

Application to DHCD Submitted through CAMS

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC Connects - VATI 2024

Application ID: 107411062023155912

Application Status: Pending

Program Name: Virginia Telecommunication Initiative 2024

Organization Name: Rockbridge County

Organization Address: 150 S. Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450

Profile Manager Name: Brandy Flint

Profile Manager Phone: (540) 463-1473

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Project Name: Rockbridge County - BARC Connects - VATI 2024

Project Contact Name: Spencer Suter

Project Contact Phone: (540) 463-1460

Project Contact Email: ssuter@rockbridgecountyva.gov

Project Location: 150 S MAIN ST
LEXINGTON, VA 24450-2359

Project Service Area: Rockbridge County

Total Requested Amount: \$1,255,199.00

Required Annual Audit Status: Accepted

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Budget Information:

Cost/Activity Category	DHCD Request	Other Funding	Total
Telecommunications	\$1,255,199.00	\$1,733,369.00	\$2,988,568.00
Administration	\$8,400.00	\$11,600.00	\$20,000.00
Construction	\$1,246,799.00	\$1,721,769.00	\$2,968,568.00
Total:	\$1,255,199.00	\$1,733,369.00	\$2,988,568.00

Budget Narrative:

The total estimate for the project is \$2,988,568. The amount of subsidy requested is \$1,255,199 and BARC's match will be \$836,799. Rockbridge County's Match will be \$896,570. The project costs includes the following: Construction Costs are estimated at \$2,968,568 Administration fees (\$20,000) - The Fees will go to Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission to manage this grant for Rockbridge County

Questions and Responses:

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1. Project Description and Need

Describe why and how the project area(s) was selected. Describe the proposed geographic area including specific boundaries of the project area (e.g. street names, local and regional boundaries, etc.). Attach a copy of the map of your project area(s). Label map: Attachment 1 – Project Area Map.

Answer:

Access to high-speed internet is the foundation for nearly every aspect of the future – commerce, entertainment, healthcare, and education, yet rural Virginia lacks sufficient broadband access, limiting opportunities for economic growth. In 2021, the Commonwealth announced a \$750M grant program, the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI), to expand internet access across the state. In the 2022 and 2023 grant rounds, Rockbridge County and its partners were unsuccessful in obtaining grant funds. Upon receiving notice for the available 2023 VATI grants, Rockbridge County (Rockbridge) began the process of securing a portion of these funds to deploy broadband infrastructure that fully connects unserved residents and businesses under its jurisdiction. Rockbridge recognized the value and economies of scale possible in working with the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC), BARC Connects (electric co-op), Brightspeed (broadband provider), and Verizon (broadband provider) to submit multiple grant applications to this round of VATI to fully connect residents and businesses in the region.

Rockbridge proposes to build on over ten years of intense focus on rural broadband expansion by concentrating on locations that are partially served, or are adjacent to areas served, by Rural Digital Opportunity Fund awards and Connect America funds, as well as locations that are already within BARC's footprint. In 2016, BARC formed BARC Connects, the cooperative's broadband subsidiary, and partnered with Rockbridge Area Network Authority (RANA) to lease middle mile circuits extending fiber to the door in remote areas of the county. Subsequently, BARC has actively sought and won grants continuing the overall network expansion. In 2020, the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) on behalf of Rockbridge and BARC was awarded VATI funding for broadband expansion in Rockbridge serving 470 premises. BARC alone has invested approximately \$65M in fiber infrastructure in Rockbridge County. In partnering with BARC and seeking opportunities for further expansion through collaboration and efficient implementation, Rockbridge County has proven its ability to maximize the positive impact of grant dollars. The coordinated approach described below will allow for the deployment of broadband in an efficient, cost-effective manner that increases service availability to some of the most remote and hard-to-reach regions in Rockbridge County.

This application consists of three projects providing high-speed internet to 404 premises located in remote areas with difficult topography in central and western Rockbridge County. The project area will further expand the County's fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network access across difficult-to-reach areas where broadband access is needed. This effort and application is in concert with simultaneous applications being submitted by the County with BARC Connects and Verizon as co-applicants. Based on all available information, Rockbridge County believes that the three applications will position the County to achieve universal broadband coverage in concert with the upcoming Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant program expected to launch next year, and LECAP opportunities. If awarded, the buildout of high-speed broadband networks to the proposed locations in these applications will provide economies of scale to efficiently serve any unserved or underserved areas remaining in the County after award of the FY 2024 VATI grants, which BARC, Brightspeed and Verizon will apply for under the upcoming BEAD program to provide true universal service in Rockbridge County. All applicants have worked together to identify areas unserved by 100/20 internet speeds for this proposed project area utilizing the most current version of the FCC's Broadband Map, the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) map, the recently released Virginia mapping tool, and by communicating with residents in the proposed project areas to identify areas with mapping inaccuracies.

Please see Attachment 1, for a map of the project area.

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2. List existing providers in the proposed project area and the speeds offered. Describe your outreach efforts to identify existing providers and how this information was compiled with source(s).

Answer:

While Rockbridge conducted extensive research on the unserved areas under its jurisdiction, the County was unable to gather enough data from attempted outreach to ISPs to ensure a “challenge-free” proposal. To limit the probability of challenges, Rockbridge eliminated areas already served at a level of at least 100/20 mbps. In doing so, Rockbridge removed the BARC Connects, RANA and Virginia Technology Services (VTS) areas which are either built or are planned to be built via other funding sources. Rockbridge also reached out to Comcast, achieving some success in identifying and eliminating a portion of the areas served by Comcast.

Based on resident feedback and the data the County did obtain, the County asserts that these project areas are unserved unless/until an ISP currently operating in Rockbridge can prove otherwise. ISPs currently operating in Rockbridge County other than BARC include Brightspeed, , VTS, Comcast, ShenTel, Lumos, Verizon, and Ting.

Rockbridge additionally does not have complete data on existing coverage levels or areas of coverage as other broadband providers currently operating in the county are privately-held companies [and have been unwilling to share location specific speed data on areas they cover]. As a result, the County along with BARC, used publicly available data, such as the FCC National Broadband Map and FCC Broadband Serviceable Location Data supplied by Costquest, supplemented by community input, to identify the unserved and underserved nature of the project area. In addition, the County took the best-possible advantage of the Commonwealth’s recently published map and speed testing tool to help ascertain and challenge reported internet speed inaccuracies.

3. Describe if any areas near the project have received funding from federal grant programs, including but not limited to Connect America Funds II (CAF II), ACAM, ReConnect, Community Connect, and Rural Digital Opportunity Funds (RDOF). If there have been federal funds awarded near the project area(s), provide a map showing these areas, verifying the proposed project area does not conflict with these areas. Label Map: Attachment 2 – Documentation on Federal Funding Area.

Answer:

BARC was awarded both CAF and RDOF funding through the Rural Electric Cooperative Consortium and the Co-Op Connections Consortium, respectively. Some of the proposed project areas under this application overlap small portions of CAF and RDOF funded areas, as shown in Attachment 2, Documentation of Federal Funding Area and Attachment 3, Documentation of Unserved Areas VATI Criteria. However, these VATI projects will allow BARC to expand its fiber network to adjacent unserved areas beyond the CAF and RDOF census blocks, increasing service availability to some of the most remote and hard-to-reach regions in Rockbridge County that would not be possible to build without crossing CAF and RDOF funded areas. BARC does not seek VATI funds to serve CAF or RDOF census blocks; it seeks VATI funds to serve the adjacent unserved areas around them in order to achieve the County’s goal of ubiquitous broadband service throughout the entire County.

As part of the Co-op Consortium areas identified in Attachment 3, BARC has been awarded Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) funds. BARC has identified 12 passings in RDOF awarded areas within Project Areas of the VATI application. Maps, including Census Block Group ID numbers for each block group in the project area are attached. Below is a chart that breaks out the total passings by area.

Project Area	RDOF Locations	CBG ID #
Buffalo Creek	10	511639303001
Spring Valley	2	511639303002
Conrock North	0	N/A
Conrock South	0	N/A

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4. **Overlap:** To be eligible for VATI, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed project area(s) is unserved. An unserved area is defined as an area with speeds below 100/20 Mbps and with less than 25% service overlap within the project area for wireless projects and 20% for wireline projects. Describe any anticipated service overlap with current providers within the project area. Provide a detailed explanation as to how you determined the percentage overlap. Label Attachment: Attachment 3 – Documentation Unserved Area VATI Criteria.

Answer:

As discussed above, Rockbridge County conducted extensive research and has knowledge of the unserved areas. The County attempted outreach to known ISPs offering broadband service. The County was unable to obtain complete county-wide data. Based on resident feedback and the data the County did obtain, the County asserts that these project areas are unserved unless/until an ISP can prove otherwise.

Prior to putting this grant application together, Rockbridge used the sum of information gathered during prior VATI grant rounds, as well as all published mapping, to discern areas already served with at least 100/20Mbps service. In doing so, Rockbridge removed the BARC Connects, RANA and VTS areas which are either built or are planned to be built using other funding sources. In the last VATI round, Rockbridge reached out to Comcast via phone and email conversations. It signed a non-disclosure agreement and received some limited information from which to work, but detail such as specific address points and speeds was not provided. Due to the lack of additional responses, Rockbridge does not have complete data on existing coverage levels or area of coverage as Comcast is a private company that does not make this information public. The County then referenced maps that are publicly available from the FCC to further determine the types of coverage and areas, and supplemented the map information with local knowledge. Finally, in November 2023, Rockbridge made significant efforts to take advantage of the BEAD challenge mapping/speed testing tool provided by the Office of Broadband, in an effort to further enhance the accuracy of available, published broadband mapping.

Please see Attachment 3 - Documentation of Unserved Area VATI Criteria and Optional Attachment - Additional Documentation, which generally shows the project areas over the recently published state mapping.

5. **Total Passings:** Provide the number of total serviceable units in the project area. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize areas lacking 25 Megabits per second download and 3 Megabits per second upload speeds, as they will receive priority in application scoring. For projects with more than one service area, each service area must have delineated passing information. Label Attachment: Attachment 4 – Passings Form.
- Of the total number of VATI passings, provide the number of residential, business, non-residential, and community anchors in the proposed project area.
 - If applicable, of the total number of RDOF passings, provide the number of residential, business, non-residential, and community anchors in the proposed project area.
 - If applicable, provide the number of passings that will require special construction costs, defined as a one-time fee above normal service connection fees required to provide broadband access to a premise. Describe the methodology used for these projections.
 - If applicable, provide the number of passings included in the application that will receive broadband access because special construction costs have been budgeted in the VATI application. Describe the methodology used for determining which passings with special construction costs were budgeted in the application.
 - Provide the number of passings in the project area that have 25/3 Mbps or less. Describe the methodology used for these projections. (up to 15 points)

Answer:

- Of the total number of VATI passings, provide the number of residential, business, non-residential, and community anchors in the proposed project area.

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VATI Passings

[Residential](#)

Business

Non-Residential

Community Anchors[\[SS1\]](#)[\[SS2\]](#)

344

42

7

0

b. If applicable, of the total number of RDOF passings, provide the number of residential, business, non residential, and community anchors in the proposed project area.

There are **12** RDOF passings included in the proposed project area. As mentioned above, no funding is requested related to these locations but will be passed to reach eligible locations outside of the RDOF areas.

RDOF Passings

Residential

Business

Non-Residential

Community Anchors

12

0

0

0

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c. If applicable, provide the number of passings that will require special construction costs, defined as a one time fee above normal service connection fees required to provide broadband access to a premise.

Passings requiring special construction costs

28

Describe the methodology used for these projections.

28 locations are considered to require special construction costs since they will exceed the standard 750 foot drop cable length. BARC intends to apply for BEAD or LECAP funding (depending on financial qualification of the premise) to achieve universal broadband.

d. If applicable, provide the number of passings included in the application that will receive broadband access because special construction costs have been budgeted in the VATI application.

Passings with budgeted special construction costs

0

Describe the methodology used for determining which passings with special construction costs were budgeted in the application.

N/A – No funding is requested in this application for special construction costs

e. Provide the number of passings in the project area that have 25/3 Mbps or less.

Passings with 25/3 Mbps or less

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Describe the methodology used for these projections. (up to 15 points)

To the best of our knowledge all 404 passings in the project area are not served by at least 25/3 Mbps, based on resident feedback as well as by available data from the FCC National Broadband Serviceable Locations fabric provided to BARC by CostQuest, and the recently released state mapping tool .

6. Describe if any blocks awarded in Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) are included in the VATI application area. If RDOF areas are included in the VATI application, provide a map of these areas and include information on number of passings in RDOF awarded areas within the VATI application area, and Census Block Group ID number for each block group in the project area. Label Attachment: Attachment 5 – RDOF Awarded Areas Form in VATI Area

Answer:

There are 12 locations that were awarded RDOF funding to BARC that are included in the application area. Attachment 5 provides a breakdown of the locations by Census Block ID. Attachment 2 provides a map of the RDOF awarded areas. While certain areas of BARC-won RDOF overlap the VATI proposed area, we are not seeking subsidy related to this build and have only included them in the application area for additional point consideration and to capture the route from which locations outside of the RDOF area will be served.

7. **For wireless projects only:** Please explain the ownership of the proposed wireless infrastructure. Please describe if the private co-applicant will own or lease the radio mast, tower, or other vertical structure onto which the wireless infrastructure will be installed.

Answer:

N/A

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8. Network Design: Provide a description of the network system design used to deliver broadband service from the network's primary internet point(s) of presence to end users, including the network components that already exist and the ones that would be added by the proposed project. Provide a detailed explanation of how this information was determined with sources. Provide information on how capacity for scalability, or expansion, of how the network can adapt to future needs. If using a technology with shared bandwidth, describe how the equipment will handle capacity during peak intervals. For wireless projects, provide a propagation map for the proposed project area with a clearly defined legend for scale of map. Label Map: Attachment 6 – Propagation Map Wireless Project.

Answer:

BARC plans to construct and operate a fiber to the premises (FTTp) network to provide advanced broadband services, including high speed Internet and voice services. The network provides an all-fiber infrastructure utilizing existing BARC Electric substations and rights-of-way. The network is engineered to create diverse redundant paths for each substation network, all converging at the BARC Network Operations Center (NOC). BARC Network Element electronics are categorized as follows:

GPON Access Network:

BARC uses a Gigabit Passive Optical Network technology. GPON provides a robust and cost-effective solution while still meeting the high standards necessary for a carrier-class network. BARC's GPON solution uses GPON Optical Line Terminal (OLTs) connected to residential Optical Network Terminal equipment (ONTs) through use of proper passive optical splitters. BARC uses Calix E7s and a combination of 844G, 801 & 716 ONTs for deployment at residential and business locations. All E7s are configured in a 10G redundant ring back to the BARC NOC.

Core & Edge Routers:

BARC currently has two carrier-grade Juniper core routers in its data center (primary and backup) with redundant 10 20 Gbps circuit uplinks to BARC's edge peering point at the Equinix data center in Ashburn, VA. From there, BARC has Juniper routers with connections to two different Tier 1 transit providers as well as our video partner. BARC runs both IPv4 and IPv6 natively on its network. There is full redundancy to all devices off the core router within the data center. BARC has a VMWare environment which contains its public facing servers which host services such as DNS & DHCP as well as a set of private servers that run network monitoring software, Calix CMS, etc.

Description of CPE and Method of Acquisition:

BARC standardized its Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) for its broadband and VOIP services with Calix. The proposed CPE will be located inside the home in close proximity to the entertainment center. The gateway device will terminate the fiber, convert light to electrical signal, and will provide the following ports: HDMI, 4 Ethernet ports, one POTS port, and will provide in-home secure Wi-Fi service.

BARC personnel will offer assistance with setup and installation and BARC intends to offer in-home wiring service for an additional fee. The method of customer acquisition will be through various marketing channels, including digital, print, community meetings, and online portal access. Once an order is confirmed, the service delivery date will be established. On the service delivery date, the service will be provisioned while the installer performs the drop installation and performs in-home wiring. There will be sufficient inventory of CPE on technician vehicles as well as inventory at the warehouse.

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9. Speeds: Describe the internet service offerings, including download and upload speeds, to be provided after completion of the proposed project. Detail whether that speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and detail the technology that will be used. This description can be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate. List the private co-applicant's tiered price structure for all speed offerings in the proposed project area, including the lowest tiered speed offering at or above 100/20 Mbps. (up to 10 points)

Answer:

The broadband service that will be provided will be Fiber-To-The-premise (FTTp). BARC Electric Cooperative, the co-applicant, has been selected as the service provider for broadband service in the proposed project areas located in Rockbridge County. BARC has successfully implemented broadband service in Rockbridge County providing high-speed Internet service and phone service to residents and businesses. The infrastructure from the Cabinet to the premise Optical Network Terminal (ONT) is dedicated bandwidth capable of speeds up to 1 Gbps without data caps. The proposed system will be deployed using a GPON architecture system. The speed tiers and costs are as follows:

Internet Service Speed Tiers and Pricing:

150 Mbps download / 150 Mbps upload; Cost: \$70 per month

400 Mbps download / 400 Mbps upload; Cost \$85 per month

1000 Mbps download / 1000 Mbps upload; Cost \$110 per month

All service packages include one free fiber modem; one free wireless router; and no data caps, and no term contracts for residential.

In addition to reliable Internet service, BARC also offers phone packages to residential and business consumers who are interested in expanded broadband services, as well as enterprise level services on a contract basis offered to larger business customers.

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10. Explain how the proposed project achieves universal broadband coverage for the locality or fits into a larger plan to achieve universal broadband coverage for the locality. If applicable, explain the remaining areas of need in the locality and a brief description of the plan to achieve universal broadband coverage. (up to 50 points)

Answer:

Access to high-speed Internet is the foundation for sustainability, yet for most parts of rural Virginia broadband is lacking, negatively impacting economic growth, education, access to telehealth and overall quality of life. This project will create a brighter future for all rural residents in Rockbridge County. It has the potential to create economic growth opportunities; new housing starts, drive sales of existing homes, create telecommuting opportunities; and allow for economic health improvements in the creation of new small and home-based businesses. It will provide opportunities for new business attraction and expansion; it will retain a trained, competitive workforce; and it will compete with more densely populated regions that currently have broadband infrastructure in place to meet residential and business needs. It will provide expanded educational opportunities allowing students customized educational material improving the flow of educational information, allowing teachers, parents and organizations to make better decisions tied to each student's needs and abilities. With BARC's last-mile broadband expansion assisted by VATI, this region of Virginia is poised to experience long-term sustainable economic growth.

As Rockbridge County has placed intense focus on access to high-speed Internet service the past 10 years, there are still low-density areas in the county that lack access. The goal is to provide functional, universal coverage across the entire County to serve residents and businesses. Through this grant application, and through a separate grant application with BrightSpeed, and Verizon, Rockbridge County will be positioned to provide universal coverage to provide reliable, affordable Internet service across the entire county. In order to provide true universal broadband coverage across the county, BARC and Rockbridge County will work with DHCD in a separate grant application for the LECAP program and the BEAD program.

Due to high costs for construction, larger carriers will not invest the dollars needed to reach these areas. Rockbridge County has partnered with BARC to expand the availability of high-speed Internet service, but there are still areas in the County that remain unserved or underserved. Additionally, Rockbridge County is the applicant for a separate grant applications with BrightSpeed and Verizon including project areas that are not a part of this application with BARC. In working with BARC, and BrightSpeed and Verizon in grant application submissions, Rockbridge County will achieve universal Internet connectivity for all residents and business located in its jurisdiction. Funding of this grant, along with LECAP and BEAD opportunities, will allow Rockbridge County to achieve its goal of providing universal access to affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service to all areas currently unserved. The County has included all known addresses in this project application that are deemed unserved to ensure even the most remote premises will be connected and fill existing digital divide gaps. The unified goal of all applicants is to connect all remaining unserved residences and businesses in Rockbridge County as universally by using BARC's fiber network.

BARC will leverage its existing network operations center (NOC) to expand BARC's broadband service network and access to high-speed Internet service in rural Rockbridge County. The VATI-requested funding will be allocated solely to connecting homes, businesses and community anchors in the unserved areas of Rockbridge as identified in the CIT, FCC and DHCD maps. The match provided by BARC will be used for fiber construction to build to the unserved areas, as well as inside the unserved areas, making FTTP service available to all customers along the routes. Grant funding is required to help offset the high capital costs associated with bringing reliable broadband service to these unserved and low-density rural residences and businesses.

11. **Project Readiness**

Describe the current state of project development, including but not limited to: planning, preliminary engineering, identifying easements/permits, status of MOU or MOA, and final design. Prepare a detailed project timeline or construction schedule, identifying specific tasks, staff, contractor(s) responsible, collection of data, etc., and estimated start and completion dates. Applicants are encouraged to extensively discuss, where applicable, easements relating to railroad crossings, federally-owned lands and parks, partnerships with the Virginia Department of Transportation, and mobile home parks. Applicants must include Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) between applicants (drafts are allowable). Label Attachments: Attachment 7 – Timeline/Project Management Plan; Attachment 8 – MOU/MOA between Applicant/Co-Applicant; (up to 10 points)

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BARC's engineering and construction departments work closely with its outside engineers to perform all aspects of fiber network engineering, make ready, design, and project management. As stated elsewhere in this application, BARC has completed construction on approximately 1,198 miles of fiber serving over 12,000 homes, businesses and community anchors, and is underway with construction on an additional 25 miles by YE 2023. The proposed VATI project would become the next focus of BARC's internal and outside engineers to design and begin make-ready assessments in preparation for construction. BARC's experience with hundreds of miles of existing fiber construction enables it to recognize problems before, during and after the construction process and proactively address them before they become significant issues or lead to delays. Based on BARC's experience, it envisions the project timeline as follows (from contract execution with DHCD):

- Months 1-4: Make-ready engineering (MRE).
 - Gather GPS coordinates for all planned poles and customer locations.
 - Perform a make-ready assessment for attachment to each pole.
 - Generate work orders to replace necessary poles and make on-pole adjustments.
 - Work with other pole attachers to clear any existing make-ready violations (clearance issues) prior to construction.
- Months 1-7: Fiber design.
 - Use the MRE data to prepare fiber design plans and prints for fiber construction, including construction maps, splice diagrams and bills of material (BOMs).
- Months 1-12: Material acquisition.
 - Prepare an initial bill of materials (BOM) needed for the start of fiber construction. Additional BOMs will be created during the fiber construction process to provide the necessary materials for construction.
 - Due to supply chain delays, some material may take additional time to receive for construction.
- Months 4-16: Community Notifications / Meetings.
 - Active community meetings to explain the timeframe for construction; services available; and information on how to sign up for service.
 - Incentives for attending community meetings, including a free service drop for fiber service.
- Months 5-24: Fiber construction; testing.
 - Bid/award fiber construction contract.
 - Construct the fiber network, including laterals and drops to customer homes/businesses.
 - Project manage and perform quality control checks during fiber construction.
 - To ensure quality of service, BARC will continuously test service for speed and reliability.
- Months 6-24: Customer installations.
 - Customer Service will schedule installations with customers to have on-site technicians complete installation process connecting customers to broadband service.

Identify required easements relating to railroad crossings, federally-owned lands and parks, partnerships with the Virginia Department of Transportation, and mobile home parks include:

- ◦ Conrock North/South: 4 limited highway crossing (Route 60), 2 Interstate 81 crossings

Rockbridge County, as the Applicant, has designated BARC and as the co-applicant and will collaborate with partners to extend broadband Internet to unserved populations throughout the County. An agreement has been drafted between Rockbridge County and BARC outlining the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Additionally, Rockbridge County will enter into an agreement with the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission to assist the County with grant administration and programmatic and financial record-keeping as well as providing coordination between the partners and DHCD.

12. Has the applicant or co-applicant received any VATI grants? If so, provide a list of these grants, with a detailed summary of the status of each.

Answer:

The CSPDC submitted a VATI application on behalf of Rockbridge County with co-applicant BARC Electric Cooperative in 2019 and was awarded a \$2.2 million grant. The project brought broadband access to 470 unserved homes and businesses in Rockbridge County resulting in approximately 118 miles of gigabit last mile fiber infrastructure and a total cost of \$4.4 million dollars. The CSPDC served as the grant administrator and worked with Rockbridge County and BARC through the completion of the project. This project was completed in April 2022.

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13. Matching funds: Complete the funding sources table indicating the cash match and in-kind resources from the applicant, co-applicant, and any other partners investing in the proposed project (VATI funding cannot exceed 80 percent of total project cost). In-kind resources include, but are not limited to: grant management, acquisition of rights of way or easements, waiving permit fees, force account labor, etc. Please note that a minimum 20% match is required to be eligible for VATI, the private sector provider must provide 10% of the required match. If the private co-applicant cash match is below 10% of total project cost, applicants must provide financial details demonstrating appropriate private investment. If applicants and co-applicants are seeking to include prior expended funds as matching funds, Attachment 11 must be completed. Label Attachments: Attachment 9 - Funding Sources Table; Attachment 10 – Documentation of Match Funding; Attachment 11 - Prior Expended Match Form

Answer:

BARC is committing 28% (\$836,799) and Rockbridge County is committing 30% (\$896,570) of the overall project cost in matching funds, resulting in a total match of 58% of total project costs.

14. Leverage: Describe any leverage being provided by the applicant, co-applicant, and partner(s) in support of the proposed project. (up to 10 points)

Answer:

This project is part of a joint effort by Rockbridge County, CSPCD, Verizon, BARC Connects, and Brightspeed to bring reliable, affordable high-speed internet service to the residents and businesses that are unserved in the defined project areas of Rockbridge. Rockbridge is contracting with CSPDC at a total cost of \$75,000 to administer all 3 grants. All parties are committed to working independently with Rockbridge, which will submit three separate applications (one for each co-applicant) to connect the rural areas in Rockbridge to reliable high-speed internet. Rockbridge and the CSPDC have provided support to the regional planning process and in identifying unserved areas included in the scope of the project areas within the application. BARC's project includes three main identified areas that are unserved in Rockbridge. If funded, this project will leverage BARC's fiber network making service available to low-density areas including 404 homes and businesses in Rockbridge.

To accomplish this, BARC plans to expand its FTTP network in Rockbridge, utilizing 42% VATI funding, 30% county funding, and 28% in BARC matching funds for the fiber build. In leveraging partnerships with all applicants and the CSPDC, broadband service in Rockbridge will create potential economic growth opportunities; telecommuting opportunities and an improvement in the rural quality of life; opportunities for new business attraction and expansion; retention of a trained and competitive workforce; and equality with more densely populated regions that currently have broadband infrastructure in place to meet residential and business needs. This project will position Rockbridge to take advantage of recent trends of outmigration from urban environments for those seeking a better quality of life while still retaining access to modern digital needs.

As noted earlier in this application, the BARC Proposed Network design significantly leverages its embedded network plant in Rockbridge. As an electric utility, BARC will leverage its existing ROW network.

Additionally, and as evidenced by the attached letters of support, BARC and Rockbridge will leverage strong relationships with our partner local government units, Farm Bureau, secondary and institutes of higher education, medical centers, chamber of commerce and libraries.

15. Communications Plan: Describe efforts to keep the public informed of project progress and the broadband adoption plan.
- Explain how you plan on communicating the project status to stakeholders, including but not limited to County leadership, project areas residents, etc. (Up to 10 points)
 - Explain how you plan to promote customer take rate, including marketing activities, outreach plan, and other actions to reach the identified serviceable units within the project area. Provide the anticipated take rate and describe the basis for the estimate. (up to 10 points)
 - Describe any digital literacy efforts to ensure residents and businesses in the proposed project area sufficiently utilize broadband. Please list any partnering organizations for digital literacy, such as the local library or cooperative extension office.

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Answer:

a.

Both Rockbridge and the CSPDC will provide significant local assistance to assist with this project to ensure its success in the region. Through grant admin services, the CSPDC will hold monthly project management team meetings, distribute monthly meeting summaries to all team members, and share the monthly reports submitted to DHCD. The County can use this information to update the board. The CSPDC can share any project news through their newsletter, and/or social media platforms. These activities will include organizing meaningful community meetings with leaders, residents, and businesses in the County to discuss the project; mobilizing GIS resources and provide assistance to BARC's staff to respond to residents' questions or concerns related to the project. Additionally, the county will assist with the distribution of information including marketing materials; pricing for available services; guidance to sign-up for selected services. If needed, Rockbridge agrees to assist in areas related to permits, rights of way, easements and any other issues that may hinder or delay the proposed project. However, BARC anticipates few issues, as it has existing ROW to customers.

For its part, BARC has expanded its communication efforts to inform County leadership, local residents and local businesses about plans for broadband expansion construction:

1. BARC will provide a Fiber Construction update, available to the public, on its website, barconnects.net
2. BARC sends out information to eligible consumers including postcards, letters and informational flyers, on the premise eligibility, how to sign up for service, and means to learn more about BARC Internet services.
3. BARC includes information on fiber construction and eligible areas in its monthly local pages in the Cooperative Living Magazine publication that reaches its entire membership.
4. BARC holds community meetings in the communities it serves to provide information about its broadband project and to answer questions from local residents, business owners and leadership.
5. BARC maintains regular contact with local leadership to ensure information is being shared on construction activities and areas eligible for service.
6. BARC is expanding partnerships with other Virginia cooperatives and local entities to provide literacy education related to broadband usage, courses and instruction for local residents and businesses.
7. Rockbridge County will join BARC in the community meetings as appropriate to answer questions and concerns related to broadband service from community members. The Rockbridge County Public School System has agreed to provide school space and technology in the area of projects, to allow for these public meetings.
8. BARC and Rockbridge County will utilize local media outlets including radio, newspapers, and digital media to provide information related to the broadband project and service information.

b.

BARC's feasibility study forecasts a conservative 50% take rate on broadband services made available in this project. BARC believes this to be a conservative take rate for fiber service based on higher take rates reported by electric cooperatives throughout the country.

To achieve this estimated take rate, or hopefully greater, BARC commits to the following outreach and marketing plan:

- Developing and distributing marketing materials including postcards, flyers, email notices, and letters detailing the services available to the eligible addresses in the proposed project area. This information will include:
 - Construction notification
 - All broadband services available to units including fiber Internet and phone
 - Price points for all services, including various Internet speed tiers; and home phone service
 - Dedicated commercial sales staff to work with eligible businesses to answer questions
 - Dedicated customer service staff to work with eligible residents to answer questions
- Develop and distribute digital advertising leveraging BARC's social media platforms to direct potential consumers to the BARC website to find service information and capability to sign-up for service utilizing the website.
- Plan and execute community meetings to meet face-to-face with residents and businesses to discuss the project; eligible service area; available services; pricing and additional questions. Rockbridge County and the Rockbridge County School System will assist in coordination of meeting spaces and technology needs, and publication of meeting notices.\

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Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC Connects - VATI 2024

- Marketing service availability in BARC's monthly magazine, Cooperative Living, on BARC's website and on BARC's Facebook and Instagram pages utilizing digital content and print content.

c.

BARC has recently completed a regional study regarding digital literacy needs and working with The Deaton Group and local partners to develop a program. This program would be considered a "Broadband 101" program to understand information BARC's demographic is seeking when it comes to Internet service and addressing basic needs such as:

- What is the Internet?
- How to access the Internet
- Benefits / what one can do from the Internet
- Speed tiers education to determine individual needs

The goal of the digital literacy program would be to provide basic information to community members on accessing information; conducting activities online; cyber safety.

In addition, the local Chamber of Commerce supports this application and provides a mechanism for reaching the business sector.

Additionally, the Rockbridge Regional Library System hosts events called the Tech Power Hour every Thursday and Friday. This program provides one-on-one "technical assistance on everything technology" from "setting up a phone, tablet or laptop" to "internet safety awareness, how to use Libby, social media, and much more!" This digital literacy instruction is provided free of charge to residents and can be used to understand e-mail, web surfing, and any other general knowledge topics interested patrons would like to ask about. This service is provided in all four library locations servicing County residents. In addition, the Rockbridge County Public School System intentionally and separately teaches digital literacy in elementary school classrooms. BARC commits to assist in these efforts as needed.

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16. Project Management: Identify key individuals who will be responsible for the management of the project and provide a brief description of their role and responsibilities for the project. Present this information in table format. Provide a brief description of the applicant and co applicant's history and experience with managing grants and constructing broadband communication facilities.

Answer:

Name

Title

Role

William Buchanan

CEO, BARC Electric Cooperative

Maintain schedules, perform make ready applications, coordinate engineering tasks, maintain network system post installation

Spencer Suter

Rockbridge County Administrator

Responsible for overseeing Rockbridge County VATI grant and matching contributions matching contributions for grant. Execute contracts, MOUs and agreement with EDA.

Ashton Harrison

Director of Fiscal Services – Rockbridge County

Maintain fiscal records and grant drawdown requests

Steven Bolster

CSPDC Regional Planner

Grant administration and coordination with localities, DHCD and ISP provider. Prepare progress reports and assist with mapping and GIS.

William "Bill" Buchanan has been building and constructing telecommunications networks for over thirty years. Bill has spent his career in rural telecommunications, serving cooperatives in Illinois, Colorado, Pennsylvania and most recently in Virginia. Bill also served as the President of the Illinois Network Alliance, a statewide fiber network, for 10 years. In addition to his knowledge of fiber construction, network equipment, and broadband strategy, Bill also brings a variety of geographic fiber construction practices, serving multiple locations across the country.

Spencer Suter has 28 years of local government experience and has managed dozens of successful grant projects, ranging from \$2000 training grants to a \$10M NTIA Broadband grant in Rockbridge County. Steven Bolster assisted in management and fiscal oversight of many of those grants during his 10 years working as Rockbridge County's Director of Fiscal Services, prior to transitioning to his role as Regional Planner with the CSPDC.

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17. Project Budget and Cost Appropriateness

Budget: Applicants must provide a detailed budget that outlines how the grant funds will be utilized, including an itemization of equipment, construction costs, and a justification of proposed expenses. If designating more than one service area in a single application, each service area must have delineated budget information. For wireless projects, please include delineated budget information by each tower. Expenses should be substantiated by clear cost estimates. Include copies of vendor quotes or documented cost estimates supporting the proposed budget. Label Attachments: Attachment 12 – Derivation of Costs; Attachment 13 - Documentation of Supporting Cost Estimates. (up to 10 points)

Answer:

The total project costs are \$2,988,568 to construct 28.5 Miles of fiber. BARC and Rockbridge County are seeking a grant of \$1,255,199 or 42% of the total project costs, with BARC providing funding of \$836,799 (28%) and Rockbridge County providing the remaining funds of \$896,570 (30%). BARC has included only costs directly associated with construction of the Rockbridge County project. The funding received will not subsidize BARC expenses or the monthly bills of its customers and will not contribute to BARC's operating costs or profits. Absent receipt of the broadband expansion grant, BARC will not undertake the project to the extent proposed.

The total construction cost includes Outside Plant (OSP) (Fiber, Material & Equipment) along with Inside Plant (Install, Contract, Labor) cost amounts. BARC will own and operate the facilities as part of its telecommunications network. The construction costs are related to project planning, obtaining construction permits, construction of facilities, and installation and testing of the broadband service being constructed. For more information, please see attachments 12 and 13.

18. The cost benefit index is comprised of state cost per unit passed. Individual cost benefit scores are calculated and averaged together to create a point scale for a composite score. Provide the following:
- Total VATI funding request

b. Number of serviceable units
(up to 125 points)

Answer:

- Total VATI funding request

\$1,255,199

- Number of serviceable units (up to 125 points)

404

- 19.

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Commonwealth Priorities (Up to 50 points)

Additional points will be awarded to proposed projects that reflect Commonwealth priorities. If applicable, describe the following:

- a. Businesses, community anchors, or other passings in the proposed project area that will have a significant impact on the locality or region because of access to broadband.
- b. Unique partnerships involved in the proposed project. Examples include electric utilities, universities, and federal/state agencies.
- c. Digital equity efforts to ensure low to moderate income households in the proposed project area will have affordable access to speeds at or above 100/20 mbps, include information regarding the internet service provider's participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program
- d. The co-applicant's efforts to mitigate supply chain constraints, including labor shortages and order-to-delivery delays on telecommunications materials required to construct broadband networks.
- e. The applicant's and co-applicant's efforts to promote broadband adoption, including, but not limited to: telehealth, smart farming, e-entrepreneurship, and distance learning.

Answer:

a.

Please see Attachment 20 for a list of key businesses in the project area. As the project area is rural, it does not pass any community anchor points.

b.

This project is a partnership among Rockbridge County, BARC Connects, BARC Electric Cooperative and CSPDC reaching more than 404 locations, including 58 businesses, currently unserved with reliable, high-speed Internet service. Rockbridge County has worked with all groups to develop a plan to bring fiber to the unserved areas of the County. Additionally, BARC will leverage its own last-mile fiber deployment within its service area to extend fiber to areas still not served by broadband. Together, these partners will bring essential broadband infrastructure to areas of the County that are unconnected because of their low density, problematic topography, or challenging location.

Additionally, Rockbridge County is partnering with BrightSpeed and Verizon in a separate VATI application to ensure universal connectivity across the entire county. In funding both applications, Rockbridge is positioned to achieve its goal and universally connect all residents and businesses in its jurisdiction. As noted in 15 above, the County and BARC will partner with the Lexington/Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce and the Rockbridge County Public Schools to market the offering.

This multi-partner broadband project will benefit businesses and residents. The project aligns with Rockbridge County's comprehensive plan and strategy to deploy fiber for broadband services to attract new business; expand existing business; develop the potential for an entrepreneurial ecosystem and attract and retain a local workforce with new job creation. Rockbridge County as well as the cities of Lexington and Buena Vista are part of the Appalachian Regional Commission. The median household income for the Rockbridge County-Buena Vista-Lexington area is 65% of Virginia's median income (HUD Median Income FY2021). This broadband project will provide services to households currently without broadband services. This will open opportunities for telework, telehealth, and telelearning that have been

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critical, but unavailable, to many during due to a lack of service.

In addition, while there are no universities in the directly in proposed project area, local universities fully support of this grant project due to the fact that many of their employees live in the proposed area, as evidenced by the attached letters of support. If awarded, those employees would be able to realize work from home and research opportunities that do not currently exist, which will benefit the university system. In addition, many students, especially those in the critically important Mountain Gateway Community College system, live off campus and require quality broadband access to be successfully trained to enter the local workforce.

c.

To ensure digital equity efforts are in place allowing low to moderate income households in the proposed project area to have affordable access to speeds at or above 100/20 mbps, the County is partnering with BARC Connects, an Affordable Connectivity Program provider. BARC's participation in this program extends to all areas it serves with broadband and provides eligible households with a discount of up to \$30 per month towards broadband service or up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands. Rockbridge County will coordinate with the Rockbridge County Public School system, the Department of Social Services and our Rental Assistance Department in an effort to efficiently access those in need of assistance.

d.

If awarded grant funding, BARC will utilize its current partnerships for procurement of materials and labor based on the project timeline. BARC will work with internal staff and contractors to fully develop the action plan for construction and timeframes. As part of the electric cooperative CARES (Coalition for the Advancement of Reliable Electric Services), BARC will also utilize this platform with policy makers regarding concerns and needs related to supply chain, costs of goods, and availability of human capital.

Additionally, BARC maintains an inventory of assets to ensure that we stay ahead of supply chain challenges.

e.

The County and BARC will work together to educate the community on the benefits of broadband adoption to improve overall quality of life. A variety of efforts to provide information and benefits will include:

- i. BARC will hold community meetings in the communities it serves to provide information about its broadband project and to answer questions from local residents, business owners and leadership.
- ii. BARC will share information on the benefits of broadband service for telehealth opportunities, telecommuting opportunities to attract; economic development opportunities for small businesses; and agri-business benefits in using technology for farming operations and management.
- iii. The County and BARC will work with the active membership of the Rockbridge Farm Bureau, the Rockbridge County Public School Division, the Rockbridge Regional Library, Carilion-Rockbridge Community Hospital and our local

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institutions of higher education to ensure that the significant number of residents, farm businesses, health care recipients and students contained in the project area are apprised of the benefit of broadband connection.

iv. The County will work with the Rockbridge Public Library and Carilion-Rockbridge Community Hospital to educate the public about the project, and its benefits.

Universal coverage as further enabled by this application will open new doors for every citizen in Rockbridge, but the work in educating the public in the ways they are being empowered is ongoing and evolving.

20. Additional Information

Please attach any letters of support from stakeholders. If the applicant is not a locality(s) in which the project will occur, please provide a letter of support from that locality.

Attachment 14 – Letters of Support.

Provide the two most recent Form 477 submitted to the FCC, or equivalent, as well as point, polygon, and, for wireless providers, RSSI shapefiles for the project area **in .zip file form**. With attachments 17 through 20, attach any other information that the applicant desires to include. Applicants are limited to four additional attachments.

Label Additional Attachments as:

- a. Attachment 15 – Two most recent Form 477 submitted to the FCC or equivalent
- b. Attachment 16 - Point and Polygon shapefiles, in.zip file form, showing proposed passings and project area
- c. Attachment 17 - For wireless applicants: shapefiles, in .zip file form, indicating RSSI projections in the application area
- d. Attachment 18 – XXXXXXXX
- e. Attachment 19 – XXXXXXXX
- f. Attachment 20 – XXXXXXXX

Answer:

N/A

Attachments:

Map(s) of project area, including proposed infrastructure

Attachment1ProjectAreaMap1216202395046.pdf

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Documentation of Federal Funding (CAF/ACAM/USDA/RDOF, etc...) in and/or near proposed project area.

Attachment2DocumentationofFederalFundingAreas1217202315249.pdf

Documentation that proposed project area is unserved based on VATI criteria

Attachment3DocumentationUnservedAreaVATICriteria1217202315953.pdf

Timeline/Project Management Plan

Attachment7TimelinePprojectManagementPLan1217202332337.pdf

MOU/MOA between applicant/co-applicant (can be in draft form)

Attachment8ApplicantCoapplicantAgreementRockbridgeBARC1219202394327.pdf

Documentation of Supporting Cost Estimates

Attachement13DocumentationofCostEstimates12192023113545.pdf

Letters of Support

Attachment14LettersofSupport1218202331932.pdf

Two most recent Form 477 submitted to the FCC or equivalent

Attachment15TwoMostRecent47712182023112702.zip

Point and Polygon shapefiles, in.zip file form, showing proposed passings and project area

ProjectShapefilesBARCVATI20241217202332259.zip

Optional

OptionalFile1AdditionalDocumenationUnservedAreasVATICriteria1217202320009.pdf

Documentation of Match Funding

Attachment10DocumentationofMatchFunding1219202395813.pdf

Derivation of Cost/Project Budget (Use template provided)

Attachment12DerivationofCostsxlsx12182023110625.pdf

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Funding Sources Table (Use template provided)

Attachment9FundingSourcesTableBARC1219202385137.pdf

Passings Form (Use template provided)

Attachment4VATIPassingsFormBARC1218202384638.pdf

Documentation of RDOF awarded area in VATI project Area (Use template provided)

Attachment5RDOFAwardedPassingsVATIApplicationAreaBARC1218202384851.pdf

VATI 2024

Supplemental Application Question

Applicant: Rockbridge County - BARC Connects 2024 VATI

Project Name (s): Buffalo Creek, Spring Valley, Conrock North and South.

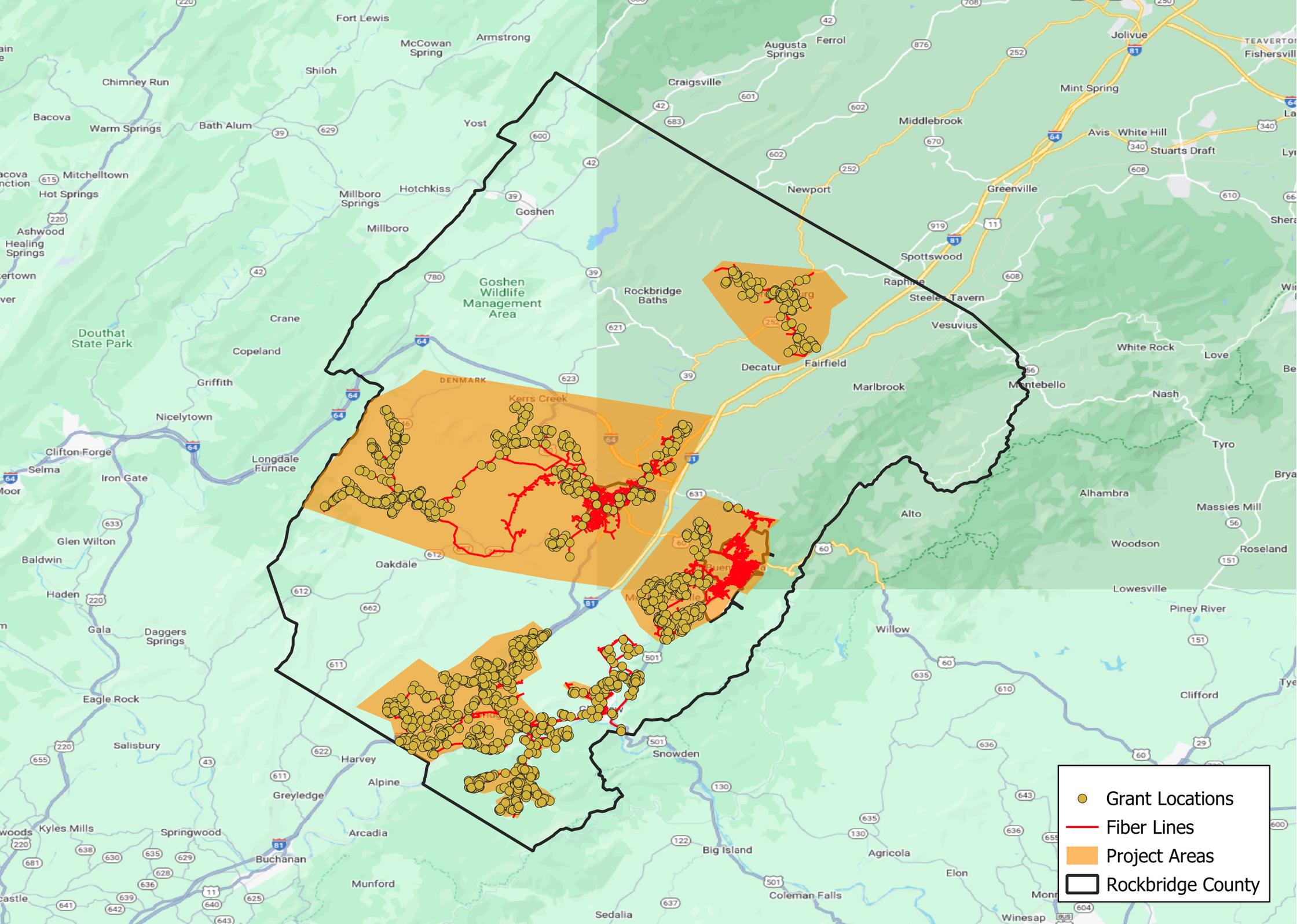
The question below is question e. from the Commonwealth Priorities section of the 2024 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Guidelines. Please answer the question using this form and email to VATI@dhcd.virginia.gov.

Commonwealth Priorities

20. Additional points will be awarded to proposed projects that reflect Commonwealth priorities. If applicable, describe the following:

e. The co-applicant's effort to mitigate costs and delays that may be associated with make-ready and other permitting requirements anticipated for network deployment.

Due to the areas we are applying for being our own electric cooperative areas we see no delays. BARC Connects is a subsidiary of BARC Electric Cooperative. BARC Connects pays all applicable make-ready costs required by BARC Electric Cooperative's pole attachment agreements and BARC Electric Cooperative, either in-house or contract electric line crews, completes the needed make-ready work prior to BARC Connects attaching. It has not caused any delays for BARC Connects in the past and we would not see any delays in the future.



- Grant Locations
- Fiber Lines
- Project Areas
- Rockbridge County

Attachment 2 – Documentation of Federal Funding Areas

BARC was unable to identify any federal funding other than RDOF in the project areas.

Please see the maps below for RDOF areas.

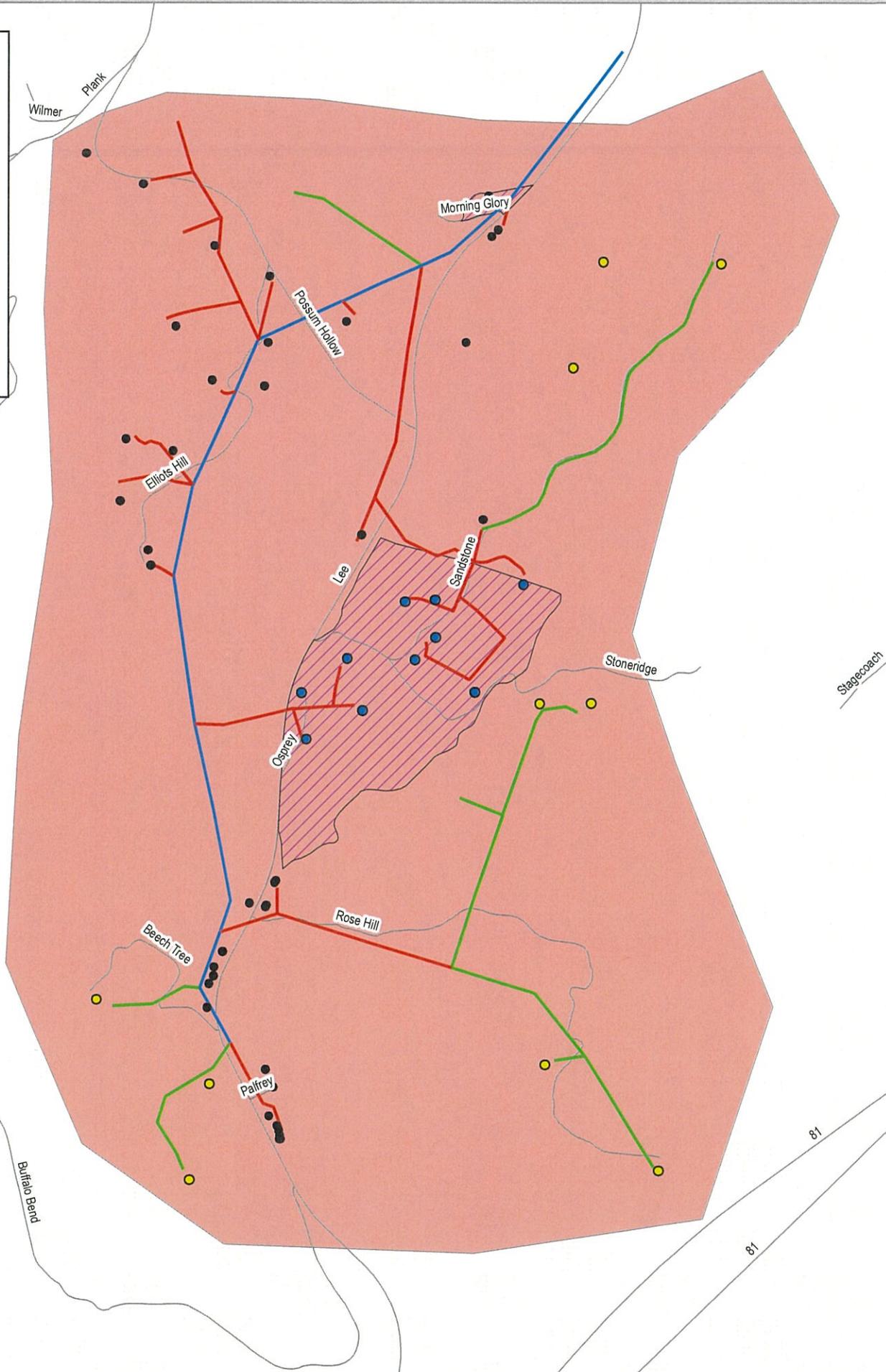
**Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Buffalo Creek Area (Barc)**

Legend

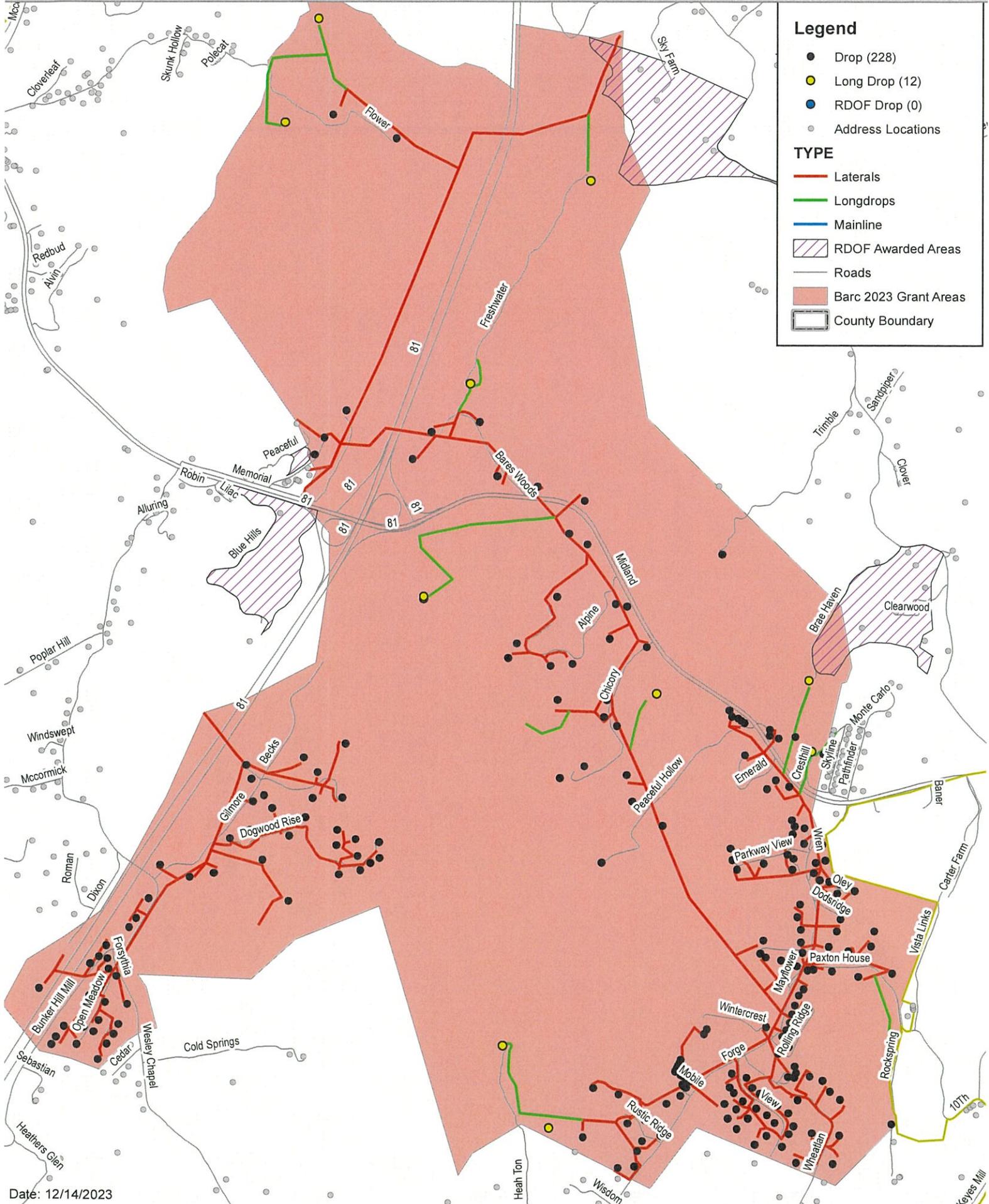
- Drop (40)
- Long Drop (10)
- RDOF Drop (10)

TYPE

- Laterals
- Longdrops
- Mainline
- ▨ RDOF Awarded Areas
- Roads
- Barc 2023 Grant Areas
- ▭ County Boundary



**Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Conrock North/South Area (Barc)**



Legend

- Drop (228)
- Long Drop (12)
- RDOF Drop (0)
- Address Locations

TYPE

- Laterals
- Longdrops
- Mainline
- ▨ RDOF Awarded Areas
- Roads
- Barc 2023 Grant Areas
- County Boundary

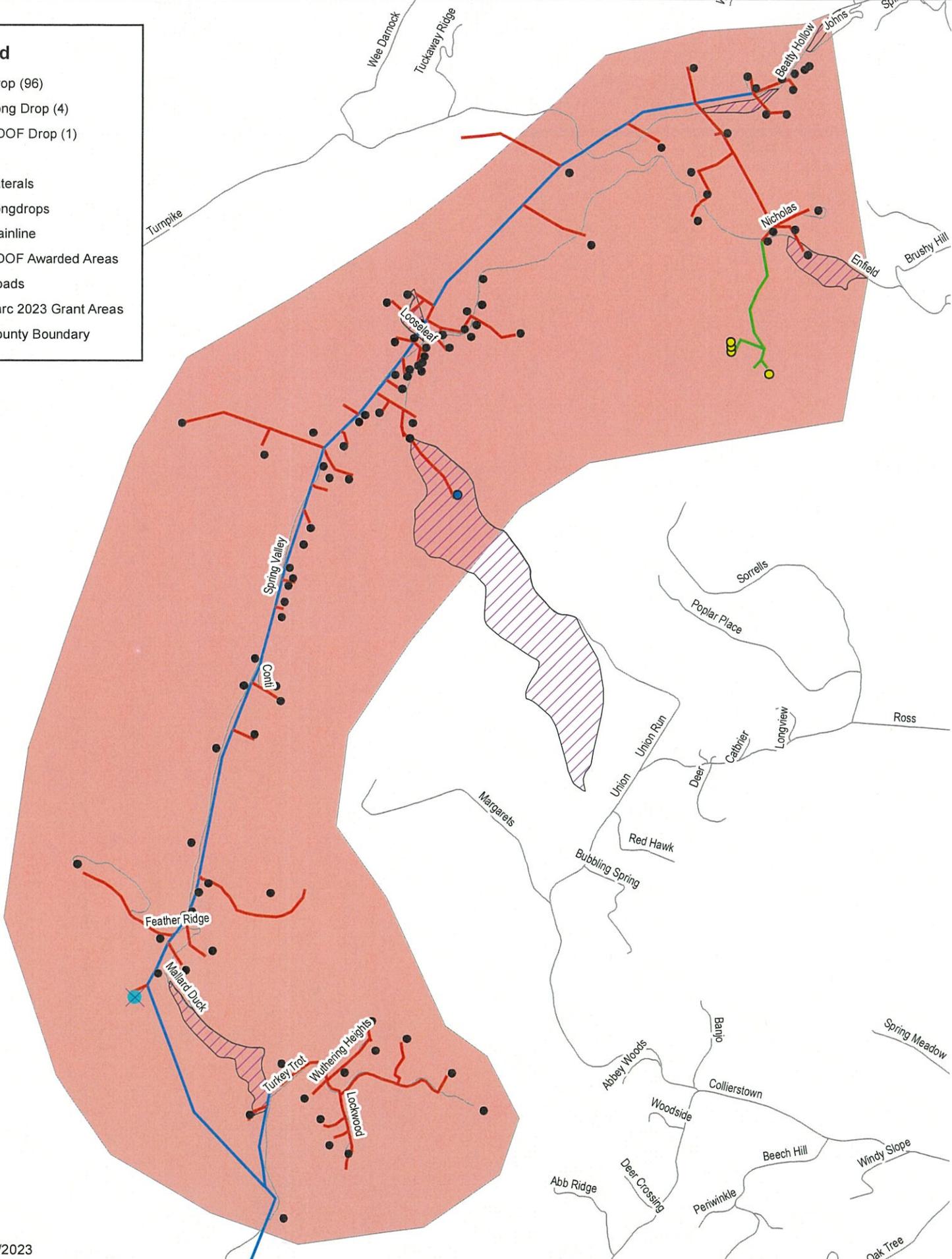
Rockbridge County VA 2023 VATI Grant Spring Valley Area (Barc)

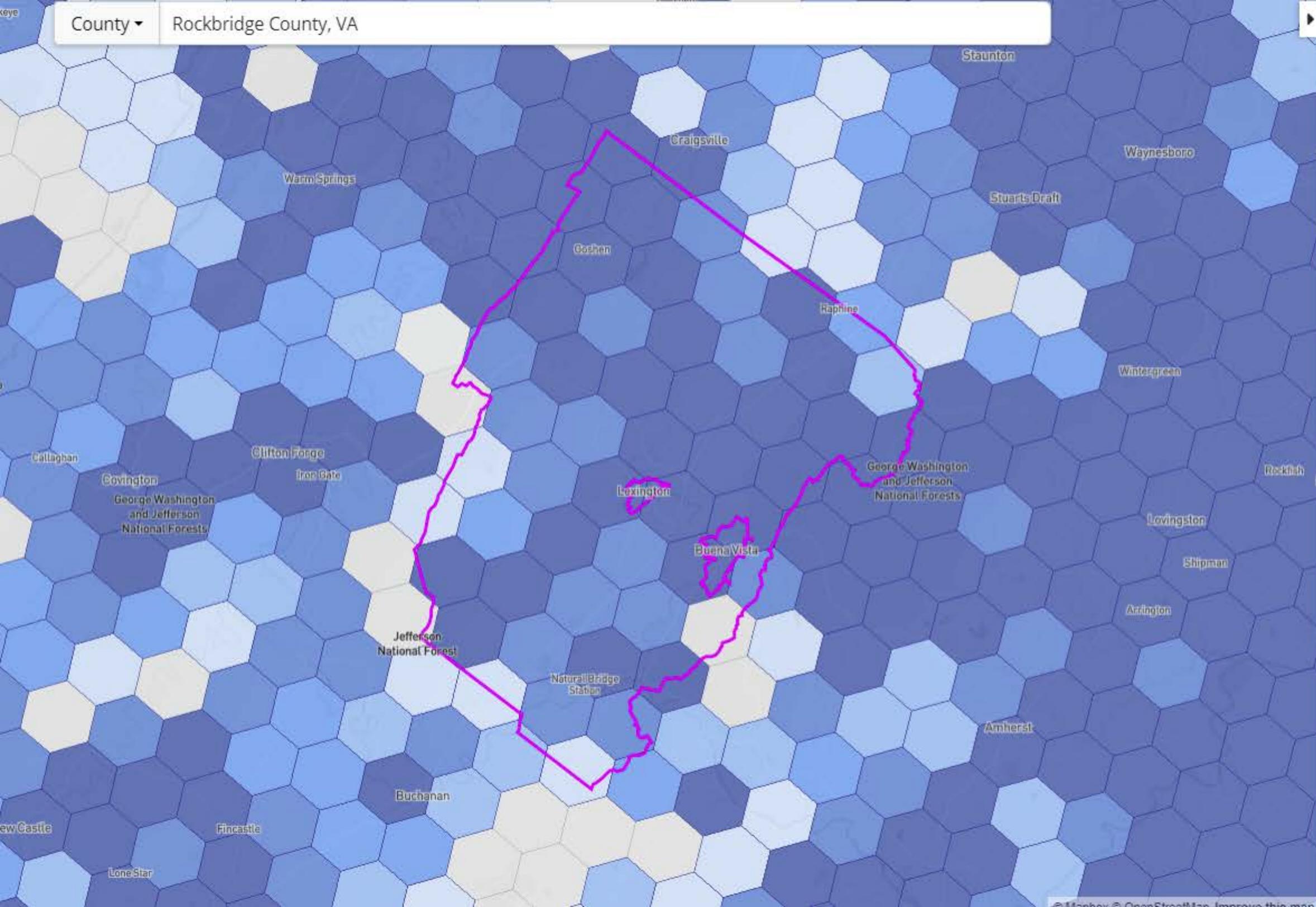
Legend

- Drop (96)
- Long Drop (4)
- RDOF Drop (1)

TYPE

- Laterals
- Longdrops
- Mainline
- ▨ RDOF Awarded Areas
- Roads
- Barc 2023 Grant Areas
- County Boundary





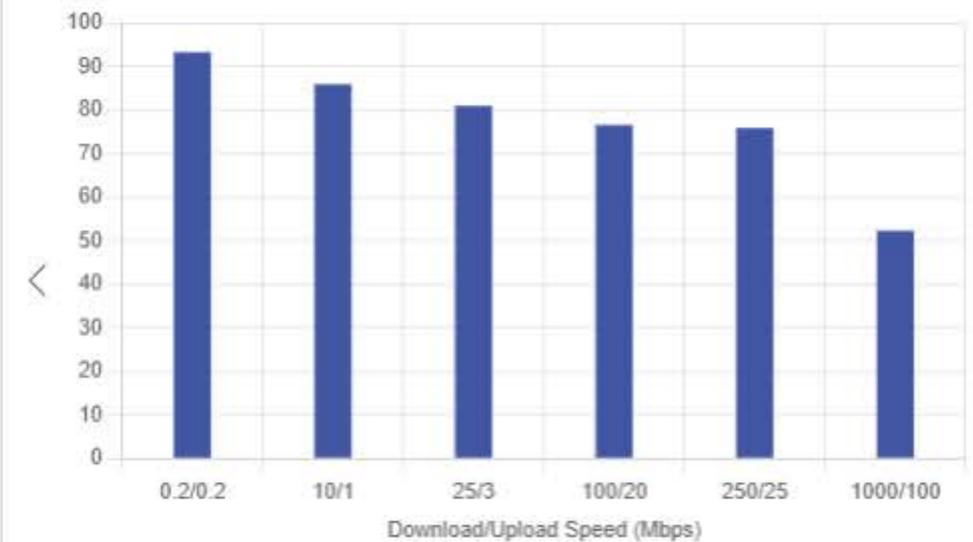
Rockbridge County, VA

Broadband

Fixed Broadband Settings ⚙️

Type	Residential
Technology	All Wired and Licensed Fixed Wireless
Speed	25/3 Mbps or greater
Data As Of	Jun 30, 2023 (Last Updated: 11/28/23)

Percent of Units Covered



Map Legend

Served Units Percentage

- 0%
- 0 - 20%
- 20 - 40%
- 40 - 60%
- 60 - 80%
- 80 - 100%

 **Speed Test**
Download Speed, Upload Speed, and Latency

 **Broadband Coverage**
FCC vs. Virginia Broadband, Speed, Technology

MAP LAYERS

- Virginia Collected** MAR.2023
- FCC Broadband Data Collection** DEC.2022

MAP FILTERS

 **Speed**

- ↓ 25 mbps ↑ 3 mbps
- ↓ 100 mbps ↑ 20 mbps
- ↓ 100 mbps ↑ Any
- ↓ 250 mbps ↑ Any
- ↓ 1000 mbps ↑ Any

* Coverage in layer is for speeds that are equal or greater than speed displayed.

 **Broadband Technology**

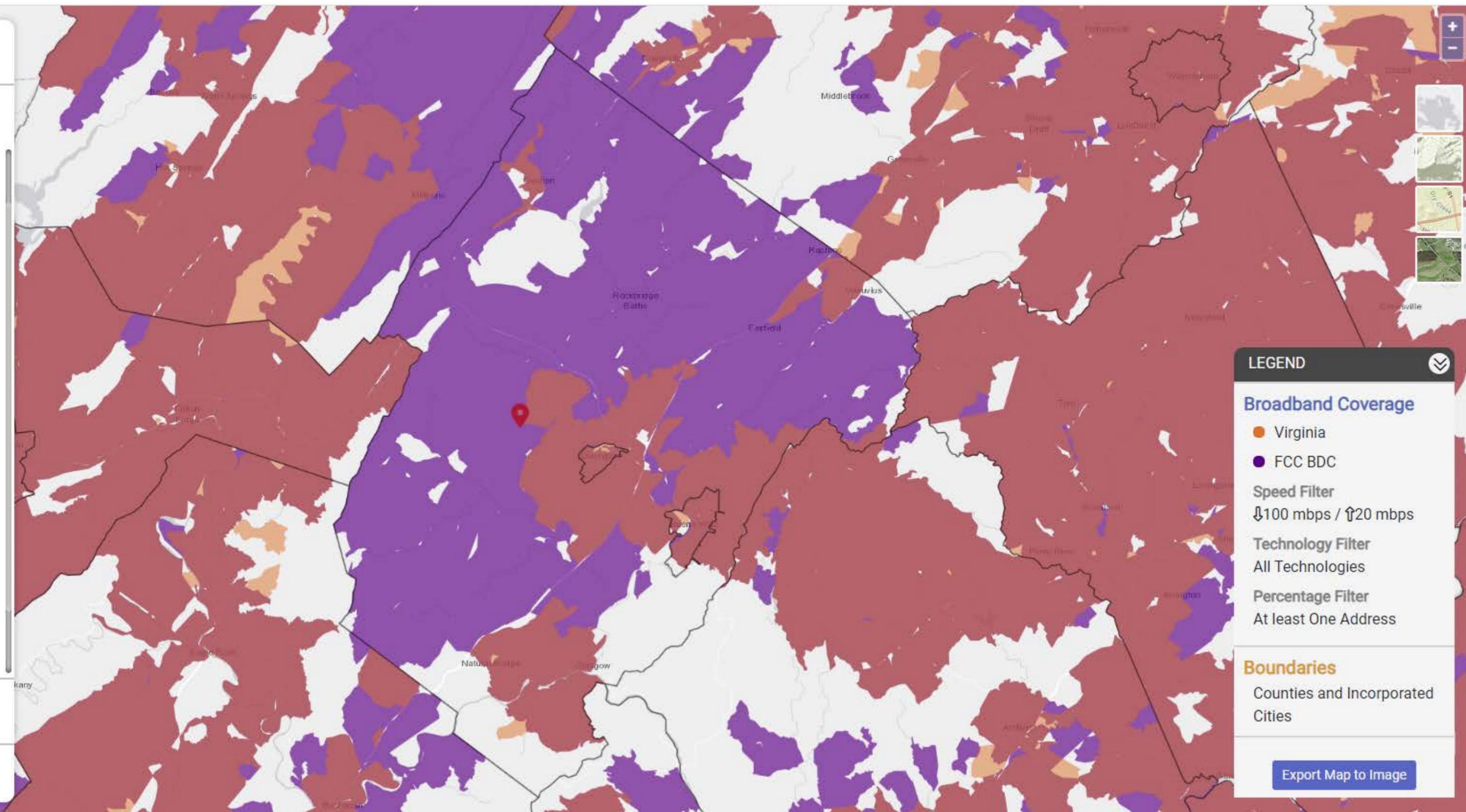
- Any Broadband Technology**
- Cable DSL/Copper
- Fiber Fixed Wireless

 **Broadband Coverage**
Broadband Coverage in Census Blocks

- At least one address**
- 80%

 **Boundaries**
Census, Counties/Cities, Government Districts

 **Assets and Programs**
WiFi, Towers, State and Non-Profit Programs



LEGEND

Broadband Coverage

- Virginia
- FCC BDC

Speed Filter
↓100 mbps / ↑20 mbps

Technology Filter
All Technologies

Percentage Filter
At least One Address

Boundaries
Counties and Incorporated Cities

2023 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Passing Form

Type of Passings	Total Number of Passings in the Project Area ¹	Passings in the Project Area, without Special Construction Costs Required ²	Passings with Special Construction Costs budgeted in the Application ³	Number of Passings with Speeds at 25/3 or below in Project Area ⁴
Residential	344			344
Businesses (non-home based)	6			6
Businesses (home-based)	36			36
Community Anchors	0			
Non-residential	7			7
Total	392			392

Note: The Total Number of Passings **MUST** be equal to the Residential, Business (non-home based), Non-residential and Community Anchors sum.

Note: Do not include passings in RDOF awarded areas that were awarded to the co-applicant; these passings should be included in the RDOF Passings Form. Passings included in this application in RDOF awarded areas that were not awarded to the co-applicant, unless successfully challenged, are considered unserved and should be counted as passings in this form.

¹The total number of structures in the project area that can receive service. See definition of passing below for more detail.

²The number of structures in the project area that will not require special construction costs to provide service to. These passings fall within the broadband provider's standard service connection drop length and do not require nonstandard equipment or any additional fees above normal service connection fees required to provide broadband access to a premise.

³The number of structures in the project area with all construction costs budgeted in the application. These passings will not require any additional special construction costs beyond those budgeted for in the VATI application.

⁴The number of structures in the project area that do not have access to internet at speeds of at least 25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload.

Definitions

Passing – any structure that can receive service. Multi-unit structures may be counted as more than 1 passing, provided individual connections and account are planned at that structure.

Business – An organization or entity that provides goods or services in order to generate profit. Businesses based in residential homes can count if they are a registered business (BPOL, LLC, etc.).

Community Anchor - schools, libraries, medical and health care providers, public safety entities, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income, unemployed, and the aged.

Non-Residential Passing – places of worship, federal, state, or local facilities or other potential customers that are neither a residence, business or a community anchor as defined above.

2023 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)

RDOF Passings Form BARC

Type of Passings	Total Number of Passings in the Project Area that lie within Preliminarily Awarded RDOF Areas ¹
Residential	10
Businesses (non-home based)	
Businesses (home-based)	1
Community Anchors	
Non-residential	1
Total Number of RDOF Passings	12

*Note: The Total Number of RDOF Passings **MUST** be equal to the Residential, Business (non-home based), Non-residential and Community Anchors sum.*

Definitions

Passing – any structure that can receive service. Multi-unit structures may be counted as more than 1 passing, provided individual connections and account are planned at that structure.

Business – An organization or entity that provides goods or services in order to generate profit. Businesses based in residential homes can count if they are a registered business (BPOL, LLC, etc.).

Community Anchor - schools, libraries, medical and health care providers, public safety entities, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income, unemployed, and the aged.

Non-Residential Passing – places of worship, federal, state, or local facilities or other potential customers that are neither a residence, business or a community anchor as defined above.

Attachment 7 - Timeline/Project Management Plan

- Months 1-4: Make-ready engineering (MRE).
 - Gather GPS coordinates for all planned poles and customer locations.
 - Perform a make-ready assessment for attachment to each pole.
 - Generate work orders to replace necessary poles and make on-pole adjustments.
 - Work with other pole attachers to clear any existing make-ready violations (clearance issues) prior to construction.
- Months 1-7: Fiber design.
 - Use the MRE data to prepare fiber design plans and prints for fiber construction, including construction maps, splice diagrams and bills of material (BOMs).
- Months 1-12: Material acquisition.
 - Prepare an initial bill of materials (BOM) needed for the start of fiber construction. Additional BOMs will be created during the fiber construction process to provide the necessary materials for construction.
 - Due to supply chain delays, some material may take additional time to receive for construction.
- Months 4-16: Community Notifications / Meetings.
 - Active community meetings to explain the timeframe for construction; services available; and information on how to sign up for service.
 - Incentives for attending community meetings, including a free service drop for fiber service.
- Months 5-24: Fiber construction; testing.
 - Bid/award fiber construction contract.
 - Construct the fiber network, including laterals and drops to customer homes/businesses.
 - Project manage and perform quality control checks during fiber construction.
 - To ensure quality of service, BARC will continuously test service for speed and reliability.
- Months 6-24: Customer installations.
 - Customer Service will schedule installations with customers to have on-site technicians complete installation process connecting customers to broadband service.

VATI Applicant and Co-Applicant Agreement

This agreement is made on December 11, 2023 between **Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors**, 150 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450, and **BARC Electric Cooperative (BARC)**, 84 High Street, Millboro, Virginia 24460 (“BARC”)

RECITALS:

- A. Whereas, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be implementing the 2024 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant program; and
- B. Whereas, the primary objective of the VATI is to provide financial assistance to supplement construction costs by private sector broadband service providers, in partnership with local units of government to extend service to areas that presently are unserved by any broadband provider; and
- C. Whereas, applications must be submitted by a unit of government (Towns, Cities, Counties, EDA/IDA, Broadband/Wireless Authorities, Planning District Commissions, etc.) with a private sector provider(s) as a co-applicant; and
- D. Whereas, Rockbridge County, as the Applicant, has designated BARC as the co-applicant, and
- E. Whereas, Rockbridge County, and BARC will partner for a grant application for the VATI grant program to serve areas in Rockbridge County.
- F. Whereas Rockbridge County and BARC will collaborate to leverage proposed middle-mile infrastructure to extend broadband internet to unserved populations throughout the County.

NOW, therefore, the parties agree that they will uphold the following responsibilities:

Rockbridge County:

1. Rockbridge County, through an agreement with the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) will act as fiscal agent for the project and maintain accurate records of the financial expenditures of the VATI monies, including, but not limited to financial reports, monthly funding draws; approval of BARC expenditures and invoices, documentation of matching funds, distribution of funds, etc.; and
2. Through an agreement with Rockbridge County, the CSPDC will provide overall grant management of the VATI project and provide coordination and administration of the project by working as a liaison between the County, BARC, and DHCD.
3. Through an agreement with Rockbridge County, the CSPDC will provide assistance with GIS mapping and project performance reporting.

BARC:

1. Will provide the required information for the management of the VATI grant, including, but not limited to progress reports and monthly invoices; and
2. Will provide the required documents to the County for zoning and permit applications; and
3. Will design, engineer, construct and implement broadband services as designated in the VATI application by the grant deadline, and
4. Will guarantee that the standard bandwidth offerings for the project meet the minimum speed requirements set by DHCD's VATI program.

This agreement will terminate when DHCD notifies the Rockbridge County that all grant requirements have been satisfied.

Witness the following authorized signatures on behalf of the parties:

12/11/23
Date

By:



Spencer Suter
Administrator, Rockbridge County

12/11/2023

Date

By:



Bill Buchanan
CEO, BARC Electric Cooperative

VATI FUNDING SOURCES TABLE

Please fill in the chart below with a description of the project funding source (local, federal, state, private, other), the amount from that source, the percentage of total project funding that source represents, and a description of the current status of the funds (pending, secured, etc.).

Source	Amount	%	Status
REQUESTED VATI	\$ 1,255,199	42%	Pending
BARC	\$ 836,799	28%	COMMITTED
ROCKBRIDGE	\$ 896,570	30%	COMMITTED
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
TOTAL	\$ 2,988,568	100%	



www.co.rockbridge.va.us

SPENCER H. SUTER
County Administrator
Office: (540) 463-1460
Fax: (540) 463-4346
ssuter@rockbridgecountyva.gov

County of Rockbridge

Office of the County Administrator

150 South Main Street
Lexington, Virginia 24450

County Board of Supervisors

LESLIE E. AYERS
Buffalo
Magisterial District

DANIEL E. LYONS
Kerrs Creek
Magisterial District

DAVID B. MCDANIEL
Natural Bridge
Magisterial District

R. W. DAY
South River
Magisterial District

A.J. "JAY" LEWIS, II
Walkers Creek
Magisterial District

December 16, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Virginia Department of Housing
& Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

Re: Letter of Commitment for RockbridgeCounty 2024 VATI Application - **BARC**

Dear Dr. Holmes:

On behalf of the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors, I am happy to submit a 2024 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative ("VATI") application to achieve universal broadband coverage in Rockbridge County. This is one of three applications being submitted by the County with our partners, Brightspeed, BARC Connects and Verizon.

In line with the Governor's universal broadband initiative in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Rockbridge County proposes to partner with BARC to develop and implement last mile fiber to approximately 404 homes and businesses in the unserved areas of the County. This project will provide critical broadband services that will enhance the quality of life and help stimulate the economy in this rural region.

Let this letter confirm that the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors has approved \$896,579 in local American Rescue Program Funds to match the VATI funds in this application. Furthermore, if VATI funding requested in this application is awarded, co-applicant BARC is committing to make investments representing no less than 28% of the total cost of this project.

Please be assured of Rockbridge County's complete support of this application and our appreciation for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your consideration of this effort, which is critical for so many of our residents.

Spencer Suter
Rockbridge County Administrator



Ms. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Letter of Support for Rockbridge County 2024 VATI Application
and Match Certification

Dear Dr. Holmes:

BARC Connects is pleased to submit our continued support for Rockbridge County's efforts to extend broadband service to all county residents. BARC Connects, and its parent company BARC Electric Cooperative, has been building out a fiber network to a large portion of rural Rockbridge County, as well as other counties served by BARC Electric Cooperative, for the past six years. We stay dedicated to the efforts of providing universal broadband to the homes and businesses of Rockbridge.

In accordance with the universal broadband initiative in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Rockbridge County proposes to partner with BARC Connects to develop and implement last mile fiber to 404 homes and businesses in the unserved areas of the County. This project will provide critical broadband services that will enhance the quality of life and help stimulate the economy in this rural region.

Furthermore, this letter confirms that if VATI funding requested in this application is awarded, BARC is committing to make investments (matching funds) up to \$836,807.00, depending on the match provided through the engineering, design and construction of the projects submitted in our joint application. Our matching funds represent 28% of the total project cost. Activities that will be paid for with these funds include equipment purchases, contractual services, outside plant materials, and fiber construction, among other things.

Please be assured of BARC Connect's complete support of this application and of our appreciation for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Buchanan
CEO – BARC Electric Cooperative / BARC Connects

CDBG Derivation of Cost

Product	Total	VATI	Non-VATI	Source of Estimate
Access equipment (OLT, Cabinets, rectifiers, GPON shelves, GPON cards, optics)	\$ 70,700	\$ 29,694	\$ 41,006	BARC actual cost for ODC-100 with Calix E7
Customer premise equipment, and materials and labor for in-home installations (indoor ONTs, inside wiring, terminators, CAT-6 cabling, contractor labor)	\$ 174,200	\$ 73,164	\$ 101,036	BARC actual and average cost
Right-of-way clearing	\$ 284,674	\$ 119,563	\$ 165,111	BARC estimate based on current ROW spending
Fiber engineering and construction (includes make-ready engineering, make-ready construction, fiber design, and contractor construction labor and materials)	\$ 2,211,024	\$ 928,630	\$ 1,282,394	BARC Actual Costs & Consulting Engineer Estimates
Service drop construction, commercial & residential (includes fiber and mounting hardware to building exterior)	\$ 227,970	\$ 95,747	\$ 132,223	BARC estimate based on current spending and average costs
Contingency for cost overruns, unknown/unforeseen costs, rock adders, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	BARC Estimate (5%)
Costs already incurred on VATI work areas	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	BARC Actual Costs
Grant Administration	\$ 20,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 11,600	CSPDC quote
Totals	\$ 2,988,568	\$ 1,255,198	\$ 1,733,370	

CDBG Derivation of Cost

Attachment 13 – Documentation of Supporting Cost Estimates

BARC primarily utilizes three sources for developing cost estimates when evaluating fiber construction. The first source is based on our own experiences with fiber construction in our specific geographic areas. This allows us to utilize average project costs that we have incurred over the past 12 to 18 months. The second source we utilize is our consulting engineering firm Vantage Point Solutions based out of Mitchell, SD. With over 20 years of serving rural telecommunications and electric cooperatives across the country, their costs estimates are both nationally and regionally based on actual project costs of their clients and their associations with industry manufacturers and vendors. The third source we utilize for cost estimates is a contract bid process once a project has been approved by our board of directors. The bids are reviewed and selected based on the established criteria of the project. Currently we are completing our most recent contract with Henkels and McCoy. Under the current rate sheet we can estimate pricing based on a project scope and size. Due to labor increases, supply chain challenges and the current demand for contract services, we anticipate the future costs being higher than our current rates. BARC can make available a more detailed rate structure / cost estimate if requested.



CITY OF BUENA VISTA

2039 Sycamore Avenue
Buena Vista, Virginia 24416
Telephone: 540 - 261 - 8601
Fax: 540 - 261-2142
Office of the City Manager

December 4, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI / BEAD Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

The City of Buena Vista fully supports Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI and BEAD applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

Access to quality broadband is a priority for Buena Vista. While our city enjoys quality broadband connectivity, many of our staff, students, and employers live outside our city limits in Rockbridge County and it is vitally important that they have access at home as well. Further, the City of Buena Vista is committed to the betterment of the larger community and believes that access to broadband is critical for health, education and commerce.

We urge you to consider awarding Rockbridge County and its partners the grant funding required to achieve universal broadband access for all in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Tyree", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Tyree
City Manager
City of Buena Vista, Virginia



December 14, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI/BEAD Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

The City of Lexington offers our full support of Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI and BEAD applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

Access to quality broadband is a priority for the City of Lexington. Many of our staff, students, and employers live outside of the city in Rockbridge County and it is essential that they have access at home as well. Access to quality broadband is also essential to our economic development, attracting better jobs and new residents. Many facets of our community, such as healthcare, education, retail, tourism, local government, and public safety, heavily rely on internet access. Further, the City of Lexington is committed to the advancement of the community as a whole and believes that access to broadband is critical for health, education, and commerce.

We urge you to consider awarding Rockbridge County, and its partners, the grant funding required to achieve universal broadband access for all in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James M. Halasz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James M. Halasz
City Manager
Lexington, Virginia



TOWN OF GLASGOW, VIRGINIA



December 10, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI / BEAD Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

The Town of Glasgow fully supports Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI and BEAD applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County. We are thrilled that Glasgow is included in the Rockbridge/Brightspeed application.

Residents and businesses in and around the Town of Glasgow would benefit greatly from the support of the Commonwealth, as we collectively seek to provide quality broadband services to all. Our citizens deserve access to distance learning, telehealth services, business assistance and all other benefits which broadband provides.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of the County's 2024 VATI applications and urge you to award them for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,

Paul Williams
Mayor
Town of Glasgow, Virginia

Phillip Thompson, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent



Timothy J. Martino, M.Ed.
Assistant Superintendent

November 5, 2023

Dr. Tamara Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
VA Department of Housing
and Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

Without reservation, please accept this letter as endorsement of Rockbridge County's VATI applications to increase internet availability to currently unserved homes throughout Rockbridge County.

Online access for students, teachers, and parents has never been more critical for Rockbridge County. As the pandemic introduces wider-scale distance learning for students and work-from-home for teachers, our rural, dispersed population in Rockbridge County continues to struggle with spotty and unreliable internet coverage, especially in far reaches of the county. The universal broadband plan outlined in the County's 2024 applications would have a tremendous positive impact in our ability to educate children in the Rockbridge County Public School System.

Please be assured of Rockbridge County Public School's complete support of this application, and, on behalf of the students, teachers, and parents, of our appreciation for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Phillip Thompson'.

Phillip Thompson, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450-0304

Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Support

Phone 540-464-7321

Fax 540-464-7169

6 December 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI / BEAD Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

Virginia Military Institute (VMI) fully supports Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI and BEAD applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

VMI's Post (campus) has benefitted from previous efforts undertaken by Rockbridge County and the City of Lexington, to bring quality broadband service to our area. However, as an active participant in our larger community, VMI leadership recognizes that many areas of Rockbridge County remain unserved, including areas where VMI faculty and staff reside and their families. Further, the addition of broadband throughout the community facilitates recruitment of new faculty and staff with expanded real estate opportunities to purchase a home that can be served by quality broadband services.

We have and will continue to support Rockbridge County in many collaborative efforts and wish to see broadband connectivity extended to every home and business in our community.

Please consider awarding Rockbridge County and its partners the grant funding required to achieve universal broadband access.

Sincerely,



Dallas B. Clark

Brigadier General

Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Support



WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

December 4, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI / BEAD Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

Washington and Lee University (W&L) fully supports Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI and BEAD applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

Access to quality broadband has been a priority for W&L for many years. In fact, in 2011, we partnered with Rockbridge County, the City of Buena Vista and the City of Lexington to create the Rockbridge Network Authority (RANA). With assistance of an NTIA grant, RANA extended middle mile to many community anchor institutions throughout the three localities, and served as a catalyst to spur last mile connectivity in many parts of the County.

While the W&L campus has been well-served by this initiative, many of our faculty and staff live in areas of the County with no or poor access to broadband. As such, we urge you to help leverage prior efforts, and consider awarding Rockbridge County and its partners the grant funding required to achieve universal broadband access.

Sincerely,



Steve McAllister
Vice President for Finance
and Treasurer

Founded in 1749



1000 College Drive | Clifton Forge, VA 24422
35 Vista Links Rd | Buena Vista, VA 24422

December 4, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI/BEAD Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

Mountain Gateway Community College (MGCC) fully supports Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI and BEAD applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

As with most Virginia Community Colleges, MGCC students do not live on campus. Thus, quality broadband in the home is critical for students to complete their course of study. Further, MGCC is committed to the larger community that we serve and access to quality broadband is essential for the health and wellbeing of our citizens and to promote education and commerce. Broadband has become a basic necessity for all citizens.

We urge you to consider awarding Rockbridge County and its partners the grant funding required to achieve universal broadband access for all in our community.

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Rainone".

John J. Rainone, Ed.D.
President



Office of University Development

development@svu.edu

540-261-8444

December 4, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI / BEAD Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

Southern Virginia University (SVU) is in full support of Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI and BEAD applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

Access to reliable high-speed internet is a necessity for the success of our students, but for our faculty and staff as well. Southern Virginia University is an Apple Distinguished School that provides a consistent technology bundle to all students, faculty and staff including an iPad pro, keyboard and Apple pencil. We are actively working to close the digital divide in our community by leveling the playing field for students of all backgrounds through equitable access to technology. While we provide equitable hardware, providing equitable internet access is outside of our control with students, and faculty and staff living in rural areas of the county without access to high-speed internet.

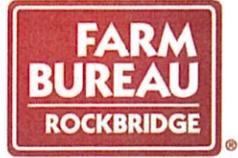
Universal access to broadband access across all of Rockbridge County would truly leverage the entire community. We hope you will join with us by giving Rockbridge County the opportunity to obtain universal access to high-speed broadband internet while we continue to lift our university community through equitable access to technology.

Thank you for considering Rockbridge County for this life-changing opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William D. Braddy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William D. Braddy
Office of Development
Southern Virginia University



Rockbridge County Farm Bureau

November 24, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Support of Rockbridge County 2024 VATI Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

The Rockbridge County Farm Bureau fully supports Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes, farms and other businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

In a rapidly changing business environment, farmer and their families rely on a fast, consistent broadband connection, which is not yet available to many of our members. Farming is a cornerstone of Rockbridge County's economy, providing an economic engine while also feeding families both within and outside our borders and providing employment opportunities at home.

Via our meetings and frequent communications, we will gladly commit to actively market and promote broadband opportunities to our membership and all in the Rockbridge farming community, upon award of these greatly needed funds to expand services. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our needs in Rockbridge County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mack Smith".

Mack Smith – President
Rockbridge County Farm Bureau



December 7, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI / BEAD Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital (CRBH) fully supports Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI and BEAD applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

Tele-Health is increasingly critical in the provision of medical services in rural areas such as Rockbridge. CRBH works closely with Rockbridge County to ensure access to health services. Unfortunately, many residents and businesses still do not have adequate connectivity and speeds to support telehealth and provide readily accessible access to medical service providers and pharmaceutical resources. It is critical that we work together to extend quality broadband access to every corner of Rockbridge County. This is especially important for children, seniors and the economically disadvantaged.

Please consider awarding Rockbridge County and its partners the grant funding to achieve universal broadband access, making access to medical resources available to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Madsen", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Greg Madsen, Administrator



www.rockbridgecountyva.gov

Brandy Flint
Director of Economic
Development
Office: (540) 463-1473
Fax: (540) 463-5981
bflint@rockbridgecountyva.gov

County of Rockbridge

Office of Economic Development

150 South Main Street

Lexington, Virginia 24450

Rockbridge County
Economic Development
Authority

BARTON "BOYD" BROWN II,
CHAIRMAN

DAVID HAWKINS,
VICE-CHAIR

JANIE HARRIS

ANNE HERRING

ROY POWELL

STACY STEVENS

October 18, 2023

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23210

RE: Rockbridge County 2024 VATI Application s

Dear Dr. Holmes,

The economic prosperity of Rockbridge is intricately tied to the imperative need for broadband access. The Rockbridge County Economic Development Authority wholeheartedly endorses Rockbridge County's 2024 VATI applications aimed at providing ubiquitous broadband connectivity to the numerous underserved homes and businesses scattered across the county.

The growth and success of businesses in this region are inextricably linked to the availability of dependable and universally accessible internet services, which regrettably remain insufficient across Rockbridge County. Numerous businesses within the county operate from the confines of their homes, specifically in areas deemed "last-mile" locations targeted for coverage in this application. In this context, broadband connectivity plays an indispensable role in fortifying our small businesses, fostering economic diversification, and facilitating job creation and retention within the areas of Rockbridge, Lexington, and Buena Vista.

The Rockbridge County Economic Development Authority fervently endorses these applications with the firm belief that their realization will serve as a catalyst for business expansion, while concurrently nurturing community and economic development within the heart of Rockbridge County.

Sincerely,

Boyd Brown
Chair
Rockbridge County Economic Development Authority

Last updated 12/06/2023

This map shows all broadband serviceable locations within Virginia labeled by BEAD eligibility and funding status.

BEAD ELIGIBILITY
This filter allows you to see which locations are eligible and ineligible for BEAD Funding

- Unserved
- Underpermed
- Served
- Funded

CHALLENGE STATUS

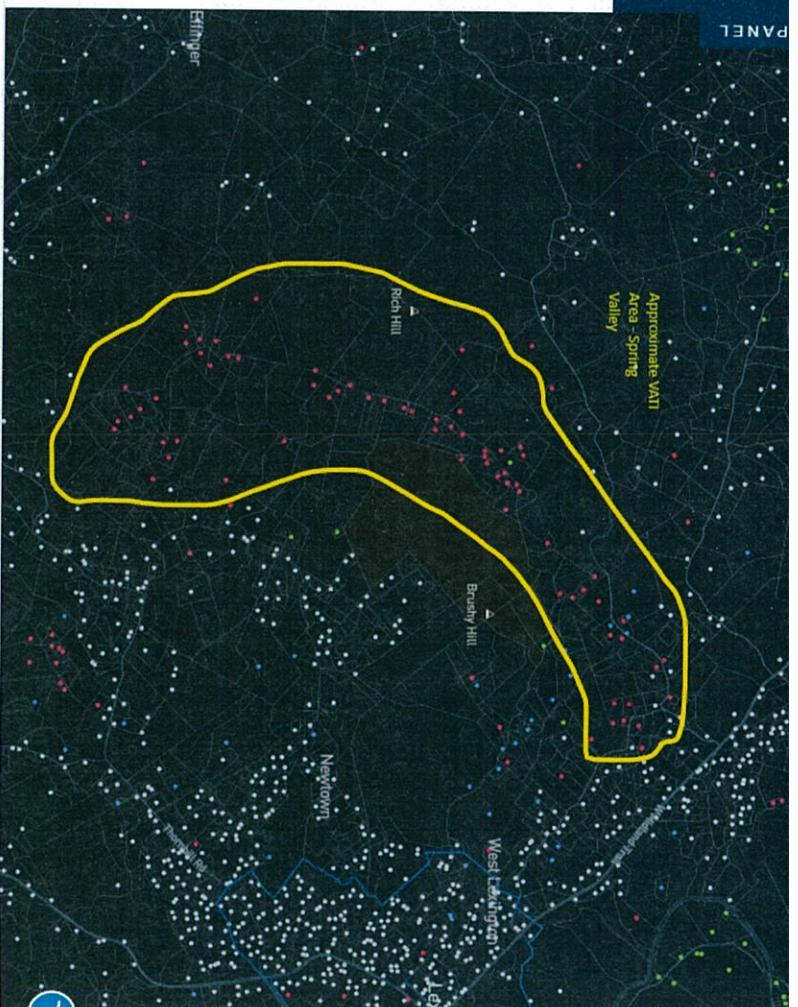
- Unchallenged
- Challenged
- Rebutted
- Adjudicated

BUILDING TYPE

- Residential
- Business
- Residential & Business
- Enterprise
- Group Quarters

COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

- Schools
- Higher Education
- Library
- Government Buildings
- Healthcare Provider
- Public Safety
- Community Support Org
- Public Housing



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

Last updated 12/06/2023

This map shows all broadband serviceable locations within Virginia labeled by BEAD eligibility and funding status.

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This filter allows you to see which locations are eligible and ineligible for BEAD Funding

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- Funded

CHALLENGE STATUS

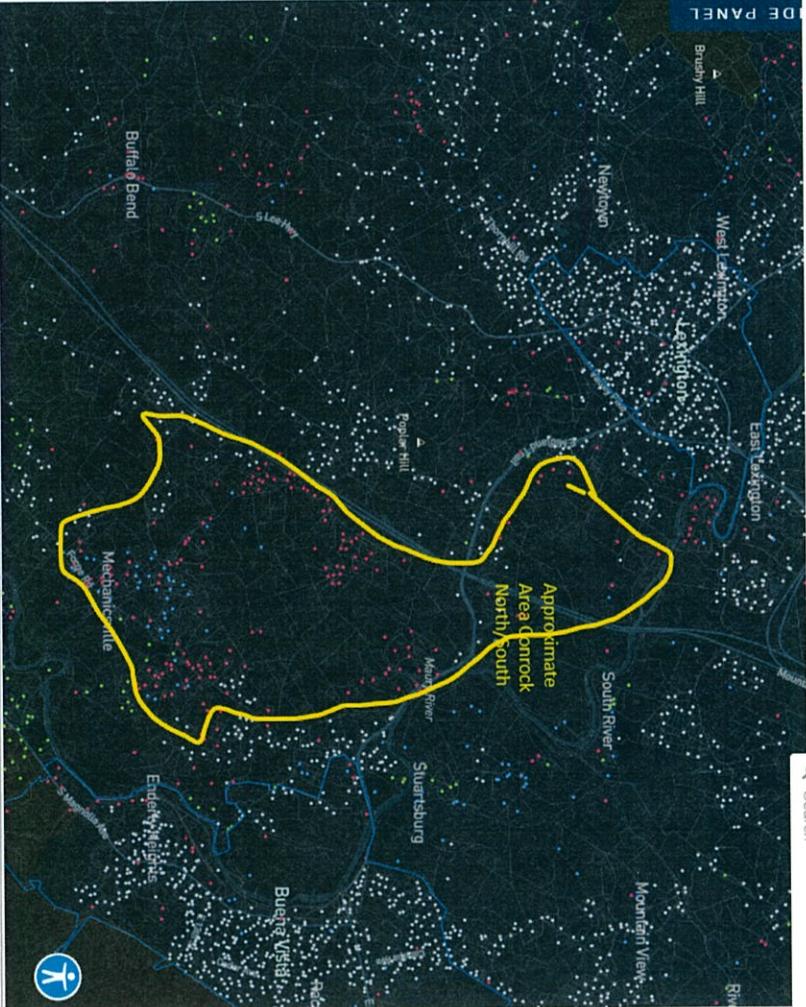
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- Public Housing



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

Last updated 12/06/2023

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BEAD ELIGIBILITY
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- Rebutted
- Adjudicated

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COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

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