

**EDUCATION COUNCIL
of the
NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

**February 21, 2003
9:00AM-12:00PM**

Tentative NVCN locations: Lincoln Exec, 521 S. 14th, Suite 103; Chadron State College, Kearney Public Library, Omaha State Office Building, and Wayne State College (Sites without RSVP will be cancelled by 9am, 2-19-03)

Proposed Agenda

(The Council will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to take action on any of the items listed. Items marked in **BOLD** are expected action items.)

9:00 AM	1. Call to Order, Electronic Posting, Roll Call, Introductions	Co-Chair
9:05 AM	2. Consider approval of the Agenda for the February 21, 2002 meeting	Co-Chair
9:07 AM	3. Consider approval of <u>Minutes</u> from the December 13, 2002 meeting	Co-Chair
9:10 AM	4. Public Comment	Co-Chair
9:15 AM	5. Work Group/Committee Reports	Co-Chair
	A. Training Advisory Work Group--No Report	
	B. <u>NET Distance Learning Report</u>	B. Huber
9:25 AM	6. Update: Nebraska Network Activities	
	A. Concepts and Assumptions Document	S. Schafer
	B. Core Backbone Development	R. Golden
	C. <u>Provider Forum Presentation</u> & follow-up	S. McCartney
	D. TINA Bandwidth Inventory	A. Stephen
10:00 AM	7. Update: Course Management Tool/ <u>e-Learning Initiative</u> for PreK-16 Education	J. Zemke/J. Jones
10:20 AM	8. Update/Discussion: <u>Nebraska Education Portal</u>	D. Gibbs
10:35 AM	9. Update: Nebraska Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group- <u>Membership</u>	M. Beach
10:45 AM	10. Public Service Commission <u>Order</u> for Investigation of Distance Learning Services (3/18/03)	G. Hand
11:10 AM	11. Education Council <u>Action Items</u> for Statewide Technology Plan	Co-Chair
	A. Task Group Reports (EC 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 6.1)	
	B. Next Steps	
11:50 AM	12. Other	Co-Chair
11:55 AM	13. Confirm locations for the March 21 and April 18, 2003 meetings	Co-Chair
12:00 PM	14. Adjournment	Co-Chair

NITC/Education Council Homepage: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us>

Meeting Notice Posted to the NITC Web site 12-20-02

Meeting Notice Posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) 12-20-02

EDUCATION COUNCIL
Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Friday, December 13, 2002
Student Center--Conestoga Room
Nebraska Wesleyan University
PROPOSED MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Mr. Con Dietz, Creighton University
Dr. Jerry Harnisch, alt.-Midland Lutheran College
Ms. Linda Engel, Nebraska City Public Schools
Mr. Terry Haack, Elkhorn High School
Mr. Dennis Baack, Nebraska Community College System
Mr. Jeff Johnson, Centennial Public Schools
Mr. Joe LeDuc, Catholic Diocese of Lincoln
Dr. Robert Manzer, alt.- Nebraska Wesleyan University
Dr. Ed Rastovski, Wahoo Public Schools
Mr. Al Schneider, ESU 5
Mr. Alan Wibbels, ESU 10
Dr. Chuck Friesen, alt.- Lincoln Public Schools

LIAISONS PRESENT:

Mr. Bob Huber, Nebraska Education Telecommunications Commission
Mr. Mike Beach, Nebraska Education Telecommunications Commission
Dr. Dean Bergman, Nebraska Department of Education
Mr. Wayne Fisher, alt.-Nebraska Department of Education
Ms. Carna Pfeil, alt.-Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

MEMBERS AND LIAISONS NOT PRESENT:

Mr. Keith Bartels, Nebraska Association of School Boards; Dr. Jack Huck, Southeast Community College; Dr. Tom Krepel, Chadron State College; Dr. Jerry Moskus, Metropolitan Community College; Mr. Thomas O'Neill, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska; Dr. Harvey Perlman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Dr. Sheila Sterns, Wayne State College; Ms. Brenda Decker, DAS-Division of Communications

CALL TO ORDER, ELECTRONIC POSTING, ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair, Mr. Alan Wibbels called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. There were 10 voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. Mr. Wibbels stated that the meeting notice was posted to the NITC and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar Web sites on November 18, 2002 and that the meeting agenda was posted to the NITC Web site on December 10, 2002.

The members and guests introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE MORNING'S AGENDA

Ms. Linda Engel moved to approve the December 13, 2002 agenda. Mr. Terry Haack seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Harnisch--yes, Engel--yes, Haack--yes, Baack--yes, Johnson--yes, LeDuc--yes, Manzer--yes, Rastovski--yes, Schneider--yes, Wibbels--yes. All were in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2002 MINUTES

Mr. Haack motioned to approve the November 15, 2002 minutes as presented. Dr. Manzer seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Harnisch--yes, Engel--yes, Haack--yes, Baack--yes, Johnson--yes, LeDuc--yes, Manzer--yes, Rastovski--yes, Schneider--yes, Wibbels--yes. All were in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Con Dietz arrived at 9:15 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

WORKGROUP/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Training Advisory Workgroup – No report.

NET Distance Learning Report - Mr. Bob Huber referred to the November, 2002 DLS report, linked to the agenda. The Network 2 hours are down 18% year to date from last year. Network 3 hours remain the same. NebSat classes are down

17% year to date. The Nebraska Video Conference Network (NVCN) system is running down 5% from last year. The Executive Building in Lincoln was the most used videoconference location with Scottsbluff using the most hours. The Help Desk contacts have increased in work for year to date. The Help Desk welcomes Randy Heinzman as the new Help Desk supervisor. DLS Team Site Visits are up 62% but hours are down due to satellite receiver swap-out.

UPDATE-- COURSE MANAGEMENT TOOL PILOT/Aggregated Purchase

Mr. Jim Zemke of the University of Nebraska Computer Services Network gave an update of the course management tool pilot and aggregated purchase possibilities with a PowerPoint Presentation.

In addition to the information presented, he stated that the Educational Service Units (ESU) have been a key element in getting the e-initiatives project underway.

Dr. Manzer stated that Nebraska Wesleyan University is currently doing a pilot with College of St. Mary's in Omaha where pre-service teachers can dialogue with their cooperating teachers via online chat. This is saving both travel time and expenses.

PRESENTATION: NEBRASKA EDUCATION PORTAL

Mr. Rod Armstrong of Nebrask@OnLine gave a live demonstration of the Education Portal. The portal allows the Education Council and educational entities the opportunity to showcase a lot of information in one location. The site has almost 700 outside links/resources and about 3,700 internal links for navigation. Mr. Armstrong stated that NOL has concentrated on providing the navigation but relies on educational entities and state agencies to provide the content.

Mr. Armstrong highlighted features of the portal for the members. The "Search" button will be established to allow the users to do a key word search. There are navigational buttons on top that link to K-12 sites. The "Ask a Librarian" is a useful tool used to ask for additional information. NOL has placed a traditional disclaimer site stating that there are outside links for which NOL is not responsible. They are currently building a text-only site for users that require content only and to accommodate the special needs users.

In addition, a drop down menu allows users to click on a link that will take them to a secondary page with information. Multiple menus have organized information by topic, age or grade. Mr. Tom Rolfes was named as providing an extensive amount of information and resources to populate the portal.

Mr. Armstrong asked for some help from the Education Council members. He asked that each member and their institutions make sure all links and resources are appropriate. They can offer suggestions by clicking on the "Feedback Form" on the main page.

NOL's General Manager also asked the Council how they feel about linking to commercial sites such as companies that sell textbooks or curriculum. It was discussed and all agreed that linking to commercial sites is not appropriate for the portal at this time.

Discussion.

The URL for the Education Portal test site is: <http://www.nol.org/test/education>.

Implementation On Timeline--NOL will do a soft rollout or soft launch on January 1, 2003. The Governor or Lieutenant Governor will do a press release around February 1, 2003 to promote the portal and its services.

PRIORITIZATION OF PORTAL SERVICES AND INNOVATIONS

Mr. Tom Rolfes referred to a document entitled "[List of Potential Value-added services or Innovations arising from the Nebraska Education Portal Project](#)." The document listed 10 services that could be developed in conjunction with the portal. Mr. Rolfes asked the council members to read each very closely and determine which are their priorities. He mentioned that one service, the Feedback Form, was already completed and that one service, the reciprocal URL button for other educational websites, was in progress.

Mr. Steve Schafer stated that he received a \$25,000 grant from State Records Board. About \$5,000 was allocated to develop the actual site and now he has \$20,000 remaining for additional enhancements to the portal or other projects.

Mr. Wibbels suggested prioritization of the nine items electronically via email. He stated that Mr. Rolfes would continue the electronic discussion and summarize all comments.

EDUCATION COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGN TASK GROUPS

Mr. Rolfes handed out a sheet with group assignments and prefaced the groups' tasks with description of each of the priorities and what each hoped to accomplish.

Members that were assigned to Education Council Priority 1.1 which is the Statewide Synchronous Video Network Workgroup were: Dennis Baack, Dennis Linster, Al Schneider and Dean Bergman.

Members that were assigned to Education Council Priority 1.2 which is Adequate Rural Bandwidth were: Wayne Bell and Wayne Fisher.

Members that were assigned to Education Council Priority 2.1 which is Technology Training Grants were: Jerry Moskus, Linda Engel and Chuck Friesen.

Members that were assigned to Education Council Priority 3.1 which is Ensurance of Life Cycle Funding were: Kent Hendrickson, Alan Wibbels and Carna Pfeil.

Members that were assigned to Education Council Priority 4.1 which is the Role of Technology in Standards were: Don Mayhew, Rene Bose and Judi Carter.

Members that were assigned to Education Council Priority 4.2 which is the Educational Technology Proficiency Measures were: Con Dietz, Jerry Harnisch, Tip O'Neill, Terry Haack, Jeff Johnson and Ed Rastovski.

Members that were assigned to Education Council Priority 6.1 which is the Synchronous and Asynchronous Instructional Methods were: Robin Smith, Rob Manzer and Joe LeDuc.

Groups were asked to take 30 minutes to discuss their assigned priority and work through the sheet.

BRIEF TASK WORK GROUPS

The members reconvened at 11:15 a.m. and gave brief reports on what they discussed and accomplished. Mr. Rolfes gathered the worksheets and will transcribe them into word processing documents.

DISCUSSION: NEBRASKA NETWORK FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REVISED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Mr. Rolfes explained the new arrows of the organizational chart. The chart reflects a triangular communication pathway between CAP, NPWG and NAWG. It was suggested that the three groups should take the next several months to determine the long-term focus of the network. Mr. Rolfes stated that NAWG has been in place since 2000, because the NITC approved their status and function in 2000.

Mr. Wayne Fisher stated that Dean Bergman had concerns with the NAWG reporting to the Technical Panel and not to the other councils for additional input. Mr. Rolfes suggested that Mr. Bergman e-mail his concerns about the chart and that NITC staff would address his concerns in the most appropriate manner.

Discussion.

NETWORK POLICY WORK GROUP

Mr. Fisher voiced some concerns about the wording of the charter. The charters states, "Annual Meeting Membership may include major network stakeholders..." Mr. Bergman has a problem with the word "may." He suggests that it be changed to "will" and it would be required for anyone buying services to attend the meetings.

Mr. Rolfes suggested that Mr. Bergman e-mail his concerns about the Network Policy Work Group charter wording and that NITC staff would address his concerns in the most appropriate manner. .

STATEWIDE SYNCHRONOUS VIDEO WORK GROUP

Mr. Beach stated that everyone has expressed interest in this work group; therefore he is willing to sponsor and drive this effort. The work group has a broad focus and could potentially have more than 12 members on it. He requested suggestions about the language of the charter and specific names of contact people very soon. Group members agreed to email the contact names and their numbers to Mr. Rolfes as soon as possible.

CONFIRM LOCATIONS FOR JANUARY and FEBRUARY MEETINGS

All council members remaining agreed not to have a January meeting and to communicate electronically, if needed. Mr. Rolfes asked the members to come prepared to the February meeting to talk about the priorities and action items.

The next meeting is tentatively set for February 21, 2003. The meeting location will be announced when confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wibbels adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Jen Soucie Kitt of the NITC and reviewed by Tom Rolfes, Education IT Manager.

NETWORK 2 Hours

YEAR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL	AVG
1990 - 1991	NA	NA	NA	127.9	101.6	45.2	51.8	55.1	68.8	84.3	42.4	46.5	624	69
1991 - 1992	14.5	10.5	67.5	55.7	51.8	31.2	20.5	93.0	73.0	139.5	69.5	35.0	662	55
1992 - 1993	9.0	34.3	112.7	143.1	80.7	45.6	126.5	132.7	157.8	136.8	116.5	50.5	1,146	96
1993 - 1994	19.0	39.3	125.1	135.4	126.1	78.3	89.3	97.4	139.1	127.5	82.0	77.5	1,136	95
1994 - 1995	46.3	77.4	186.9	208.2	183.4	107.9	166.8	213.8	214.0	195.9	110.9	109.9	1,821	152
1995 - 1996	79.5	50.0	151.0	153.8	129.0	76.0	167.8	206.0	158.0	173.0	124.5	144.0	1,613	134
1996 - 1997	110.8	81.8	168.0	178.0	137.8	58.0	223.5	305.0	222.0	285.8	157.5	199.8	2,128	177
1997 - 1998	226.0	179.0	565.3	592.3	457.5	331.5	474.8	621.5	557.0	518.5	216.3	463.0	5,203	434
1998 - 1999	342	292	545	588	505	296	462	562	596	683	364	454	5,689	474
1999 - 2000	277	302	575	574	556	302	488	597	552	620	357	351	5,551	463
2000 - 2001	199	307	619	666	617	317	683	705	530	730	409	411	6,193	516
2001 - 2002	367	322	658	778	716	527	590	628	601	771	398	434	6,790	566
2002 - 2003	273	220	615	692	493	388	622						3,303	472
2003 - 2004														

NETWORK 3 Hours

YEAR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL	AVG
1991 - 1992	NA	NA	189.0	262.0	228.0	141.0	159.0	234.0	218.0	243.0	48.5	113.0	1,836	184
1992 - 1993	154.0	251.5	659.3	757.0	569.5	341.8	796.5	842.5	778.3	871.8	324.8	294.0	6,641	553
1993 - 1994	275.5	431.3	793.0	806.0	780.0	434.0	888.3	912.0	858.0	917.5	399.0	432.5	7,927	661
1994 - 1995	214.5	529.5	1124.5	1104.5	1031.0	553.0	1259.5	1440.0	1258.8	1332.8	476.8	679.5	11,004	917
1995 - 1996	260.6	714.0	1622.5	1652.0	1407.0	715.5	1395.0	1722.5	1213.3	1521.3	435.8	630.0	13,289	1,107
1996 - 1997	720.5	764.0	1787.3	2121.9	1579.5	936.0	1484.0	1752.8	1383.0	1813.5	704.5	2056.0	17,103	1,425
1997 - 1998	811.3	700.5	1773.0	1858.5	1456.8	921.8	1509.3	1750.8	1438.8	1873.2	682.5	1882.0	16,658	1,388
1998 - 1999	982.0	942.0	1798.0	1740.0	1473.3	797.0	1734.0	1914.0	1760.0	1975.0	793.8	1227.0	17,136	1,428
1999 - 2000	688	1019	1891	1689	1772	807	1560	1911	1645	1753	660	921	16,316	1,360
2000 - 2001	478	1040	1972	1687	1597	687	1952	1859	1613	1846	831	954	16,516	1,376
2001 - 2002	678	761	1640	1798	1544	1545	1504	1745	1295	1903	790	1109	16,312	1,359
2002 - 2003	679	781	1724	1760	1449	1027	1307						8,727	1,247
2003 - 2004														

2002-2003 NEB*SAT NETWORK 2 HOURS OF SERVICE

DEPT / CLIENTS	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
CCC CLASSES	74	69	173.00	184.50	160.00	122.50	144.00						
CCC AD HOC	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
CREIGHTON CLASSES	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
CREIGHTON AD HOC	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
IANR CLASSES	0	0	0.00	6.50	2.00	0.00	0.00						
IANR AD HOC	4	8	0.00	4.00	2.00	5.50	34.50						
MID PLAINS CLASSES	100	35	100.00	108.00	81.00	43.00	69.00						
MID PLAINS AD HOC	4	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
METRO CLASSES	47	26	143.00	154.00	73.00	111.00	207.00						
METRO AD HOC	2	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
NECC CLASSES	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
NECC AD HOC	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
SECC CLASSES	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
SECC AD HOC	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
UNK CLASSES	25	17	81.00	76.00	55.00	27.00	55.00						
UNK AD HOC	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
UNL CLASSES	0	18	44.50	67.50	64.00	19.00	36.50						
UNL AD HOC	3	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00						
UNMC CLASSES	3	7	38.50	53.50	31.00	26.00	21.50						
UNMC AD HOC	1	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
UNO CLASSES	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
UNO AD HOC	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
WNCC CLASSES	0	0	2.00	4.00	4.00	2.00	0.00						
WNCC AD HOC	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
MIDLD LUTH CLASSES	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
CLAY CENTER CLASSES	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
CLAY CENTER AD HOC	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
NET MARKETING	4	20	17.00	15.50	6.00	11.50	17.00						
CHILDRENS HOSPITAL	4	5	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00						
NEB*SAT AD HOC	4	15	13.00	14.00	10.50	17.00	30.00						
MONTHLY TOTAL	273	220	615.00	691.50	492.50	387.50	621.50						3301
TOTAL FISCAL YR 02	367	322	658.00	778.00	715.50	527.00	590.00	628.00	601.00	771.00	398.00	434.00	6,789
CHANGE	-93.5	-102.5	-43	-86.5	-223	-139.5	31.5						(657)

2002 - 2003 NEB*SAT NETWORK 3 HOURS OF SERVICE

UPLINK	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
LINCOLN 1	54.00	64.50	130.00	140.50	106.50	76.00	90.50			
LINCOLN 2	4.50	39.00	106.00	99.00	70.00	63.50	74.50			
LINCOLN 3	85.50	39.50	132.00	141.00	115.50	87.00	107.00			
LINCOLN 4	64.00	36.00	93.50	82.00	70.00	44.00	79.00			
LINCOLN 5	7.50	8.50	49.50	62.50	49.00	58.00	54.00			
LINCOLN 6	24.00	6.00	5.50	7.00	3.00	8.00	19.50			
LINCOLN 7	3.00	2.00	0.00	5.00	3.00	0.00	3.00			
LINCOLN 8	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	3.00	0.00	0.00			
OMAHA 1	2.00	40.00	91.50	78.50	69.00	57.00	74.50			
OMAHA 2	42.00	44.50	40.00	51.50	43.50	27.00	14.00			
S'BLUFF 1	0.00	36.50	69.00	77.50	71.00	47.50	26.50			
S'BLUFF 2	9.50	44.00	86.50	80.50	75.00	47.50	68.50			
CHADRON	5.50	25.00	71.00	78.50	63.50	40.00	68.00			
KEARNEY 1	18.50	45.00	99.50	94.50	80.50	46.50	67.00			
KEARNEY 2	34.00	17.00	77.00	73.00	64.50	49.00	67.00			
MCCOOK	49.50	65.00	114.50	113.00	79.50	42.00	78.50			
NORTH PLATTE # 1	66.50	42.00	98.00	95.00	69.00	41.00	90.50			
NORTH PLATTE # 2	56.00	24.00	77.50	76.00	64.00	39.00	35.50			
GR ISLAND 1	45.00	45.00	87.00	87.50	91.50	65.00	51.50			
GR ISLAND 2	45.00	41.00	75.00	82.50	68.00	54.00	63.00			
GR ISLAND 3	36.00	33.00	56.50	61.00	52.00	46.50	52.50			
COLUMBUS	9.50	17.00	39.00	37.50	29.50	17.00	23.00			
NORFOLK #1	12.00	23.00	19.00	11.00	8.00	1.00	7.00			
NORFOLK #2	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
BROKEN BOW	0.00	14.00	35.00	24.00	32.00	16.00	7.50			
HASTINGS	0.00	19.00	35.00	52.00	36.00	16.00	6.50			
PERU	0.00	3.00	12.00	12.00	11.00	6.00	14.00			
BEATRICE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00			
ELKHORN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.00	24.00			
WAYNE	5.50	7.00	24.00	26.00	21.00	14.00	34.00			
CLAY CENTER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
ITHACA	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
TOTALS	679.00	780.50	1723.50	1759.50	1448.50	1027	1307			
TOTAL FY 01	678.00	760.50	1639.50	1,798.00	1,543.50	1,545.00	1,504.00	1,745.00	1,295.00	1,903.00
CHANGE	1	20	84	-38.5	-95	-518.5	-197.5			

Submitted By: Nan Rowe, NET

MAY JUN TOTAL

8724

790.00 1,109.00 16,311

-744.5

Submitted By: Nan Rowe, NET

NEB*Sat Classes

Fiscal Year 2002 - 2003

MONTH	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	RESOURCE TOTAL
RESOURCE:													
Network II	111	101	253	310	222	211	294						1502
K-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	7						7
Higher Edu	102	73	240	305	214	198	256						1388
Other	9	28	13	5	8	13	31						107
Network III	112	111	254	364	345	205	235						1626
K-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Higher Edu	99	94	245	363	345	201	226						1573
Other	13	17	9	1	0	4	9						53
DS3 *	2	5	8	1	0	0	0						16
K-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Higher Edu	1	5	8	1	0	0	0						15
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	0						1
Fiber	40	42	171	189	134	138	185						899
K-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Higher Edu	25	29	171	189	131	132	173						850
Other	15	13	0	0	3	6	12						49
MONTHLY TLS	265	259	686	864	701	554	714						4043
PREV YR TLS	337	348	828	967	863	675	716	808	672	928	403	407	7952
CHANGE	(72.00)	(89.00)	(142.00)	(103.00)	(162.00)	(121.00)	(2.00)						(691.00)

*NOTE: As of January 2002, ONLY SECC to NET connection

NVCN HOURS

YEAR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL	AVG
1997 - 1998	564	463	683	685	600	673	720	703	856	854	602	536	7,939	662
1998 - 1999	506	567	608	697	759	357	730	666	854	777	641	546	7,708	642
1999 - 2000	474	711	845	627	656	550	930	910	868	865	612	505	8,553	713
2000 - 2001	396	488	396	623	329	346	623	584	627	525	413	390	5,740	478
2001 - 2002	351	491	414	510	539	258	621	600	686	467	409	495	5,841	487
2002 - 2003	212	308	560	563	530	371	694						3,238	463
2003 - 2004														

2002 -2003 NVCN USAGE
EVENTS

Month	Hours	2-Way	Multi	Total	People	Site Usage
Jul	212	22	18	40	1054	115
Aug	308	34	25	59	1292	170
Sep	560	37	21	58	1334	243
Oct	563	41	30	71	1698	263
Nov	530	33	32	65	2698	256
Dec	371	26	21	47	877	208
Jan	694	34	48	82	1759	371
Feb						
Mar						
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Total	3,238	227	195	422	10,712	1,626
Ave	462.6	32.4	27.9	60.3	1530.3	232.3
Prev Year	5,840	501	421	922	21,232	2,692
Change	(2,602)	(274)	(226)	(500)	(10,520)	(1,066)

Ave Event Length: 7.7

NEBRASKA VIDEO CONFERENCING NETWORK USAGE REPORT
January 1 - 31, 2003

SITE	HRS/USAGE	NO. OF PEOPLE	SITE USAGE
AINSWORTH LIBRARY	11	17	6
BEATRICE LIBRARY	8	18	5
COLUMBUS LIBRARY	18.5	48	7
G.I. COLLEGE PARK	37.8	92	23
HASTINGS LIBRARY	18.5	44	11
KEARNEY LIBRARY	42	71	22
KEARNEY- UNK Med. Ctr.	18.5	51	10
LINCOLN--ATRIUM	10	31	4
LINCOLN--NET Control	149.83	97	82
LINCOLN--ENERGY SQUARE	5	13	5
LINCOLN--EXEC	44	172	28
LINCOLN-VARNER HALL	4	8	3
NORFOLK COLLEGE	29	61	15
NORTH PLATTE- McKinley Ed. Ctr.	38.5	62	22
OMAHA--State Office Bldg.	45.83	105	25
OMAHA--UNMC	25.75	388	13
O'NEILL	9.83	12	5
SCOTTSBLUFF-Panhandle Learning Ctr.	45.75	67	20
SIDNEY MCU			
ALLIANCE	0	0	0
CHADRON	43	105	17
MC COOK	22.5	18	8
SIDNEY	0	0	0
MCDONALD BELTON	0	0	0
VALENTINE	5	5	2
WAYNE	10	25	4
NEB*SAT	17.67	50	8
IN-Bound/OUT-Bound Calls	34.5	199	26
TOTALS	694	1759	371

POINT TO POINT	34	MULTI POINT	48
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**Help Desk Service Contacts
FY 2002-2003**

Month	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
Technical Services:													
Network II	46	76	121	225	107	43	88	0	0	0	0	0	706
K-12	6	11	50	60	36	17	41						221
Higher Education	18	46	34	59	13	4	15						189
Extension/Other	22	19	37	106	58	22	32						296
Broadcast	71	45	43	106	70	57	52	0	0	0	0	0	444
TV	60	30	34	96	62	50	38						370
FM	11	15	9	10	8	7	14						74
Technical Total	117	121	164	331	177	100	140	0	0	0	0	0	1150
*Referred to Technician	8	3	6	9	3	0	3						32
Non-Technical Services:	224	1132	1902	2495	761	63	259	0	0	0	0	0	6836
Schedule Question	55	40	41	21	30	39	29						255
NVCN	47	17	19	19	12	10	13						137
UNL Video Services (Equipment)	7	2	7	8	2	3	36						65
Reading Rainbow	0	0	0	0	0	0	76						76
Front Desk	115	88	90	137	55	11	105						601
GPN		985	1745	2310	662	N/A	N/A						5702
Total Contacts	341	1253	2066	2826	938	163	399	0	0	0	0	0	7986
Previous Year	251	368	303	276	420	465	428	424	458	322	269	305	4289
Growth	36%	240%	582%	924%	123%	-65%	-7%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	86%

IP SITE BREAKDOWN

MONTH OF: January 2003

LOCATION	USAGE		
	SITE	PEOPLE	HOURS
IP COLUMBUS	9	42	21.00
IP DOC 501	0	0	0.00
IP DOC 521	0	0	0.00
IP GRAND ISLAND	N/A	N/A	N/A
IP HASTINGS	0	0	0.00
IP MAHONEY	1	2	0.50
IP NCDHH - Lincoln	0	0	0.00
IP NCDHH - Omaha	0	0	0.00
IP NDE	2	36	5.00
IP TAX EQUALIZATION	0	0	0.00
IP WAYNE	9	84	21.00
MONTHLY USAGE	21.00	164.00	47.50

2002-2003 IP USAGE			
Month	Hours	People	Site Usage
Jul	29.00	63	11
Aug	30.00	44	11
Sep	39.00	127	20
Oct	52.50	179	19
Nov	39.00	148	14
Dec	25.50	79	10
Jan	21.00	164	47.5
Feb			
Mar			
Apr			
May			
Jun			
Total	236.00	804	133
Ave	33.7	114.9	18.9
Prev Year	732.50	1,662	296
Change	(496.50)	(858)	(164)

Ave Event Length: 1.77

DLS Team Site Visits

2002-2003	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
NET II									
K-12	2	120	115	10	4	1	9		
Higher Ed.	0	15	20	8	2	0	6		
P.L./Co. Ext.	1	43	34	6	7	0	2		
Total	3	178	169	24	13	1	17		0
NET III									
K-12	3	3	0	0	0	0	0		
Higher Ed.	19	26	19	11	13	1	16		
P.L./Co. Ext.	4	0	2	3	5	5	0		
Total	26	29	21	14	18	6	16		0
C.C.T.V.									
K-12	2	6	0	6	2	1	1		
Higher Ed.	1	2	0	1	0	0	0		
P.L./Co. Ext.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	3	8	0	7	2	1	1		0
N.V.C.N.									
K-12	1	4	0	0	0	1	2		
Higher Ed.	1	0	0	0	2	2	0		
P.L./Co. Ext.	7	3	7	5	1	0	3		
Total	9	7	7	5	3	3	5		0
K-12 Total	8	133	115	16	6	3	12		
Higher Ed. Total	21	43	39	20	17	3	22		
P.L./Co. Ext. Total	12	46	43	14	13	5	5		
Total Visits	41	222	197	50	36	11	39		
Staff Hours	375.75	460	367	198.5	167.75	58	264.5		
Total FY 02	50	91	45	99	52	27	31		33
Staff Hours FY 02	274	423.5	255.8	700.3	262.5	156	166.5		141.5

J McC

Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
				261
				51
				93
	0	0	0	0
				405
				6
				105
				19
	0	0	0	0
				130
				18
				4
				0
	0	0	0	0
				22
				8
				5
				26
	0	0	0	0
				39
				293
				165
				138
				596
				1891.5
	22	34	58	45
	121.5	169.8	362.5	288.8
				586
				3323

DRAFT
Nebraska Telecommunications Network (NETCOM)
Concepts And Assumptions
(Date of Last Revision: January 17, 2003)

In September 2002, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) adopted the recommendations of the Nebraska Network Workgroup (<http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/>). Among other recommendations was the call for statewide purchasing and bandwidth aggregation of telecommunications services. NETCOM (Nebraska Telecommunications Network) is the telecommunications transport layer that will serve shared network services, as well as stand-alone network applications. NETCOM will eventually consist of a core network, edge networks, local connections to aggregation points, and a network operations center. NETCOM will utilize a phased-in approach leading to the deployment of a statewide network.

The goal of NETCOM is to improve service and lower the cost of meeting the telecommunications needs of Nebraska's state agencies, institutions of higher education, local governments, K-12 schools, healthcare facilities, and libraries. Objectives include consolidating bandwidth, supporting routing configurations and IP technology, providing effective network management and improving performance.

This document provides a high-level description of NETCOM, including concepts and assumptions.

A variety of factors will impact the order and timing of the actual deployment of different segments of the statewide network. These variables include the terms of existing contracts, bandwidth needs, participants, available opportunities, and other considerations. Initially the focus will be on data and Internet traffic. Video service will be more difficult to convert and will be deferred due to the technical, contractual, and bandwidth requirements of synchronous video networks. Full development may take several years.

When fully deployed, NETCOM will consist of a three-tiered environment. Tier 1 is the Core. It will be a very large capacity switched network that relies on universal standards and is served by a fiber infrastructure. Access points along this backbone are called core sites. Requirements for the Core Network include high capacity, high reliability, redundancy, and fault tolerance. The Core Network would support a full range of service classes as well as interoperability of technologies. Tier 2 is the Edge Network. The function of the Edge Networks is to provide an additional level of aggregation of the physical lines in a general location onto a broadband facility linked to the "Edge" of the Core network. The concentrators should be located in the local service provider's central office and be offered as a "Service" to all potential customers. The concentration points are referred to as regional aggregation sites. A total "Service" offering positioned at the intersection of the traditional local loop and the broadband core switched services would present new opportunities for reduced costs and enhanced capabilities. Tier 3 consists of the individual circuits connecting the user's facility to the regional aggregation sites.

NETCOM deployment will begin by establishing a phased-in core network. Phase I has been identified as a high capacity, fiber-based terrestrial backbone from Omaha to Lincoln and Lincoln to Grand Island. Identification and deployment of Phase II is scheduled to happen mid-

1st quarter of 2003. The attachments indicate the potential core backbone locations and the tasks/milestones schedule for calendar year 2003.

The technology choices for NETCOM should support additional capabilities beyond the traditional current arrangements. In larger towns and cities it is possible to lease dark fiber, and there are fiber-based service offerings that offer local area network (LAN) speeds. Also, more local exchange carriers are offering DSL for Internet access. Fractional T1 could be an option from the user's location to the broadband core network. Connecting non-traditional telecommunications services, such as cable or wireless systems, to the core network should also be an option.

A network operations center (NOC) will be essential to the management of NETCOM, but currently does not exist. The NOC will be responsible for all network related management activities, including trouble reporting, problem resolution, performance and traffic analysis, quality assurance and others. The NOC would help define a portfolio of management services. Traditional tariffed service offerings have always specified a modest set of performance objectives and an equally modest reimbursement schedule for non-performance. As today's networks are becoming increasingly critical in importance, network managers must seek more fail-proof systems and more performance guarantees. The NOC will address the subject of guarantees in two ways: 1) Transport services with innate quality of service characteristics will be specified as a technological strategy, and 2) Requirements for service level agreements (SLAs) along with the management techniques for performance evaluation.

At the request of the Chair of the NITC, the Division of Communications, University of Nebraska, and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications established the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) as an operational entity to deploy a scalable and affordable statewide Core Network. The Public Service Commission and the Nebraska Department of Education also participate. The initial focus of CAP is to develop the Core Network, which will serve as the basic transport backbone for shared networks. CAP may help analyze the bandwidth requirements of applications, but will not assume responsibility for their deployment. Individual members of CAP or other entities will provide applications such as Internet 1, Internet 2, or other data networks.

The CAP should take the lead in preparing a digital service catalog that will provide an open view of the networking possibilities and services available. From the catalog, users would be able to craft organizationally unique networks that take advantage of NETCOM transport offerings. The catalog would reflect pricing, installation intervals, and maintenance arrangements. This would include traditional services as well as new offerings such as fractional T1, inverse multiplexing, ATM, Frame Relay, or multi-link Frame Relay. The catalog would include existing services and more advanced techniques such as SDSL, TLS, and wireless.

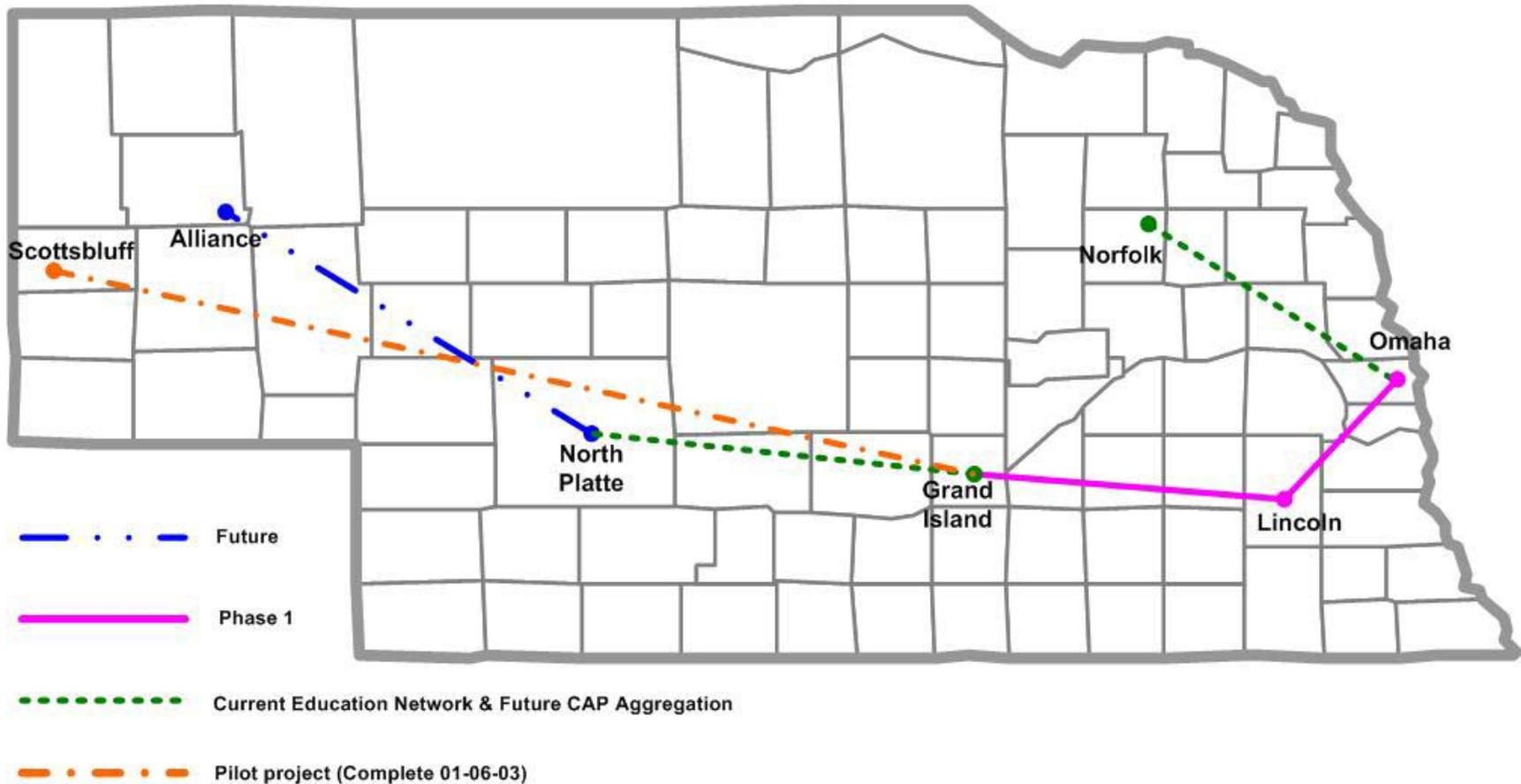
NETCOM is not an end in itself. Rather it is envisioned as a transport foundation upon which many higher levels of services, such as Internet access, video conferencing, telehealth, and other network applications, will be provisioned.

Coordination of Network Planning Activities

1. Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP). CAP provides the operational structure for ordering broadband service and holding contracts. The responsibility of CAP is limited to designing and providing the transport layer for sharing networks. NETCOM will provide the backbone for delivering value-added services, but CAP will not develop or manage those services.

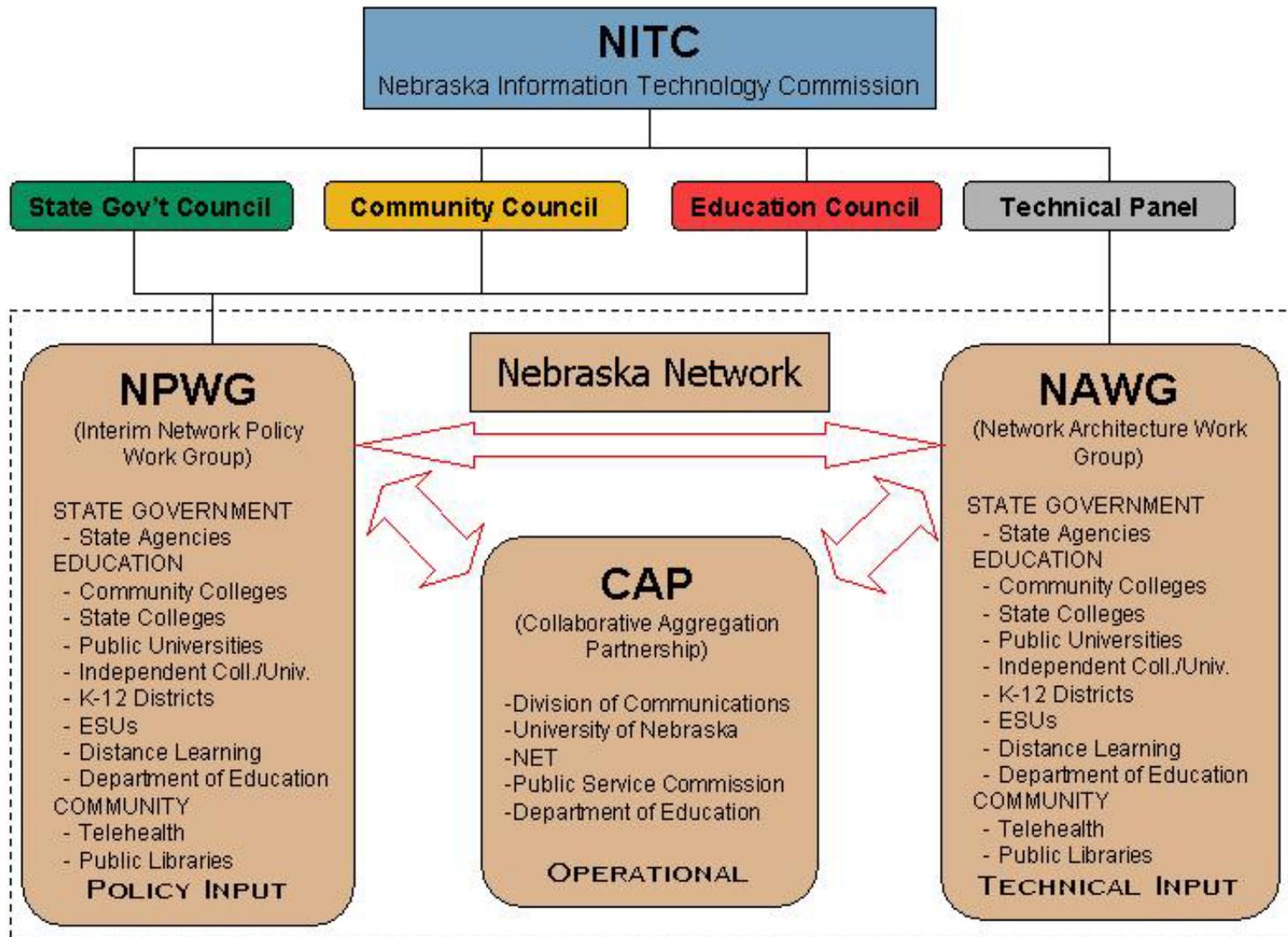
2. Network Architecture Work Group (NAWG). The Technical Panel created the NAWG to assist with developing the NETCOM RFP. A new assignment for NAWG is to provide advice and direction to the CAP as it builds the statewide backbone. NAWG will provide estimates of need, recommend technical requirements and constraints, and identify problems and issues related to the technical environment. NAWG is also the best group to work on other technical issues pertaining to future plans for regional and statewide networks.
3. Interim Network Policy Work Group (NPWG). Although not yet formed, this group would develop recommendations on long-term policy issues regarding the funding, operation and management of shared networks. The NPWG would also sponsor an annual meeting on NETCOM and other network plans and accomplishments.
4. Statewide Synchronous Video Network Work Group (SSVNWG). The Technical Panel established this work group in November 2002. Its purpose is to define the technical and non-technical requirements for interconnecting all synchronous video networks and meeting the scheduling needs of participants. The recommendations of this work group will eventually be incorporated into future planning for NETCOM.

Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) “Desired” Core Sites



CAP Deployment Process - Tasks & Milestone Schedule

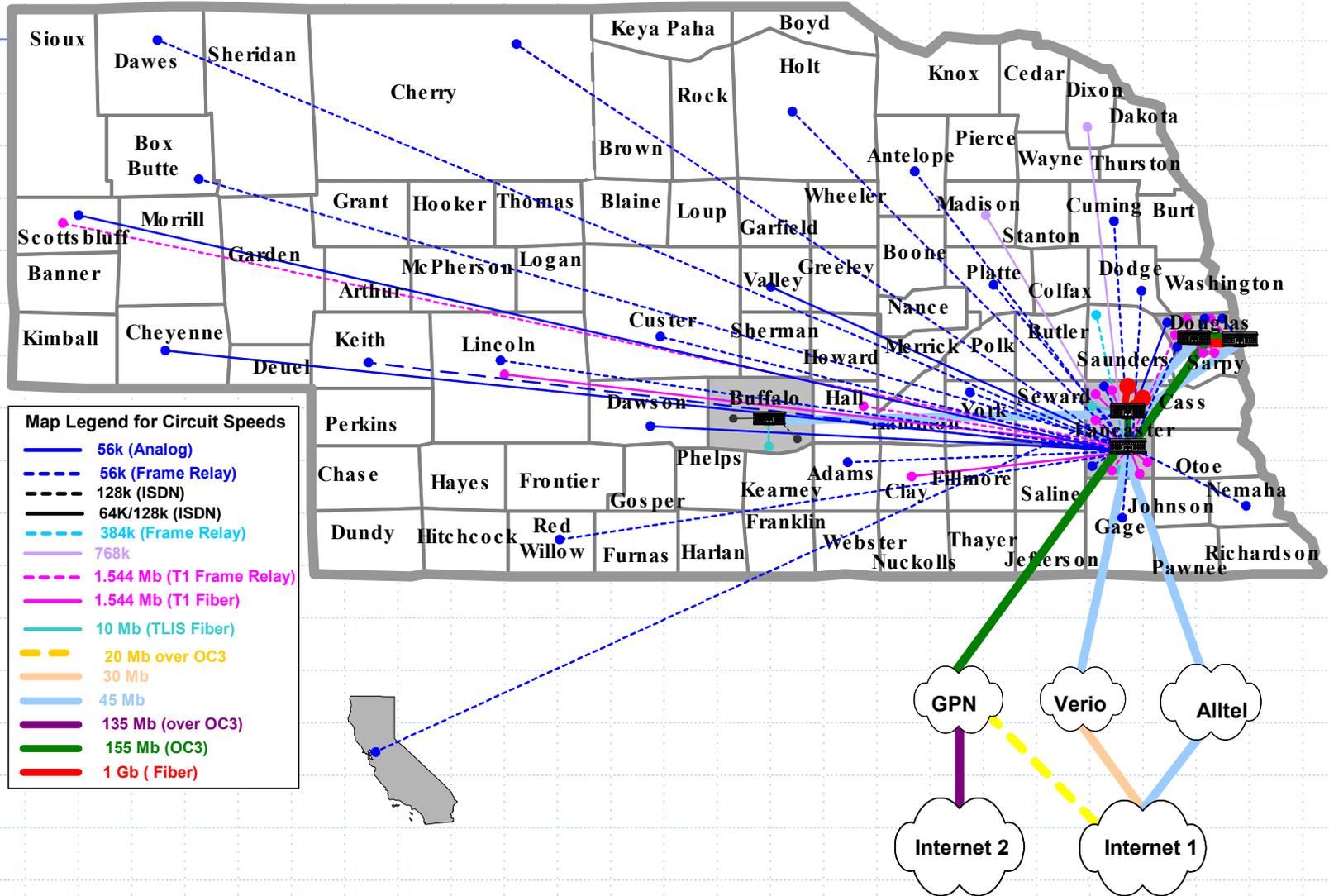
TASK	Jan. 03				Feb. 03				Mar. 03					Apr. 03				May. 03				June. 03					July. 03				Aug. 03																
	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18														
Phase I																																															
Identify 1st Phase of Project																																															
Update Bandwidth doc. for sites																																															
Work with Purchasing																																															
Define RFP Structure & document																																															
Develop Evaluation criteria																																															
Final approval of RFP & Release																																															
RFP out for bid																																															
Final Proposals Received																																															
Evaluation & Vendor Review																																															
Best & Final Offer																																															
Analysis & Award Bid																																															
Schedule implementation																																															
Phase II																																															
Identify 2nd Phase of Project																																															
Update Bandwidth doc. for sites																																															
Work with Purchasing																																															
Define RFP Structure & document																																															
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Analysis & Award Bid																																															
Schedule implementation																																															
Phase III																																															
Identify 3rd Phase of Project																																															
Update Bandwidth doc. for sites																																															
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Schedule implementation																																															



Collaborative Aggregation Partnership

Nebraska Department of Education
Nebraska Division of Communications
**Nebraska Educational Telecommunications
Commission**
Nebraska Health Networks
Nebraska Public Service Commission
University of Nebraska

Current University of Nebraska Network



Why are we doing this?

- ◆ Strategic Framework, University of Nebraska 2000-2004
 - “Our collective vision of a university is changing from instruction delivered exclusively from one physical site to a technologically enhanced, interactive, community of scholars and learners in many locations”.
- ◆ Nebraska's university network to off campus sites (Frame Relay System) has not been materially improved in several years.
 - Over half our sites are still connecting via dialup modems. Another 30 sites have been locked at 56kb frame relay speeds, and in major facilities located at Scottsbluff, North Platte, Norfolk we are serving hundreds of staff members and their research missions with frame relay lines at the woefully slow speed of 768kb ... shared bandwidth.
- ◆ Improved Statewide networking has been identified as a priority in all NU Integrated Technology plans, submitted to the state since 1996.
- ◆ Improved Statewide networking has been identified as a priority by the President and all Chancellors.

Why are we doing this?

- ◆ Provides a foundation for future consolidation
 - Voice, Video and Data
 - Telecommunications
 - ◆ Management
 - Computing
 - ◆ Academic
 - ◆ Administrative
- ◆ The network improvements and investments we are making today at the University would provide the University and the citizens of the State of Nebraska with access to:
 - ◆ Bio-terrorism information and education
 - ◆ Tele-Medicine
 - ◆ Homeland Security
 - ◆ The highest quality, most effective instructional experiences
 - ◆ Library services
 - ◆ Student services, and teacher resources regardless of location or time
 - ◆ University administrative support services.
 - ◆ Allow for the expanded use of our SIS Blackboard Portal effort - statewide.

Why are we doing this?

- ◆ Neighboring states
 - Missouri, South and North Dakota, Kansas, Colorado,
- ◆ Nebraska Educational Network
 - Proposed by Dr. Smith and Commissioner Christensen
 - Endorsed unanimously by the NITC
- ◆ Nebraska E-Learning consortium
 - Lt Gov Heineman and Commissioner Christensen
 - K-20 – Lots of interest, ESU's, K-12, CC, SC
 - Course management
 - Course content
 - Network Infrastructure
 - ◆ Software – Blackboard (Statewide contract)
 - ◆ Hardware – LINUX
 - ◆ Support
 - ◆ Courseware design
 - Standards

Internet 2 & Research

- ◆ The University of Nebraska was a founding member of Internet 2.
- ◆ Our current connection to the I2 environment is via a Gigipop currently located in Kansas City
- ◆ A 200 MB Circuit (UNL Walter Scott to UNO-PKI) provided by DFS
- ◆ A 155 MB Circuit (UNL Walter Scott to KC) provided by Alltel
 - Connection to the vBNS (NSF high speed research backbone in KC)
 - Connection to Abilene, This is an advanced I2 backbone network that connects regional network aggregation points, in KC
- ◆ The Internet 2 K20 Initiative
 - Bring together Internet 2 member institutions, primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, libraries, and museums to get new technologies—advanced networking tools, applications, middleware, and content—into the hands of innovators, across all educational sectors

Video on the network

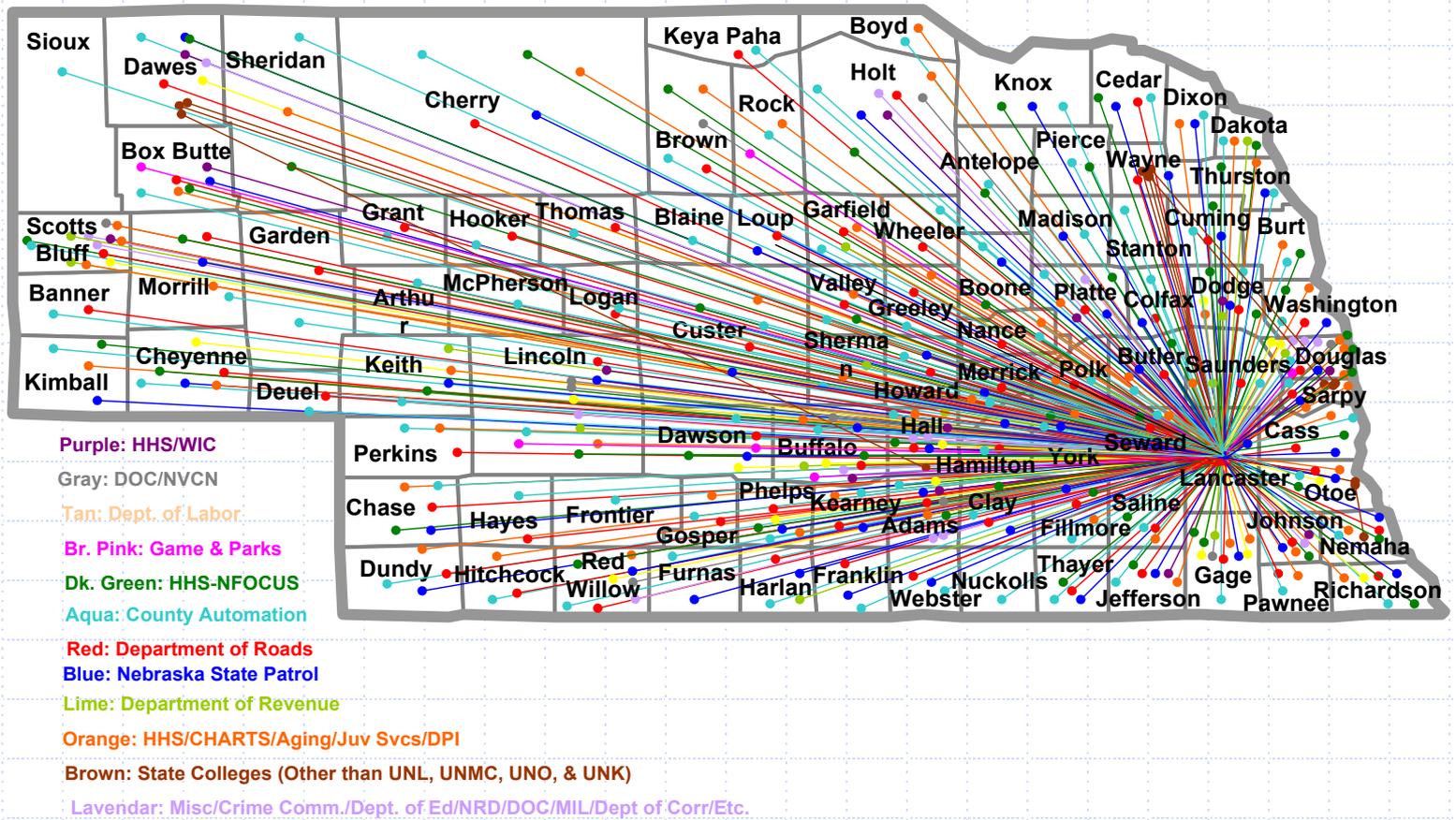
- ◆ Currently ESU's have DS3 (45mb) currently installed
 - Not IP based
- ◆ JPEG - 8 MB required for each class session
 - Point to point
 - The greater the compression, the greater the degree of information loss
- ◆ MPEG - 2-4 MB required for each class
 - Point to point
- ◆ Video over IP – 384kb -768kb for each class
 - Issue of quality
 - Bursty nature of IP/Ethernet
- ◆ Good news is technology is solving this problem

Internet 2 & Research

◆ **Great Plains Network**

- (Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Missouri). This was part of an EPSCOR grant.
- ◆ The initial network consisted of a 45 mbps DS-3 network connecting the states, with many connections having been upgraded to OC-3 at 155 mbps. Connections to the commodity internet (Internet1) have been completed at a bandwidth of approximately 90 mbps, and an OC-12 link to the Internet 2 Abilene network has also been put into place

State of Nebraska



Scottsbluff Pilot Project

◆ Objectives

- Efficiency, cost savings/cost avoidance
- State/University partnership

◆ Cost savings vs cost avoidance

- DS-3
- Fractional services

◆ Future interconnection of other users

- ESU's

Final Report and Recommendations

NITC Nebraska Network Work Group

All state agencies, educational institutions, and political subdivisions that manage regional and statewide networks should aggregate their acquisition of telecommunications services, by using a centralized telecommunications purchasing entity. The initial focus should be on data and video services, but should not exclude cooperation on other telecommunications services, if beneficial to participants. **Aggregation of demand** is essential, in order to achieve competitive pricing, provide standardization, increase quality of service, and orchestrate network improvements. Initial participation in aggregation efforts should focus on those entities ready and willing to commit in the near term to a provider selection process. In the long term, broader participation will generate greater benefits for all involved. This recommendation recognizes that statutorily independent entities must be able to document advantages of participation to governing boards. These advantages include potential economies of scale, greater interoperability, and the opportunity for widespread collaboration. This recommendation proposes a relationship with the central telecommunications purchasing entity that permits solicitation of pricing by individual participants, even though all contracts should be held by the central telecommunications purchasing entity for the benefit of all.

The Nebraska Division of Communications (DOC) should coordinate, in close cooperation with the University of Nebraska, the telecommunications purchasing needs for the State. The DOC is best positioned to serve this function, because it has existing statutory authority to serve all public entities and because several state-led initiatives will create opportunities for leveraging future expenditures on telecommunications.

Final Report and Recommendations

NITC Nebraska Network Work Group

The Technical Panel's Network Architecture Work Group, sponsored by the Division of Communications, should design the technical requirements for a common network backbone serving all users. The first attempt, NETCOM Request For Proposal (RFP), did not result in a contract award. A revised strategy for aggregated purchasing is planned. At a generic level, it will encompass core aggregation points in the state, but not to the degree as contained in the original proposal. These sites will be interconnected via high capacity links to strategically-located intelligent devices that will provide the appropriate management, service levels, destination identification, and other high level telecommunications services associated with network operations. There will be other locations that will be points of aggregation, but not necessarily part of the core network. These sites will also not approach the number or magnitude as originally proposed. It is anticipated that with the appropriate support and encouragement, this second effort will be distributed prior to the end of calendar year 2002.

The central telecommunications purchasing entity (DOC) will work with all qualified vendors (pursuant to Section 81-1120.19) to implement a core network in an acceptable economical manner that meets the technical design specifications.

Current State of Shared Services

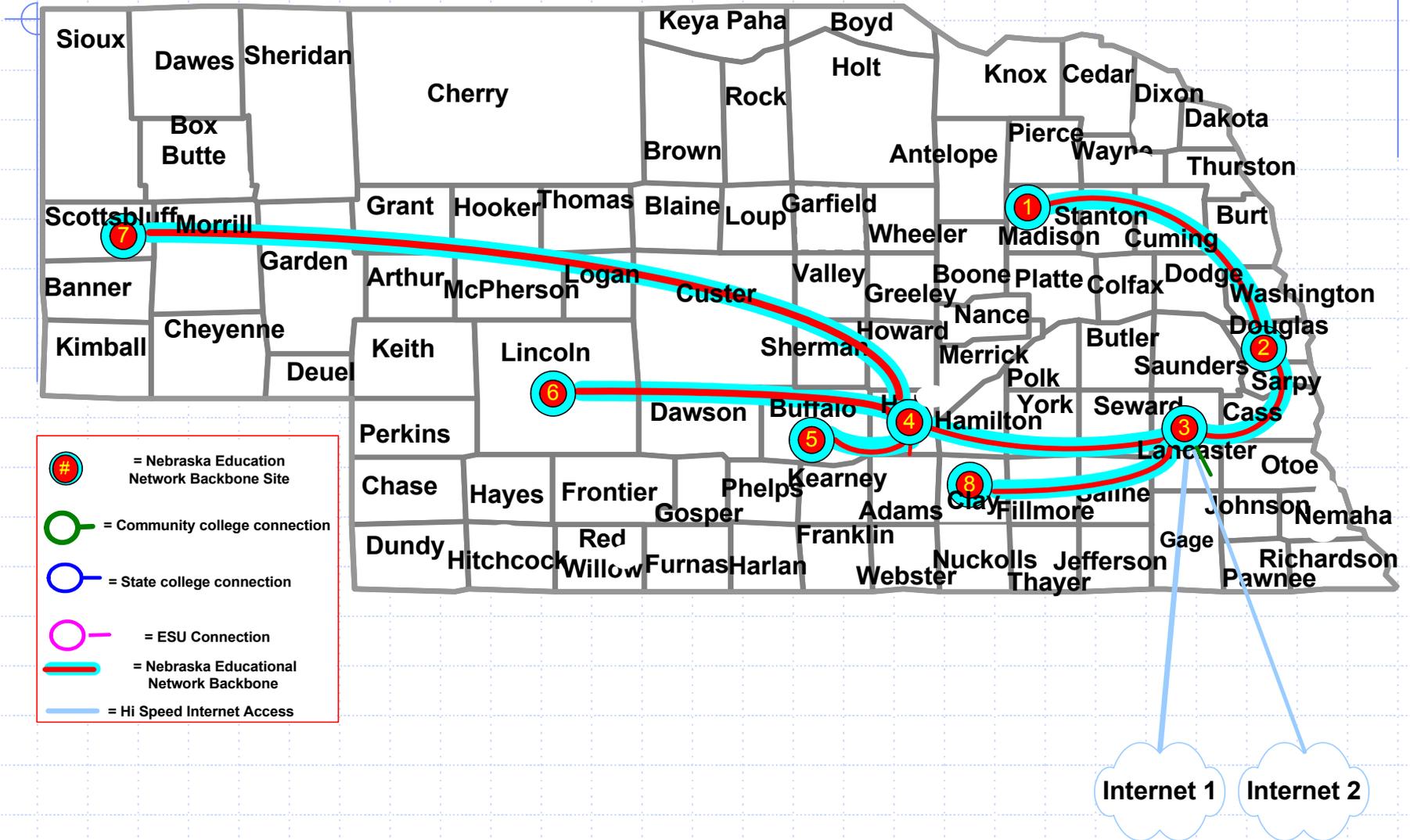
◆ What we have now

- OC-3 from Lincoln to GI/Kearney
- OC-3 from Lincoln to Omaha
- Scottsbluff Pilot Project

Historic Pattern of Spending Growth for State Agencies

	FY 02	FY 01	FY 00
State Telecom Expense	\$16,966,421	\$16,636,109	\$12,131,941
% Increase	2%	37%	
UN Telecom Expense	\$8,434,829	\$8,223,958	
% Increase	2.5%		
State Ops Budget*	\$963,605,000	\$926,838,000	\$861,051,000
% Increase	4%	7.6%	

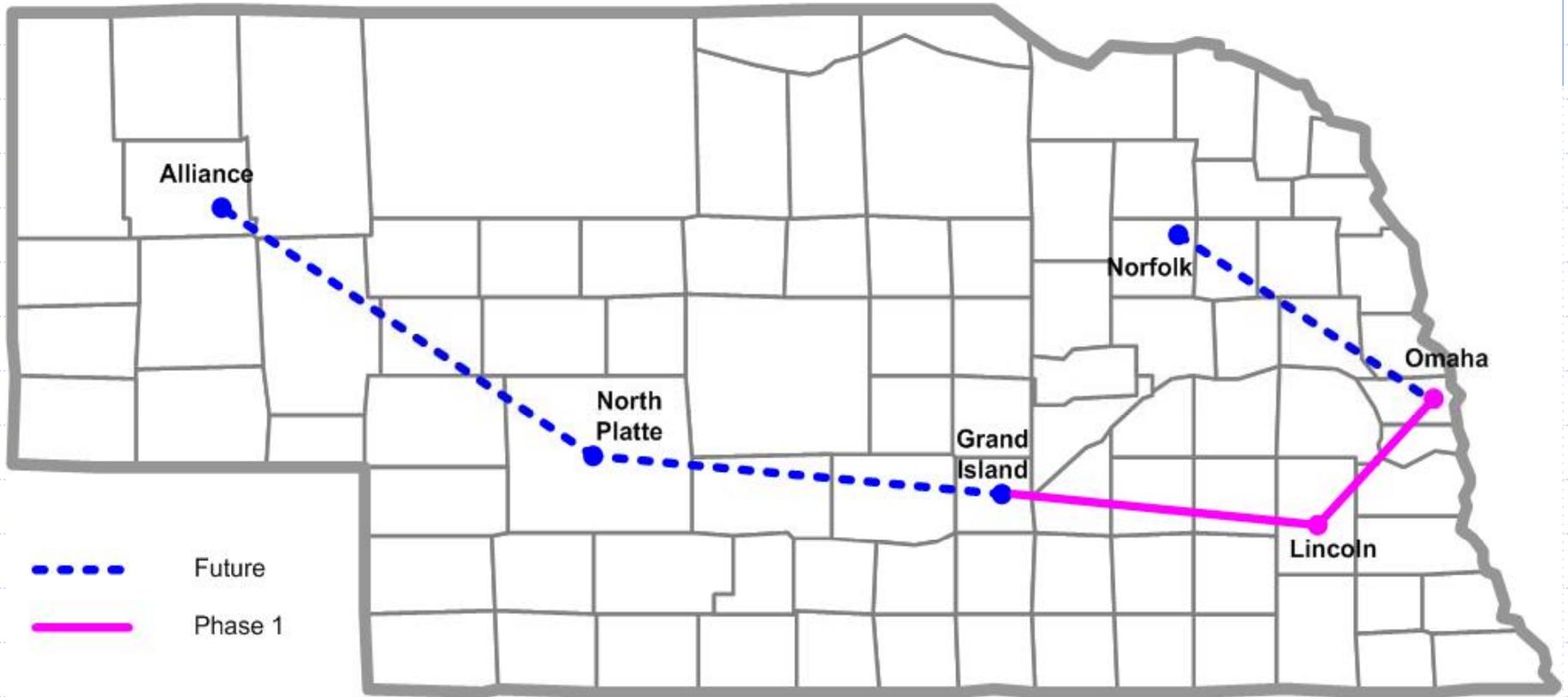
Nebraska Educational IP Layer



Additional Projects

- ◆ Intelligent Transportation Initiative
- ◆ Bioterrorism Initiative
- ◆ Homeland Security Initiative
- ◆ Health Alert Initiative
- ◆ Telehealth Initiative
- ◆ eLearning Initiative

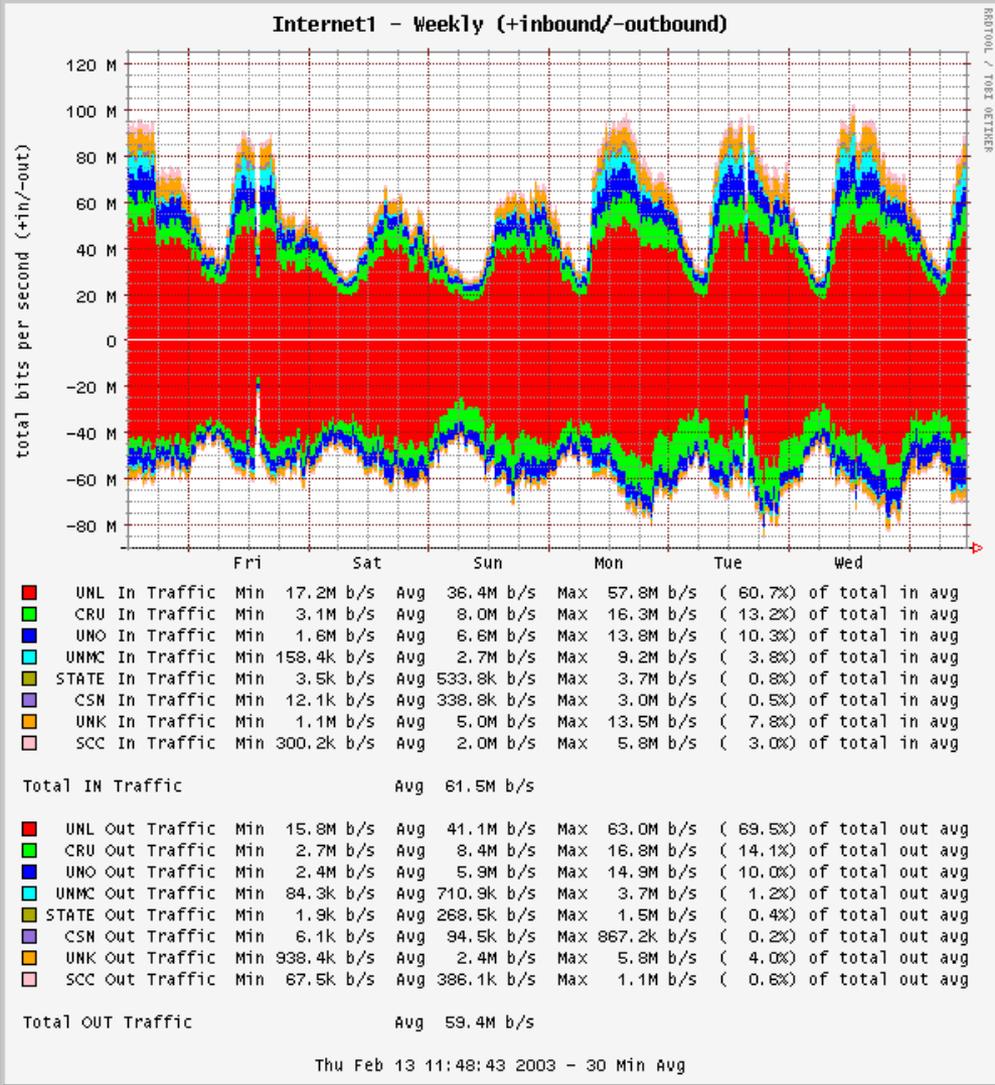
Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) “Desired” Core Routing Sites



Future Demand Based on History Lincoln to GI

	Present BW Demand	EST 1yr BW Demand	EST 5yr BW Demand
STATE	130 mbps	155 mbps	310 mbps
UNIVERSITY	63 mbps	124 mbps	248 mbps
TOTAL	193	279	558

Bandwidth demand reflects the entities included in this table.



Future Demand Based on History Lincoln to Omaha

	Present BW Demand	EST 1yr BW Demand	EST 5yr BW Demand
STATE	100 mbps	120 mbps	155 mbps
UNIVERSITY	183 mbps	233 mbps	466 mbps
TOTAL	283	353	621

Bandwidth demand reflects the entities included in this table. UNO/UNMC connections do not include growth in Internet 1 needs or the 200 meg research network

Future Demand Based on History Kearney to Lincoln

	Present BW Demand	EST 1yr BW Demand	EST 5yr BW Demand
STATE	14 mbps	18 mbps	23 mbps
UNIVERSITY	18 mbps	38 mbps	60 mbps
TOTAL	32	56	83

Bandwidth demand reflects the entities included in this table.

Network Needs

- ◆ Aggregation of Bandwidth
- ◆ Ability to scale the size of the network
- ◆ Quality of Service/Redundancy
- ◆ Service Level Agreements
- ◆ Ability to mix network designs
 - State networks vs University networks

State

University

◆ Has a large number of sites that need small amount of bandwidth

◆ Dedicated services with guaranteed throughput

◆ Distributed sites within a single community

◆ Majority of services terminate in Lincoln

◆ Has a smaller number of sites that need large amounts of bandwidth

◆ Best effort services will suffice in the majority of cases

◆ Concentrations of users in campus situations

◆ Services distributed in regional areas

Next Steps

- ◆ Individual meetings with CAP
 - Agenda
 - Sign up Sheet
- ◆ Preparation of a formal document (RFP)
- ◆ Timeline

Questions?

◆ State Contact:

Brenda Decker, Division of Communications
402-471-2761 bdecker@doc.state.ne.us

◆ University Contact:

Walter Weir, University of Nebraska
402-472-2862 wweir@nebraska.edu

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-2874/PI-71
on its own motion, seeking to)
investigate the current status)
of distance learning in) ORDER OPENING DOCKET,
Nebraska.) SEEKING COMMENTS AND
) SETTING WORKSHOP
)
) Entered: February 4, 2003

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) hereby opens the above-captioned docket, on its own motion, seeking to investigate the current status of distance learning in Nebraska. It has come to the Commission's attention during the past several months that certain educational facilities located in Western Nebraska have been experiencing difficulties with the timely deployment of telecommunications infrastructure to meet their distance learning needs. The Commission has received a number of complaints from students enrolled in Leyton High School regarding the delay in implementing distance learning in their school. The Commission has also received complaints from other Educational Service Unit (ESU) coordinators. We are also interested in the technologies used to provide distance learning and the potential for interconnecting the different distance learning networks.

The Commission invites all interested parties including, but not limited to, telecommunications carriers, educators, students and ESU coordinators to comment on the following issues:

1. Are telecommunications carriers timely deploying adequate infrastructure to meet distance learning needs in Nebraska?
2. If the answer to question 1 above is no, what should be done to ensure that carriers deploy adequate infrastructure to support all the distance learning needs of the state?
3. What distance learning technology issues need to be addressed? (E.g. JPEG versus MPEG video standards.)

4. What issues prevent interconnecting existing distance learning networks?
5. What should our goals include to ensure Nebraska has a distance learning network that meets present and future needs?

Written comments should be filed by interested parties on or before March 7, 2003. All parties filing comments should file one original, five paper copies and one electronic copy in Word or WordPerfect format.

A public workshop is hereby scheduled for March 18, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. CST in the Commission Library, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska to review the comments submitted and discuss further the status of distance learning in Nebraska. Videoconference links will be made available at the following sites:

Columbus Public Library
Columbus Room, 2nd Floor
2504 14th Street
Columbus, NE 68601

College Park
Conference Room C
3180 West Highway 34
Grand Island, NE 68801

Hastings Public Library
517 West 4th Street
Hastings, NE 69101

Kearney Public Library
2020 First Avenue
Kearney, NE 68849

Von Riesen Library
Room 6, Basement Level
1205 East 3rd Street
McCook, NE 69001

Northeast Community College
Macclay Building, Room, 122
801 East Benjamin Avenue
Norfolk, NE 68702

McKinley Education Center
301 West F Street
North Platte, NE 69101

Avera St. Anthony's Hospital
Cornhusker Room
2nd and Adams Street
O'Neill, NE 68763

Panhandle Learning Center
High Plains Room
4502 Avenue I
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Any party interested in participating via one or more of these videoconference sites should contact the Commission office by March 14, 2003, for further information.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned docket be, and it is hereby, opened to investigate the status of distance learning in Nebraska.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that interested parties file comments on or before March 7, 2003, in the manner prescribed herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a public workshop be held on March 18, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. CST in the Commission Library, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, with video conference links available in Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, McCook, North Platte, Norfolk, O'Neill and Scottsbluff at the addresses listed above.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 4th day of February, 2003.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director

**Education Council
of the
Nebraska Information Technology Commission**

Amended EC Priorities and Action Items for 2002-03

Priorities

The sector priorities of the Education Council of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission are to provide recommendations that support the:

- EC-1: Provision of an infrastructure that will permit all citizens of Nebraska to have access to the same educational experiences, regardless of location.
- EC-2: Identification and facilitation of diverse training opportunities;
- EC-3: Ensurance of life cycle funding;
- EC-4: Accommodation of learner needs;
- EC-5: Coordination of statewide education I.T. efforts and resources, including collaboration with public and private entities;
- EC-6: Pursuit of leading edge technology applications to enhance teaching and learning.

Action Items

PRIORITY EC-1

Provision of an infrastructure that will permit all citizens of Nebraska to have access to the same educational experiences, regardless of location.

EC 1.1 (Revised)

Title: Statewide Synchronous Video Network Implementation

Description: The Education Council will assist the NITC Technical Panel's Statewide Synchronous Video Network work group with defining the technical and non-technical requirements for interconnecting all synchronous video networks and meeting the scheduling needs of different participants. Issues to be addressed include business case, scheduling, traffic prioritization, security, quality assurance, cost-sharing, and existing contractual arrangements of regional networks.

Lead: Volunteer Task Group and Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group.

Timeframe: 4th Quarter, 2002 – 1st Quarter, 2003

EC 1.2 (Continuation)

Title: Adequate Rural Bandwidth

Description: The Education Council will assist the Network Architecture Work Group with network and application design considerations in preparation for an aggregated purchase of all publicly funded telecommunications. The Education Council will support strategies that ensure that adequate bandwidth is being provided to the rural areas of the State so as to provide access to the same educational experiences, regardless of location. The Education Council will emphasize the needs of the rural areas, including IP-centric applications, during NETCOM OSI Layer 1 and 2 deployment and investigate application development that supports synchronous, asynchronous distance education as well as voice/video/data transfer.

Lead: Volunteer Task Group

Timeframe: 4th Quarter, 2002 – 4th Quarter, 2003

PRIORITY EC-2**Identification and facilitation of diverse training opportunities;****EC 2.1 (Revised)**

Title: Recommend Change in Funding for Technology Training Grants

Description: The Education Council, with the cooperation of the Training Advisory Work Group, will recommend a change in funding of the Technology Training Grants from the current Legislative level of \$130,000 to a new funding level of \$250,000 for Fiscal Year 2005-06, raising the grant maximum to \$25,000 and placing the grant fund under the scope of the NITC with Education Council input. This would enable the Technology Training Fund to function and be managed in a manner similar to the Community Technology Fund and Government Technology Collaboration Fund. In September, 2002, the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission approved a reduction in NET's budget to exclude the Technology Training Grants for the foreseeable future. In the interim, the Training Advisory Work Group will assist in documenting the existing technology training efforts occurring in K-12 and Higher Education and anticipate future technology training needs for teachers and administrators.

The NETC Training Grant fund, originated in 1994, has remained constant at \$130,000 with \$10,000 grant maximums for the last seven years. In the 2002-03 cycle, the grant fund was allowed to offer two \$25,000 collaboration grants, one at K-12 and one at higher education. The remaining funds were to be distributed among the successful \$10,000 applicants. The mini-grants have been used by dozens of institutions to train hundreds of teachers and instructors in various areas of telecommunications and educational technology. Over the past eight years, the level of technology used by teachers, students and administrators to access the Internet and perform distance learning has increased many times. Since 1994, the cost of providing technology training has increased substantially, dwarfing the original training value of \$10,000. The Education Council sees this fund as vital to the ongoing improvement of Nebraska education by providing much-needed training funds for faculty all across the state in K-12 and Higher Education institutions.

Lead: Training Advisory Work Group

Timeframe: 4th Quarter, 2002 – 4th Quarter, 2003

PRIORITY EC-3**Ensurance of life cycle funding;****EC 3.1 (New)**

Title: Life cycle funding strategies and Total Cost of Ownership materials

Description: The Education Council will assist K-12 and higher education institutions and funding agencies with specific life cycle funding strategies and provide them with Total Cost of Ownership materials in order to achieve the desired level of service.

Lead: Volunteer Task Group

Timeframe: 4th Quarter, 2002--2nd Quarter, 2003

PRIORITY EC-4**Accommodation of learner needs;****EC 4.1(Revised)**

Title: Role of Technology in Standards

Description: The Education Council will explore the appropriate role for technology, essential learnings, competencies, and proficiencies in statewide academic standards, certification and re-certification.

Lead: Volunteer Task Group

Timeframe: 4th Quarter, 2002 – ongoing

EC 4.2 (New)

Title: Educational Technology Proficiency Measures for Students, Teachers, and Administrators

Description: The Education Council will encourage the implementation of technology proficiency measures for students, teachers, and administrators across the State of Nebraska.

Lead: Volunteer Task Group

Timeframe: 4th Quarter, 2002 – ongoing

PRIORITY EC-5

Coordination of statewide education I.T. efforts and resources, including collaboration with public and private entities;

No additional activity was identified for this priority in this performance year.

PRIORITY EC-6

Pursuit of leading edge technology applications to enhance teaching and learning.

EC 6.1(Revised)

Title: Synchronous and Asynchronous Instructional Methods

Description: The Education Council will encourage the development of new instructional methods and resources for synchronous and asynchronous instruction and help establish guidelines for their appropriate use. This work group will assist in communicating the potential of DTV Datacasting for educational purposes and encourage its use by Nebraska educational institutions. This work group may also examine the value and cost-effectiveness of synchronous distance learning over the satellite network.

Lead: Volunteer Task Group

Timeframe: 4th Quarter, 2002 – 2nd Quarter, 2003

The current slate of action items was discussed and recommended by the Education Council on May 17, 2002 and was approved by the NITC on June 18, 2002 for insertion into “Section 2—Council Priorities and Action Items” of the Statewide Technology Plan.

The Education Council considered minor revisions to Action Items 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 6.1 on October 18, 2002 and voted unanimously to accept the revised slate of action items on November 15, 2002.