



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

Mike Smeltzer

Bailey Conrady - Chair

Matt Sullard – Vice-Chair

Lorraine Cowart

Eric Thorsland

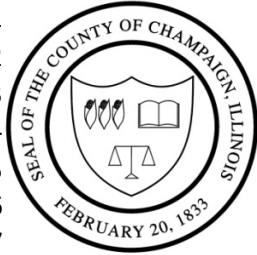
M.C. Neal

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

5 Shields-Carter Meeting Room
6 Bennett Administrative Center
7 102 E. Main St., Urbana
8
9

10 **MINUTES – *Subject to Approval***

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

13
14 Members Absent: Bailey Conrady, Lorraine Cowart

15
16 Others Present: Kait Kuzio (Recording Secretary)

17 **Agenda Items**

18 **I. Call to Order**

19
20 Vice Chair Sullard called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

21 **II. Roll Call**

22
23 Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

24
25 **III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

26
27 **MOTION** by Mr. Wilson to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Smeltzer. Upon vote, the **MOTION**
28 **CARRIED** unanimously.

29
30 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

31 A. March 10, 2025

32
33 **MOTION** by Mr. Thorsland approved the minutes of March 10, 2025; seconded by Mr. Wilson. Upon
34 vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

35
36 **V. Public Participation**

37 None

38
39 **VI. Communications**

40 None

41
42 **VII. New Business**

43 A. Update from Volo (information only)

44
45 Peter Folk and Jason Young from Volo provided an update on the broadband project. Peter noted that a
46 lot has changed since the project began, and that the County was fortunate to start when it did, given
47 that some areas later became ineligible or limited due to changes in grant funding parameters. Phase 1,
48 which focuses on backbone infrastructure was funded in 2024, the grant period ran October to April,

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

55
56 They experienced supply chain delays in the delivery of duct, which is now on hand, and fiber delivery
57 shifted from August to November, though they do not see a big delay to the schedule on their end.
58 Costs increased by approximately 24% due to tariffs.

59
60 Underground construction was scheduled from August through November. The project remains on track
61 to complete underground work by the end of November. Fiber installation into duct is expected to
62 continue through February.

63
64 Phase 2 includes two parts:

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

68
69 Eligibility definitions have changed in the last year, affecting the project scope and requiring some
70 changes. The current Phase 2 plan would serve approximately 1,335 homes and businesses. The project
71 reapplied on July 18 after a February application was withdrawn when NTIA revised program rules.
72 Community input indicated a preference for long-term broadband solutions rather than wireless
73 options. Peter noted that BEAD funding would cover the Northeast backbone portion of the project. We
74 are awaiting clarification regarding BEAD Round 2A.

75
76 Volo also discussed the Housing Authority project, mostly focusing on affordability and access issues
77 related to broadband service. Emphasis was placed on staying focused on broadband infrastructure and
78 ensuring users pay for service, rather than subsidizing infrastructure beyond grant allowances, and
79 members generally agreed.

80
81 **VIII. Other Business**

- 82 A. Date of next meeting

83
84 TBD

85
86 **IX. Chair's Report**

87
88 None

89
90 **X. Adjournment**

91
92 Vice Chair Sullard adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.