

APPROVED

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on September 28, 2022. The meeting was held in room 241 of the Albemarle County Office Building located at 401 McIntire Road.

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

ABSENT: Ms. Donna Price

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 at 5:04 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

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

Mr. Henry **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 Brief Announcements from the Board

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment

Mr. Melan asked to get more information about the roll out of service in various parts of the County.

Mr. Walsh confirmed that he is in the RISE project which is in the early stages of the contract. Mr. Walsh stated that it could be within 3 years for connection but there is no firm schedule yet. As construction advances the provider will send out notices about 6 months prior to when service will be available. Mr. Walsh recommended that he contact the Broadband Office for more information.

Debbie Vermillion stated that she lives in the Franklin subdivision and was using Beam for service. She recently received a notice that the service will be discontinued. Ms. Vermillion stated that the nearby Cascadia subdivision has Ting but they have no plans to extend service. Ms. Vermillion asked what options are available.

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Mr. Walsh stated that ABBA has talked with Ting about extending service and that they focus on higher density areas. Mr. Walsh recommend that she contact the Broadband Office for more information on potential options.

Mr. Jaquith stated that ABBA is aware that the focus has been on the rural areas and that there are urban areas that have limited broadband options.

Agenda Item No. 5 Approval of August 24, 2022, Meeting Minutes

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

Mr. Henry **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6 Old Business

Agenda Item No. 6a VATI 2021 Update

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

Mr. Culp stated on September 21st CenturyLink/Lumen which is becoming Brightspeed sent a request to the Broadband Authority asking to extend the period of performance for VATI 2021 from December 5, 2022, to March 31, 2023 due to delays in being able to complete construction. If the Broadband Authority supports this request the extension may be approved or denied by DHCD.

Mr. Culp stated that a draft letter had been prepared and distributed to the Board members.

Mr. Henry stated that this extension is consistent with delays in capital projects the County has experienced. Mr. Henry stated he was not surprised that this request was submitted.

Mr. Jaquith stated that if we say no to the extension, we have to be prepared to get service in another way that is as fast or cheaper than granting the extension. Mr. Jaquith noted that there are limited options and is not the best situation but there isn't another option.

Mr. Walsh stated that the letter should reflect that other capital projects have also been delayed.

Mr. Walsh asked if all members supported moving forward with the letter supporting an extension.

All members indicated they supported submitting a letter of support.

Mr. Walsh asked that the letter be amended to include discussion that delays in construction had also been experienced by other capital projects in the area.

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Mr. Jaquith noted that the potential of delay was discussed a year ago. CenturyLink presented a schedule and didn't identify this as an issue until a month ago. Mr. Jaquith stated that ABBA and the Broadband Office should continue to monitor their performance to see if they are staying on schedule.

Mr. Henry **moved** to request that DHCD grant an extension ABBA's response to the issues contained in the Letter of Finding from October 24 to October 27.

Mr. Walsh **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Mr. Culp introduced Carl Caudill (DHCD), Steve Brewer (Lumen) and Tammy Breski (DHCD).

Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Caudill for the Letter of Finding.

Ms. Breski stated that she believes the issues identified can be addressed by Lumen and the County.

Mr. Brewer stated that Lumen is working to address the issues in the letter and will have a response to the Broadband Office by October 19th.

Agenda Item No. 6b VATI 2022 Update

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

Agenda Item No. 6c VATI 2023 Planning

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

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

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

Agenda Item No. 6e Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Report

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

Agenda Item No. 6f ABBA Strategic Plan Discussion

Mr. Jaquith asked that the document be a working document shared with everyone so they can provide comments.

Mr. Henry recommended using SharePoint.

Mr. Culp stated that he would set up a SharePoint site and share it with the Board members.

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Agenda Item No. 6g Reschedule 3/22/2023 Meeting

Mr. Culp stated that the meeting date needs to be changed because it is a Board of Supervisors meeting date.

Mr. Walsh asked that Mr. Culp confirm that 3/21/2023 is available and come back at the future meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10 New Business

Mr. Fritz stated that he would be absent from the October meeting.

Agenda Item No. 11 Adjourn

Mr. Andrews **moved** to adjourn.

Mr. Henry **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

				Update: 09/21/2022
4-4300-91097-491097-950030-9999 (EXPENSE CODE) + ARPA 5301 Fund				
BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY + ARPA Funding				
	Fund Balance	Commitment/ Projected Expenses	Paid Expenses	Remaining Project Funds
Current FY23 Balance (includes \$4.5mil in ARPA Appropriation, \$4.37mil of that for VATI 2022)	\$5,461,300.00			
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	
	\$91,325.90	\$5,369,974.10	\$361,974.10	\$91,325.90



Albemarle Broadband Authority

September 28, 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 August 24, 2022 Meeting

Minutes

6. Old Business

a. VATI 2021 Update

- b. VATI 2022 Update
- c. VATI 2023 Planning
- d. ABBA Financial Report (Appendix A)
- e. BAAO Report
- f. ABBA Strategic Plan Discussion
- g. Reschedule 3/22/2023 Meeting

7. New Business

8. Adjourn



VATI 2021 Update

- Milton Hills: Has launched
- Taylor's Gap: Construction continues after numerous delays due to rain and crew availability
- Rosemont: Construction has resumed after shared private utility markings were completed



VATI 2021 Update

- On September 21st, Lumen sent a request for extension from December 5th, 2022 to March 31st, 2023
- Caused in part by circumstances typical for a construction project, in part by process delays that required redress, and in part by the broader economy and ensuing material and labor shortages.



VATI 2021 Update

- *We estimate that approximately 1,168 homes and businesses of the 1,675 total will be passed by the December 5, 2022 deadline.*
- A draft letter has been circulated from ABBA to DHCD in the event that ABBA moves forward with the request



VATI 2021 Update

- The transfer of Lumen's ILEC assets is expected to be completed on October 3rd and preparations are in progress for that transfer
- The relevant entities involved in the transfer in our area are Central Telephone of Virginia and CenturyTel Broadband Services.
- Central Telephone dba as CenturyLink is the entity involved in this project



VATI 2021 Update

- The new entity will be doing business as Brightspeed
- Key staff assigned to the VATI 2021 project will be making the transition to Brightspeed minimizing the impact on that project
- TKTK



VATI 2021 Update

- On September 8th DHCD's Carl Caudill and Tammy Breski participated in a site visit following resident concerns about quality of work and communications concerns
- Representatives from Lumen and BAAO were present for the visit which include two project areas



VATI 2021 Update

- Following the visit, a Letter of Finding was received on September 26th, detailing the findings and requesting a corrective action plan.
- The two deficiencies are as follows:
 - Lack of full and transparent communications
 - Residential installations with regard to homeowner's property



VATI 2021 Update

- Details from Wednesday with Lumen TK



VATI 2021 Update - Delays

- In addition to the corrective action plan, DHCD requests:
 - a list of all customers who are considered to have been affected by these issues, justification for each instance, and an action plan with time frames
 - An outline of existing customer experience processes and planned or implemented improvements



VATI 2021 Update - Delays

- The corrective action plan and additional items are to have been provided by CenturyLink and approved by ABBA
- The next regularly scheduled ABBA meeting is 32 days after receipt of the LoF
- BAAO will work with DHCD to coordinate response, and with Lumen to prepare the corrective action plan and additional materials



VATI 2021 Update - Delays

- Lumen has agreed to provide a draft response by October 19th to give ABBA sufficient time to consider it prior to discussion.



VATI 2021 Update - Delays

- Monthly webinars continue to be well-attended
- The next webinar will include an overview of the Letter of Finding, an opportunity for residents to ask questions related to the request for extension and, we hope, clarity about the transition to Brightspeed.

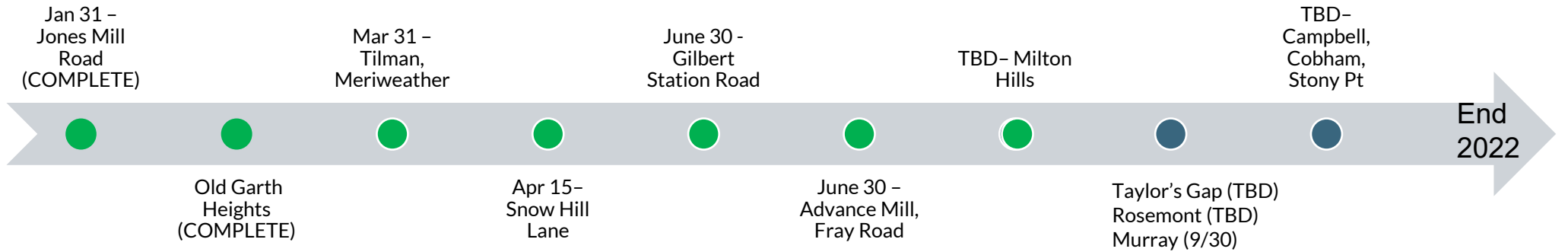
Community Webinars
Fridays at Noon

- 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
- 9/2/2022
- 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

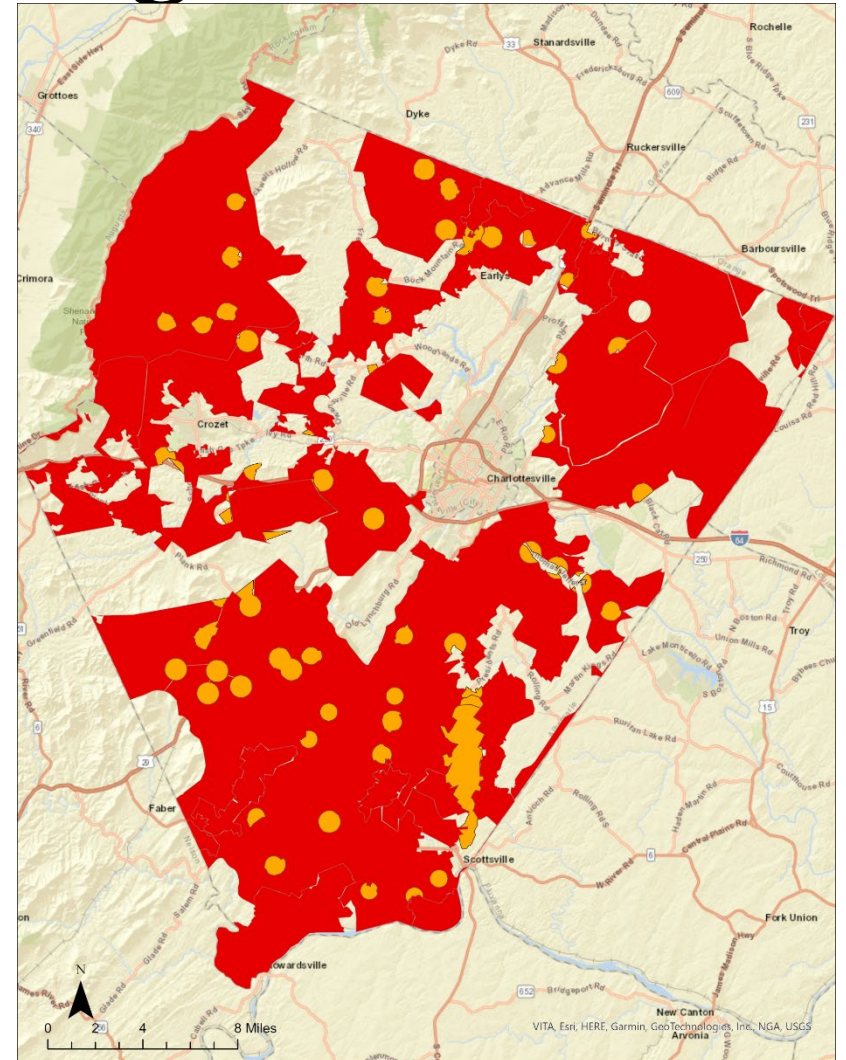


- The first quarterly stakeholder meeting was held on September 8th, 2022
- To avoid confusion and disappointment, Firefly will announce launch schedules roughly 6 months in advance
- Resident correspondence will be handled by frequent mailers



VATI 2023 Planning

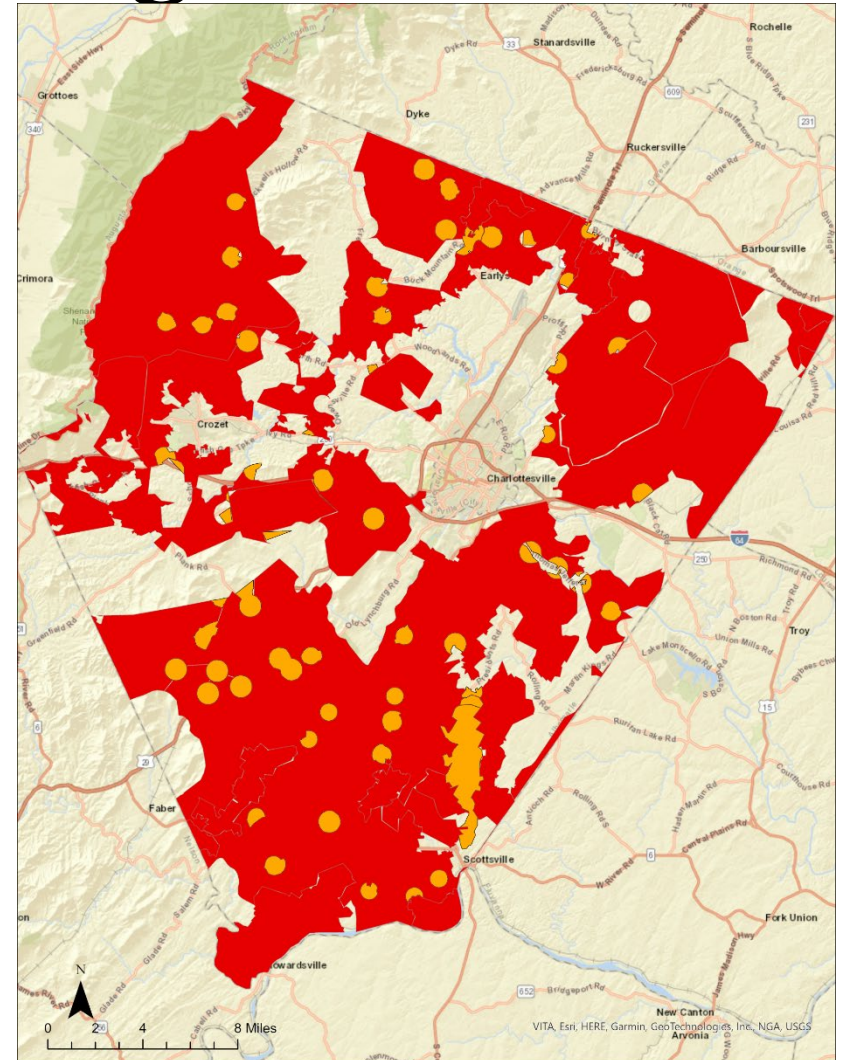
- Firefly has submitted an application along with TJPDC that will cover areas of the County that were previously left out of the VATI 2022 application for having service at or above 25/3 but below 100/20.
- We had hoped these would include areas of the development area that are affordability constrained.
- Challenges are due by October 6th





VATI 2023 Planning

- 1,575 Passings
- Projected total budget of \$8.8M
- VATI Request: \$3.6M
- BAAO Match: \leq \$440,000





ABBA Financial Report

Update: 09/21/2022

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ABBA Strategic Plan Discussion



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