VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS

AGENDA
VENTURA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Broadband Initiative
Standing Committee
(ZOOM Conference Call)
Wednesday, October 1, 2025, <u>10:00 a.m.</u>
Join Zoom Meeting
bit.ly/45gUZva

Agenda reports and other disclosable public records related to open session agenda items are available on the VCOG website under agenda and minutes at www.venturacog.org and at the principal VCOG business office located at 1777 E. Los Angeles Ave. Ste. 105, Simi Valley, California by appointment [(805) 501-6182] during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Public is invited and may attend this remote meeting using the Access Number provided above

1. **Call to Order – Roll Call**
   COMMITTEE MEMBER REMOTE LOCATIONS:
   Leslie Cornejo, 970 E Ventura St, Santa Paula, CA 93060, (City Hall)
   Chris Enegren - 444 Zachary St # 120, Moorpark, CA 93021 (Business)
   Bob Engler, 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362, (City Hall)
   Janice Parvin, 980 Enchanted Way #203, Simi Valley, CA 93065, (District Office)
   Bert Perello, 300 W 3rd St, Oxnard, CA 93030, (City Hall)
   Leslie Rule, 401 S Ventura St, Ojai, CA 93023, (City Hall)

2. **Public Statements**

3. **Executive Director's Report**

4. **Review and discussion of VRBI Participants, Activities, and Outcomes (Page 2)**

5. **Review and discussion of VRBI Strategic Priorities and Actions (Page 4)**

6. **Future agenda items**

7. **Adjournment- Next VRBI Standing Committee Meeting- January 7, 2026**

VCOG Regional Broadband Initiative (VRBI)

In alignment with the Ventura Council of Governments' (VCOG) strategic plan, the VRBI aims to ensure that Ventura County's broadband strategies reflect the long-term goals identified in the State of California's "Broadband for All" Action Plan, that all Californians have:

1. High-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.
2. Access to affordable broadband and necessary devices.
3. Access to training and support to enable digital inclusion.

Key Participants

Role	Responsibility	Activities
Executive Director	Interconnect and align regional broadband vision with communication and strategic activities among VCOG stakeholders.	Continuous engagement with city managers and member councils on strategic direction and regional initiatives. Convene Regional Broadband Working Group and standing committee to ensure VRBI vision is aligned with activities.
Board Members	Maintain engagement, support advocacy efforts, facilitate education and commitment within communities.	Promote strategic direction and initiatives to member councils and leaders for cooperation.
Standing Committee	Shape strategic directions and communicate imperative across the region.	Regular meetings to direct strategy and communication.
Working Group – city staff as appointed by member agencies	Collaborate on shared interests and local engagement of Broadband for All initiatives.	Regular meetings to collaborate on policy development, funding opportunities, deploying technology solutions, and increasing broadband adoption

*Collaboration with Internet Service Providers (ISPs), subject matter experts, and regional consortiums will be essential to respond to opportunities and drive the initiative forward.

Key Activities

Focus Area	Description	Actions
Coordinate Digital Inclusion	Facilitate collaboration among jurisdictions to plan and	Maintain regional mapping to track the status of broadband

	implement broadband infrastructure and adoption efficiently and effectively.	deployment and adoption throughout the County. Identify gaps to determine priority areas.
Pool Resources	Enable local governments to share resources, funding, and expertise to address broadband challenges, particularly in underserved or rural areas where deployment costs are higher.	Track projects from proposal to completion, with prioritization and status updates. Coordinate resources and funding to maximize cooperation across municipal boundaries.
Regulatory and Policy Coordination	Establish a platform to streamline regulatory efforts and policy alignment related to broadband deployment and access.	Encourage uniform standards for broadband deployment policies and permitting. Policy checklists and handbooks will provide guidance to municipalities. Support legislative efforts that promote Broadband for All goals.
Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships	Encourage partnerships between public entities and private companies to drive investment in and development of broadband infrastructure.	Engage Internet service providers and technology companies to present innovative proposals, promote public-sector leadership to provide governance and champion the future of technology-based infrastructure.

Outcomes

VRBI is driven by the self-funded, collaborative efforts of stakeholders and a primary result of civic entrepreneurship. Successes will be realized on a case-by-case basis, driven by the combined interests and investments of local governments, private sector partners, and community organizations.

Focus Area	Priority	Actions	Supporting Activities	Timeline
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Develop governance documents	Amend Strategic Plan to include B4A goals.	Complete
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Develop governance documents	Establish Standing Committee Membership.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Develop governance documents	Agendize Broadband updates.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Develop governance documents	Evaluate structures and governance roles as required by regional deployment progress.	Long term
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Establish and adopt operational framework	Include Broadband Working Group and Standing Committee as an Implementation Strategy in the VCOG Strategic Plan.	Complete
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Establish and adopt operational framework	Adopt VRBI Operational Framework.	Complete
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Establish and adopt operational framework	Establish Standing Committee representation.	Complete
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Establish and adopt operational framework	Appoint Working Group representatives from each member jurisdiction.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Establish and adopt operational framework	Establish meeting cadence and report-out mechanism for the Working Group and Standing Committee.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Engage local jurisdictions with VRBI strategy and regional initiatives	VCOG Members should establish internal channels for communicating regional broadband initiative updates to their jurisdictional departments.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Engage local jurisdictions with VRBI strategy and regional initiatives	Request relevant departments to identify and implement strategies and policies that promote regional broadband initiatives.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Engage local jurisdictions with VRBI strategy and regional initiatives	Coordinate plans and actions within municipalities and across jurisdictions to achieve economies of scale and optimize impact.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	VCOG as Convener	Engage local jurisdictions with VRBI strategy and regional initiatives	Establish a report-out mechanism to disseminate information from municipal working groups to regional working group to standing committee.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Assess opportunities for alignment in regional policy and permitting standards	Encourage uniform standards for broadband deployment policies and permitting.	Long term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Assess opportunities for alignment in regional policy and permitting standards	Distribute policy checklists and handbooks to working group representatives for jurisdictional review and regional alignment.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Assess opportunities for alignment in regional policy and permitting standards	Serve as a forum to assess opportunities for alignment.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Assess opportunities for alignment in regional policy and permitting standards	Review sample model ordinances.	Long term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Assess opportunities for alignment in regional policy and permitting standards	Consider adoption of a model broadband ordinance.	Long term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Promote inclusion of broadband in local planning ordinances and General Plan updates	Review local general plan update schedules for opportunities to integrate broadband language.	Long term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Promote inclusion of broadband in local planning ordinances and General Plan updates	Assign assessment of planning documents to working group members to identify areas for broadband inclusion using established best practices.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Promote inclusion of broadband in local planning ordinances and General Plan updates	Promote unified broadband language for integration along municipal timelines.	Long term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Monitor federal and state legislative activities that align with Broadband for All goals	Monitor implementation of broadband legislation.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Monitor federal and state legislative activities that align with Broadband for All goals	Track information distributed by broadband supporting entities.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	Policy and Planning Coordination	Monitor federal and state legislative activities that align with Broadband for All goals	Advocate for regional priorities and needs through letters of support and legislative outreach.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	Regional Collaboration	Facilitate collaboration on regional broadband initiatives	Agendize status updates on projects from proposal to completion.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	Regional Collaboration	Facilitate collaboration on regional broadband initiatives	Reference VRBI Opportunity Zones and Emergent Network recommendations to maximize broadband planning effectiveness and engagement with private providers.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	Regional Collaboration	Facilitate collaboration on regional broadband initiatives	Coordinate resources and funding opportunities to maximize cooperation across municipal boundaries.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	Regional Collaboration	Facilitate collaboration on regional broadband initiatives	Lead joint applications for public funding of regional initiatives as needed.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	Regional Collaboration	GIS collaboration	Maintain a shared asset database through GIS collaboration to enable efficient deployment.	Near term
Leadership and Engagement	Regional Collaboration	GIS collaboration	Evaluate regional priority areas to identify areas for potential collaboration.	Short term
Leadership and Engagement	Regional Collaboration	GIS collaboration	Track the status of broadband deployment using broadband service metrics.	Long term
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Support Middle-Mile Network vision	Leverage the GIS Collaboration tool and consult with VCOG Working Group members to monitor the deployment of Middle-mile initiatives.	Near term
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Support Middle-Mile Network vision	Identify and engage stakeholders across the planned routes to promote a unified approach optimizing efficiency and impact.	Short term
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Support Middle-Mile Network vision	Continue to provide support through advocacy and funding applications to improve projects' viability.	Long term
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Facilitate engagement between local jurisdictions and middle-mile providers	Compile public assets through GIS collaboration and identify areas for improved public and last-mile infrastructure along middle-mile routes.	Short term
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Facilitate engagement between local jurisdictions and middle-mile providers	Advocate for investments that improve community resilience and access through engagement with middle-mile initiative project leaders.	Short term

Focus Area	Priority	Actions	Supporting Activities	Timeline
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Facilitate engagement between local jurisdictions and middle-mile providers	Share government best practices with VCOG members to improve awareness of negotiation levers that can be used to motivate private investment alignment with public priorities.	Near term
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Align development of VRBI Opportunity Zones along the projected middle-mile	Facilitate engagement between MMBN, ISPs, the County, and jurisdictions along the middle-mile development route.	Short term
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Align development of VRBI Opportunity Zones along the projected middle-mile	Engage local stakeholders in the analysis of planned routes to identify opportunities for asset placement to accelerate last-mile connectivity, resiliency for Community Anchor Institutions, and opportunities for municipal broadband services.	Short term
Connected Communities	Middle and Last-Mile Coalescence	Align development of VRBI Opportunity Zones along the projected middle-mile	Distribute local government best practices for advocating for low-cost and affordable service plan offerings.	Short term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Strategize deployment of Emergent Network Opportunity Zones	Engage Broadband Working Group with prioritization of Opportunity Zones in their jurisdiction.	Near term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Strategize deployment of Emergent Network Opportunity Zones	Assess near-term and long-term ISP deployment plans in Opportunity Zones in collaboration with the Broadband Consortium, as needed.	Near term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Strategize deployment of Emergent Network Opportunity Zones	Develop a regional prioritization plan through the Standing Committee.	Near term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Strategize deployment of Emergent Network Opportunity Zones	Determine and report key performance metrics leading to Broadband for All standards of community access.	Short term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Align funding resources and seek collaboration	Outreach and engagement to incumbent providers and potential new entrants. This is a baseline requirement to incentivize participation of both existing providers and new entrants, particularly in those areas where new entrants are required and areas that will require federal or state funding to be deployed.	Short term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Align funding resources and seek collaboration	Promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), including public funding, joint funding applications, or access to existing city infrastructure, improving the overall business case and making deployment of certain areas more attractive.	Short term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Align funding resources and seek collaboration	Continue to encourage VCOG member agencies to provide adequate support for permitting and engagement as required, as well as keep track of progress with each provider.	Near term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Facilitate partnerships with Internet Service Providers	Encourage partnerships between public entities and private companies to drive investment in and development of broadband infrastructure.	Short term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Facilitate partnerships with Internet Service Providers	Proactively engage ISPs and technology companies to present Opportunity Zone priorities to influence innovative proposals for deployment.	Short term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Facilitate partnerships with Internet Service Providers	Promote public sector leadership to provide governance and champion the future of technology-based infrastructure.	Near term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Facilitate partnerships with Internet Service Providers	Promote light PPPs with providers. In addition to engagement, cities and the County can negotiate incentives with providers that commit to roll out new infrastructure. Such incentives can include offering support for permits or contracts to serve municipal facilities in order to support the business case for the deployment.	Short term
Connected Communities	Catalyze the Emergent Network 2030 Vision	Facilitate partnerships with Internet Service Providers	Organize collective bargaining efforts in negotiations with ISPs.	Short term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Promote opportunities for network resiliency and CAI connectivity	Create a comprehensive inventory of all CAIs within Ventura County, including schools, libraries, community centers, healthcare facilities, and government offices.	Short term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Promote opportunities for network resiliency and CAI connectivity	Evaluate the existing broadband infrastructure and internet speeds at each CAI, identifying those with inadequate connectivity or lacking network resiliency.	Short term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Promote opportunities for network resiliency and CAI connectivity	Identify opportunities to connect CAIs to existing fiber networks, minimizing costs and maximizing efficiency.	Short term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Promote opportunities for network resiliency and CAI connectivity	Monitor public funding opportunities and inform stakeholders.	Near term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Promote opportunities for network resiliency and CAI connectivity	Encourage municipalities to engage with and inform CAIs of opportunities.	Near term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Promote opportunities for network resiliency and CAI connectivity	Provide letters of support and technical assistance for grant applications.	Short term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Promote opportunities for network resiliency and CAI connectivity	Support legislative efforts and public funding initiatives that enhance the connectivity of CAIs.	Near term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Identify opportunities for Municipal investments	Leverage GIS collaboration to identify inter-municipal access points and assess locations for improving connections between neighboring jurisdictions.	Short term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Identify opportunities for Municipal investments	Promote best practices for local governments to encourage and enable development of robust networks to support municipal goals.	Near term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Identify opportunities for Municipal investments	Assess opportunities for cross-jurisdictional collaboration for municipal investments such as joint negotiations with ISPs, community network expansion, and redundancy loops reinforcing community network resiliency.	Short term
Connected Communities	Ensure a Resilient Ventura County	Identify opportunities for Municipal investments	Encourage jurisdictions to establish public Wi-Fi hotspots in libraries, parks and community centers.	Near term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Contribute to the development of the Ventura County Digital Equity Plan	Write a stakeholder letter of support for the CalDEP Subgrant Application submitted by a Lead Applicant for the county.	Near term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Contribute to the development of the Ventura County Digital Equity Plan	Participate in the creation of a Digital Equity Plan for Ventura County by furthering community needs data collection and contributing data on infrastructure deployment and public assets that can increase digital access.	Short term

Focus Area	Priority	Actions	Supporting Activities	Timeline
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Contribute to the development of the Ventura County Digital Equity Plan	Engage Municipal Working Group to promote adoption of the DEP within each jurisdiction and align VCOG Broadband Efforts with the final plan.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Contribute to the development of the Ventura County Digital Equity Plan	Support and collaborate on additional applications for public funding to support full digital adoptions, including CASF Adoption Grant, Line Extension Program, and Digital Divide Grant Program, and other opportunities for local funding.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Support widespread digital adoption with infrastructure data	Participate in community-based digital inclusion meetings to provide updates on infrastructure gaps and progress toward full deployment and multi-provider marketplaces.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Support widespread digital adoption with infrastructure data	Provide data on public infrastructure to support Community Anchor Institution access points for private or public investment in community access networks.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Promote Last-Mile Connection partnerships	Facilitate engagement between CBOs and ISPs working to serve communities in Opportunity Zones.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Promote Last-Mile Connection partnerships	Foster collaboration among member agencies to share best practices and jointly create affordable, constituent-centered solutions.	Long term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Promote Last-Mile Connection partnerships	Provide technical support in the development of structured agreements between service providers and community organizations that define responsibilities, establish metrics, and create sustainable funding mechanisms for adoption programs.	Long term
Universal Adoption	Collaborate on a Strategy for Digital Inclusion	Promote Last-Mile Connection partnerships	Facilitate partnerships between ISPs and CAIs to serve as adoption hubs offering connectivity, training, and technical support.	Long term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Collaborate with workforce development, chambers of commerce, businesses, and schools to implement digital inclusion initiatives	Conduct comprehensive digital access needs assessments within jurisdictional boundaries to identify connectivity gaps, prioritizing underserved neighborhoods and business districts for targeted infrastructure investments.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Collaborate with workforce development, chambers of commerce, businesses, and schools to implement digital inclusion initiatives	Align infrastructure improvements with digital navigator programs through libraries and community centers to provide hands-on technical support and digital literacy training tailored for small businesses, job seekers, and residents with limited technology experience.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Collaborate with workforce development, chambers of commerce, businesses, and schools to implement digital inclusion initiatives	Foster partnerships between local governments, ISPs, community organizations, and educational institutions to develop and implement comprehensive digital inclusion strategies.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Collaborate with workforce development, chambers of commerce, businesses, and schools to implement digital inclusion initiatives	Engage with member agency departments to find opportunities to maximize economies of scale through regional planning	Short term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Facilitate civic engagement through regional collaboration to effectively implement statewide digital transformation initiatives	Engage with CBOs and digital inclusion practitioners to identify barriers to digital access and promote community-specific solutions that align with the state's broader inclusion goals.	Near term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Facilitate civic engagement through regional collaboration to effectively implement statewide digital transformation initiatives	Promote the development of community technology hubs where residents can access digital services, receive technology training, and provide feedback on digital government initiatives.	Short term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Facilitate civic engagement through regional collaboration to effectively implement statewide digital transformation initiatives	Create cross-jurisdictional working groups to share best practices, coordinate resources, and ensure consistent implementation of technology standards across different municipalities.	Long term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Facilitate civic engagement through regional collaboration to effectively implement statewide digital transformation initiatives	Collaborate on local procurement processes that prioritize innovative, accessible, and sustainable technology solutions in alignment with state guidelines.	Long term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Facilitate civic engagement through regional collaboration to effectively implement statewide digital transformation initiatives	Identify opportunities to support technical advancement of government services	Long term
Universal Adoption	Economic Development and Opportunities for Growth	Facilitate civic engagement through regional collaboration to effectively implement statewide digital transformation initiatives	Implement interoperable data-sharing protocols between local and state agencies to create seamless service delivery while maintaining appropriate privacy safeguards.	Long term