

Joint Information Technology Committee
September 28, 2018
Department of Public Service Comments

1. State Wireless Network
 - a. The Department has terminated its lease agreements with CoverageCo for its sustained and unmitigated breach of the agreements.
 - b. The Department has issued a request for proposals seeking an alternative vendor to operate the State's wireless network
 - c. Proposals are due October 29, 2018
2. Mobility Fund Phase II
 - a. FCC program to subsidize cell service nationwide using 4.5B. The fund provides ongoing support to companies that provide 4GLTE in areas that are currently unserved.
 - b. Challenge period – Department is participating in a challenge
 - i. Staff is measuring mobile wireless data coverage of 5Mb in effort to make areas of the state eligible for MF II funding.
 - ii. A division employee is driving major highways of the state with 6 cell phones to measure and log data transfer rates. Challenge period ends November 26, 2018.
3. Consolidated Communications Investigation
 - a. The Department is working to address the degradation in the quality of service provided by Vermont's largest telephone company.
 - b. The Department has filed a petition with the PUC requesting an investigation
4. USDA e-Connectivity Pilot Program
 - a. Filed comments in the e-connectivity pilot program

5. Telecommunications Plan

- a. Staff is preparing the final draft of the plan for release.
 - i. An update to the 2014 plan
 - ii. Calls for changes to existing programs to improve broadband and cell coverage
 - iii. Specific support for CUDs should be considered
 - iv. Regulatory reforms that will improve access to poles

6. Legislative reports

- a. Broadband privacy
- b. Communications Facilitator
- c. Report on the state Wireless Network