

AGENDA

Broadband Advisory Council Virtual Meeting

January 20, 2023

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In-Person Option:

Pocahontas Building

900 E. Main St., Richmond, VA 23218

Senate Room A

Virtual Option:

To access the meeting using video

<https://meet.google.com/cjo-ptpd-tks>

Or dial: (US) +1 470-250-1697 PIN: 991 369 080#

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|------|--|--|
| I. | Opening | |
| | a. Call to Order | Chairman |
| | b. Roll Call | DHCD Staff |
| II. | Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman | Council Members |
| III. | Consent Agenda | Chairman |
| | a. Approval of Minutes: September 30, 2022 Meeting | |
| IV. | Office of Broadband Updates | Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D,
Director, Office of Broadband and Staff |
| | a. Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Projects | |
| | b. Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act Broadband Programs | |
| | a. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program | |
| | b. Digital Equity Act | |
| | c. Commonwealth Affordability and Cost Effectiveness Plan | |
| | d. Student Broadband Availability and Affordability Collection | |
| V. | Railroad Crossings and Broadband Infrastructure | BAC Members |
| VI. | Broadband Legislation in 2023 General Assembly Session | General Assembly Members |
| VII. | Public Comment | Chairman |

VIII. New Business

Council Members

a. Recognition of Service on Broadband Advisory Council

IX. Adjournment

Chairman

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
September 30, 2022
11:00AM – 2:00PM
Hanover County Administration Building
7516 County Complex Road
Hanover, VA 23069
Virtual Option provided via Google Meet

Members Present

Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair
 Delegate Kathy Byron, Vice Chair
 Senator Lynwood W. Lewis
 Senator Ghazala Hashmi
 Delegate James Leftwich
 Delegate Thomas Wright, Jr.
 Delegate David Reid
 Secretary Caren Merrick (Representative)
 Secretary Matt Lohr (Representative)
 James Carr
 Mike Culp
 Kristie Helmick Proctor
 Ray LaMura
 Casey Logan
 Steve Sandy
 Richard Schollman

Members Absent

Call to Order	Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.
Roll Call	Mr. Chandler Vaughan, Senior Broadband Policy Analyst at the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes: May 19, 2022 Meeting	A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. (Votes for: Boysko, Byron, Hashimi, Leftwich, Lewis, Wright, Jr., Reid, Merrick, Lohr, Carr, Culp, Proctor, LaMura, Sandy, Schollman, Logan)
Office of Broadband Updates	Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Broadband, provided an update from the Office of Broadband's activities. Components of the update included active Virginia

	Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) projects, the Line Extension Customer Assistance Program, legislation from the 2022 General Assembly Session involving the Office of Broadband, and the Office of Broadband's role under the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act's broadband programs.
VATI Project Dashboard Demonstration	Chandler Vaughan provided a demonstration of the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) project dashboard, which was debuted at the meeting. The VATI project dashboard provides key project progress statistics for VATI projects awarded since January 2021 and is available through dhcd.virginia.gov/vati
House Bill 445 & Senate Bill 446 Broadband Services to New Development Report	Grace Wheaton, Senior Policy Analyst in the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Policy Office, and Chandler Vaughan, presented DHCD's findings and recommendations to the Broadband Advisory Council regarding the study established by H.B. 445 and S.B. 446 concerning the expansion of high-speed broadband service and associated infrastructure in new residential and commercial development.
Public Comment	No public comment was provided at the meeting.
New Business	Several council members noted the potential in delays of project construction because of the make-ready efforts required for broadband deployment. Broadband providers and their representatives noted that owners of electric poles, which often carry telecommunications infrastructure, are scaling up for handling requests to ensure those poles are adequate and equipped to handle the broadband infrastructure required for Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Projects. The outcome of the discussion was a work group to analyze make ready efforts and the scalability of make ready efforts for VATI projects.
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.



Broadband Advisory Council Meeting

January 20, 2023



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AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
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Call to Order & Roll Call

Standard Meeting Rules:

- (1) This meeting is being recorded
- (2) Please state your name before speaking, and
- (3) Please mute yourself when not speaking (Ctrl + D on your keyboard or *6 on phones)



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Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman



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Consent Agenda

Review and Approval of September 30, 2022 Meeting Minutes



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Office of Broadband Update



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VATI Active Project Portfolio



66 Active Contracts

- 55 Open Contracts, Construction Ongoing
 - 13 open contracts granted timeline extension
 - Ranging from 6 months to 1 year
 - COVID related delays (i.e. materials, staffing issues, etc.)
 - 4 cc but need additional time for closeout report and financials
 - 10 Open Contracts, Construction Completed, Post-Construction Period Ongoing
-
- 35 FY22 Awards
 - 35 Contracts Executed - One project was split so there will be a total of 36 contracts
 - 1 Contract - SCC approval provided to Investor Owned Utility in December, currently awaiting updated documents



Line Extension Customer Assistance Program Progress



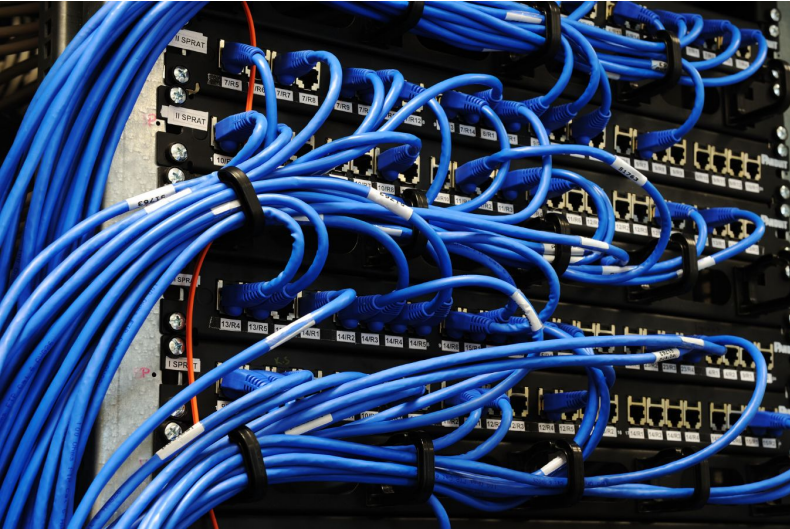
Program Statistics to date

- Received 228 applications, including 79 pending submission of income documentation
 - 77 have qualified as income-eligible
 - 23 projects currently under construction
 - 25 projects are complete

Participating Broadband Providers

Breezeline, Brightspeed, Citizens, Comcast*, Cox, ESVBA, PemTel, RiverStreet Networks, Virginia Technology Services, Kinex Telecom, Shentel, and Hosted Backbone/Port80.

Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program



- Governor Youngkin has established DHCD as the lead on all IIJA Broadband Programs, including BEAD
- Approval of \$5M in Planning Funds Received!
 - Prepare VATI for BEAD funding
 - Explore workforce development needs
 - Help local governments plan for broadband affordability, adoption needs
- The timing depends on the Notice of Available Amounts and submission of Virginia's Initial Proposal
 - Anticipated allocation timeline pushed back by NTIA to by June 30, 2023



Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program Virginia's Planning Grant Activities

\$5 million in planning funds received in late 2022

Planning Grant Activities

- **Broadband Affordability and Adoption Planning Grants for Counties and Cities in Virginia**
 - Coming Spring 2023!
- Adding Roles of Digital Opportunity Coordinator
- Consultant to recommend changes to VATI Program Guidelines and Criteria to Accommodate BEAD Guidance
- Consultant to recommend program frameworks and structures to address digital opportunity gaps
- Consultant to assess broadband workforce development ecosystem and opportunities for scalability

Federal Communication Commission's National Broadband Map - Example



FC Federal Communications Commission FCC National Broadband Map

Home Location Summary Provider Detail Area Summary Data Download About

Broadband

Type Residential

Technology Any Technology

Speed 25/3 Mbps or greater

Data As Of Jun 30, 2022 (Last Updated: 12/20/22)

Residential | [Business](#) [Availability Challenge](#)

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Chall.
▶ Comcast Corporation	Cable	1200	35	
▶ Hughes Network Systems, LLC	GSO Satellite	25	3	
▶ Seiontec Systems, LLC	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	200	25	
▶ Space Exploration Holdings, LLC	NGSO Satellite	100	10	
▶ T-Mobile USA, Inc.	Licensed Fixed Wireless	25	3	

Map Legend

- Coverage available
- Coverage not available
- Not a mass market location

National Broadband Map Challenge - Our Map vs. FCC's



FCC National Broadband Map

Home Location Summary Provider Detail Area Summary Data Download About

Enter address

Broadband

Type Residential
Technology Any Technology
Speed 25/3 Mbps or greater
Data As Of Jun 30, 2022 (Last Updated: 12/20/22)

Residential | Business Availability Challenge 2

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Chall.
	GSO Satellite	25	3	
	Fiber to the Premises	1000	1000	1
	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	25	5	1
	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	200	25	
	NGSO Satellite	100	10	

Map Legend

- Coverage available
- Coverage not available
- Not a mass market location

© OpenStreetMap Improve this map

Key Takeaways:

- Provider coverage assertions differed between our submission process and the FCC's
- Locations reported as unserved by a provider in our submission process were challenged.
- 248,674 locations total in this category

National Broadband Map Challenge - Long Drops



Federal Communications Commission
FCC National Broadband Map

Home Location Summary Provider Detail Area Summary Data Download About

Enter address

Zoom Level: 15.00

mapbox

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map

Broadband

Key Takeaways:

- Many instances of locations requiring special construction costs being claimed as served.
- Every location more than 350 feet away from roadways challenged.
- 113,098 locations total.

Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) Digital Equity Act – State Planning Grant Program



- Governor Youngkin has established DHCD as the lead on all IIJA Broadband Programs, including the Digital Equity Act
- Approval of ~\$1.2M in Planning Funds Received!
 - Prepare Virginia Digital Opportunity Plan
 - Conduct needs assessments of digital opportunity in Virginia
 - Develop an action plan to address identified needs
- State, regional, and local level planning efforts



State Planning Grant Program: Regional Digital Opportunity Plans & Other Activities

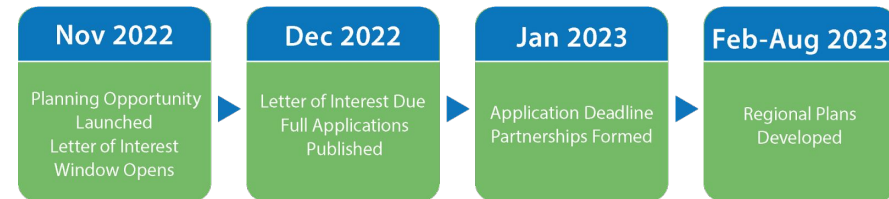


- DHCD is sub-awarding Planning Grant funds to CAAs for the development of Regional Digital Opportunity Plans - CAAs will:
 - Engage with local stakeholders,
 - Conduct needs assessments
 - identify D.O. barriers in their region
 - develop solutions for covered populations.
- DHCD is currently evaluating proposals for a consultant with two primary purposes:
 - Assist Office of Broadband with the development of the state D.O. plan.
 - Perform stakeholder analysis for CAAs
- Guidelines for another sub-grant opportunity are in development;
 - Will seek case studies from organizations doing digital opportunity work across the Commonwealth.

Key Activities and Outcomes for Regional Digital Opportunity Plans



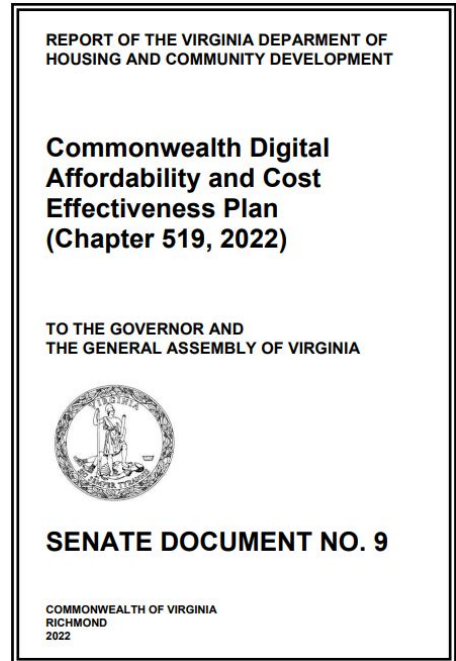
Development Timeline for Regional Digital Opportunity Plans



Commonwealth Digital Affordability and Cost Effectiveness Plan



- Legislative background: HB1265/SB716 directed DHCD to develop a plan on the affordability of broadband in the Commonwealth. The plan is offered with the following findings:
 1. Enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program in Virginia is at 27%, which is lower than the national average and several neighboring states. In total, qualifying Virginia households are missing out on over \$24.5 million monthly through this program.
 2. ACP enrollment varies widely by locality across the Commonwealth, with urban localities significantly outperforming rural areas. Regional disparities in Virginia demonstrate the need for a targeted approach to boost enrollment.
 3. Virginia's largest broadband providers offer a low-cost service option, many small-to-mid size providers do not offer these affordable service options fully coverable by ACP.
- Recommendations:
 1. Directs DHCD to develop the Commonwealth Digital Opportunity Plan.
 2. Directs DHCD to apply for ACP Outreach funds.



ACP Outreach Grant Application



- As directed by the Digital Affordability and Cost Effectiveness Plan, DHCD submitted an application for the FCC's ACP Outreach Grant Program on January 9th.
 - DHCD total request: \$189,000
- Two primary activities in outreach plan
 - Digital Ad and Social Media Campaign
 - Mailers to likely eligible populations





Railroad Crossings and Broadband Infrastructure



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Broadband Legislation in 2023 General Assembly Session



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Public Comment



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New Business



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Adjournment

The background of the slide features silhouettes of two families. On the left, a man carries a baby on his hip, and a young girl stands next to him. On the right, a man stands next to a young girl. All four individuals are holding hands, forming a continuous line across the middle of the slide. The background is a solid blue color with a subtle gradient.

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