

Approved

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on July 27, 2022. The meeting was held electronically using Zoom and telephone starting at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT AND ATTENDING REMOTELY: Mr. Bucky Walsh, Mr. Waldo Jaquith, Mr. Jim Andrews, Mr. Bill Fritz

ABSENT: Ms. Donna Price, Mr. Trevor Henry

Also Present: Mr. Richard DeLoria (Senior Assistant County Attorney), Mike Culp (Director of Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office) and Jason Inofuentes (Program Manager, Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office)

Agenda Item No. 1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order.

Mr. Walsh established a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Mr. DeLoria announced the following for the record:

As authorized by Virginia Code Section 15.2-1413 and Albemarle County's Continuity of Government Ordinance, this meeting is being held electronically over the Zoom platform. The public has real time audio-visual access to this meeting over Zoom and real time audio access over telephone. Everyone on the phone and attending via Zoom from the public is in listen only mode.

If there are members of the public attending by Zoom who wish to speak during public comment, please use the Raise Hand feature to notify the meeting facilitator. For those joining by telephone, please use *9 to indicate you would like to comment. State your full name and the magisterial district in which you reside before getting into the substance of your comment. If you don't know your district, provide a general location for your home or business.

Each speaker will have 3 minutes to comment.

This meeting is being recorded. A copy will be posted on the County's website.

Mr. Deloria asked the board members to identify themselves and their general location.

Mr. Walsh stated he was attending from his home.

Mr. Jaquith stated he was attending from his home.

Mr. Fritz stated he was attending from his home.

Mr. Andrews stated he was attending from Sorrento, Maine.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

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Mr. Walsh **moved** to approve the agenda.

Mr. Andrews **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 Brief Announcements from the Board

There were no announcements from the Board.

Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment

Heather Rowland stated that she was in the VATI 2021 Box Holly area and is expecting service in September. Ms. Rowland stated that customer service has been outsourced to the customers. The customer now must do most of the work, and it is difficult to speak to a knowledgeable person. Ms. Rowland stated that recently the technician did not come when they should, and phone service was out for 12 days, and the company doesn't seem to be being held accountable. Ms. Rowland asked if a system will be put in place but not served by CenturyLink.

Mr. Walsh stated that he had had similar experiences and shares the concerns. Mr. Walsh noted that he and ABBA have asked CenturyLink for answers but have not got them and they have not addressed the systemic problems. Mr. Walsh stated that the company has been sold and he holds out hope that the issues will be addressed.

Mr. Jaquith stated that broadband providers are functionally unregulated, and this is frustrating. Mr. Jaquith noted that we have limited ability to do anything beyond potentially cancelling the contract and this doesn't get broadband installed. Mr. Jaquith stated that the State or FCC need to step up to address the issue.

Agenda Item No. 5 Approval of June 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fritz **moved** to approve the minutes.

Mr. Walsh **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6 Old Business

Agenda Item No. 6a VATI 2020 Closeout Process

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

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Mr. Inofuentes stated that previously the County did not have a grants office to help with payments. We now do and they will be working with ABBA and the Broadband Office in the future.

Mr. Jaquith asked about the status of the required reports.

Mr. Culp stated there is still another financial audit that must be completed. Mr. Culp noted that with VATI 2021 there are monthly reports on financials and passings along with the identification of other issues such as milestones or problems.

Agenda Item No. 6b VATI 2021 Update

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Mr. Culp introduced Steve Brewer from Lumen.

Mr. Brewer stated they meet weekly with an internal team to problem solve and they take the County's concerns seriously. Fiber networks have fewer problems than copper networks and this should help to address the customer service problems. Rehab work on the old copper networks is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.

Mr. Culp stated that it is beneficial to have new people connected to service. Mr. Culp noted that some of the installations have been less than professional with lines being left on the ground after installation for later burying. The failure to have service people show up is frustrating. Mr. Culp asked how these issues will be addressed.

Mr. Brewer stated that he believes the missed appointment issue has been resolved and there is a process in place to get the cable buried after installation.

Mr. Culp asked if CenturyLink is responsible for locating existing copper infrastructure so that it isn't cut during new installations.

Mr. Brewer stated that they are working internally to make sure that this responsibility is addressed with their partners.

Mr. Andrews asked about the status of material shortages and what is being done to provide additional crews.

Mr. Brewer stated that material shortages exist nationally. Contractors have left some places to work on other projects for more money and individual workers have done the same thing.

Mr. Jaquith asked if the issue of getting power to installed equipment is an issue with waiting for the power provider to bring in the power.

Mr. Brewer stated this was correct.

Approved

Mr. Culp noted that the VATI 2021 project is about a month behind schedule.

Agenda Item No. 6c VATI 2022 Update

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Mr. Culp introduced Gary Wood of CVEC.

Mr. Wood stated that work continues various projects. They still plan on getting all CVEC members that want service connected by the end of the year. The VATI 2022 project has taken longer to get a signed contract than anticipated. The make ready work continues for the VATI 2022 project.

Mr. Jaquith noted that he has heard that in the Free Union area there are people outside of the CVEC service area that got a notice that broadband will be available to them. Mr. Jaquith asked if Firefly was providing service outside of the CVEC area.

Mr. Wood stated that this was happening in a few areas including the Free Union area.

Agenda Item No. 6d VATI 2023 Update

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Agenda Item No. 6e "Hybrid" Meeting Planning

Mr. Culp noted that the September meeting will be hybrid in Room 241. Training on how these meetings will be run will be offered to any interested member.

Agenda Item No. 6f ABBA Financial Report (Appendix A)

Mr. Culp stated there was no change from last month.

Agenda Item No. 6g Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Report

Mr. Inofuentes shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Agenda Item No. 7 New Business

Agenda Item No. 7a Annual Meeting

Mr. Culp stated that in August ABBA will elect a Board of Directors, adopt rules and procedures and set the annual meeting calendar.

Mr. DeLoria stated that he sent out an email with updates to the FOIA and remote participation rules to reflect state requirements. Mr. DeLoria noted that virtual meetings are allowed under very limited

Approved

circumstances and should be limited to special meetings. Mr. DeLoria requested that any questions or comments should be sent directly to him or Mr. Culp and not to all Board members.

Agenda Item No. 8 Adjourn

Mr. Walsh **moved** to adjourn.

Mr. Andrews **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Approved

				Update: 07/20/2022
4-4300-91097-491097-950030-9999 (EXPENSE CODE)				
BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY				
	Fund Balance	Commitment/ Projected Expenses	Paid Expenses	Remaining Project Funds
Current FY22 Balance (includes \$4.5mil in ARPA Appropriation, \$4.37mil of that for VATI 2022)	\$5,806,415.16			
VATI 2020 Project at 8 locations Commitment (PO 2021-7747 CenturyLink)		\$291,300.00	\$291,300.00	\$0.00
Administrative Fee for DHCD VATI 2020 Award 1% of \$291,300		\$2,913.00	\$2,913.00	\$0.00
Administrative Fee for DHCD VATI 2021 Award 1% of \$2,276,110		\$22,761.10	\$22,761.10	\$0.00
Administrative Fee for ARPA Appropriation 1% of \$4,500,000		\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
VATI 2021 Project Commitment		\$640,000.00	\$0.00	
VATI 2022 Project Commitment		\$4,368,000.00	\$0.00	
	\$436,441.06	\$5,369,974.10	\$361,974.10	\$436,441.06



Albemarle Broadband Authority

July 27, 2022



Agenda

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Brief Announcements by Authority
Members
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of June 22, 2022 Meeting
Minutes
6. Old Business
 - a. VATI 2020 Closeout Process
 - b. VATI 2021 Update
 - a. Steve Brewer to Present and take Questions
 - c. VATI 2022 Update
- d. VATI 2023 Update
- e. “Hybrid” Meeting Planning
- f. ABBA Financial Report (Appendix A)
- g. Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Report
7. New Business
 - a. Annual Meeting
8. Adjourn



VATI 2020 Closeout Process

- Speedtest Data for VATI 2020 submitted
- Adjusted Passings (# of locations with access to fiber) submitted
- DHCD will not reimburse Lumen for VATI 2021 work until these reports have been completed, submitted, and accepted
- Feedback from DHCD is favorable, closeout decision is next week
- Lumen hasn't submitted any invoices for VATI 2021 work



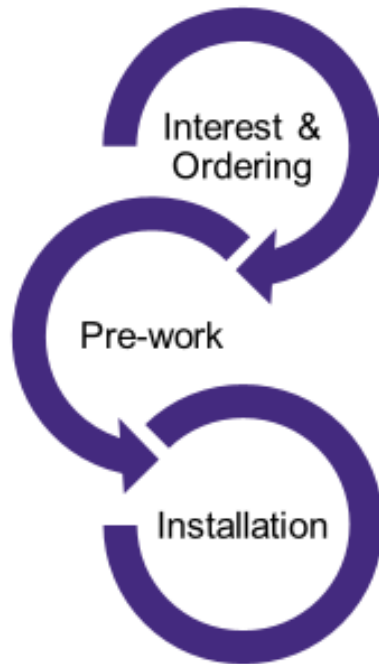
VATI 2021 Update

- Milton Hills project area will be delayed as they await power to equipment (July 31st to August 31st)
- Box Holly project areas have been divided into separate tranches
 - Taylor's Gap (8/19)
 - Rosemont (9/9)
 - Murray (9/30)
- Stony Point and Keswick/Campbell/Cobham project areas will be similarly divided
- Webinars continue, expect renewed attendance as we approach largest project areas



VATI 2021 Update

Ordering to Installation- What to Expect



Interest & Ordering

- Quantum Fiber offers a fully digital online experience
- Let us know you're interested prior to Launch date at <http://www.q.com>
- Orders for Quantum Fiber are currently being taken as construction work is complete

1

Pre-Work

- Initial due date will be 10 business days out for Buried Site Check to measure for your Fiber Drop
- Miss Utility 811 Service; Utility locates are performed by a 3rd Party (allow up to 3 days excl weekends)
- You are responsible to locate private facilities such as electric dog fence or sprinkler system etc.
- Bury the fiber drop to your home (generally, performed within 10 business days by a 3rd Party)

2

3

Installation

- 2hr Appt Arrival Windows; actual installation could take up to 4 hours
- Communication updates on installation and tech activity
- Quantum Fiber technician will install your services
- Requires access to your home during the installation



VATI 2021 Update

- In total, 20 residents (9 from earlier areas) experienced missed installs possibly related to this error
- The error first was discovered in the Gilbert Station area
- Lumen will manually set the “buried site check indicator” for all future project areas
- Our office requested that:
 - Each impacted resident be contacted to explain the issue and plans for resolution
 - Lumen provide assurances that they have sufficient staff and materials for future launch areas, and how soon will we be notified about delays



VATI 2021 Update

Project Area	Ordered Service	Pending	Active	Passings	Estd. Take Rate
Jones Mill	12	2	10	57	21%
Old Garth	4	0	4	6	67%
Tilman/Meriwether	30	12	18	48	63%
Snow Hill Ln	15	3	12	71	21%
Gilbert Station	23	4	19	46	50%
Advance Mills	41	26	15	122	33%
Total	125	47	78	228	55%



VATI 2021 Update

- Lumen's response:
 - The fiber success team called each customer on Tuesday [July 19th] and will contact them again with complete installation details, as necessary.
 - We have been able to work through the material challenges with minimal delays so far, but there is still a worldwide material shortage that we do not have any control of. We do not have all materials to complete every job on hand, but our contract partner continues to order the maximum quantities allowable to replenish stock as it is used. We have also borrowed from other projects and from other areas to keep these projects moving. [Our contract partner] are adding additional crews as they come available and has committed to continue that effort. We are doing everything we can to work through the material shortage, the severe weather, and the rock excavation to meet the estimated dates provided.

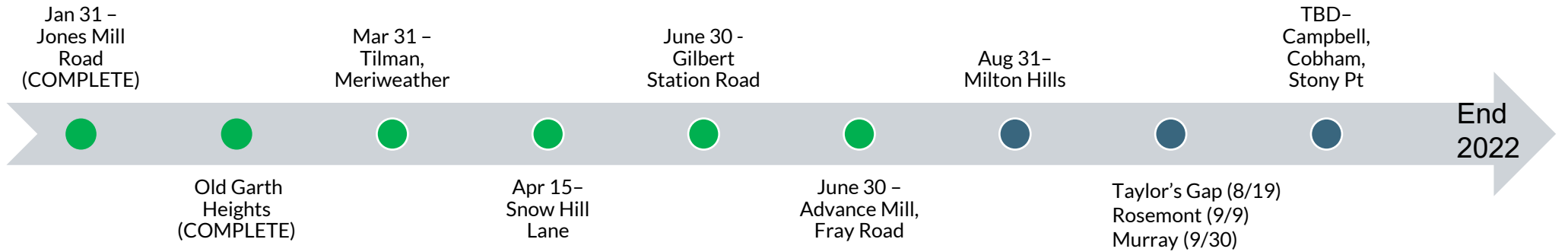
Community Webinars
Fridays at Noon

- 12/3/2021
- 1/7/2022
- 2/4/2022
- 3/4/2022
- 4/1/2022
- 5/6/2022
- 6/3/2022
- 7/1/2022
- 8/5/2022
- 9/1/2022
- 10/7/2022
- 11/4/2022

ABBA CenturyLink VATI 2021 Work Schedule



Calendar Year 2022 Subscriber Install Order Dates



- - COMPLETE
- - LAUNCHED

All open dates are estimates and subject to change based on equipment availability and other factors



VATI 2022 Update

- Three-party agreement has been completed
- TJPDC intends to be under-contract with DHCD soon
- Firefly continues make-ready work and is completing CVEC build-out

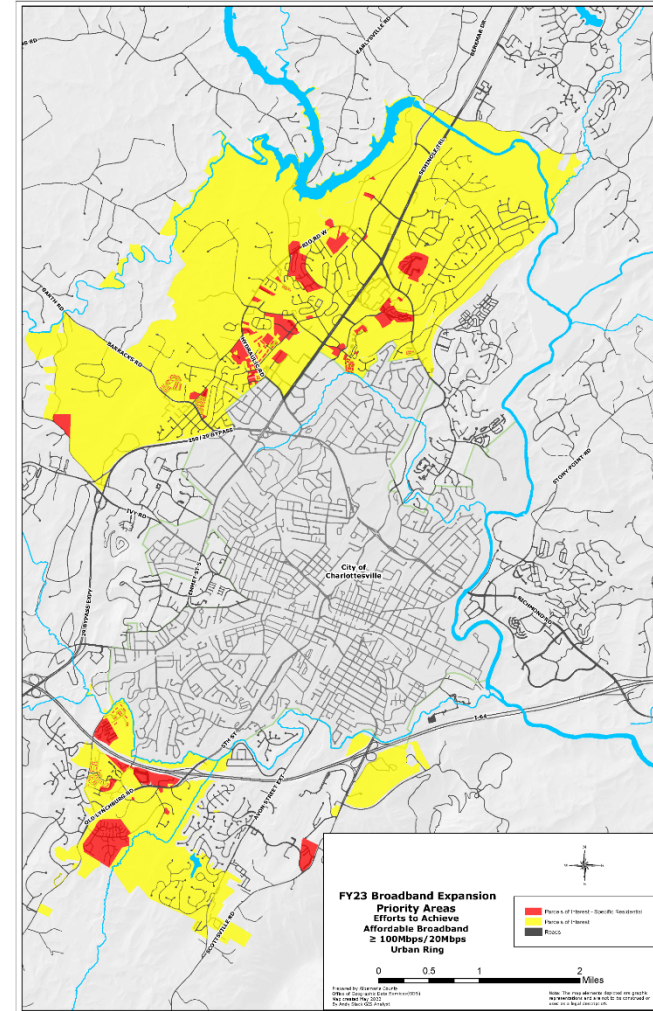
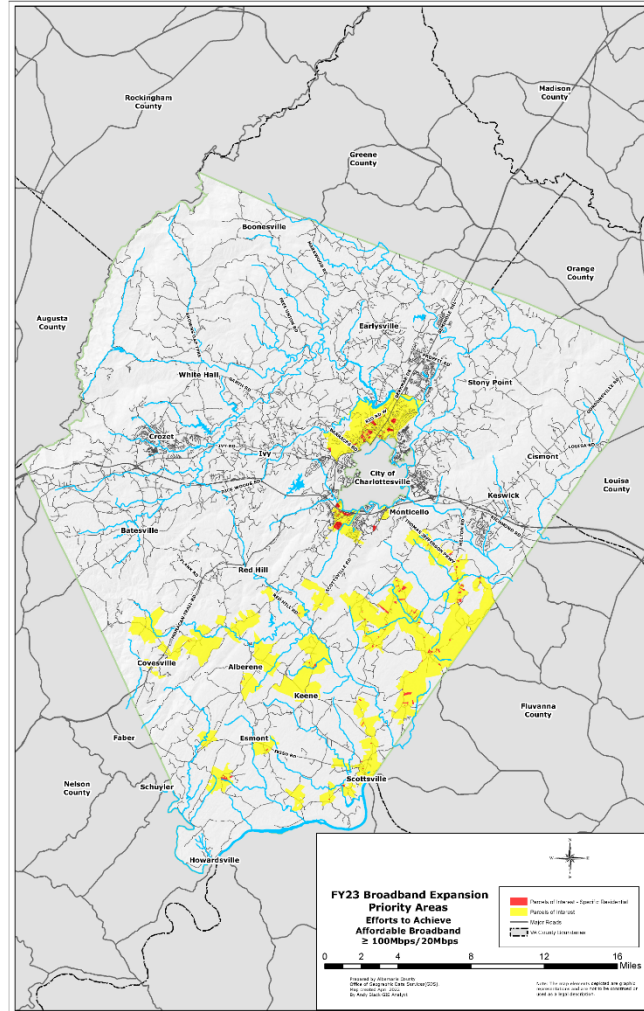


VATI 2023 Guidelines

- Notice to apply submitted by ABBA, BAAO, and TJPDC
- Application due by August 25, 2022
- Continuing to do data collection to identify areas where measured performance may not be at 100/20
- Work done for this will apply to future funding opportunities



VATI 2023 Maps





“Hybrid” Meeting Planning

- BAAO and CAPE Staff Available to Assist with Acclimation to Room 241 for ABBA Members
- September Meeting (tentative 9/28/2022) ABBA in person (with option to attend remotely) Public and non-ABBA presenters in person (with social distancing) or remote.
- Meetings will continue to be recorded and available post meeting on the County’s website



ABBA Financial Report

Update: 07/20/2022

4-4300-91097-491097-950030-9999 (EXPENSE CODE)

BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY

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BAAO Report

ACP Bridge “soft” Launch

CenturyLink/Lumen service update

HB445 Stakeholder Work Group Participation



ACP Bridge Launch

- ACP Bridge Program
 - Up to \$20 additional per month benefit
 - Must be a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program
 - ISP who is a qualified ACP service provider adds the additional benefit to reduce ACP participant internet bill
 - County Processes Payment
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) emailed to all ISPs
- Multiple ISPs reporting they are reviewing the MOU
- Application portal open, working with CAPE to advertise program



CenturyLink/Lumen update

The SCC approved the transfer of assets on April 27th, under the terms of the settlement agreement which mirrored aspects of Lumen's action plan following the January 12th BoS Work Session.

This includes a commitment to rehabilitate degraded infrastructure in our area, and increased oversight by the SCC following the transfer.

Per Lumen, as of this time:

- Analysis of 74 cables completed; 74 cables to receive rehabilitation
- 83.78% of work completed
- Work to be completed by July 31, 2022



HB445/SB446 Stakeholder Advisory Group

Mr. Inofuentes has participated in a stakeholder advisory group seeking to provide recommendations for legislative or administrative solutions to ensuring broadband service is provided for new developments.

First two meetings have been held with a third scheduled for September to finalized a draft report.

Most recent meeting sought feedback on several recommendations



HB445/SB446 Stakeholder Advisory Group

Recommendations:

- Dig Once Policy under Subdivision Ordinance
- Open Trench Notification and Coordination
- General Enabling Authority for Promotion of Broadband by Municipalities
- Broadband Inclusion in Comp Plan
- Funding programs for Broadband in New Developments
- Infrastructure Buildout Fund
- “Broadband-ready” designations
- Encourage industry coordination and cooperation
- Broadband inclusion in LIHTC Scoring/Evaluation



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Annual Meeting



Agenda

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