

Application to DHCD Submitted through CAMS

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

Application ID: 95707192022143202
Application Status: Pending
Program Name: Virginia Telecommunication Initiative 2023 - Application
Organization Name: Rockbridge County
Organization Address: 150 S. Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
Profile Manager Name: Brandy Flint
Profile Manager Phone: (540) 463-1473
Profile Manager Email: bflint@rockbridgecountyva.gov

Project Name: Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project
Project Contact Name: Spencer Suter
Project Contact Phone: (540) 463-1460
Project Contact Email: ssuter@rockbridgecountyva.gov
Project Location: 150 South Main St
Lexington, VA 24450-2359
Project Service Area: Rockbridge County

Total Requested Amount: \$16,154,509.00
Required Annual Audit Status: Accepted

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Budget Information:

Cost/Activity Category	DHCD Request	Other Funding	Total
Telecommunications	\$16,154,509.00	\$8,006,698.00	\$24,161,207.00
Administration	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Construction	\$14,066,149.00	\$5,352,414.00	\$19,418,563.00
Construction Related Soft Costs	\$2,088,360.00	\$0.00	\$2,088,360.00
Other: Costs already incurred	\$0.00	\$1,398,724.00	\$1,398,724.00
Other: Contingency for cost overruns	\$0.00	\$1,205,560.00	\$1,205,560.00
Total:	\$16,154,509.00	\$8,006,698.00	\$24,161,207.00

Budget Narrative:

A detailed breakdown of the project budget is included in Attachment 12 – Derivation of Costs. Total Project cost is \$24,161,207. BARC is committed to a private match of \$5,304,466. Rockbridge County is committed to a local match of \$2,702,232 using ARPA funds.

Questions and Responses:

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:

Rockbridge County, Virginia (Rockbridge) received notice of application submission for the 2023 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative grants for the deployment of broadband infrastructure to enhance sustainability and growth of rural communities in the Commonwealth of Virginia by connecting unserved residents and businesses. Rockbridge recognized the value and economies of scale possible in working together with BARC Electric Cooperative (BARC) to submit a grant application to fully connect residents and businesses in the region providing universal, high-speed broadband access across the County.

Rockbridge County proposes to build on ten years of intense focus on rural broadband expansion in partnering with BARC to deploy access to broadband to unserved and underserved areas in the County. 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 \$60M 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 application consists of 11 project areas providing high-speed Internet to over 1,400 premises including premises located in remote, hard to reach areas with difficult topography. The project areas included in this application have been identified as unserved areas with opportunities to fill gaps in the County where a digital divide exists to further expand Fiber-To-The-premise (FTTP) network access. Specifically, the identified premises are in higher-cost areas where county residents have expressly contacted the applicant and co-applicant in desperation due to a lack of access to broadband.

As part of Rockbridge County's commitment to providing universal connectivity to reliable, affordable Internet service, the County has pledged over 90% of its ARPA funding to two separate grant applications with BARC and BrightSpeed.

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The County is providing an equal match percentage to each application.

Project Information:

1. Project seeking funding:

Fiber-To-The-premise (FTTp) middle and last mile

2. Number of premises to be served:

Total: 1,413

3. Maximum Deployment Speed/ package tier offerings:

1 Gbps/1 Gbps

4. Total Project cost:

Total: \$ 24,161,207

5. Non-VATI resources:

BARC: \$5,304,466

Rockbridge: \$2,702,232

Total - \$8,006,698

6. Project partners or subcontractors: BARC Electric Cooperative (BARC), Dominion Energy (DOM)

7. Projected completion date: January 2025

BARC is the main electric service provider in Rockbridge County and was the first electric cooperative in Virginia to form a subsidiary broadband Internet service provider. Dominion Energy (Dominion) is also an electric service provider for the area and has capability to build middle-mile fiber to assist in reaching unserved residents and businesses outside of BARC's electric service territory. BARC is working with Dominion in five identified areas included in this submission to leverage middle-mile fiber deployment from Dominion, where BARC will provide last-mile fiber service to consumers in these project areas that would not otherwise be financially feasible. Also, BARC will leverage its own last-mile fiber deployment within its service area to extend fiber to areas still yet to be served by broadband.

The unified goal of all partners is to connect all remaining unserved residences and businesses in Rockbridge County to provide universal connectivity to high-speed Internet by using BARC's fiber network. This project will complete BARC's goal of 100% ubiquitous broadband service available to all BARC consumers in Rockbridge County. Rockbridge County has had difficulty obtaining comprehensive data from ISPs to determine the full extent of any remaining unserved areas beyond the scope of this application and has included all areas in the County that it deems as unserved or underserved.

Rockbridge County is the applicant for this proposal including private partners BARC and Dominion. Additionally, Rockbridge County is the applicant for a separate grant application with BrightSpeed including project areas that are not a part of this application with BARC. In working with both BARC and BrightSpeed in grant application submissions, Rockbridge County should achieve universal Internet connectivity for all residents and businesses located in its jurisdiction. All applicants have worked together to identify areas unserved by 100/20 Internet speeds for this proposed project area utilizing the most current Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) map and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) maps, DHCD's Virginia Broadband Availability Map, attempting outreach to other ISPs, and speaking with residents in the proposed project areas.

The answer to this question is continued on Attachment 18 - Question 1 Continued.

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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:

Rockbridge County conducted extensive research and has knowledge of the unserved areas, however, to have a “challenge-free” objective proposal, the County attempted outreach to known ISPs offering broadband service. The County was unable to obtain enough data from those outreach efforts to ensure a challenge-free proposal. 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 County attempted outreach to service providers known to provide Internet service in the County. Existing providers include BARC Connects, Virginia Technology Services (VTS), Comcast, Century Link, ShenTel, Lumos, and Ting. Rockbridge County attempted to discern areas already served at a level at least 100/20. In doing so, Rockbridge County removed the BARC Connects, RANA and VTS areas which are either built or are planned to be built via other funding sources. Rockbridge reached out to Comcast and Lumen, achieving some success in identifying and eliminating some areas served by Comcast. Due to the lack of additional information, Rockbridge does not have complete data on existing coverage levels or area of coverage as Comcast and Lumen are private companies that do not make this information public. The County then referenced maps that are publicly available from CIT and DHCD’s Virginia Broadband Availability Map to further determine the types of coverage and areas, overlaid against the unserved areas identified.

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:

To accompany the existing provider map is Attachment 2 – Documentation of Federal Funding Area showing the CAF and RDOF funded areas in Rockbridge County. As shown, 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 5, RDOF Awarded Areas Form in VATI areas. 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 5, BARC has been awarded Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) funds. BARC has identified 159 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

Effinger-Big Hill

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	56	
		511639303003
Spring Valley		
	5	
		511639303002
Conrock North		
	0	
		N/A
Conrock South		
	0	
		N/A
Brownsburg		
	43	
		511639302001
Steele's Tavern-Vesuvius		
	23	
		511639301001
Stuartsburg Road		
	9	
		511639301002
Still House Road		
	13	
		511639303005

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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 attempted outreach to service providers known to provide service in the County and discern areas already served at a level at least 100/20. In doing so, Rockbridge removed the BARC Connects, RANA and VTS areas that are built or are planned to be built via other funding sources Rockbridge reached out to Comcast. and Lumen. As Brightspeed is associated with Lumen we were able to work together to identify unserved areas. 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 and DHCD to further determine the types of coverage and areas, overlaid against the unserved areas identified by both available maps. There potentially are areas within census blocks that are considered served but are not actually served and have been included in the application.

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.
- a. Of the total number of VATI passings, provide the number of residential, business, non-residential, and community anchors in the proposed project area.
- 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.
- 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. Describe the methodology used for these projections.
- 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. Describe the methodology used for determining which passings with special construction costs were budgeted in the application.
- e. 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:

This application consists of 11 project areas that are unserved both inside and outside of BARC's electric service territory passing a total of 1,413 premises. As part of this project, BARC and Dominion will partner in the non-BARC electric service areas to deploy FTTP. As identified in the five project areas below, BARC is engaging Dominion to provide middle-mile fiber and BARC will deploy last-mile fiber. The remaining 6 project areas will be completed by BARC to deploy last-mile FTTP.

A) Of the total number of VATI passings, included are 1,382 residences; 18 businesses; and 13 community anchors including 4 educational and 9 local government institutions. Additionally, there are several agribusiness premises throughout the planned project areas that will benefit from broadband technology. BARC used electric meter information for each premise it serves and worked with Rockbridge County to plot service address locations to determine the number of serviceable units in the unserved portion of Rockbridge County. BARC found 1,413 unserved consumers including both residential and commercial.

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B) There are 159 RDOF passings of residential consumers in the proposed project areas. These premises consist of residential and agribusiness.

C) Due to access and premise location, BARC has identified a total of 18 premises that require special construction costs to provide access to broadband service. All 18 premises have been included in this grant application. In addition, BARC identified 47 premises in previously constructed project areas that will be part of a LECAP grant application. The methodology used to calculate projected costs was the number of feet in distance to build the drop to the premise and construction methods necessary to complete the fiber construction

D) The number of passings included in the application is 18 that will require special construction for broadband access. By using GIS information and data collection from both BARC and Dominion, these 18 passings were deemed not servable from either BARC or Dominion's power facilities. Calculations were based on terrain and construction methods necessary to construct fiber service to the premise.

E) The applicants chose to use the most current DHCD and FCC maps and focus on areas designated as unserved. Additionally, the applicants are using local knowledge not reflected in Attachment 3 maps. Finally, the applicants are not aware of any existing providers identified in the proposed project areas consistently and uniformly offering services above 100/20 where VATI funding is sought, and therefore no overlap of services exists. Attachment 3 – Documentation of Unserved Area VATI Criteria is attached. Also and as noted, the applicants are using local knowledge not reflected in Attachment 3 maps.

Below is a chart of Project Area identifying total mileage; unserved homes; unserved businesses; and total locations.

Project –Area

Total Mileage

Unserved Homes

Unserved Businesses

Total Unserved Locations

Additional Locations Outside Unserved Areas

Total Locations

BARC Electric Area – Spring Valley

12

96

3

99

-

99

BARC Electric Area – Buffalo Creek

9

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56

1

57

-

57

BARC Electric Area – Conrock North

19

221

7

228

-

228

BARC Electric Area – Conrock South

5

64

-

64

-

64

BARC Electric Area – Effinger / Big Hill

55

384

7

391

-

391

Brownsburg (with Dominion)

16.8

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	118
	4
	122
	-
	122
Stuartsburg (with Dominion)	
	10.2
	81
	1
	82
	-
	82
Rt. 11 South / Gilmores Mill (with Dominion)	
	19
	145
	-
	145
	-
	145
Steeles Tavern to Vesuvius (with Dominion)	
	11.95
	127
	4
	131
	-+
	131
Still House Road (with Dominion)	

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	10.08	
	47	
	47	
	-	
	47	
Boy Scout Camp / Goshen		
	6	
	43	
	4	
	47	
	47	
		Total
	174.03	
	1,382	
	31	
	1,413	
	1,413	

There are 159 RDOF passings of residential consumers in the proposed project areas.

Rockbridge County mapped the proposed project routes against areas identified by CIT and DHCD mapping as well as using data and mapping from both BARC and Dominion to identify premises as unserved by 100/20 Internet service in Rockbridge County. In addition, Rockbridge County attempted outreach to any possible existing ISPs regarding access to high-speed Internet service in the mapped areas deemed unserved.

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:

BARC has been awarded Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) funds. BARC has identified 159 passings in RDOF awarded areas within Project 1 of the VATI application area. Maps, including Census Block Group ID numbers for each

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block group in the project area are attached. Below is a chart that breaks out the total passings by area. A map of these areas is attached, Attachment 5 – RDOF Awarded Areas Form in VATI Area.

Project Area	RDOF Locations	CBG ID #
Buffalo Creek		10
		511639303001
Effinger-Big Hill		56
		511639303003
Spring Valley		5
		511639303002
Conrock North		0
		N/A
Conrock South		0
		N/A
Brownsburg		43
		511639302001
Steele's Tavern-Vesuvius		23

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511639301001

Stuartsburg Road

9

511639301002

Still House Road

13

511639303005

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:

No wireless infrastructure will be installed for this project.

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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 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:

50 Mbps download / 10 Mbps upload; Cost: \$60 per month
100 Mbps download / 50 Mbps upload; Cost \$70 per month
250 Mbps download / 125 Mbps upload; Cost \$80 per month
500 Mbps download / 250 Mbps upload; Cost \$150 per month
Gigabit 1,000 Mbps download / 1,000 Mbps upload; Cost \$500 per month

All service packages include one free fiber modem; one free wireless router; and **no data caps**.

In addition to reliable Internet service, BARC also offers phone packages to residential and business consumers who are interested in expanded broadband services.

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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, 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.

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. Also, in partnering with Dominion to build middle-mile fiber, costs can be reduced for BARC to continue last-mile fiber expansion to reach unserved and underserved areas. Additionally, Rockbridge County is the applicant for a separate grant application with BrightSpeed including project areas that are not a part of this application with BARC. In working with both BARC and BrightSpeed in grant application submissions, Rockbridge County will achieve universal Internet connectivity for all residents and business located in its jurisdiction. Funding of this grant 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. We intend to utilize the LECAP program to reach the 47 addresses identified in previously constructed project areas.

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. BARC proposes to deploy 174.03 total miles of gigabit last mile fiber infrastructure providing Fiber-To-The-Premise (FTTP) service to unserved residents and businesses. This fiber project expansion will pass 1,382 residents and 31 businesses and community anchors in Rockbridge. A total of 1,413 premises will be served through this project. 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.

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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)

Answer:

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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 10,000 homes, businesses and community anchors, and is underway with construction on an additional 70 miles by YE 2022. 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: 4 limited highway crossing (Route 60)
 - Conrock South: 2 Interstate 81 crossings
 - Stuartsburg: 1 railroad crossing; 2 river crossings
 - Vesuvius: 4 railroad crossings
 - Goshen: 1 spillway crossing – Lake Merriweather

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 Board of Supervisors, 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 and its EDA with grant administration and programmatic and financial record-keeping as well as providing coordination between the partners and DHCD. Attachment 8 – MOU/MOA between Applicant/Co-Applicant

Application to DHCD Submitted through CAMS

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

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. This project was significantly delayed due to a lack of response from officials with the Blue Ridge Parkway regarding a submitted permit request to cross park lands.

13. Matching funds: Complete the funding sources table indicating the cash match and inkind 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:

Attachment 9 – Funding Sources Table documents the cash match and in-kind resources from the co-applicants BARC and Rockbridge County. Attachment 10 Documentation of matching Funding outlines that BARC Electric Cooperative and its Board of Directors is committed to a cash match totaling \$5,304,466. These funds will be used for activities including equipment purchases, contractual services, outside plant materials, and fiber construction, among other items for the identified project area to unserved homes and businesses. These matching funds have been allocated in BARC's 2023 budget and any unspent funds will be carried forward into future fiscal years as necessary. A portion of these matching funds is anticipated to be provided by Dominion through its middle mile construction, but the exact extent is still yet to be determined. However, BARC is committed to matching the full amount should Dominion not participate at all in the project, which is unlikely to occur. The BARC matching funds will be used towards the listed items above to provide service to both unserved homes and businesses and additional potential addresses passed during the construction of this project. Rockbridge County is committed to a cash match totaling \$2,702,232. These funds will be used towards construction activities and administrative costs to the CSPDC.

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Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

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 a joint effort by Rockbridge County, BARC, Dominion, and CSPDC to bring reliable, affordable high-speed Internet service to the residents and businesses that are unserved in the defined project areas of Rockbridge County. All parties are committed to universally connecting the rural areas in Rockbridge identified in this proposed project area to reliable high-speed Internet.

Rockbridge County and the CSPDC have experience working with BARC and recognizes their proven track record in providing reliable broadband service in the community. Rockbridge County and the CSPDC have provided extensive in-kind support to the regional planning process and in identifying unserved areas included in the scope of the project areas within the application.

Both Rockbridge County and the CSPDC will provide significant local assistance to assist with this project to ensure its success in the region. These activities will include organizing frequent and meaningful community meetings with leaders, residents and businesses in the County to discuss the project; mobilizing GIS resources to assist BARC with defining the project boundaries to clearly identify who will be eligible for service; and provide assistance to BARC staff to help respond to residents to answer any questions or concerns related to this 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 County agrees to assist in areas related to permits, rights of way, easements and any other issues that may hinder or delay the proposed project.

This project includes 11 identified areas that are unserved in Rockbridge County. If funded, this project will leverage BARC's existing network operations center (NOC) to expand BARC's fiber network, making FTTp service available to low-density areas including almost 1,400 homes, businesses, and community anchors in Rockbridge County. To accomplish this, BARC plans to expand its fiber-optic Internet network throughout Rockbridge, utilizing 67% VATI funding and 22% BARC matching funds, and 11% Rockbridge County ARPA matching funds for the fiber build.

BARC and Dominion have identified 5 areas leveraging a partnership between Dominion and BARC. This partnership will include Dominion building middle-mile fiber in 5 of the 11 project areas and BARC completing last-mile FTTp for unserved homes in these areas.

In leveraging partnerships with all applicants and the CSPDC, broadband service in the County will create potential economic growth opportunities; telecommuting opportunities; educational opportunities and improve the rural quality of life; 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. This project will position Rockbridge County 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.

15. Communications Plan: Describe efforts to keep the public informed of project progress and the broadband adoption plan.

a. 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)

b. 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)

c. 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.

Answer:

a. BARC has expanded its communication efforts to inform County leadership, local residents and local businesses

Application to DHCD Submitted through CAMS

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

about plans for broadband expansion construction:

- BARC provides a Fiber Construction update, available to the public, on its website, barconnects.net
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- BARC maintains regular contact with local leadership to ensure information is being shared on construction activities and areas eligible for service.
- 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.
- Rockbridge County will hold community meetings as appropriate to answer questions and concerns related to broadband service from community members.
- 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 45% take rate on broadband services made available in this project. This is consistent with the take rate experienced to date in the first phase of BARC's fiber project (however, as project expansion continues, signups continue to occur, so a final take rate has still not settled out). 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.
- Marketing service availability in BARC's monthly magazine, Cooperative Living, on BARC's podcast, The BARC Connection, on BARC's website and on BARC's Facebook and Instagram pages utilizing digital content and platforms.

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. Similarly, the Rockbridge County Public School Division is a supporter and will assist in reaching families of the student population.

Additionally, through grant administrative services, the CSPDC will hold monthly project management team meetings. The CSPDC will distribute monthly meeting summaries to all team members. The CSPDC will also share the monthly

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Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

reports submitted to DHCD and the County can use information from both to update the board. The CSPDC can also share any project news through their newsletter, and social media platforms.

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

Hunter Moore

CSPDC Regional Planner

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

Application to DHCD Submitted through CAMS

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

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:

A detailed breakdown to answer the above questions are included in Attachments: Attachment 12 – Derivation of Costs; Attachment 13 – Documentation of Supporting Costs

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:

- a. Total VATI funding request
- b. Number of serviceable units
(up to 125 points)

Answer:

Project (BARC):

- a. Total VATI funding request: \$16,154,509
- b. Number of serviceable units: 1,413

19. 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. This project is a partnership among Rockbridge County, BARC Connects, Dominion Energy, and CSPDC reaching more than 1,400 premises, including 31 businesses, educational institutions and community anchors, currently unserved with reliable, high-speed Internet service. Rockbridge County has worked with all three groups to develop a plan to bring fiber to the unserved areas of the County. Dominion Energy is a new broadband partnership for the County. Dominion, also an electric service provider for the area, has the capability to build middle-mile fiber to assist in reaching unserved residents and businesses. By leveraging middle-mile fiber deployment from Dominion, BARC will be able to provide last-mile fiber service to consumers outside certain parts of BARC's electric service area. 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.

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Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

Additionally, Rockbridge County is partnering with BrightSpeed 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 15C 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 critical, but unavailable, to many during due to a lack of service.

b. This unique partnership allows Rockbridge County to partner with two electric utilities, BARC and Dominion, currently serving residents and businesses in the region, to deploy FTTp providing universal access to reliable, high-speed Internet service with a number of high cost drops to be connected via LECAP. Additionally, the County is partnering with CSPDC for grant administration and in a separate grant application, BrightSpeed ISP, to complete universal connectivity. In leveraging these partnerships, the County will be able to bridge the digital divide that exists for far too many residents and provide them with the same access that is available to residents and businesses in metropolitan areas.

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, 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.

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.

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.

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.

The applicant and co-applicant 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:

- Both applicants 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.

- Both applicants 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. The County will work with the active membership Rockbridge Farm Bureau and the Rockbridge County Public School Division to ensure that the significant number of farm businesses contained in the project area and parents to our students are apprised of the benefit of broadband connection.

Application to DHCD Submitted through CAMS

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

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

Attachment1ProjectAreaMap8252022111214.pdf

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

Attachment2DocumentationonFederalFundingArea8252022111224.pdf

Documentation that proposed project area is unserved based on VATI criteria

Attachment3DocumentationUnservedAreaVATICriteria8252022111233.pdf

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Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

Passings Form (Use template provided)

Attachment4PassingsForm825202215445.pdf

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

Attachment5RDOFAwardedPassingsInVATIApplication8252022111240.pdf

Propagation Map if Wireless Project

Attachment6PropagationMapNA8252022111252.pdf

Timeline/Project Management Plan

Attachment7TimelineProjectManagementPlan8252022111306.pdf

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

Attachment8MOUbetweenapplicantcoapplicant8252022111319.pdf

Funding Sources Table (Use template provided)

Attachment9VATIFundingSourcesTable8252022111335.pdf

Documentation of Match Funding

Attachment10MatchCertification8252022111412.pdf

Prior Expended Match Form (use template provided)

Attachment11VATIPriorExpendedMatchTableFOIAexempt8252022111430.pdf

Derivation of Cost/Project Budget (Use template provided)

Attachment12DerivationofCosts825202215510.pdf

Documentation of Supporting Cost Estimates

Attachment13DocumentationofSupportingCostEstimatesFOIAexempt8252022111626.pdf

Letters of Support

Attachment14LettersofSupport8252022111654.pdf

Application to DHCD Submitted through CAMS

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County - BARC VATI 2023 Project

Two most recent Form 477 submitted to the FCC or equivalent

Attachment15TwomostrecentForm477submittedtoFCC8252022111710.pdf

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

Attachment16PointPolygonShapefiles8252022111732.zip

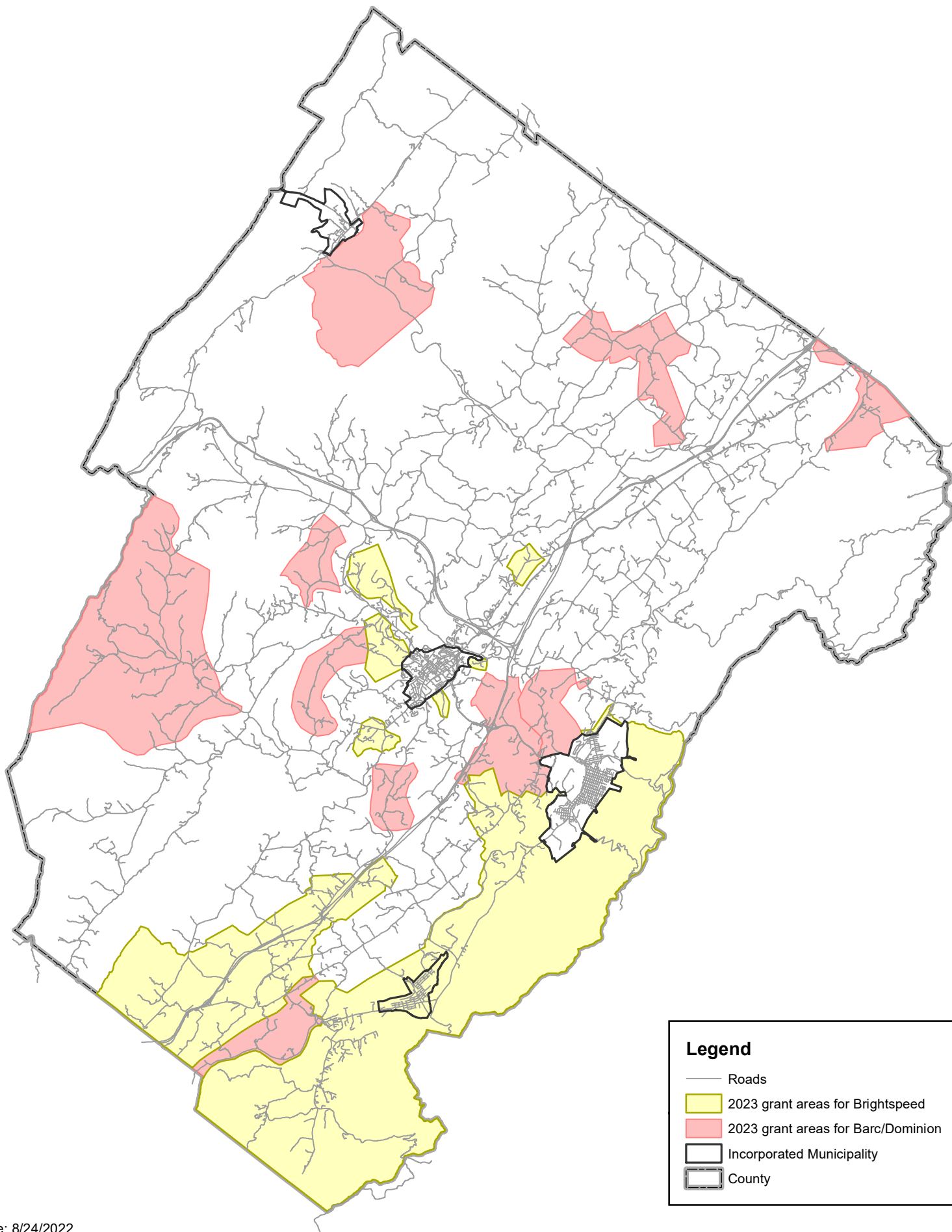
For wireless applicants: shapefiles, in .zip file form, indicating RSSI projections in the application area

Attachment17WirelessShapefileNA8252022111747.pdf

Optional

Attachment18Question1Continued825202222306.pdf

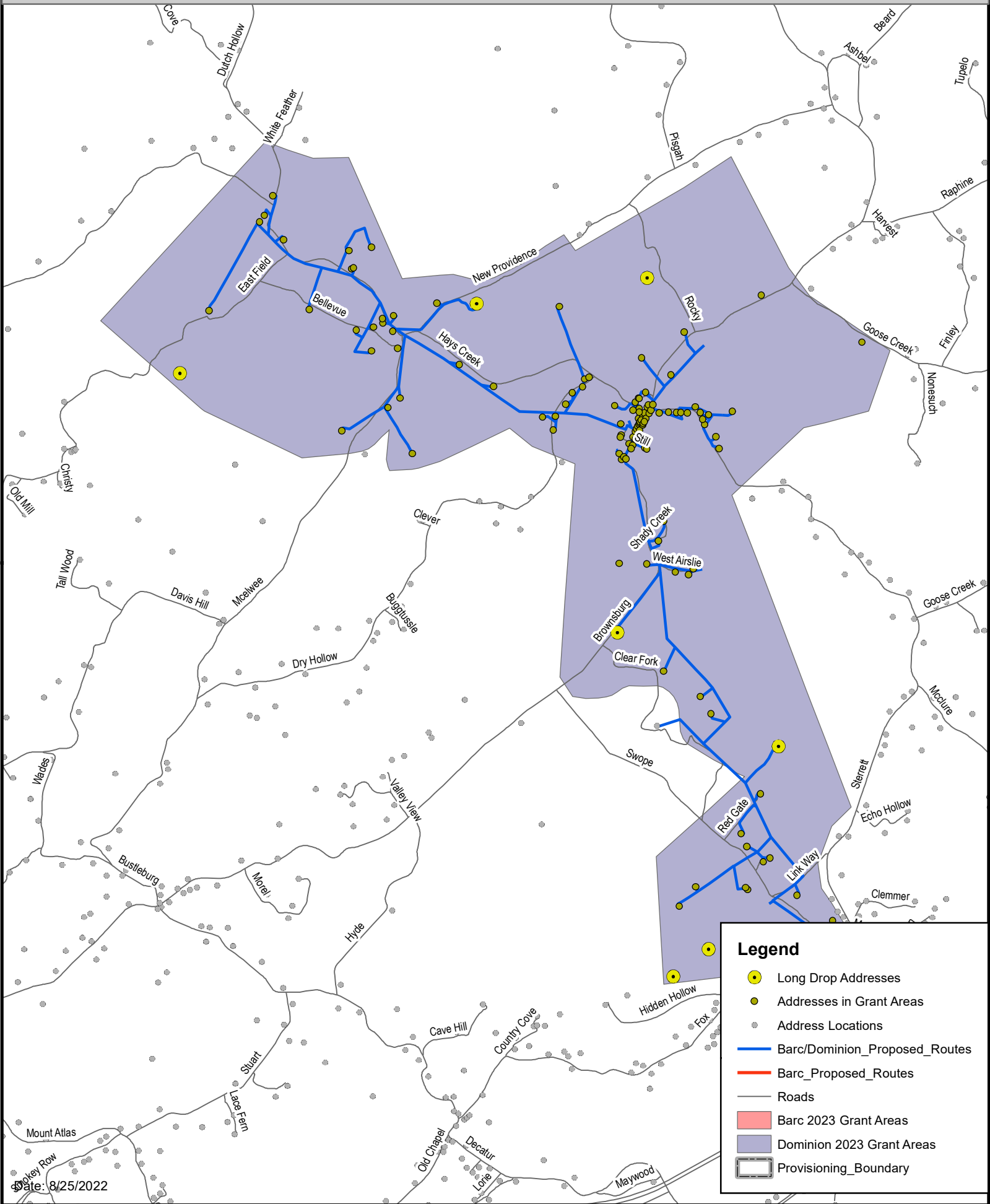
Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant Areas
Barc/Dominion and Brightspeed



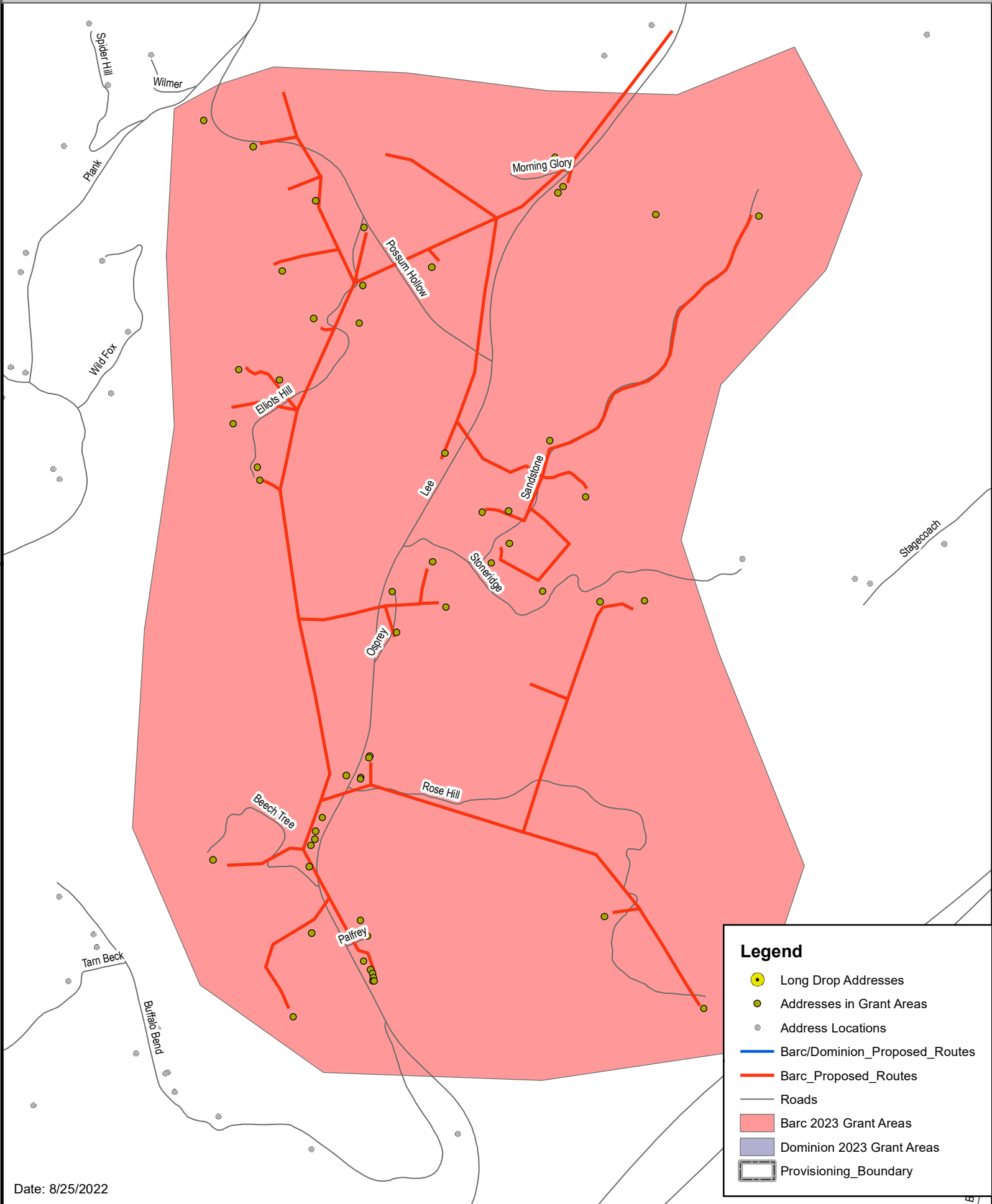
Legend

- Roads
- 2023 grant areas for Brightspeed
- 2023 grant areas for Barc/Dominion
- Incorporated Municipality
- County

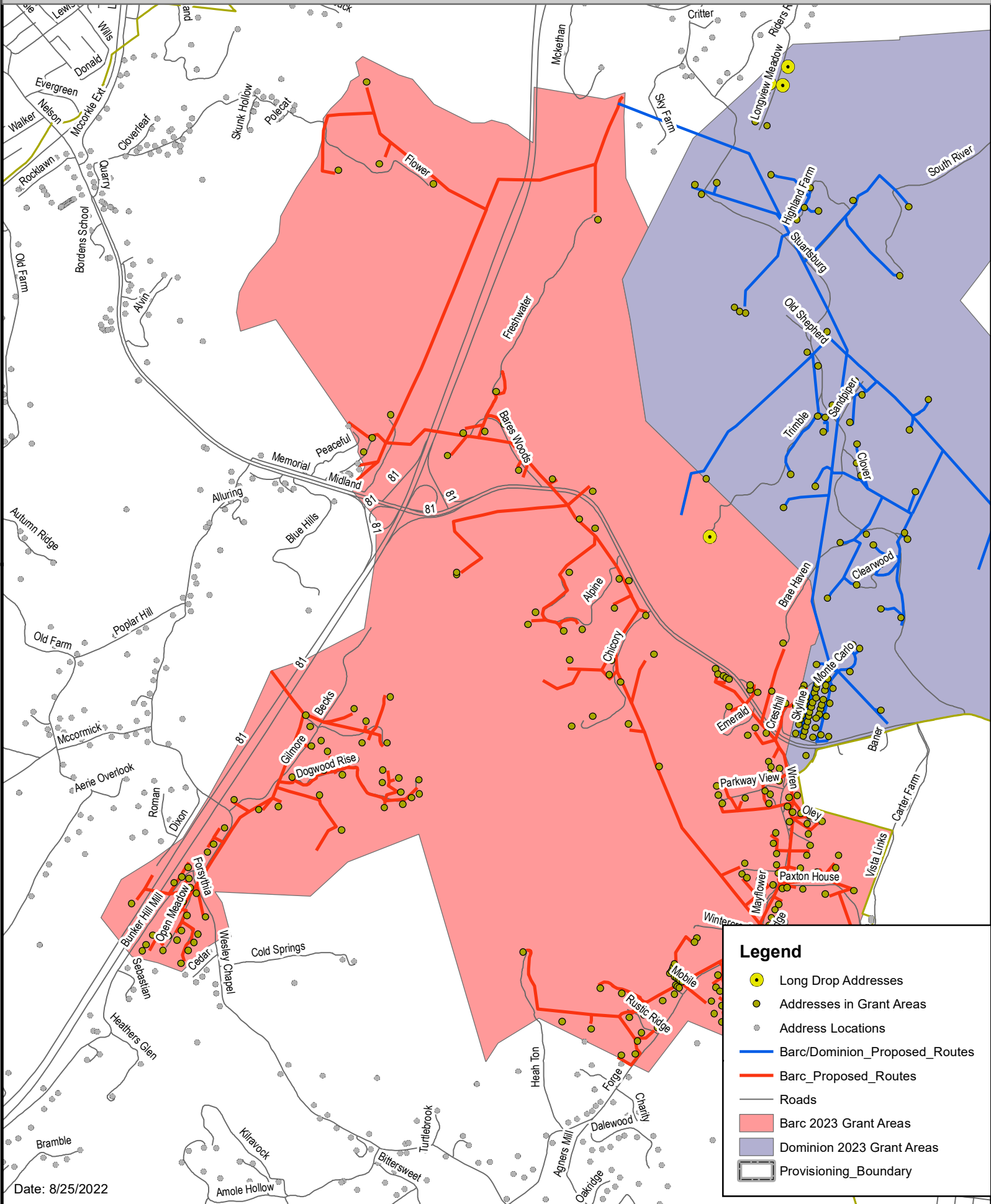
Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Brownsburg Area (Barc/Dominion)



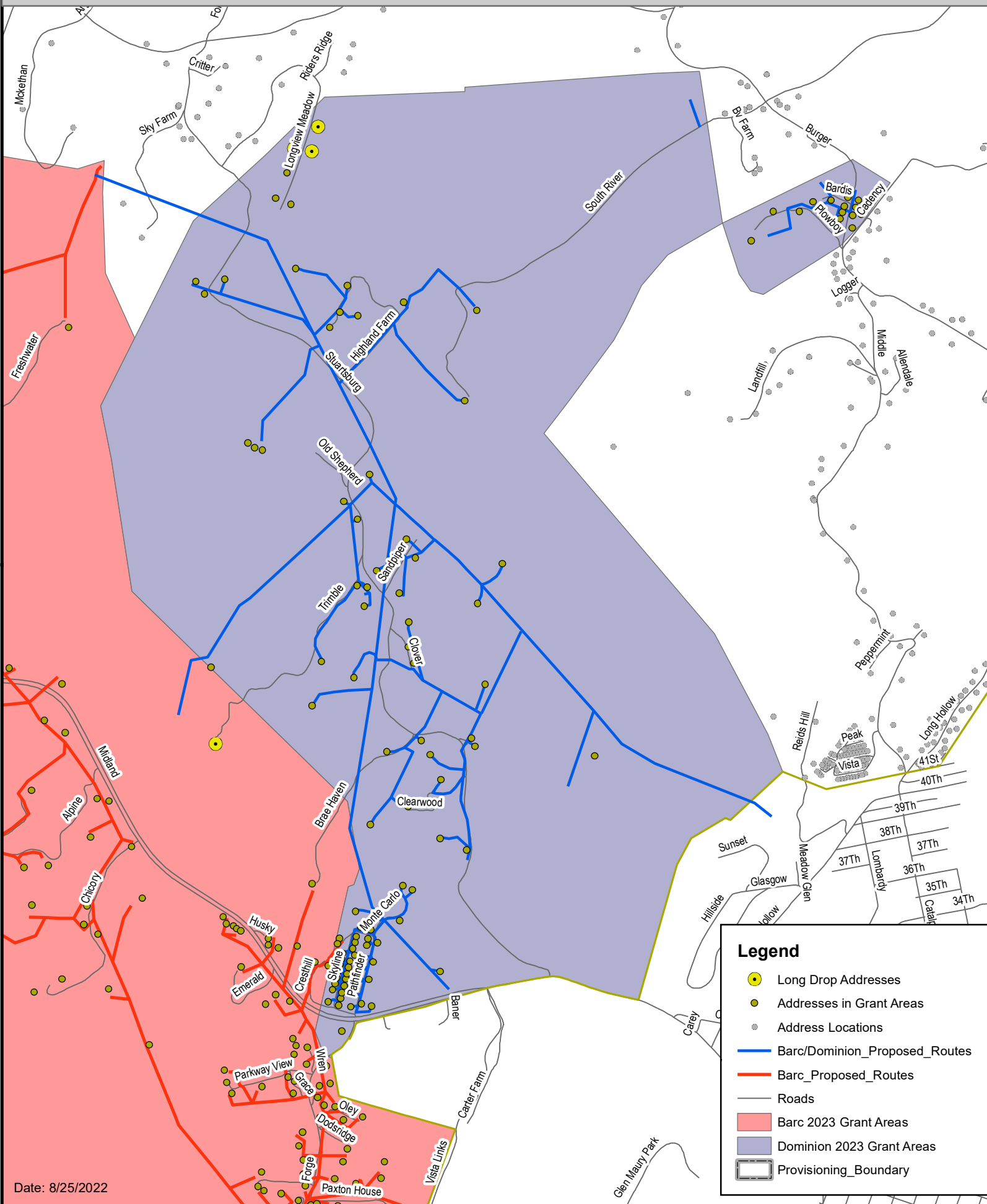
Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Buffalo Creek Area (Barc)



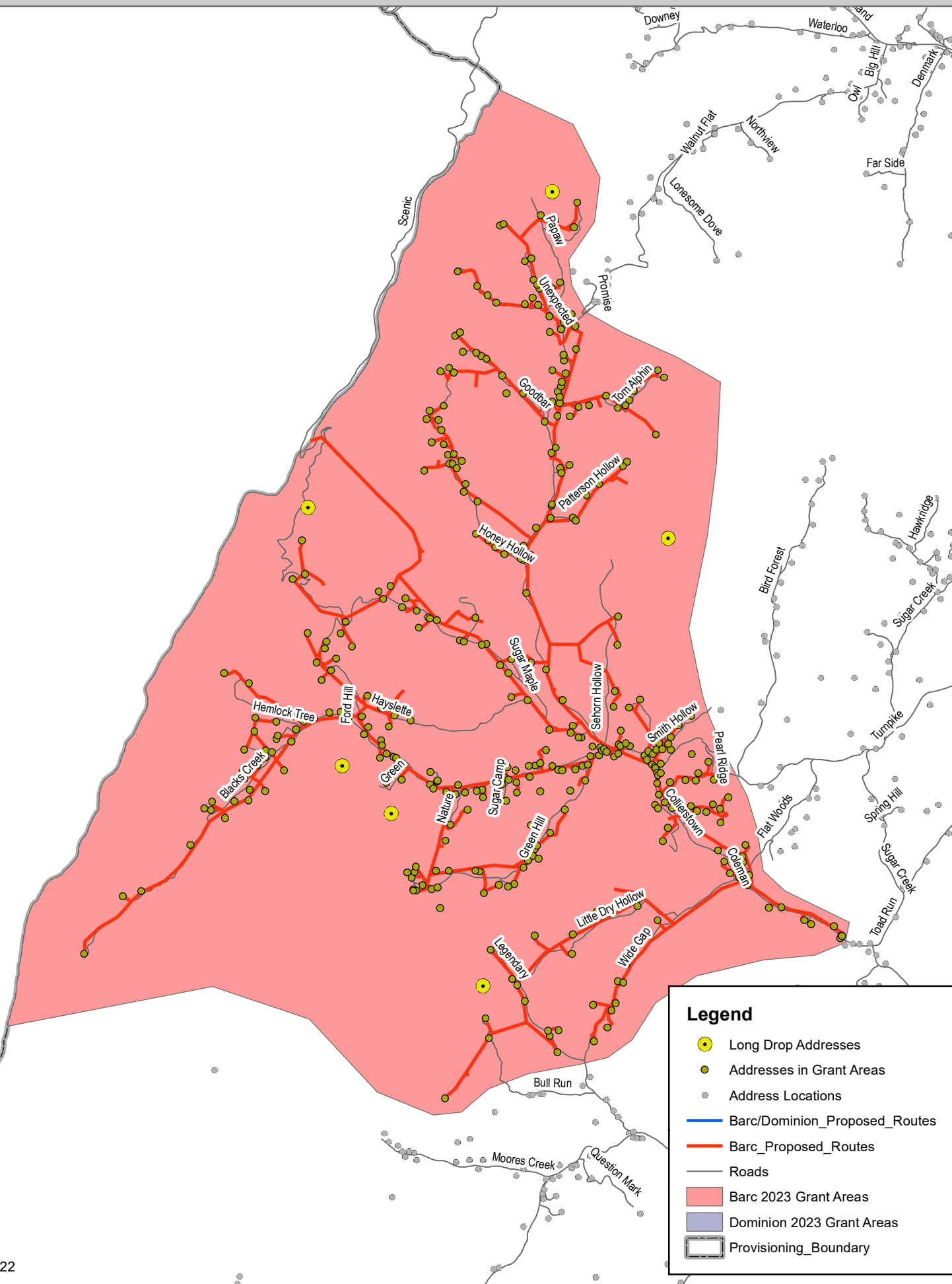
Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Conrock North/South (Area Barc)



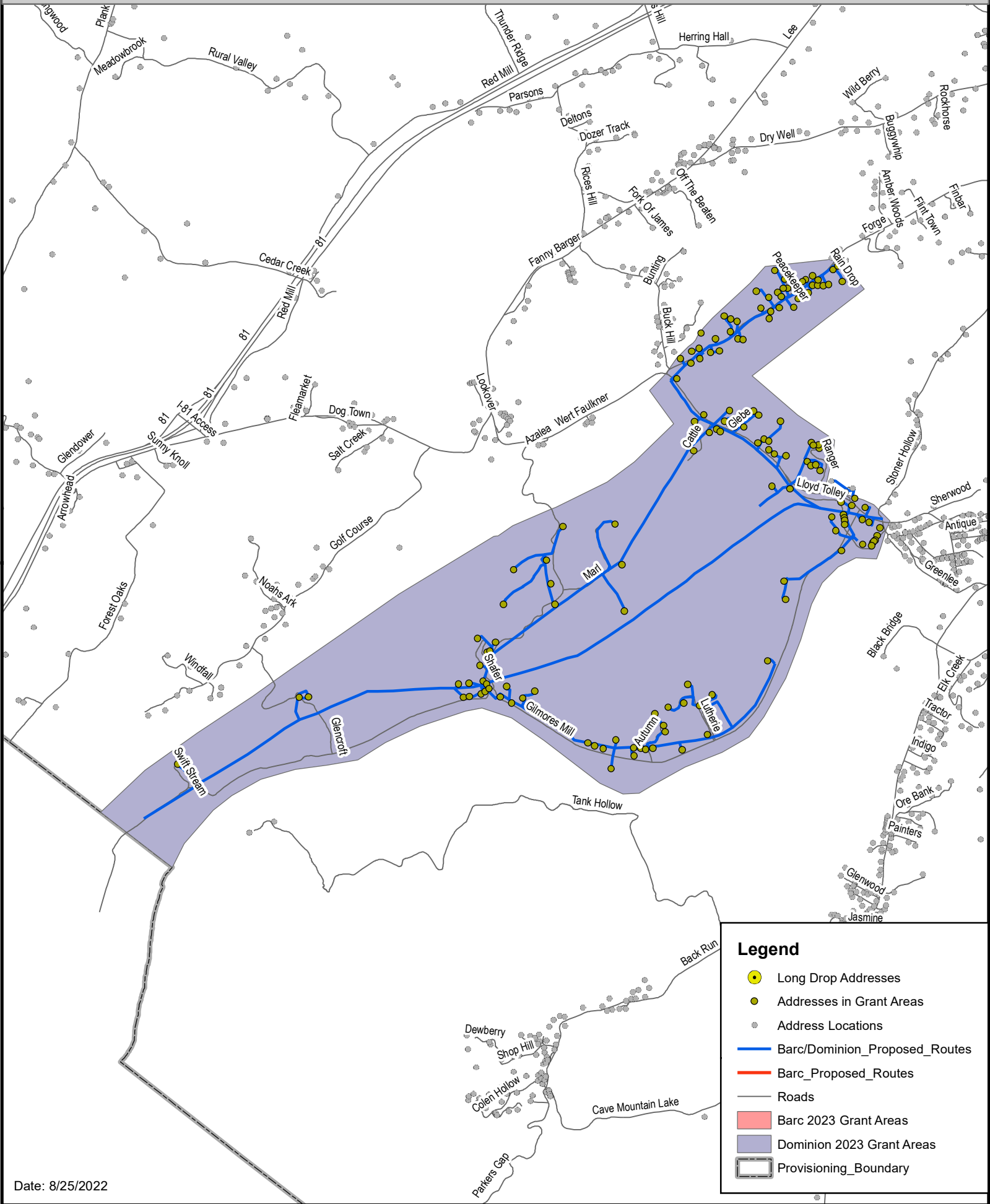
Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Stuartsburg Road Area (Barc/Dominion)



Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Effinger to Big Hill Area (Barc)

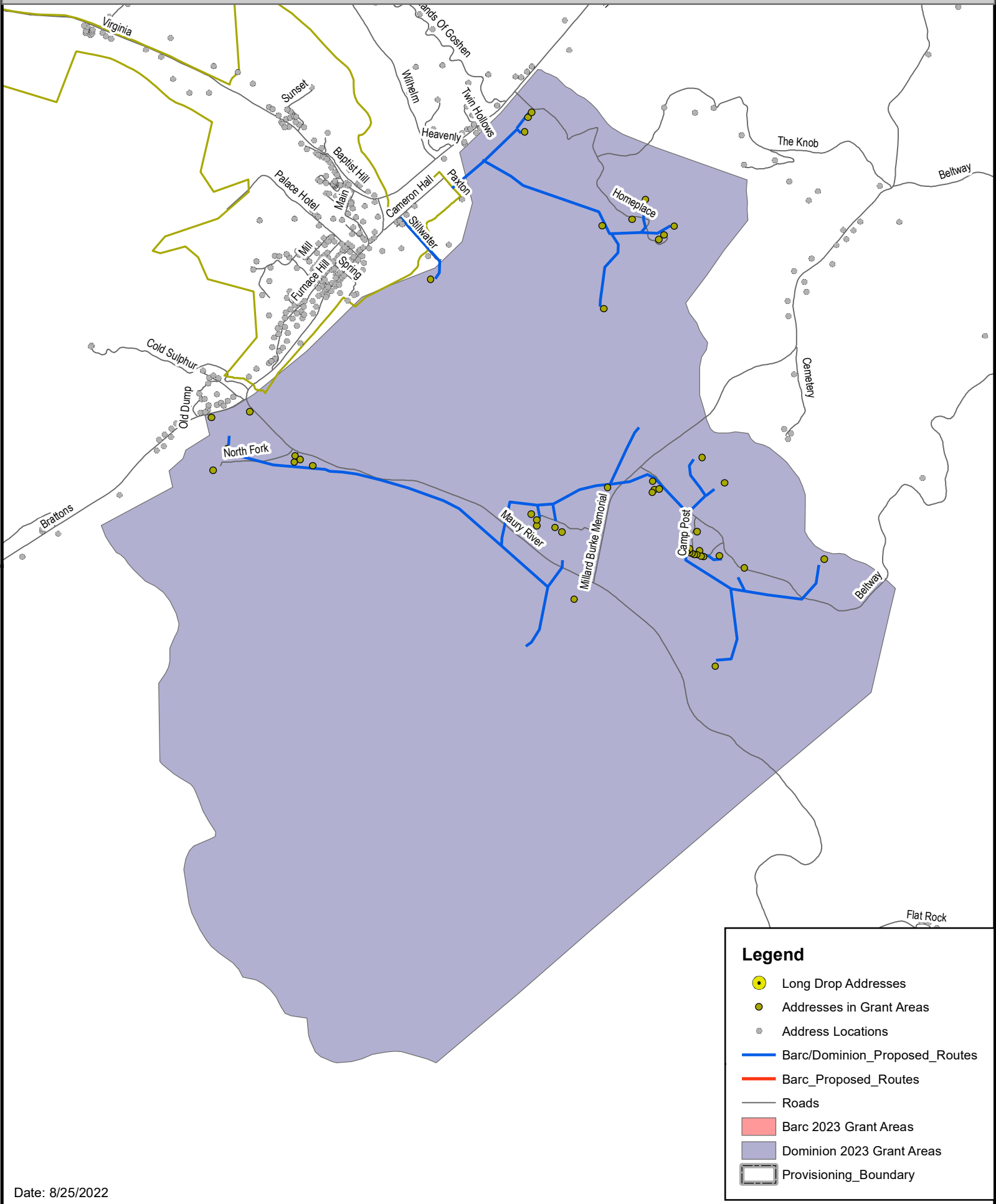


**Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Gilmers Mill Area (Barc/Dominion)**

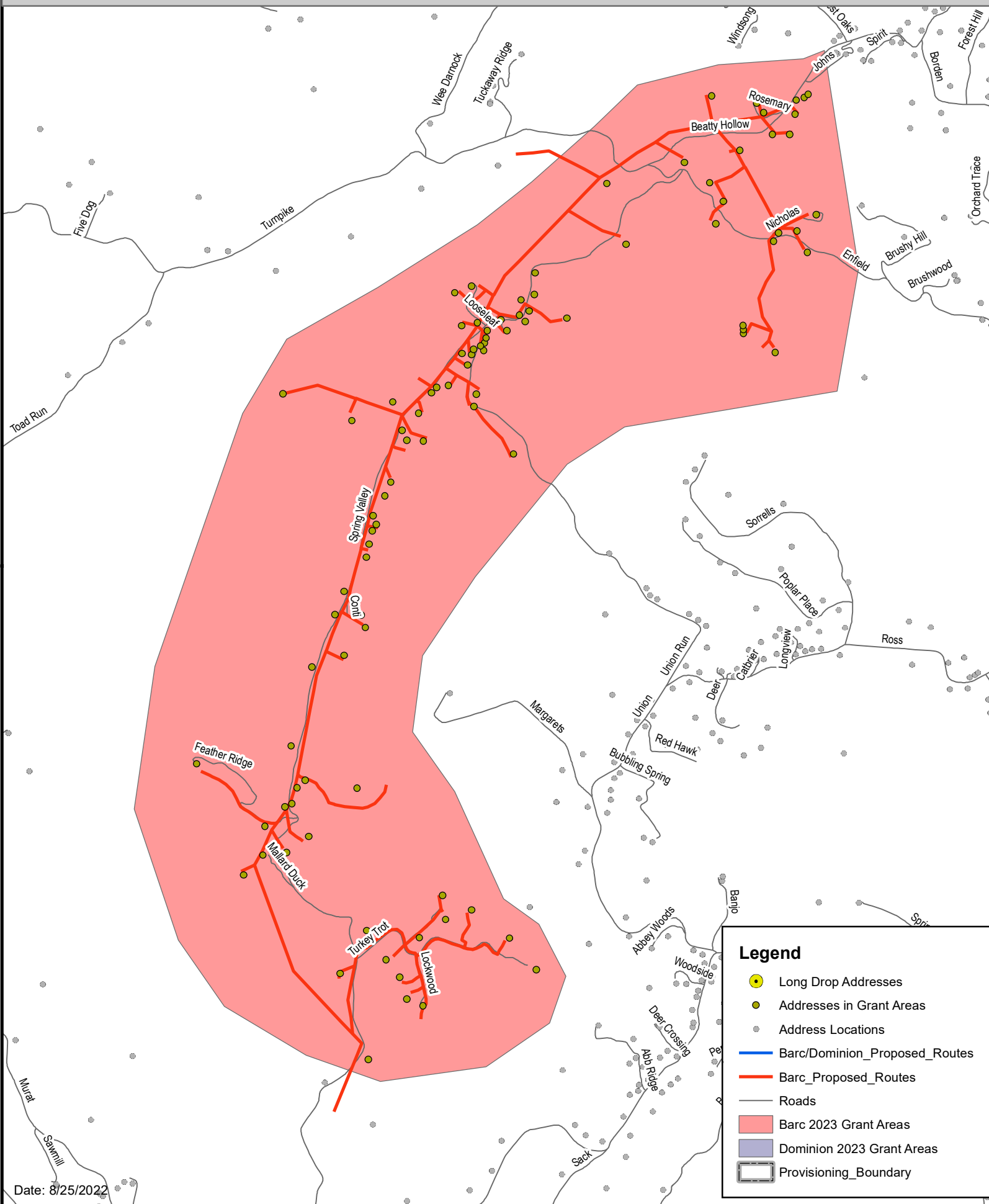


Date: 8/25/2022

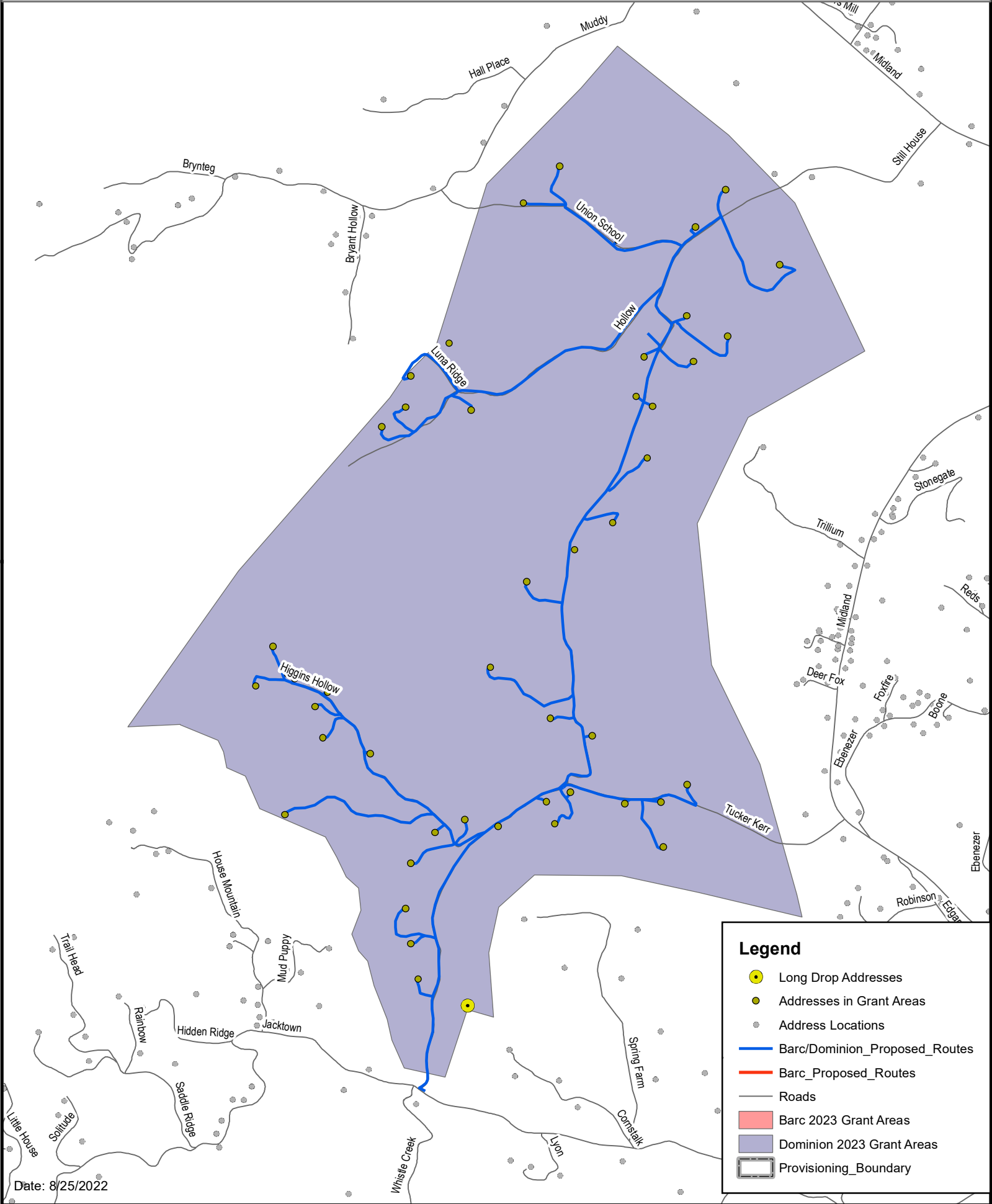
Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Goshen/Boys Scouts Area (Barc/Dominion)



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



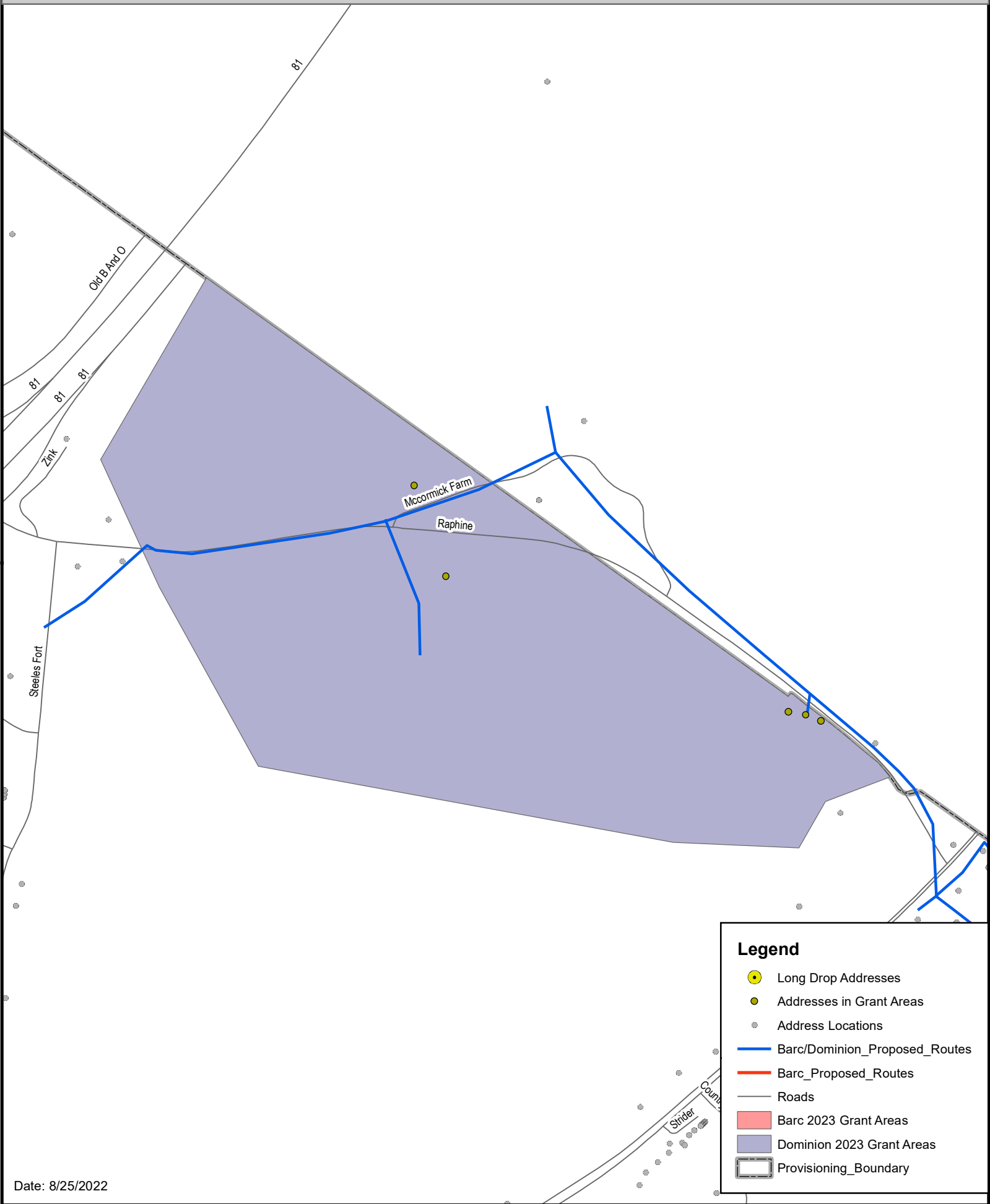
Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Still House Road Area (Barc/Dominion)



Legend

- Long Drop Addresses
- Addresses in Grant Areas
- Address Locations
- Barc/Dominion_Proposed_Routes
- Barc_Proposed_Routes
- Roads
- Barc 2023 Grant Areas
- Dominion 2023 Grant Areas
- Provisioning_Boundary

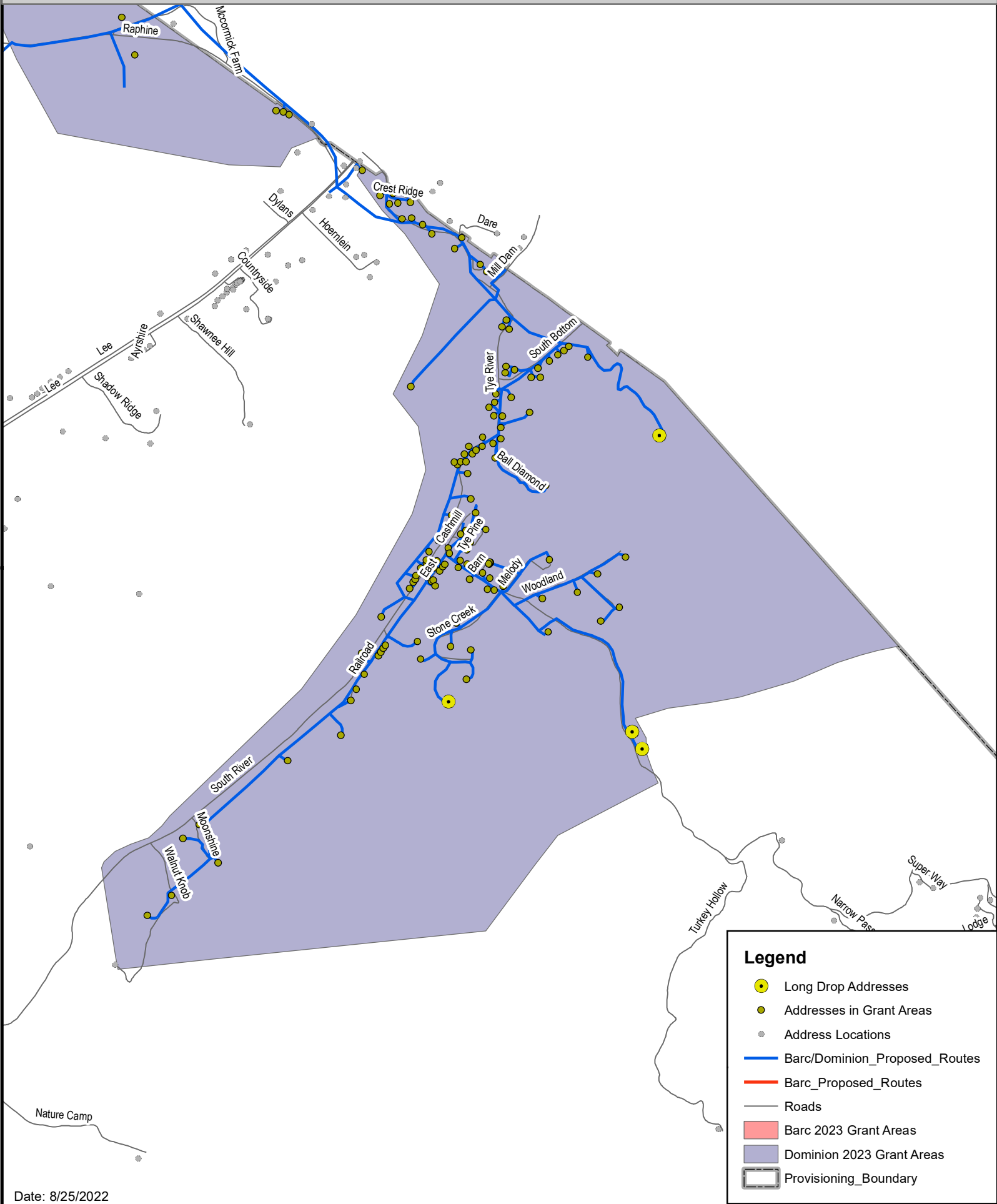
Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Steeles Tavern Area (Barc/Dominion)



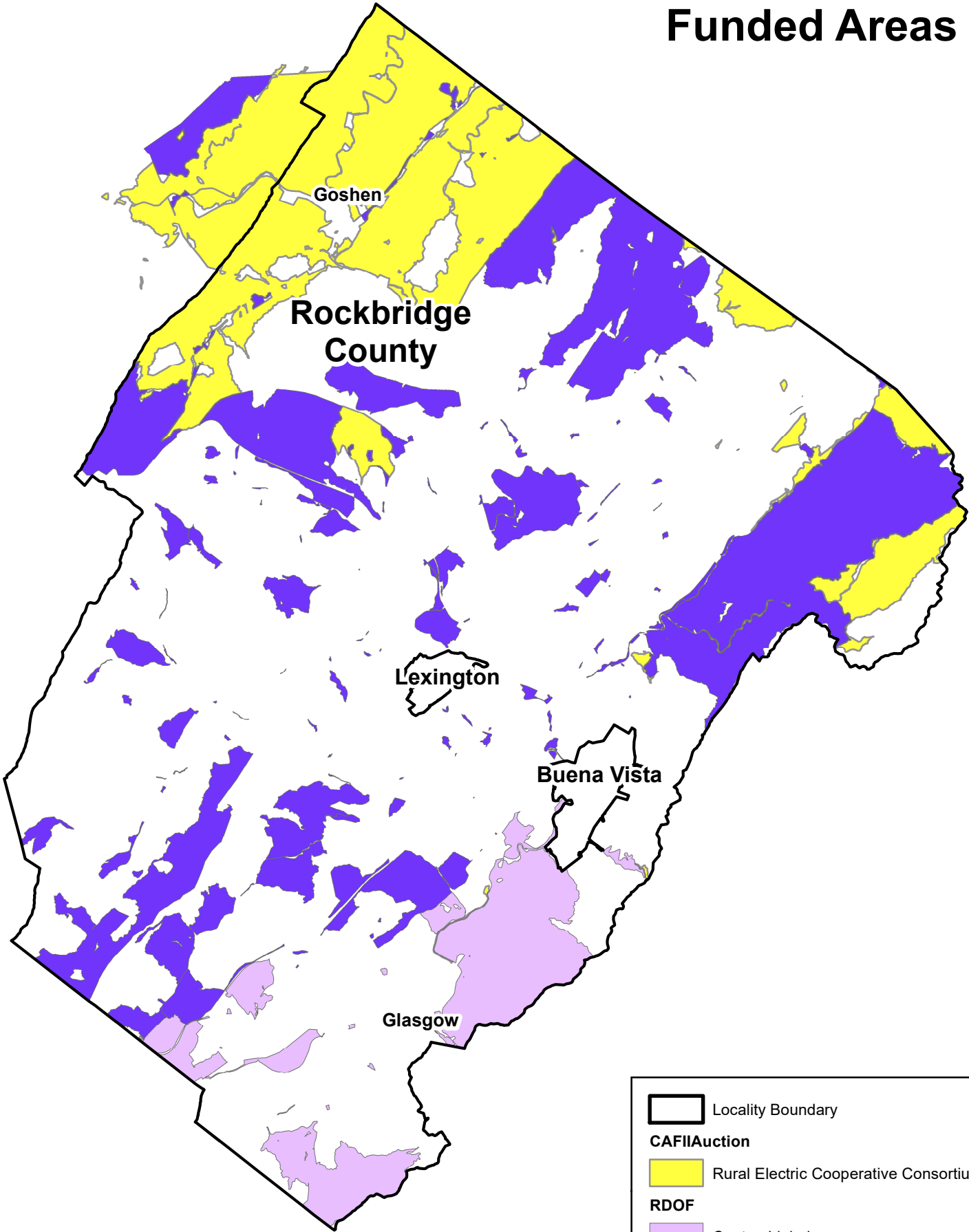
Legend





- Long Drop Addresses
- Addresses in Grant Areas
- Address Locations
- Barc/Dominion_Proposed_Routes
- Barc_Proposed_Routes
- Roads
- Barc 2023 Grant Areas
- Dominion 2023 Grant Areas
- Provisioning_Boundary

Rockbridge County VA
2023 VATI Grant
Vesuvius Area (Barc/Dominion)

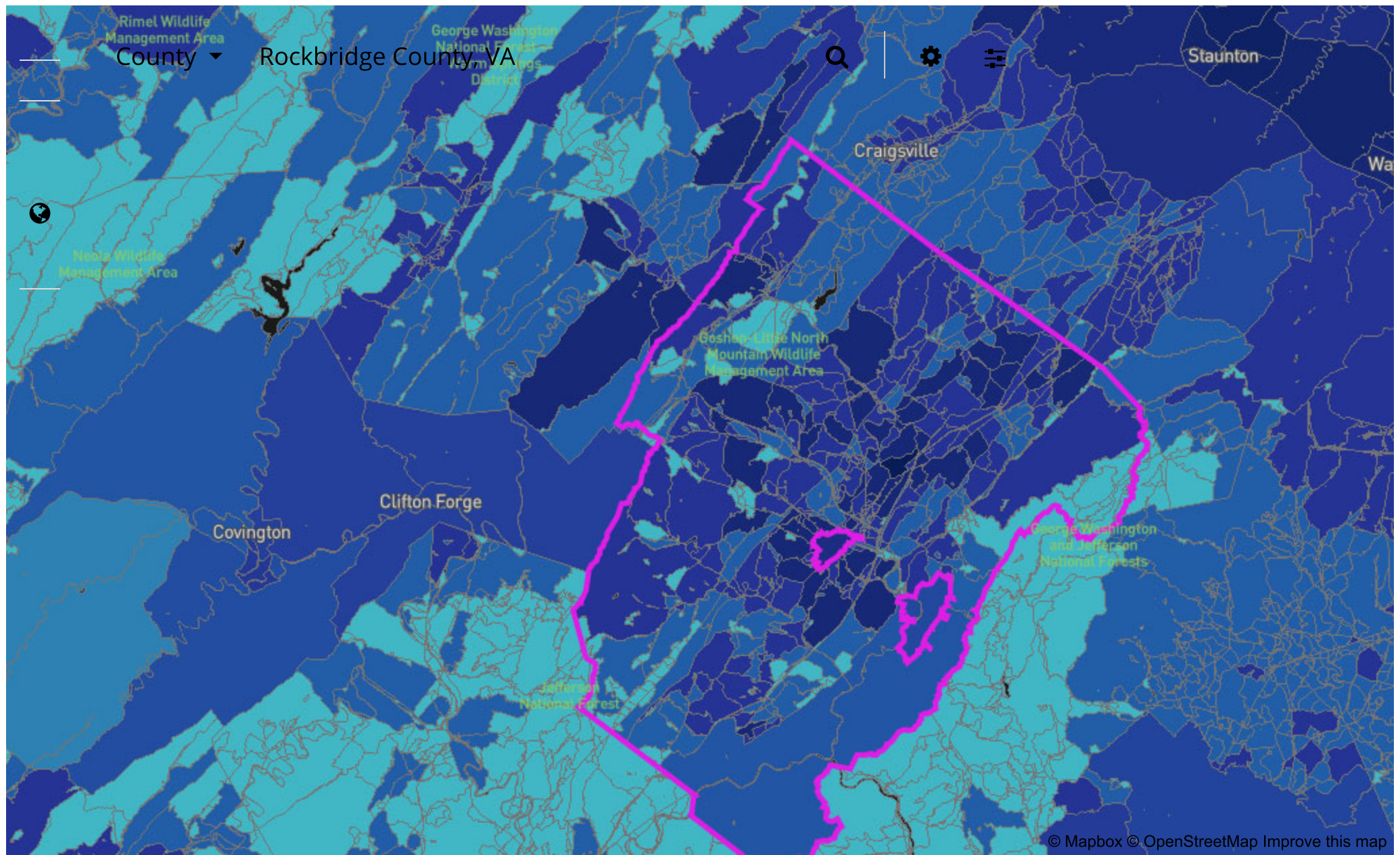


RDOF and CAFII Funded Areas



-  Locality Boundary
- CAFII Auction**
 -  Rural Electric Cooperative Consortium
- RDOF**
 -  CenturyLink, Inc.
 -  Co-op Connections Consortium

Area Summary



Rockbridge County, VA



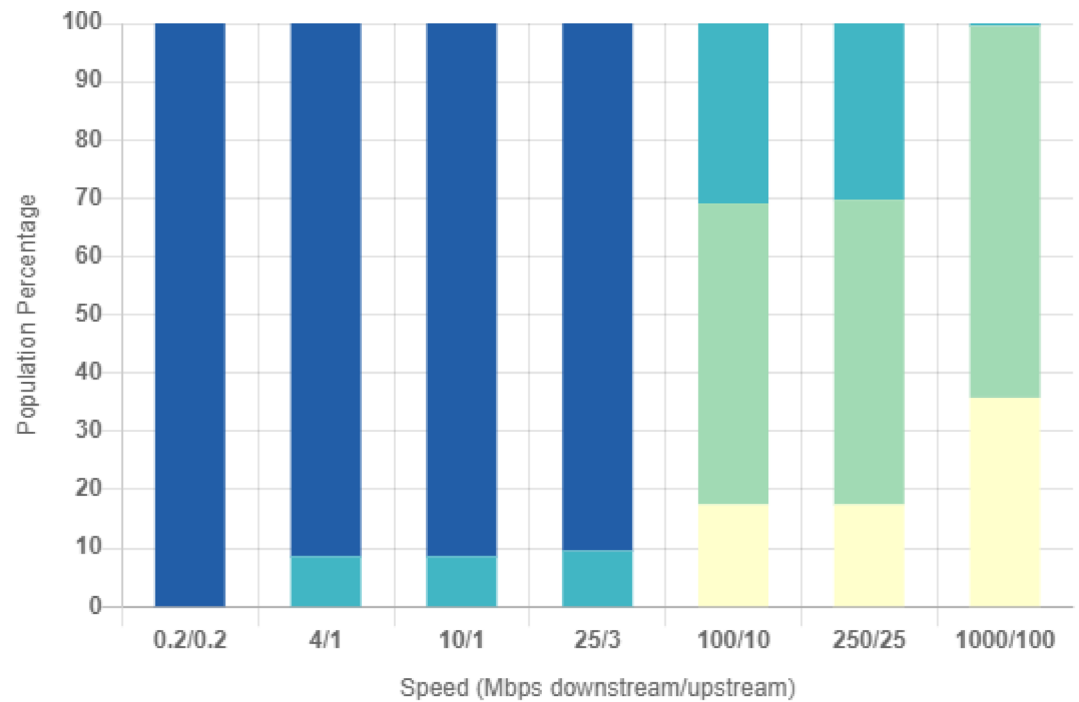
Number of Fixed Residential Broadband Providers



Broadband

Technology
Speed
Date

ADSL, Cable, Fiber, Fixed Wireless, Satellite, Other
≥ 25/3 Mbps
June 2020 (latest public release)





Virginia Broadband Availability Map and Integrated Broadband Planning and Analysis Toolbox



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Rockbridge County

Show Results

ON ?

Coverage Query Results

Provider	Technology	Consumer Download Speed	Consumer Upload Speed	Business Upload Speed	Business Download Speed
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Va. Funding Query Results

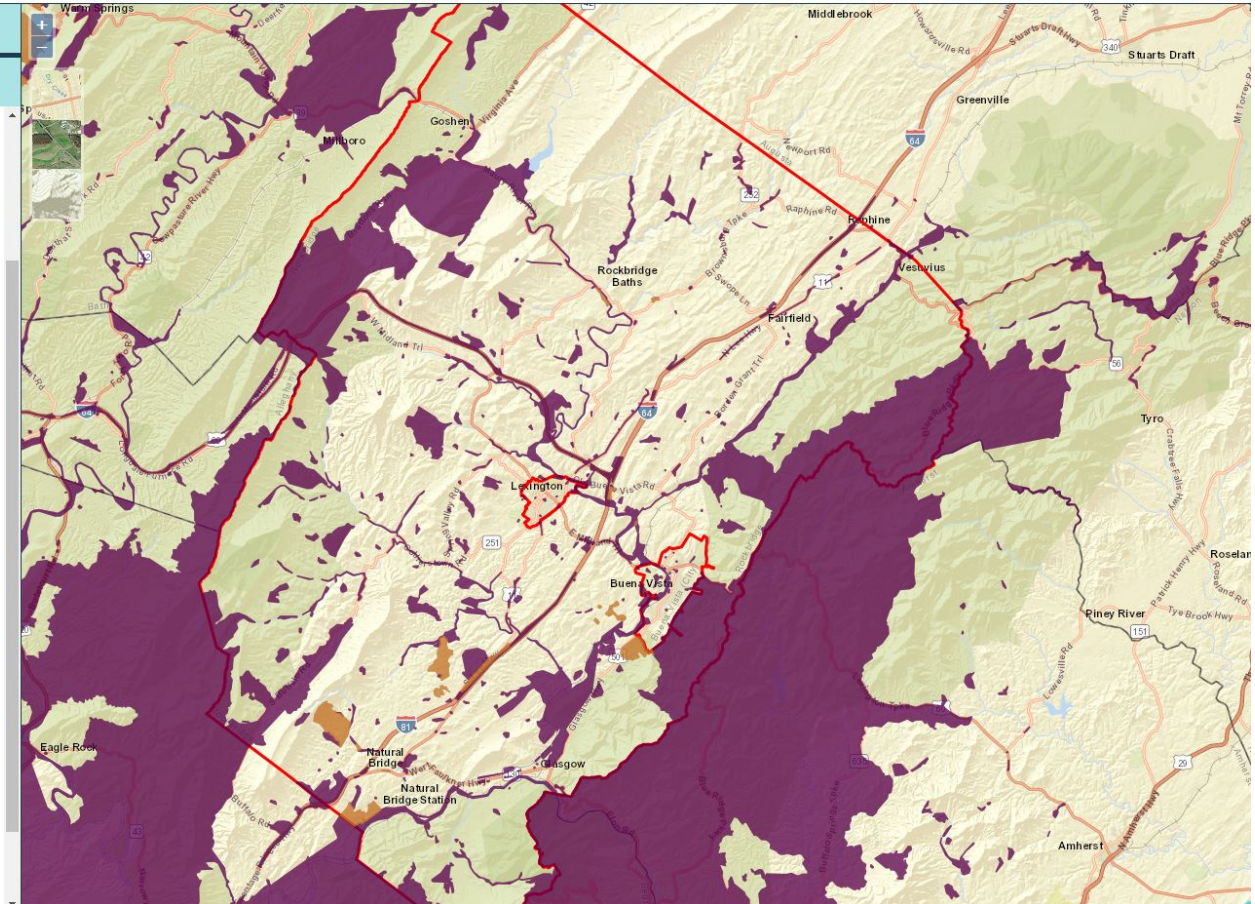
County	Partner	Year	Award Amount	Units Contracted to Pass	Funding Program
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Broadband Layers [Export to Image](#)

- ☐ Cable Wireline Coverage (June 2020)
- ☐ DSL/Copper Coverage (June 2020)
- ☐ Fiber Optic Coverage (June 2020)
- ☐ Fixed Wireless Coverage (June 2020)
- ☐ Mobile Wireless Coverage (Dec. 2018)
- ☐ 4G/LTE Wireless Coverage (Dec. 2018)
- ☐ Satellite Coverage (Dec. 2018)
- ☐ Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Funding
- ☐ Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) Funding
- ☒ Underserved Areas (June 2020)
Greater than 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload and less than 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.
- ☒ Unserved Areas (June 2020)
Below or equal to 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.
- ☒ No Residential Broadband Reported (June 2020)
25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

Other Layers

- ☒ Cities/Counties
- ☐ Vertical Assets (updated daily)
- ☐ 2010 Census Population
- ☐ 0 - 71





Find Address

Search for an Address



ABOUT



Speed Test

Download Speed, Upload Speed, and Latency



Broadband Coverage

FCC vs. Virginia Broadband, Speed, Technology



Virginia Collected DEC 2021

☐ At least one address served

Minimum Percentage Served in Census Block

☐ 95% ☐ 85% ☒ 80%



FCC Form 477 DEC 2020

☒ At least one address served

FILTERS FOR COVERAGE



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



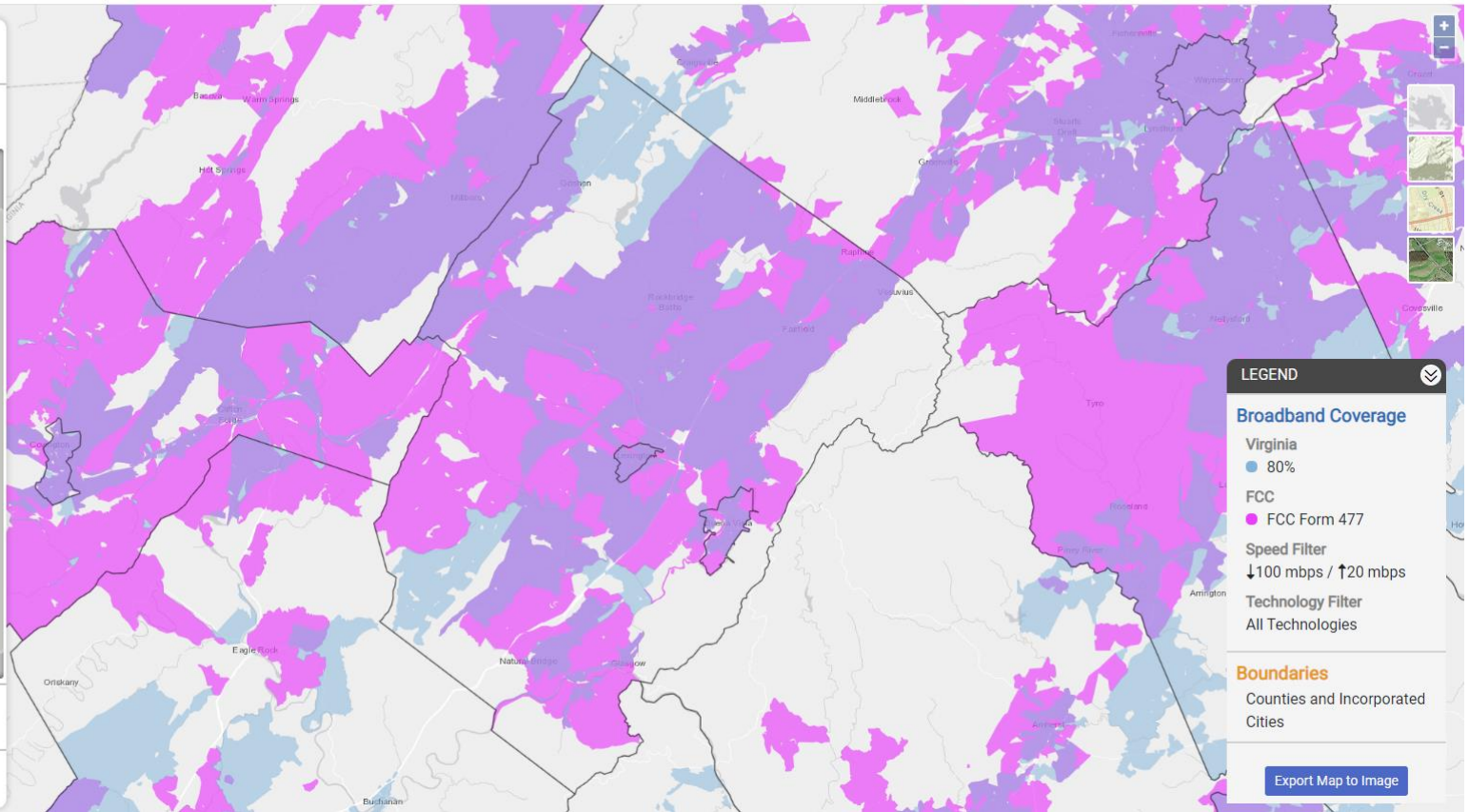
Boundaries

Census, Counties/Cities, Government Districts



Assets and Programs

WiFi, Towers, State and Non-Profit Programs



LEGEND

Broadband Coverage

Virginia

● 80%

FCC

● FCC Form 477

Speed Filter

↓ 100 mbps / ↑ 20 mbps

Technology Filter

All Technologies

Boundaries

Counties and Incorporated Cities

Export Map to Image

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	1,223	1,205	18	1,223
Businesses (non-home based)	18	18	0	18
Businesses (home-based)	0	0	0	0
Community Anchors	13	13	0	13
Non-residential	0	0	0	0
Total	1,254	1,236	31	1,254

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

Type of Passings	Total Number of Passings in the Project Area that lie within Preliminarily Awarded RDOF Areas ¹
Residential	159
Businesses (non-home based)	0
Businesses (home-based)	0
Community Anchors	0
Non-residential	0
Total Number of RDOF Passings	159

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

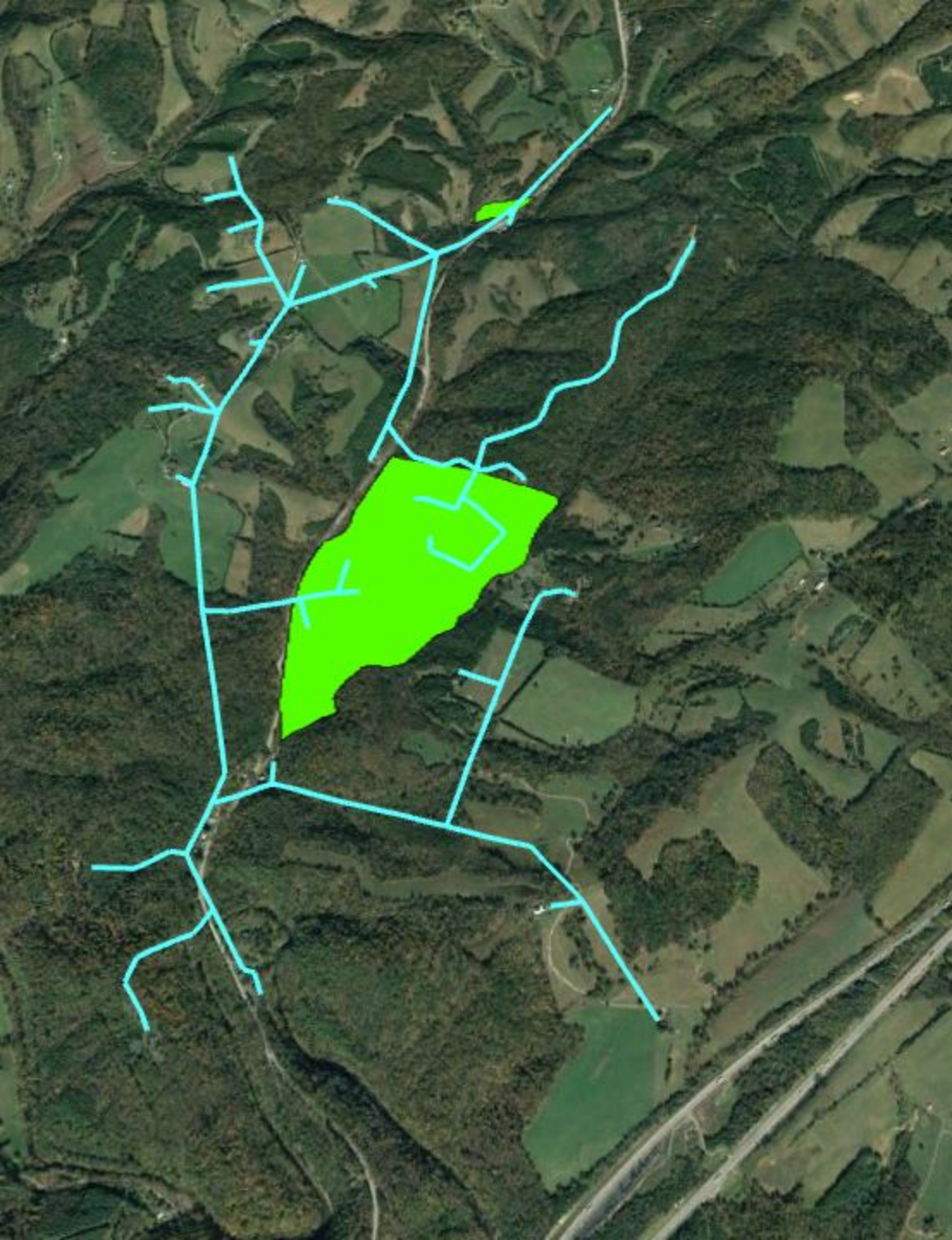
Definitions

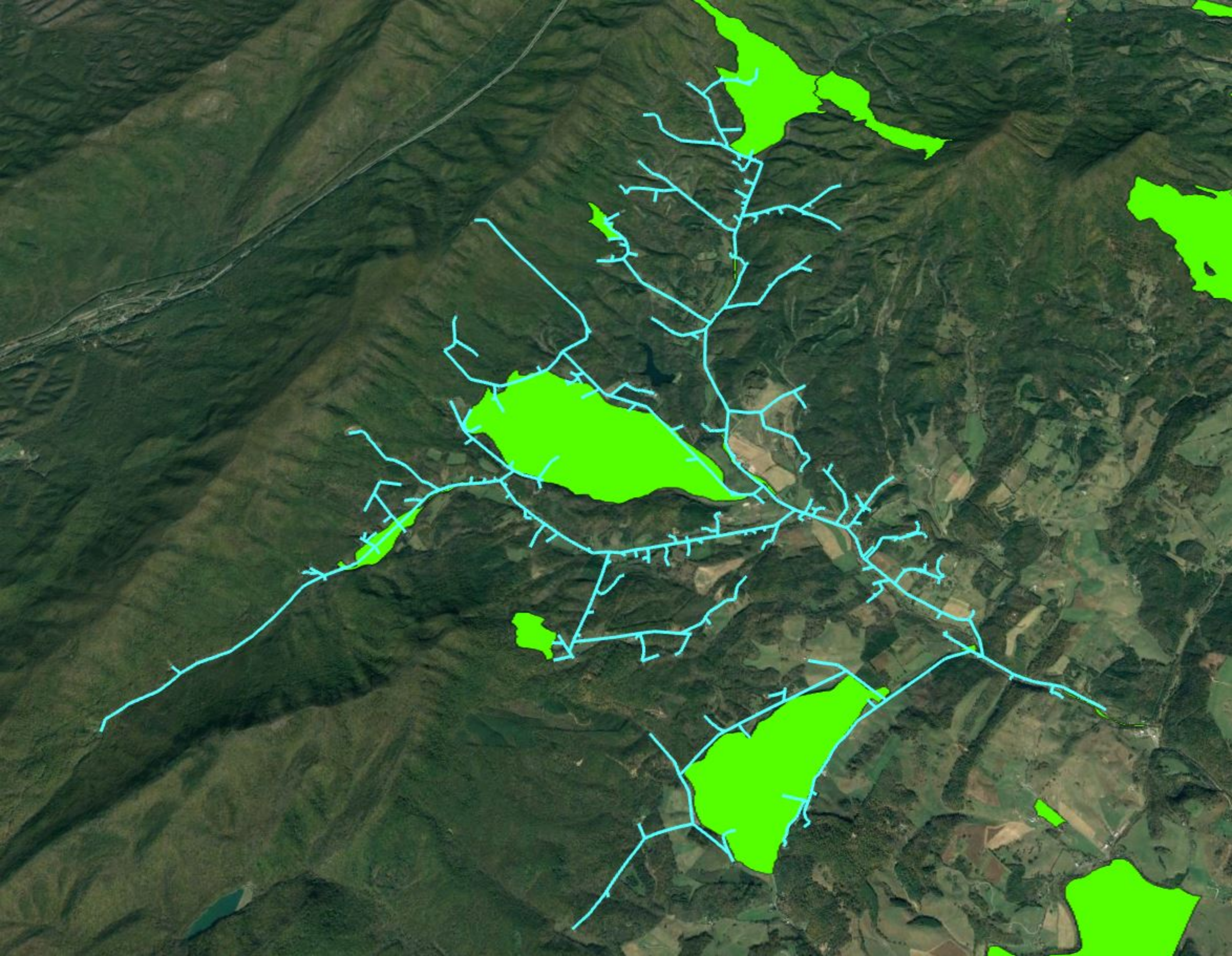
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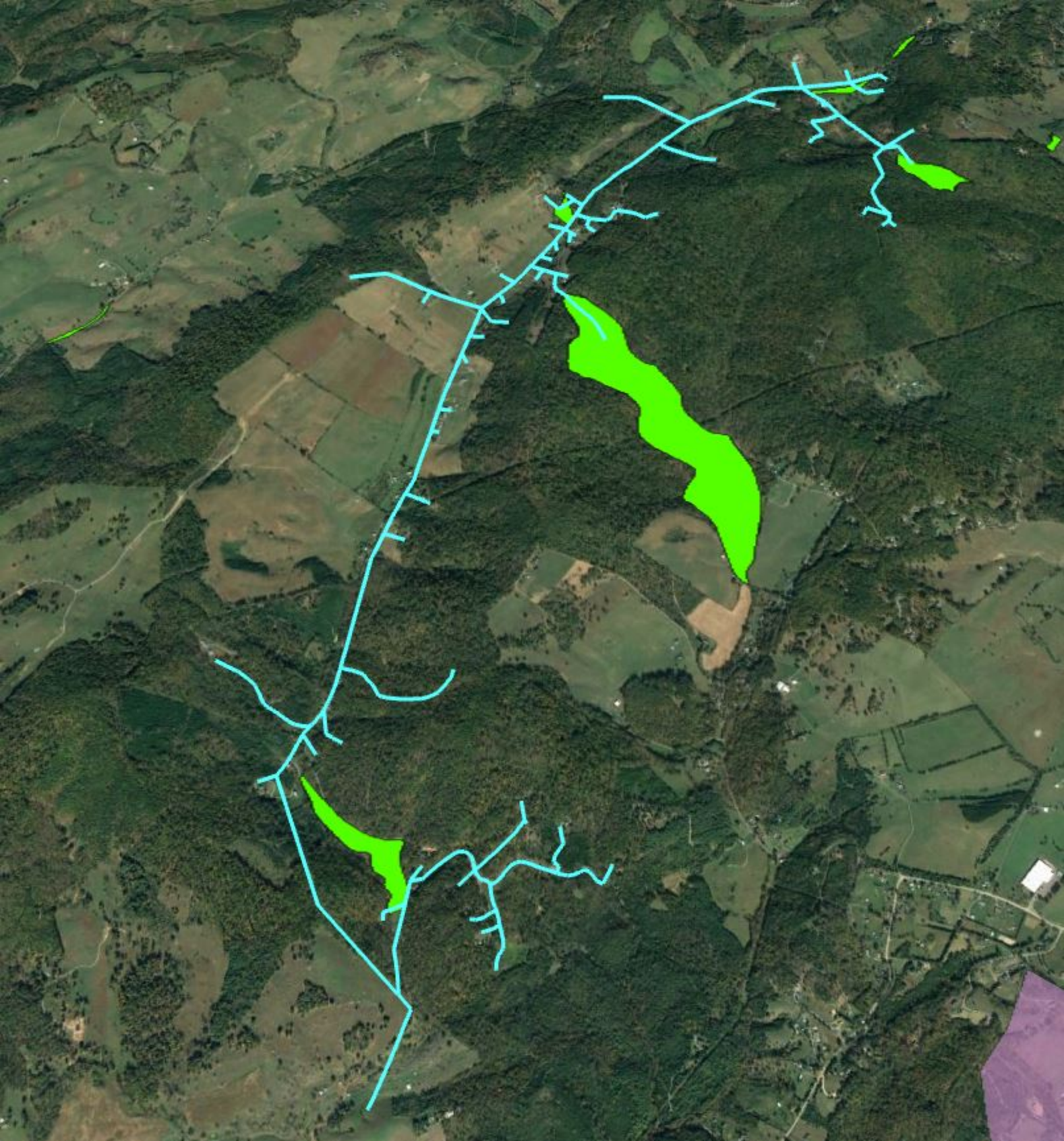
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Community Anchor - schools, libraries, medical and health care providers, public safety entities, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment,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

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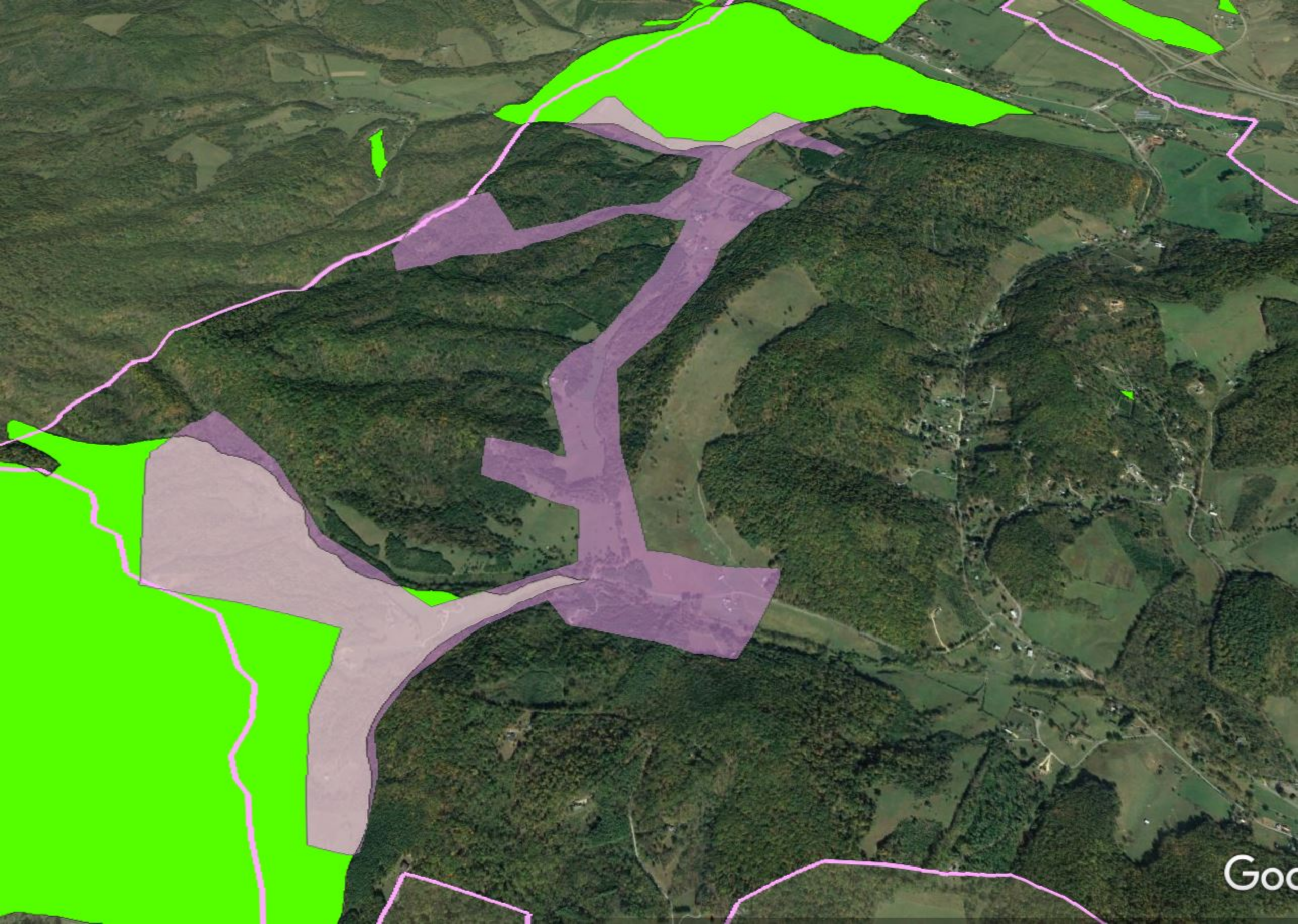


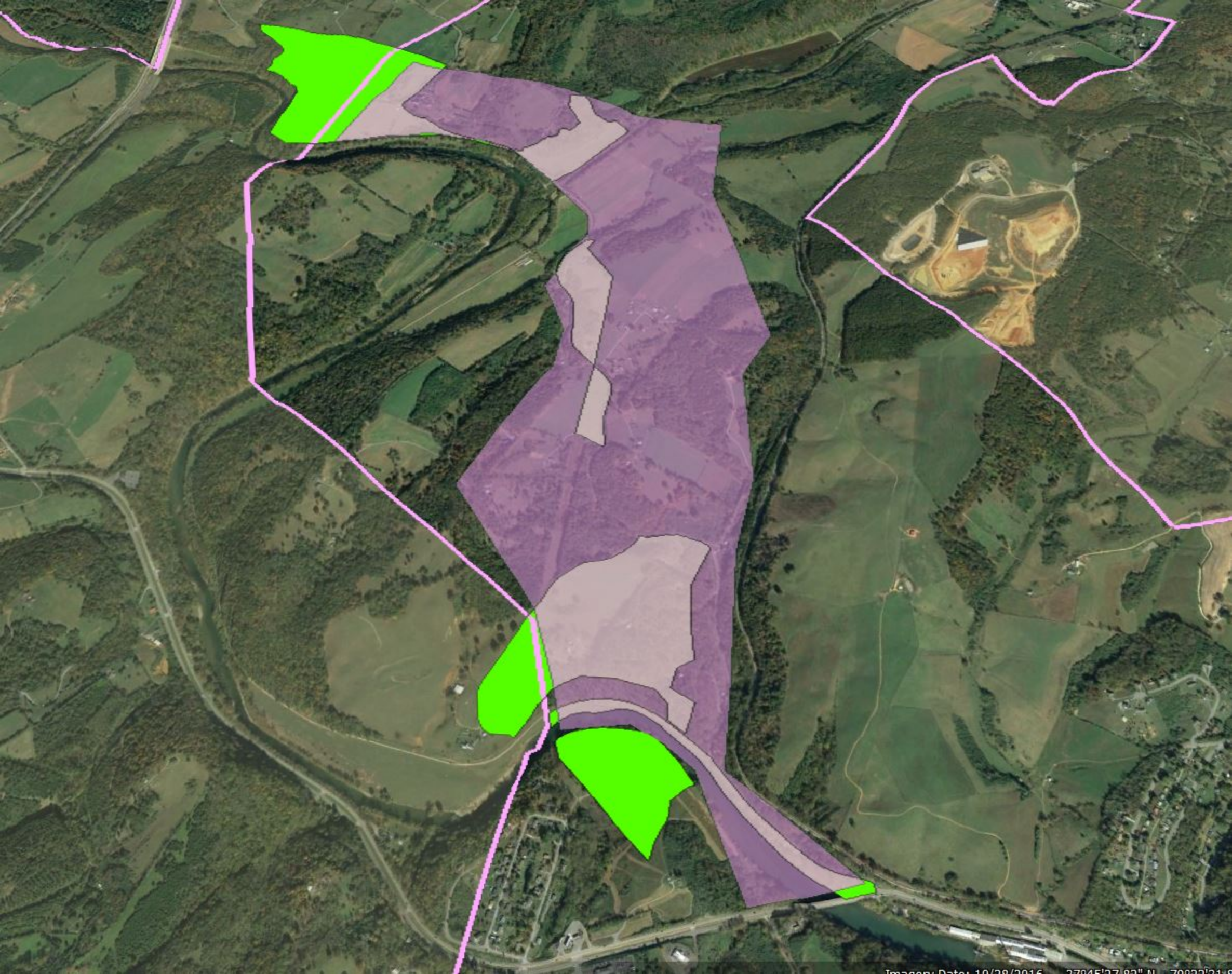












Attachment 6

This project will not implement wireless infrastructure, so a propagation and heat map are not applicable.

(VATI #2022CS-001) Revised Timeline Project Management Plan

[illegible]

VATI Applicant and Co-Applicant Agreement

This agreement is made on August 19, 2022 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 2023 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 coordinate planning, engineering, and construction with Dominion Energy, and
5. 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:

8/19/22
Date

By: 
Spencer Suter
Administrator, Rockbridge County

08/19/2022

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	\$ 16,154,509	67	Pending
BARC (COMBINATION OF RUS / CFC LOANS)	\$ 5,304,466	22	
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ARPA FUNDS	\$ 2,702,232	11	
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
TOTAL	\$ 24,161,207	100 %	



P.O. Box 264
Millboro, VA 24460-0264
1 (800) 846-BARC

August 23, 2022

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

RE: Match Certification

Dear Tamarah:

On behalf of the Board of Directors for BARC Electric Cooperative, I am writing to confirm BARC's financial commitment of \$5,304,466 for the BARC Electric Broadband Project. These matching funds have been allocated in BARC's current budget and any unspent funds will be carried forward into future fiscal years as necessary. BARC's matching funds represent 22% 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 feel free to contact me with any additional questions you may have about BARC's matching funds, or the project, in general.

Warm Regards,

Bill Buchanan
Chief Executive Officer



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

August 23, 2022

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 Rockbridge County 2023 VATI Application - BARC

Dear Dr. Holmes:

On behalf of the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors, I am happy to submit a 2023 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative ("VATI") application to achieve universal broadband coverage in Rockbridge County. This is one of two applications being submitted by the County with our partners, BARC and Brightspeed.

In line with the Governor's universal broadband initiative in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Rockbridge County proposes to partner with BARC Electric Cooperative to develop and implement last mile fiber to approximately 1413 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 \$2,702,232 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-applicants BARC is committing to make investments representing no less than 22% 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.

Sincerely,

Spencer H. Suter
Rockbridge County Administrator

Attachment 11

The VATI Prior Expended Match Table is FOIA exempt, and will be sent to DHCD directly.



Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Director
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 East Main Street, Ste 300
Richmond, VA 23219

Dr. Holmes:

BARC Electric Cooperative (BARC) is planning to formally submit a Virginia Telecommunications Initiative ("VATI") grant application in partnership with Rockbridge County through the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC).

As a precursor to the submittal, BARC submits this Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") Exemption Request to the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development ("DHCD") pursuant to Section 2.2-3705.6-32 of the Code of Virginia ("Va. Code")

Per Va. Code § 2.2-3705.6-32, DHCD has the legal authority with the following information contained in a public record to exempt from the mandatory disclosure provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

Information related to a grant application, or accompanying a grant application, submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development that would (i) reveal (a) trade secrets, (b) financial information of a grant applicant that is not a public body, including balance sheets and financial statements, that are not generally available to the public through regulatory disclosure or otherwise, or (c) research-related information produced or collected by the applicant in the conduct of or as a result of study or research on medical, rehabilitative, scientific, technical, technological, or scholarly issues, when such information has not been publicly released, published, copyrighted, or patented, and (ii) be harmful to the competitive position of the applicant.

Va. Code § 2.2-3705.6-32 and the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative ("VATI") FOIA Policy require that applicants seeking a FOIA exemption make a written request to the Department:

- a. Invoking such exclusion upon submission of the data or other materials for which protection from disclosure is sought;
- b. Identifying with specificity the data, information, or other materials for which protection is sought; and
- c. Stating the reasons why protection is necessary.

84 High Street, Millboro, VA 24460 ☎ 800-846-2272 bbuchanan@barcelectric.com
Bill Buchanan - Chief Executive Officer



BARC will submit the confidential version for the Rockbridge County proposed project areas included in the CSPDC VATI Application pursuant to its request for exemption. Those portions of the application marked as confidential contain confidential budget data, disclosures of confidential process and methodologies for determining Rates of Investment, and other trade secret information that, if disclosed, would be harmful to BARC's competitive position and business interests. BARC requests that the highlighted portions of the attached application be exempted from DHCD's FOIA obligations.

Upon granting of this exemption, BARC will formally submit the confidential information related to the proposed project areas included in the CSPDC VATI grant application in accordance with the VATI guidelines.

Sincerely,

Bill Buchanan
Chief Executive Officer



Glenn Youngkin
Governor

Caren Merrick
Secretary of
Commerce and Trade

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bryan W. Horn
Director

August 25, 2022

Bill Buchanan
Chief Executive Officer
BARC Electric Cooperative
84 High Street
P.O. Box 264
Millboro, VA

Mr. Buchanan:

This letter is in response to your August 25, 2022 request for Freedom of Information (FOIA) exemption for information provided in regards to Rockbridge County and Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Planning District's 2023 VATI application in partnership with BARC Electric Cooperative. Pursuant to 2.2-3705.6-32 of the Code of Virginia, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) must make a written determination within ten (10) days of the request as to whether a FOIA exemption will be afforded as well the nature and scope of the protection. Upon receipt of the written determination from DHCD, documents must be submitted to vati@dhcd.virginia.gov and signified as exempted materials in the file name of each document(s). All exempted information will be securely maintained and accessed by Office of Broadband staff only. After careful review, DHCD has determined the following:

- The request for an exemption pursuant to § 2.2-3705.6-32 of the Code of Virginia for the "Those portions of the application marked as confidential contain confidential budget data, disclosures of confidential process and methodologies for determining Rates of Investment, and other trade secret information" as defined in BARC Electric Cooperative's request of August 25, 2022 is granted. The Exempt Materials have been deemed to include trade secrets and financial information, the release of which would be harmful to the competitive position of BARC Electric Cooperative and its affiliates.

Please contact vati@dhcd.virginia.gov if you have any questions regarding the determination of your FOIA exemption request. Thank you again for your interest in the VATI program.

Sincerely,

Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Broadband



CDBG Derivation of Cost

Item #	Product	Total	VATI	Non-VATI	Source of Estimate	Date
1	Access equipment (OLT cabinets, rectifiers, GPON shelves, GPON cards, optics)	\$ 111,206	\$ -	\$ 111,206	BARC actual costs for ODC-100 with Calix E7	8/23/2022
2	Customer premise equipment, and materials and labor for in-home installations (indoor ONTs, inside wiring, terminators, CAT-6 cabling, contractor labor)	\$ 740,822	\$ -	\$ 740,822	BARC actual costs	8/23/2022
3	Right-of-way clearing	\$ 2,088,360	\$ 2,088,360	\$ -	BARC estimate based on current ROW spending (\$12k per mile, 174.03 miles)	8/23/2022
4	Fiber engineering and construction (includes make-ready engineering, make-ready construction, fiber design, and contractor construction labor and materials)	\$ 12,208,035	\$ 9,555,802	\$ 2,652,233	BARC actual costs	8/23/2022
5	Service drop construction, commercial & residential (includes fiber and mounting hardware to building exterior)	\$ 6,358,500	\$ 4,510,347	\$ 1,848,153	BARC estimate based on current spending (Avg \$4,500 per drop, 1,413 locations)	8/23/2022
6	Contingency for cost overruns, unknown/unforeseen costs, rock adders, etc.	\$ 1,205,560	\$ -	\$ 1,205,560	BARC estimate (5%)	8/23/2022
7	Costs already incurred on VATI work areas	\$ 1,398,724	\$ -	\$ 1,398,724	BARC actual costs	8/23/2022
8	Grant Administration	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	CSPDC quote	8/23/2022
	Total	\$ 24,161,207	\$ 16,154,509	\$ 8,006,698		

Attachment 13

The Documentation of Supporting Costs is FOIA exempt, and will be sent to DHCD directly.



Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Director
Office of Broadband
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
600 East Main Street, Ste 300
Richmond, VA 23219

Dr. Holmes:

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84 High Street, Millboro, VA 24460 ☎ 800-846-2272 bbuchanan@barcelectric.com
Bill Buchanan - Chief Executive Officer



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Upon granting of this exemption, BARC will formally submit the confidential information related to the proposed project areas included in the CSPDC VATI grant application in accordance with the VATI guidelines.

Sincerely,

Bill Buchanan
Chief Executive Officer



Glenn Youngkin
Governor

Caren Merrick
Secretary of
Commerce and Trade

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bryan W. Horn
Director

August 25, 2022

Bill Buchanan
Chief Executive Officer
BARC Electric Cooperative
84 High Street
P.O. Box 264
Millboro, VA

Mr. Buchanan:

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Please contact vati@dhcd.virginia.gov if you have any questions regarding the determination of your FOIA exemption request. Thank you again for your interest in the VATI program.

Sincerely,

Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Broadband





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**

**J. LINGON JONES, JR.,
CHAIRMAN**

**JANIE HARRIS,
VICE-CHAIR**

BARTON "BOYD" BROWN II

DAVID HAWKINS

ANNE HERRING

ROY POWELL

STACY STEVENS

August 24, 2022

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 2023 VATI Application

Dear Dr. Holmes,

The Rockbridge County Economic Development Authority fully supports Rockbridge County's 2022 VATI application to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

Economic growth and advancement within Rockbridge County cannot exist without the continued development of reliable, universal internet access throughout the County. Homebased businesses depend on broadband services to perform their job duties and to reach their customers. Students rely on broadband for their education. Improving economic and social conditions within our rural locality relies on the "last-mile" installation of broadband.

The Rockbridge County Economic Development Authority strongly supports this application that will improve our citizens' and businesses' overall health, wealth, and well-being. Implementing universal broadband in Rockbridge will move the needle forward in our economic growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Janie Harris
Vice-Chairman, Rockbridge County EDA



August 23, 2022

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

RE: 2023 VATI Applications from BARC Connects

Dear Ms. Holmes:

Dominion Energy Virginia ("Dominion") is pleased to be a party to a Memoranda of Understanding with BARC Connects, BARC Electric Cooperative, and the County of Rockbridge (a "Participating County").

Dominion, BARC Connects, and our electric cooperative partner have developed a unique approach for achieving universal broadband access with individual Counties, and through broader, regional approaches. Dominion's participation in each of these projects will be pursuant to, and in a manner consistent with the provisions of, Virginia Code § 56-585.1:9 (the "Utility Leverage Statute").

This letter confirms Dominion's support for the application to the 2023 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative to be submitted by BARC Connects and our Participating County partner named above. Dominion's specific investments that will support each proposed project will be set forth in petitions under the Utility Leverage Statute that will be submitted to the State Corporation Commission ("SCC"). Dominion's participation in each project, and its specific level of related investment, will be subject to the approval of the SCC and the terms set forth in the SCC's Final Order related to each project.

Dominion is pleased to be part of these important County-wide and regional initiatives in the manner contemplated by the Utility Leverage Statute.

Sincerely,

David F Walker

David F. Walker
Director, Rural Broadband

Phillip Thompson, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent



Timothy J. Martino, M.Ed.
Assistant Superintendent

August 17, 2022

Dr. Tamarah 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 2022 VATI Application

Dear Dr. Holmes,

Without reservation, please accept this letter as endorsement of Rockbridge County's VATI application 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 2023 applications with BARC Connects and BrightSpeed 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,

Phillip Thompson, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent



August 17, 2022

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

RE: Rockbridge County 2023 VATI Application

Dear Dr. Holmes,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am writing in support of Rockbridge County's 2023 VATI application to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes and businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

Business growth in the region depends on reliable, universal internet access, which is not yet widely available throughout Rockbridge County. Many businesses in the County are home-based businesses, located in 'last-mile' zones that are targeted for coverage in this application. Broadband is essential to strengthening our small businesses, diversifying our economy, and creating and retaining jobs in Rockbridge, Lexington, and the Buena Vista region.

The Chamber of Commerce Serving Lexington, Buena Vista and Rockbridge County is happy to endorse this application in the hope that its implementation will bolster business growth and community and economic development in Rockbridge County.

Sincerely,

Tracy E. Lyons
Executive Director



ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

2050 North Lee Highway • Lexington, Virginia 24450 • (540) 463-3603 or (804) 463-3593 • Fax (540) 463-5509

August 22, 2022

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 2023 VATI Applications

Dear Dr. Holmes,

The Rockbridge County Farm Bureau fully supports Rockbridge County's 2023 VATI applications to provide universal broadband to the many unserved homes, farms and other businesses throughout Rockbridge County.

In a rapidly changing business environment, farmers 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 B. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Mack Smith – President
Rockbridge County Farm Bureau

Form 477 Filing Summary

FRN:
0002073427**Data as of:**
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Mar 1, 2022 08:30
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Filer Identification

Section	Field	Response
Filer Information	Company Name	BARConnects, LLC
	Holding Company Name	BARC Electric Cooperative
	Filing Type	Non-ILEC
	SAC ID	196141
	499 ID	826973
Data Contact Information	Data Contact Name	Chris Botulinski
	Data Contact Phone Number	(800) 846-2272
	Data Contact E-mail	cbotulinski@barcelectric.com
Emergency Operations Contact Information	Emergency Operations Name	Chris Botulinski
	Emergency Operations Phone Number	(800) 846-2272
	Emergency Operations E-mail	cbotulinski@barcelectric.com
Certifying Official Contact Information	Certifying Official Name	Chris Botulinski
	Certifying Official Phone Number	(800) 846-2272
	Certifying Official E-mail	Cbotulinski@barcelectric.com

Data Submitted

Form Section	File Name	Date & Time	Number of Rows
Fixed Broadband Deployment	FBD_BARC_123121.csv	Feb 21, 2022 11:12 AM	936
Fixed Broadband Subscription	FBS_BARC_123121.csv	Mar 1, 2022 08:17 AM	79
Fixed Voice Subscription	FVS_BARC_123121.csv	Mar 1, 2022 08:22 AM	12

Fixed Broadband Deployment

Census Block Counts by State, DBA Name and Technology

State	DBA Name	Technology	Blocks
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State	DBA Name	Technology	Blocks
Virginia	BARC	Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User	936
Total			936

Fixed Broadband Subscription

Fixed Broadband Subscriptions by State, Technology and End User Type

State	Technology	Census Tracts	Subscriptions		
			Consumer	Business/Govt.	Total
Virginia	Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User	79	3,348	180	3,528
Total		79	3,348	180	3,528

Fixed Broadband Subscriptions by Bandwidths and End User Type

Downstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Upstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Consumer	Business/Govt.	Total
25.000	5.000	1	0	1
25.000	25.000	0	2	2
50.000	10.000	826	16	842
50.000	50.000	0	7	7
100.000	50.000	1,049	40	1,089
100.000	100.000	0	44	44
200.000	200.000	0	1	1
250.000	125.000	1,419	44	1,463
250.000	250.000	0	11	11
250.000	500.000	0	2	2
500.000	250.000	53	2	55
500.000	500.000	0	1	1
1,000.000	1,000.000	0	4	4
5,000.000	5,000.000	0	2	2
50,000.000	50,000.000	0	4	4
Total		3,348	180	3,528

Fixed Broadband Subscriptions by Technology, Bandwidths and End User Type

Technology	Downstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Upstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Consumer	Business/Govt.	Total
Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User	25.000	5.000	1	0	1

Technology	Downstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Upstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Consumer	Business/Govt.	Total
	25.000	25.000	0	2	2
	50.000	10.000	826	16	842
	50.000	50.000	0	7	7
	100.000	50.000	1,049	40	1,089
	100.000	100.000	0	44	44
	200.000	200.000	0	1	1
	250.000	125.000	1,419	44	1,463
	250.000	250.000	0	11	11
	250.000	500.000	0	2	2
	500.000	250.000	53	2	55
	500.000	500.000	0	1	1
	1,000.000	1,000.000	0	4	4
	5,000.000	5,000.000	0	2	2
	50,000.000	50,000.000	0	4	4
Total			3,348	180	3,528

Fixed Voice Subscription

VGE Lines and VoIP Subscriptions by State and End User Type

State	Total VGE Lines	Consumer VGE Lines	Total VoIP Subscriptions	Consumer VoIP Subscriptions
Virginia	0	0	1,197	1,049
Total	0	0	1,197	1,049

Fixed Voice Subscription (iVoIP)

Over-the-Top VoIP Subscriptions by State and End User Type

State	Total	Consumer	Business/Govt.
Virginia	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

All Other VoIP Subscriptions by State, End User Type, Bundle and Last-Mile Medium

State	Total	by End User Type		by Bundle		by Last-Mile Medium			
		Consumer	Business/Govt.	Sold w/ Internet	Sold w/o Internet	FTTP	Coax	Fixed Wireless	Copper

State	Total	by End User Type		by Bundle		by Last-Mile Medium			
		Consumer	Business/Govt.	Sold w/ Internet	Sold w/o Internet	FTTP	Coax	Fixed Wireless	Copper
Virginia	1,197	1,049	148	1,197	0	1,197	0	0	0
Total	1,197	1,049	148	1,197	0	1,197	0	0	0

Reminder: Use 2010 Census geographies for data as of June 30, 2021 and before. Use 2020 Census geographies for data as of December 31, 2021 and after.

For help or assistance, please contact (877) 480-3201 or (717) 338-2834 (TTY) or you may submit an [online e-support ticket](#).

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Form 477 Filing Summary

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Jun 30, 2022**Operations:**
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Filer Identification

Section	Field	Response
Filer Information	Company Name	BARConnects, LLC
	Holding Company Name	BARC Electric Cooperative
	Filing Type	Non-ILEC
	SAC ID	196141
	499 ID	826973
Data Contact Information	Data Contact Name	Chris Botulinski
	Data Contact Phone Number	(800) 846-2272
	Data Contact E-mail	cbotulinski@barcelectric.com
Emergency Operations Contact Information	Emergency Operations Name	Chris Botulinski
	Emergency Operations Phone Number	(800) 846-2272
	Emergency Operations E-mail	cbotulinski@barcelectric.com
Certifying Official Contact Information	Certifying Official Name	Chris Botulinski
	Certifying Official Phone Number	(800) 846-2272
	Certifying Official E-mail	cbotulinski@barcelectric.com

Data Submitted

Form Section	File Name	Date & Time	Number of Rows
Fixed Broadband Deployment	FBD_BARC_063022.csv	Aug 22, 2022 02:37 PM	936
Fixed Broadband Subscription	FBS_BARC_063022_Revised.csv	Aug 23, 2022 11:47 AM	78
Fixed Voice Subscription	FVS_BARC_063022_Revised.csv	Aug 23, 2022 11:47 AM	12

Fixed Broadband Deployment

Census Block Counts by State, DBA Name and Technology

State	DBA Name	Technology	Blocks
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State	DBA Name	Technology	Blocks
Virginia	BARC	Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User	936
Total			936

Fixed Broadband Subscription

Fixed Broadband Subscriptions by State, Technology and End User Type

State	Technology	Census Tracts	Subscriptions		
			Consumer	Business/Govt.	Total
Virginia	Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User	78	3,796	202	3,998
Total		78	3,796	202	3,998

Fixed Broadband Subscriptions by Bandwidths and End User Type

Downstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Upstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Consumer	Business/Govt.	Total
25.000	25.000	0	2	2
50.000	10.000	906	16	922
50.000	50.000	0	4	4
100.000	50.000	1,145	48	1,193
100.000	100.000	1	47	48
200.000	200.000	0	1	1
250.000	125.000	1,677	54	1,731
250.000	250.000	0	10	10
500.000	250.000	65	8	73
500.000	500.000	2	5	7
1,000.000	1,000.000	0	7	7
Total		3,796	202	3,998

Fixed Broadband Subscriptions by Technology, Bandwidths and End User Type

Technology	Downstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Upstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Consumer	Business/Govt.	Total
Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User	25.000	25.000	0	2	2
	50.000	10.000	906	16	922
	50.000	50.000	0	4	4
	100.000	50.000	1,145	48	1,193
	100.000	100.000	1	47	48

Technology	Downstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Upstream Bandwidth (in Mbps)	Consumer	Business/Govt.	Total
	200.000	200.000	0	1	1
	250.000	125.000	1,677	54	1,731
	250.000	250.000	0	10	10
	500.000	250.000	65	8	73
	500.000	500.000	2	5	7
	1,000.000	1,000.000	0	7	7
Total			3,796	202	3,998

Fixed Voice Subscription

VGE Lines and VoIP Subscriptions by State and End User Type

State	Total VGE Lines	Consumer VGE Lines	Total VoIP Subscriptions	Consumer VoIP Subscriptions
Virginia	0	0	1,381	1,171
Total	0	0	1,381	1,171

Fixed Voice Subscription (iVoIP)

Over-the-Top VoIP Subscriptions by State and End User Type

State	Total	Consumer	Business/Govt.
Virginia	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

All Other VoIP Subscriptions by State, End User Type, Bundle and Last-Mile Medium

State	Total	by End User Type		by Bundle		by Last-Mile Medium			
		Consumer	Business/Govt.	Sold w/ Internet	Sold w/o Internet	FTTP	Coax	Fixed Wireless	Copper
Virginia	1,381	1,171	210	1,381	0	1,381	0	0	0
Total	1,381	1,171	210	1,381	0	1,381	0	0	0

Reminder: Use 2010 Census geographies for data as of June 30, 2021 and before. Use 2020 Census geographies for data as of December 31, 2021 and after.

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Attachment 17

This project will not implement wireless infrastructure, so shapefiles indicating RSSI projections are not applicable.

Attachment 18 – Question 1 Continued

Access to high-speed Internet is the foundation for economic sustainability, yet for most parts of rural Virginia, broadband is scarce and opportunities for economic growth even scarcer. In 2021 the Commonwealth announced a \$750M grant program, the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI), to expand internet access across the Commonwealth. The Governor's initiative aligns with a multi-phase project BARC and its subsidiary, BARConnects LLC (dba "BARC Connects"), undertook beginning 2017 to provide ubiquitous Fiber-to-the-premise (FTTp) Internet service to all 13,000 of its electric members and thousands more outside its electric territory. As of July, 2022 BARC has built and maintains approximately 1,198 miles of fiber infrastructure providing access to high-speed Internet service to over 10,000 homes and businesses. By year end 2022, BARC will have completed an additional 70 miles of completed fiber infrastructure. Pursuant to an affiliate arrangement approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission, BARC leases its fiber and related equipment to BARC Connects under a Fiber & Network Lease Agreement. BARC Connects operates the leased network and provides last-mile Internet service to BARC Electric, as well as other customers.

The project areas identified in this application will maximize the impact of the requested grant funding by matching 33% in cooperative-provided funding and locality funding to reach as many unserved residents and businesses as possible. Attachment 1 Project Area Map identifies the total project area including boundaries with road locations.