Public-Private Partnerships for Internet Development
Moderators: Sharon Gillett and William Lehr
(Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for Technology, Policy and Industrial Development)
and Jane Fountain
(National Center for Digital Government Research, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government)

Attendees at this BoF included government CIOs from the state and local level, and academics from computer science, economics and policy disciplines. The BoF leaders, Sharon Gillett and Bill Lehr of MIT, gave a brief overview of four types of local and state government interventions aimed at fostering broadband Internet infrastructure development and adoption: demand stimulation and adoption, policy rule changes, funding programs, and infrastructure development typically undertaken in partnership with the private sector.

Discussion centered around sources of quantitative and qualitative data, the knowledge networks involved in cross-community learning, the types of results that would be most useful to government practitioners, and the nature of linkages between e-government and infrastructure initiatives. In particular, practitioners mentioned the usefulness to them of research that shows the breadth of demand for Internet access and e-government services, across all segments of the population.