay to the schedule on their end. Costs increased by approximately 24% due to tariffs.

Underground construction was scheduled from August through November. The project remains on track to complete underground work by the end of November. Fiber installation into duct is expected to continue through February.

Phase 2 includes two parts:

1. Northwest backbone construction—coordination between the County and Volo to fund BEAD ineligible areas
2. Acquiring BEAD money for BEAD eligible areas

Eligibility definitions have changed in the last year, affecting the project scope and requiring some changes. The current Phase 2 plan would serve approximately 1,335 homes and businesses. The project reapplied on July 18 after a February application was withdrawn when NTIA revised program rules. Community input indicated a preference for long-term broadband solutions rather than wireless options. Peter noted that BEAD funding would cover the Northeast backbone portion of the project. We are awaiting clarification regarding BEAD Round 2A.

Volo also discussed the Housing Authority project, mostly focusing on affordability and access issues related to broadband service. Emphasis was placed on staying focused on broadband infrastructure and ensuring users pay for service, rather than subsidizing infrastructure beyond grant allowances, and members generally agreed.

VIII. Other Business

A. Date of next meeting

TBD

IX. Chair's Report

None

X. Adjournment

Vice Chair Sullard adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.