

Alaska Smart Communities Forum  
July 30, 2020 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Videoconference  
Meeting Notes

*Slide presentations (\*) and links from presenters are posted on the Alaska Smart Communities Forum (<https://akscf.matsugov.us>).*

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Interior Alaska COVID-19 Economic Impact and Recovery Plan (\*)

Brittany Smart

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Fairbanks NorthStar Borough

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- Updated site being released soon. <https://covid-fnsb.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Shared a brief overview of the tools they've built, not data analysis.
- Identified Goals/Objectives for the following areas: Residence: Business: Healthcare: Workforce. Still working on metrics for some of these. Established baseline for December 2019, pre-COVID. Indicator cards broken by monthly and overall history.
- Tracking implementation plan – including priority. Scorecard to show progress.
- Working to launch municipal funding program. Will be heat mapping the funding distribution. Unique Survey Identifier when survey completed so that the applier can track the application progress. Tracking also by industry, and will be by each level of CARES funding. Not live yet; working with contractor to move forward, hoping for live mid-August. Everything will be online/digital; for those with technical difficulty, they have reached out to the State to provide business technical assistance for these individuals.

Questions:

- *What tools are you using?*  
Esri tools: Hubsite, ArcGIS Online, Survey123 through ArcGIS, AdobeSign for attestation; working with Financial Services to ensure info is automatically uploaded to Esri to keep dashboards up to date. She did her own dashboards; worked with Esri for some coding requirements. Esri has been available to help, FNSB has a direct contact.
- *Any issues with security for individual applicants?*  
Digital Services has been working heavily with Esri. Info is being stored on FNSB servers, not online. Info that can be seen by applicants is only status of application, not application and associated paperwork.
- *What extent is manual versus automatic?*  
FNSB has 40 years of data available. They are figuring out how much of this data to use to show the “story” they are trying to form. Decision was to look monthly initially because it was the low hanging fruit; plan to view quarterly. Right now some data is a manual hard key on progress and updated bi-weekly; future will be pointing to data.
- *How much of your time is being spent in building/updating/maintaining?*  
Now that it's built, maybe 1-2 hrs once a month. Majority of time up front was with building it and ensuring it works properly.
- *How do you get feedback?*  
Haven't pushed out to public. Assembly feedback has been positive. Quite a bit of participation with Economic Development at the onset; meetings were weekly, scaled back to monthly now. Work closely with Chamber of Commerce as well; good solid communication screen. Economic plan is meant to be a community plan, not just the Borough plan, so it's important to share that with outside organizations like the Chamber of Commerce.

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- *Unemployment data from where?*  
That data is coming from AK DOL. In the Details tab provides data source for all data.

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“Whole State” Data and Cyber Services (\*) Dorman Bazzell, Chief Data Officer  
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State of North Dakota

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- MOUs were set up with local IT organizations so those resources could be used to help work on State issues more quickly.
- DOT: Future desire is to eliminate citizens having to go into an office by making all application & renewal services available online. Also, currently installing cameras to help build the Intelligent Transportation System, currently on Hwy 94 & Hwy 83; when completed, there will be more than a million sensors to help manage traffic control, wild animal control (bison), emergency services, weather patterns, etc.
- Strategic Initiatives being reviewed to consider what North Dakota will be post-COVID.
- COVID Work From Home: Team assisted 8,000 employees with set up at home, even delivering equipment in homes & setting up with the network, then transitioned to Call Center staff to help citizens navigate and get to the services needed.
- COG Workgroups: 10 workgroups, working on communication between workgroups. Heat maps created to help identify priorities/data/decisions that need to be made. Execution is still to come as they continue to develop.
- Presentation to local university that opened eyes on difference of data privacy and data collection. They are still working on how to do this well.
- IT’s greatest obstacle: marketing services to legislators. That is something they are working on. There is a long train of side marketing, like the presentation to the local university, that will help to achieve this.

Questions:

- *On data side, definitely silos in data in Alaska; COVID has helped to address this. Is there a couple key things that worked to better share data across departments?*

One thing COVID did in ND is showed data was not being shared well; pre-COVID was laborious with MOUs, detailed agreements, etc., no funding available for a single platform; now, it’s a non-disclosure agreement. Data sharing became a non-issue; a “data lake” (SQL server environment) created to automate data collection/production in a collaborative effort between SMEs and IT. Model is being built on both the business side and the COVID side to bring transaction-based analytics. Have had to learn how to work smarter; not perfect, and still have a long way to go. Efforts so far is giving employees back hours (weekends).

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- *Prior to COVID, was there an organizational change made that set the course for moving forward across the state?*  
A lot of the groups that have been formed have been a result of COVID; day to day activity became on the phone all day every day for 30 days answering questions and pointing to resource. National Guard was activated since it was declared a State Emergency, so they were involved via Unified Command; challenge was communication since IT Team was now reporting to National Guard team, which had a lot of hiccups – but also a lot of people doing a lot of great work.

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Public Safety Solutions and 5G Services (\*)

George Barela / Rick Woodyla  
Verizon

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Questions:

- *When will AWS wavelength (edge) on Verizon be available in Alaska? Is a state by state and locality by locality rollout plan available?*  
Not currently. Also, there is currently no plans for buildout in Alaska at this time. This is new technology that takes a lot of time to build out.
- *The mobile cell trucks, when deployed, do they connect via satellite or do they plug into existing infrastructure?*  
They are capable of doing both, especially with prior notice.

Information:

- ALMR/LTE Interoperability buildout questions for specific Boroughs, contact Doug Miller and he will connect you with the resources for information.

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Announcements

- Next Forum either October/November; watch for announcement.
- Topic suggestions for future Forums can be emailed to Doug Miller.