A photograph of a legislative chamber or meeting room. In the foreground, a man in a light-colored suit is seated at a desk, looking towards a large video conference screen. The screen displays a grid of many small video feeds of participants. Other people are seated at desks in the background, some looking at their laptops. The room has high ceilings and ornate architectural details.

2020 HJR 14: Telegovernment Study & Report

Rep. Phillip Lyman

A joint study by Legislative IT Staff, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and the Utah Education & Telehealth Network

Prepared for the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee September 15, 2020

Presentation Roadmap

- ◆ Overview of 2020 HJR 14
- ◆ 2020: The Virtual Meeting Experiment
- ◆ Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



Overview of 2020 HJR 14

The Legislature requests a joint study be carried out by Legislative IT Services, LRGC, and UETN on the following telegovernment aspects:

- ◇ network connectivity and bandwidth capacity
- ◇ the platform(s) for delivering expanded services
- ◇ whether expanded services should follow a decentralized or centralized model
- ◇ to which legislative meetings expanded services will apply
- ◇ telegovernment feedback from Utah League of Cities and Towns & Utah Association of Counties
- ◇ access by Legislators with distance constraints
- ◇ data privacy and cyber security
- ◇ access issues related to disability and free speech
- ◇ potential costs and staffing needs

Session-to-Interim Transition



- ◆ 2020 SJR16: modify legislative rules pertaining to e-meetings
- ◆ Conduct necessary legal analysis (OPMA, GRAMA, etc.)

March

- ◆ Proceed with early experimentation
- ◆ Begin addressing security and privacy concerns
- ◆ Link Webex to KUEN Digital TV in order to broadcast upcoming Special Sessions



April

- ◆ Installation and configuration of necessary software/hardware
- ◆ Ensure accessibility
- ◆ Practice via mock sessions
- ◆ First E-Special Session
 - Nationwide Cisco blackout
- ◆ Second E-Special Session



May

- ◆ Duplicate technology in committee rooms that was used during April Special Session
- ◆ Multiple committee meetings held at same time
- ◆ First committee meetings held with online public comment



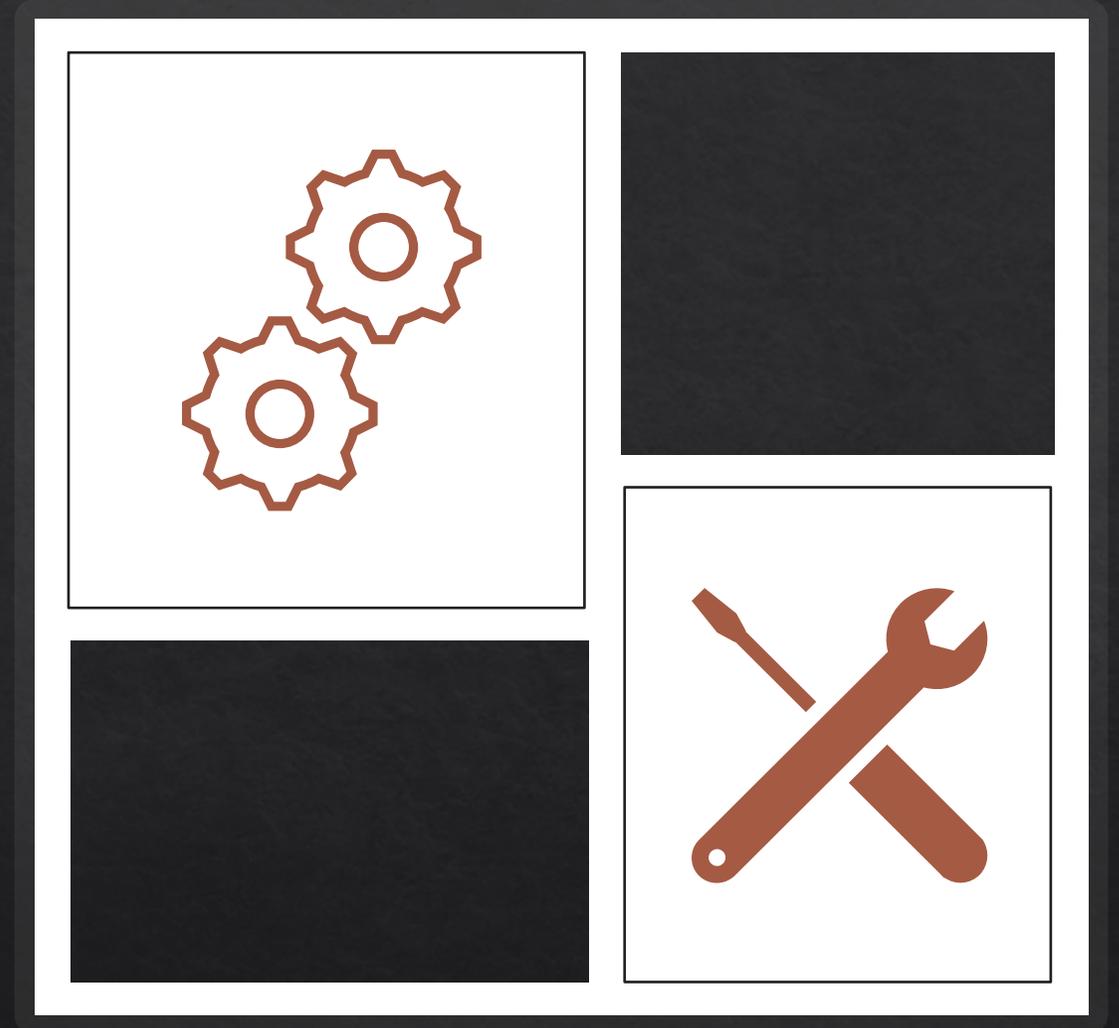
June

- ◆ Concurrent streaming of meetings and broadcasts of June SS on cable TV and public TV
- ◆ Sign-up for public comment via interim and appropriation committee webpages



July

- ◆ A month for polishing and fine-tuning
- ◆ COVID-19 Economic Recovery Programs Committee



August

- ◆ First “hybrid” committee meetings
- ◆ Increased technological agility
- ◆ Special Session 6



September

- ◆ Maintain “hybrid” meeting structure
- ◆ First **live** public comment



LIVE



2021 Legislative Telegovernment Stats

Special Sessions

Member Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Concurrently held Chambers or Consecutively held Chambers?	Public Comment type?
APRIL: 3rd & 4th		
Remote	Consecutive	Via SS bills
Remote	Consecutive	Via SS Bills
JUNE: 5th		
Hybrid	Concurrently	Bill hearings/Committee webpages
AUGUST: 6th		
Hybrid	Concurrently	Bill hearings/Committee webpages

Appropriations Meetings

# of Meetings held Concurrently	Member Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Media Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Public Comment type?
MAY			
2	Remote	Remote	Pre-register via committee webpage
AUGUST			
4	Hybrid	Hybrid	Pre-register via committee webpage

Interim Meetings

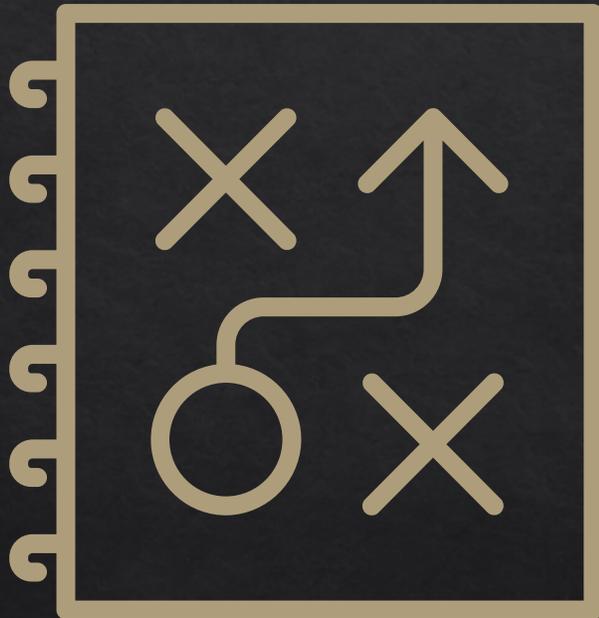
# of Meetings held Concurrently	Member Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Media Attendance: Remote or Hybrid?	Public Comment type?
JUNE			
2-3	Remote	Remote	Pre-register via committee webpage
AUGUST			
3	Hybrid	Hybrid	Pre-register via committee webpage
SEPTEMBER			
3	Hybrid	Hybrid	Live

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



- ◆ Integrating online and in-person participants
 - e.g., hybrid format, public comment, voting, and other committee protocols

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



◆ Responding to external circumstances/backup plans

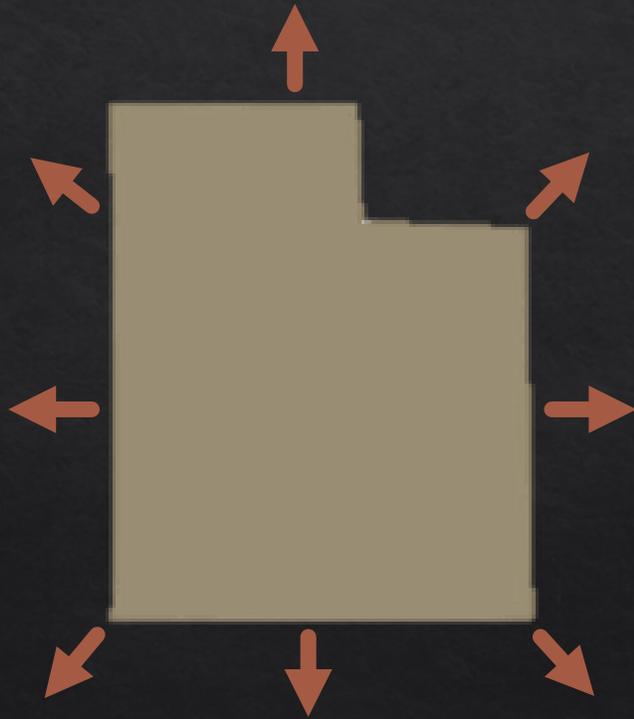
- e.g., pandemics, having phone numbers in case of tech struggles, different meeting software in case of malfunction

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



- ◆ Continuing to build in cyber security protocols and protections

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



◇ Service expansion

- e.g., public meeting support staff, potential involvement of other entities

Lessons Learned/Future Considerations



◆ Feedback from ULCT

- hybrid meetings have leveled the playing field, allowing rural communities more equal participation in the legislative process; should remain the norm for both session and interim.
- presentations need to be viewable by everyone (not just meeting participants)
- 12-hour requirement to register for public comment should be shortened
- broadband access throughout the state remains spotty and is a driving limitation

Questions or Comments?