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## ICN hosted visit for federal broadband officials

The Iowa Communications Network (ICN) hosted a two-day site visit for federal officials affiliated with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

The visit's main focus was reviewing information relating to ICN's federal broadband grant received in July 2010 from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

The visit scheduled for June 13 and June 14 centered on routine discussions relating to topics of transparency, compliance, community outreach, and project status.

"ICN personnel have worked diligently in this project to monitor the compliance and reporting aspect, which illustrates the transparency required. In addition, our engineering department is thoroughly coordinating the procurement of equipment. Our BTOP grant will provide Iowans with the needed capability to implementing applications that use large amounts of bandwidth," stated Dave Lingren, ICN's Executive Director.

Almost 1,000 installations over the course of a two-year period will impact 450 new sites, over 560 direct locations, and indirectly enhance 3,081 locations. Benefits from ICN's grant include providing more robust Internet applications that require large amounts of bandwidth, such as transmitting hospital MRIs, video streaming, and web-based systems.

The site visit included a tour of ICN's Network Operations Center located in Johnston, Iowa. In addition, participants received a tour of the

Iowa Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Dispatch Center, and a demonstration of the Iowa Department of Transportation's and DPS' TraCs (Traffic and Criminal Software)/MACH (Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling) web-based applications that utilizes ICN's Network and bandwidth. TraCs creates a PC-based crash reporting system that expedites data capture for police crash reports, while MACH provides for cross-jurisdictional data-sharing within law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and public works communities.

In July 2010, ICN was awarded a \$16.2 million broadband infrastructure grant from BTOP. The project will enhance the Network to a ten (10) Gbps (gigabytes per second) backbone that would reach all 99 counties in Iowa. This middle mile network advancement will also provide one (1) Gbps of symmetrical Ethernet connectivity to education facilities, hospitals, libraries, public safety, workforce development, and other Community Anchor Institutions throughout the state. For more information about BTOP visit [www.broadbandusa.gov](http://www.broadbandusa.gov).

The ICN, a State of Iowa agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with equal access to education, healthcare, and government through Internet, data, voice, and video conferencing services. For more information about the ICN visit [www.icn.state.ia.us](http://www.icn.state.ia.us).

