

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
 UNAPPROVED MINUTES
 December 4, 2020
 2:00 PM
 Digital Meeting via Google Meets

Members Present

The Honorable Brian Ball (Proxy by Evan Feinman)
 Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair
 James Carr
 Mike Culp
 Senator Ghazala Hashmi
 Kristie Helmick Proctor
 Delegate Chris Hurst
 Mike Keyser
 Delegate Paul E. Krizek
 Ray LaMura
 Delegate James A. Leftwich, Jr.
 Senator Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.
 Steve Sandy
 Richard Schollman
 The Honorable Bettina K. Ring
 Delegate Roslyn C. Tyler, Vice Chair
 Senator Lynwood W. Lewis

Members Absent

Call to Order	Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
COVID-19 Virtual Meeting Statement	Mr. Chandler Vaughan, Policy Analyst for the Office of Broadband at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), announced that due to the Governor's Declared State of Emergency due to COVID-19, it is impracticable and unsafe for the Broadband Advisory Council to assemble in a single location, so the council meeting will be held electronically, by video conference and telephone options, pursuant to 2020 Amendments to the 2020 Appropriation Act. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Commission on Local Government and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. The public is welcome to use the link and phone number options made available by staff to attend the meeting electronically. The Commission on Local Government will make available a recording or transcript of the meeting on its website in

	accordance with the timeframes established in Sections 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3701.1 of the Code of Virginia.
Roll Call	Mr. Vaughan called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Public Comment	<p>Catharine Rice, Chair of the City of Alexandria’s IT Commission, spoke in favor of allowing broadband authorities to apply directly to the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) without investment from the private sector.</p> <p>Sherri Neil, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager for the City of Portsmouth, noting the need for broadband access, supported the options of the Broadband Advisory Council that would allow broadband authorities to apply directly to VATI funds without a private sector partner.</p> <p>Pat Coady, resident of the Eastern Shore, noting his experience in broadband infrastructure expansion, spoke in support of allowing broadband authorities to apply for VATI funds without investment from the private sector.</p> <p>David Ludwig, resident of Albemarle County, regarding the items likely to be considered in the 2021 General Assembly Session, spoke in favor of a Dig Once Policy, requiring applicable parties to deploy broadband infrastructure when actively working on their right-of-way.</p>
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made by Mr. Feinman, Chief Broadband Advisor, and properly seconded by Delegate Hurst to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2020 meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed (Yea: Hurst, Leftwich, Krizek, Tyler, Hashmi, Boysko, Lewis, Carr, Proctor, Keyser, LaMura, Sandy, Culp, Schollman, Ring, Feinman; Nay: None)
Overview of Options to Recommend to House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriation Committee Chairs	Mr. Feinman provided an overview of budget language directing the Broadband Advisory Council to evaluate a possible policy change to allow public broadband authorities to apply directly for VATI funds without investment from the private sector. Mr. Feinman also presented potential options to the Broadband Advisory Council concerning the budget language directive.

<p>Budget Language Recommendation</p>	<p>After discussion and several motions that were withdrawn, a motion was made by Delegate Krizek and properly seconded by Steve Sandy to recommend to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriation Committee Chairs that they direct the Department of Housing and Community Development to create a pilot program within VATI, with awards not to exceed 10% of total available VATI funds in FY22, to which public broadband authorities may apply without investment from the private sector. The motion passed (Yea: Hurst, Leftwich, Krizek, Tyler, Hashmi, Boysko, Lewis, Carr, Proctor, LaMura, Sandy, Culp, Schollman, Ring, Feinman; Nay: Keyser)</p>
<p>Items likely to be considered in the 2021 Session</p>	<p>Mr. Feinman provided an overview of potential items to be considered in the 2021 legislative session, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail crossings • Municipal broadband • Broadband authorities • Pole attachments • Unserved/Underserved definitions • Mapping
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Upon a motion made by Delegate Krizek and seconded by Delegate Leftwich, the meeting was adjourned.</p>