

APPROVED

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on June 22, 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, Ms. Donna Price, Mr. Jim Andrews, Mr. Trevor Henry, Mr. Bill Fritz

ABSENT: None

Also Present: Mr. Richard DeLoria (Senior Assistant County Attorney) and Mike Culp (Director of 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. Henry stated he was attending from his home.

Mr. Fritz stated he was attending from his home.

Ms. Price stated she was attending from the Town Hall in Scottsville, Virginia.

Mr. Andrews stated he was attending from his home.

APPROVED

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

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

Mr. Walsh **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

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item No. 5 Approval of May 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Andrews **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 2021 Update

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

Agenda Item No. 6b VATI 2022 Update

Mr. Culp introduced Dennis Reece from Firefly.

Mr. Reece stated that they continue to build out fiber. Mr. Reece stated that installations will continue thru the end of the year. Work continues with REC, AEP and Dominion and the designs are underway.

Mr. Reece encourage those with questions to visit fireflyva.com for more information.

Agenda Item No. 6b VATI 2022 Update

1. RDOF Areas Strategy Discussion/Recommendations

APPROVED

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

Mr. Jaquith asked if we know who won the auction for the census blocks.

Mr. Culp stated that Firefly won the auctions.

Mr. Jaquith asked if this means that Firefly will be paid by the FCC instead of DHCD.

Mr. Culp stated that was correct.

Ms. Price stated that it made sense to accelerate the deployment in this area.

Mr. Jaquith asked if CenturyLink/Lumen is out of the project for this area.

Mr. Culp stated that was correct.

Mr. Walsh asked why these areas had been designated as first to deploy.

Mr. Culp stated that it was an opportunity to provide service to an area that has been overlooked and underserved. The fact they are in RDOF is because they were so underserved.

Mr. Jaquith stated that the upshot is that they would get service more quickly if the project is accelerated.

Mr. Henry stated that all RDOF areas are evaluated for equity, timing, education opportunities, passings, etc.

Mr. Walsh stated that all things being equal we want this area served first but we do not want to add any additional cost to providing service.

Mr. Jaquith noted that we should be aware that existing infrastructure may limit the ability to accelerate the construction. It would be nice to know what those limits are.

Mr. Walsh **moved** that the chair be authorized to sign a letter to encourage Firefly to accelerate the construction in the RDOR area in the northeast part of the County.

Mr. Andrews **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6c VATI 2023 Notice of Intent to Apply

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

APPROVED

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

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

Mr. Henry noted that there was no change from the last meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6e Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Report

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

Agenda Item No. 7 New Business

Agenda Item No. 7a Dominion Energy Fiber Deployment Process

Mr. Culp introduced Garret Braun of Dominion Rural Broadband Program.

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

Mr. Braun encouraged people to visit Dominionenergy.com/ruralbroadband for more information.

Mr. Reece stated that Dominion builds first and then Firefly comes in to do more work before the final connections can be made.

Mr. Andrews asked if the fiber will be buried or all on poles.

Mr. Braun stated that it can be either.

Agenda Item No. 7b Approve 2nd Quarter Calendar Year Report to Board of Supervisors

Mr. Culp stated that the report will be emailed out the Board members. The report goes to the Board of Supervisors the last week of June.

Mr. Culp requested that Board members email him with any comments they have for the report.

Agenda Item No. 8 Adjourn

Mr. Henry noted that the Board is still planning on in person meetings starting in September.

Mr. DeLoria stated that there will be a new policy for virtual attendance for adoption in August.

Mr. Henry **moved** to adjourn.

Mr. Walsh **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

APPROVED

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Albemarle Broadband Authority

June 22, 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 May 25, 2022 Meeting

Minutes

6. Old Business
 - a. VATI 2021 Update
 - b. VATI 2022 Update
 1. RDOF Areas Strategy Discussion/Recommendations

- c. VATI 2023 Notice of Intent to Apply
- d. ABBA Financial Report (Appendix A)
- e. Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Report

1. New Business

- a. Dominion Energy Fiber Deployment Process
- b. Approve 2nd Quarter Calendar Year Report to Board of Supervisors

2. Adjourn



VATI 2021 Update

- Advance Mills and Milton Hills are next
- Lumen continues to work to mitigate material and labor shortages
- Next webinar should include updates on separating larger project areas

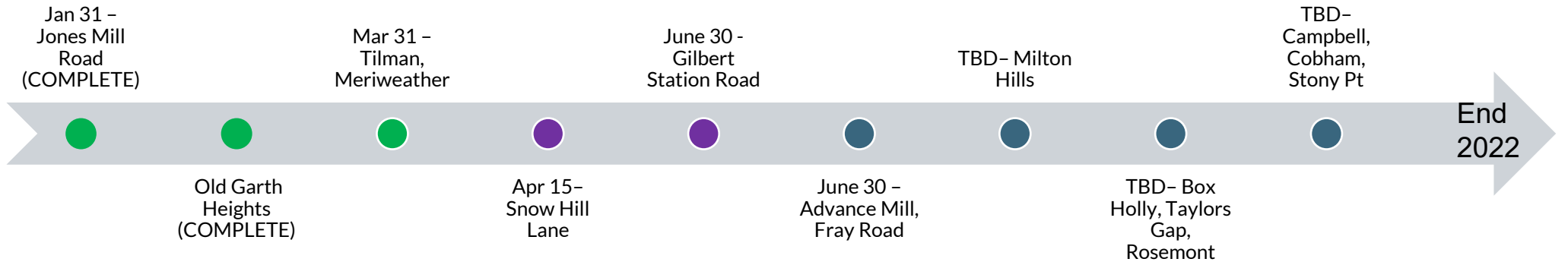
Community Webinars
Fridays at Noon

- 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 2021 Update

Project Area	Ordered Service	Passings	Estd. Take Rate
Jones Mill	11	63	17%
Old Garth	4	6	67%
Tilman/Meriweather	27	51	53%
Snow Hill Ln	10	68	14%
Gilbert Station	19	46	41%
Total	71	234	30%



VATI 2021 – Field Report

- Advance Mills and Milton Hills are currently under construction
 - Milton Hills awaiting some VDOT permits
- Subsequent project areas are in Engineering and Design



VATI 2022 Update

- Three-party agreement has been completed
- TJPDC intends to be under-contract with DHCD by end of June
- Firefly continues make-ready work, has begun sending out letters to impacted residents
- Dennis Reece



Advancing RISE Fiber

Strategies to Serve the VATI 2021

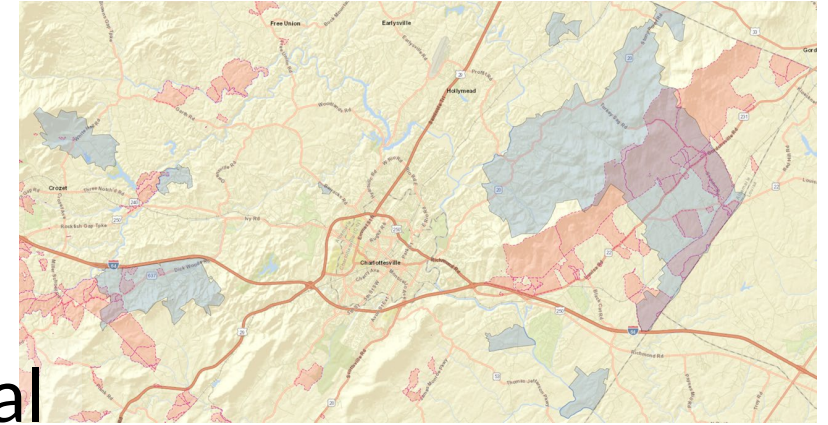
Areas Rescoped and Delayed by

RDOF

June 9, 2022



Background



1

VATI 2021 Original Submittal

Included a large portion of NE Albemarle

2

RDOF Award Notice Post VATI Submittal

ABBA Required to Remove Center Section of NE Albemarle and a few other smaller areas

3

VATI 2021 Rescope

Negative Impact on Community as NE Albemarle was split; causing a delay; possibly up to 3 years.

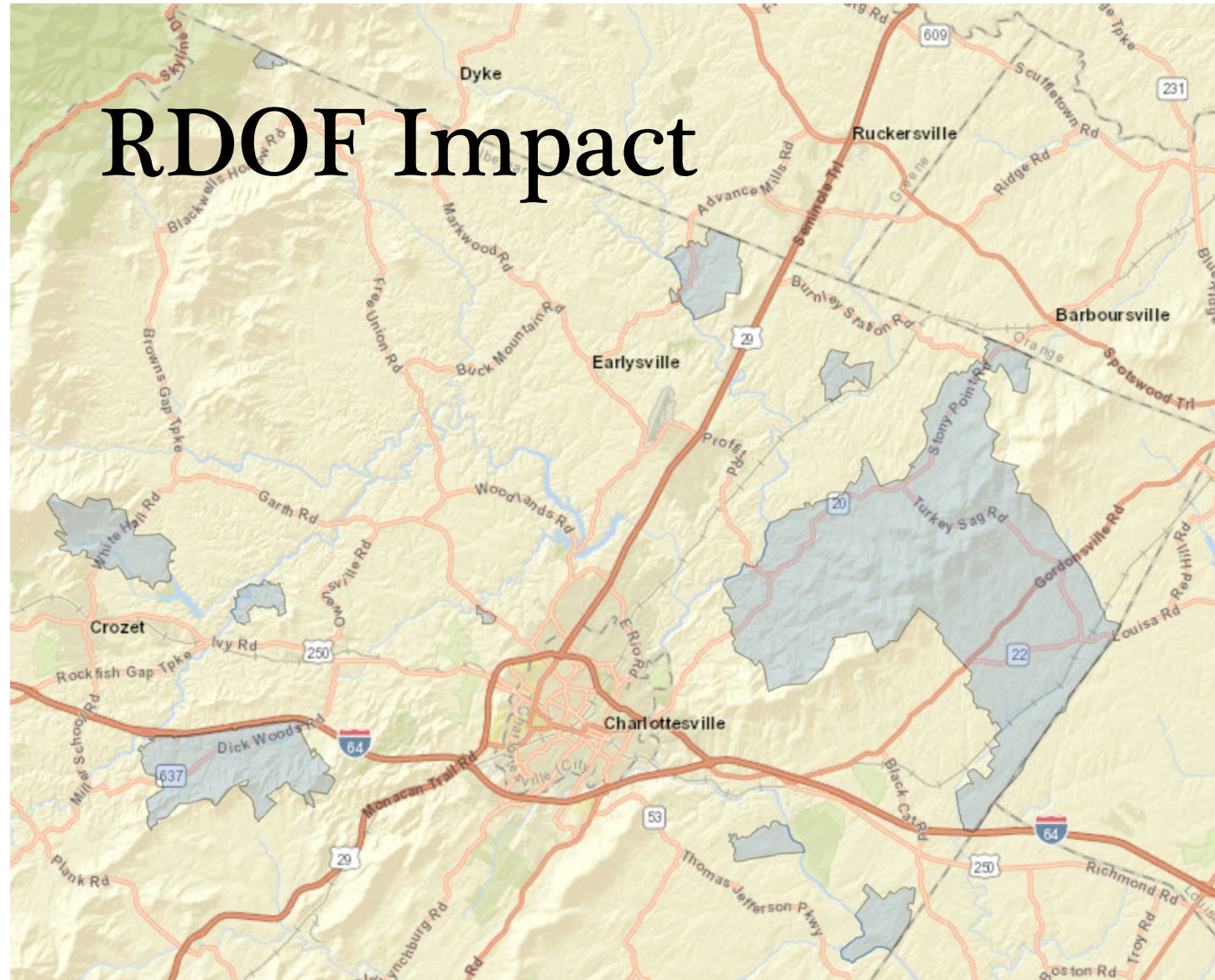
4

VATI 2022 Award

Provider awarded RDOF and VATI Offering a ***One-Time Prioritization Project*** with ABBA setting criteria and managing community response



RDOF Impact



Legend

-  VATI 2021
-  Original
-  Application
-  Project Areas



RDOF Impact

Legend

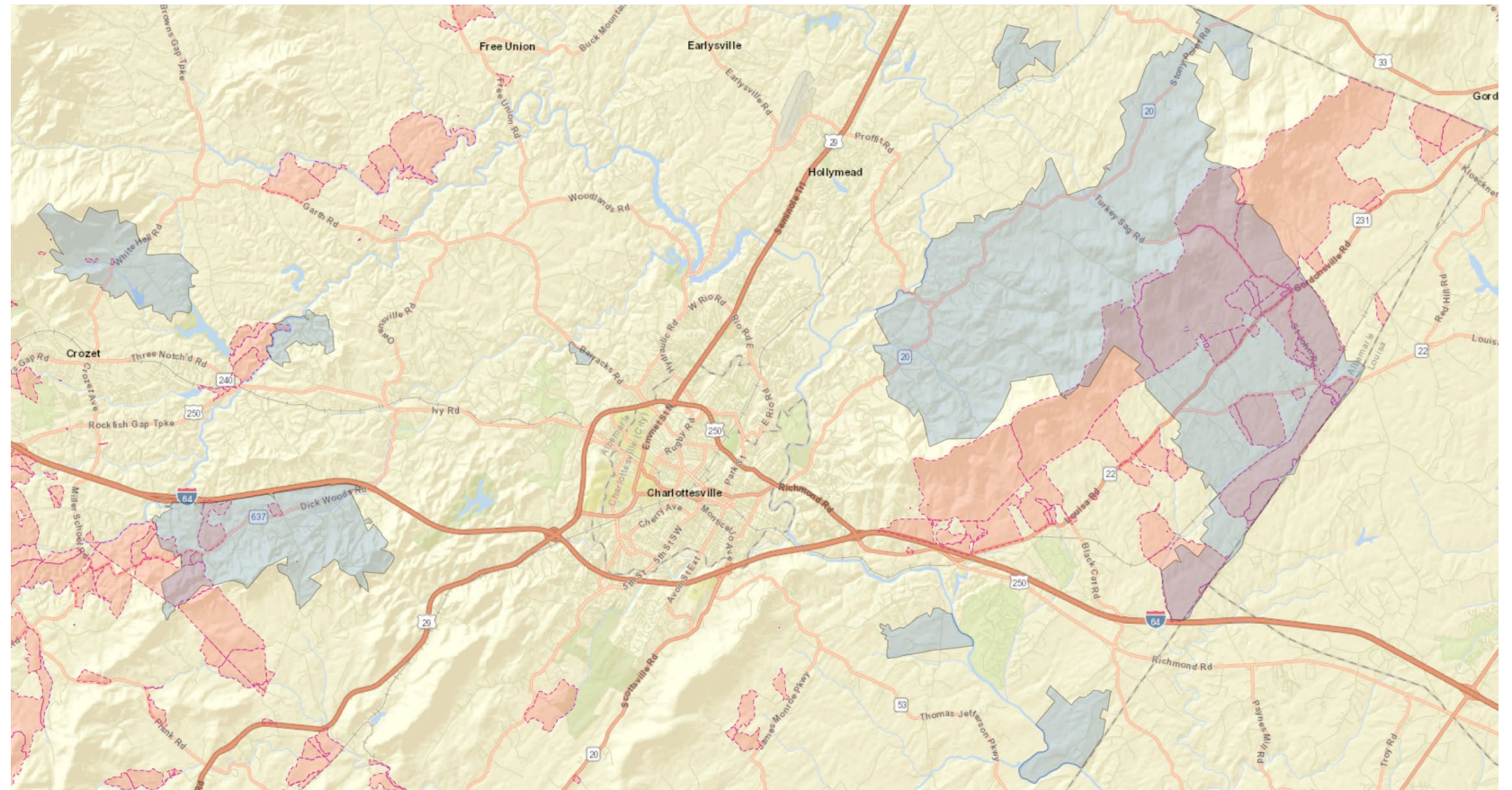
VATI 2021
Original
Application
Project Areas



RDOF Awarded
Census Blocks



Areas Rescoped
Out of VATI
2021, yet
included in VATI
2022





VATI 21 Rescope Recommendation

The Broadband Office recommends ABBA proceed with an official letter requesting the Provider accelerate/prioritize all project areas rescoped out of VATI 2021. We will submit drafts of the letter for ABBA review and request approval that ABBA authorize the Broadband Office to work with the Provider to determine details of any projects accelerated to proceed.

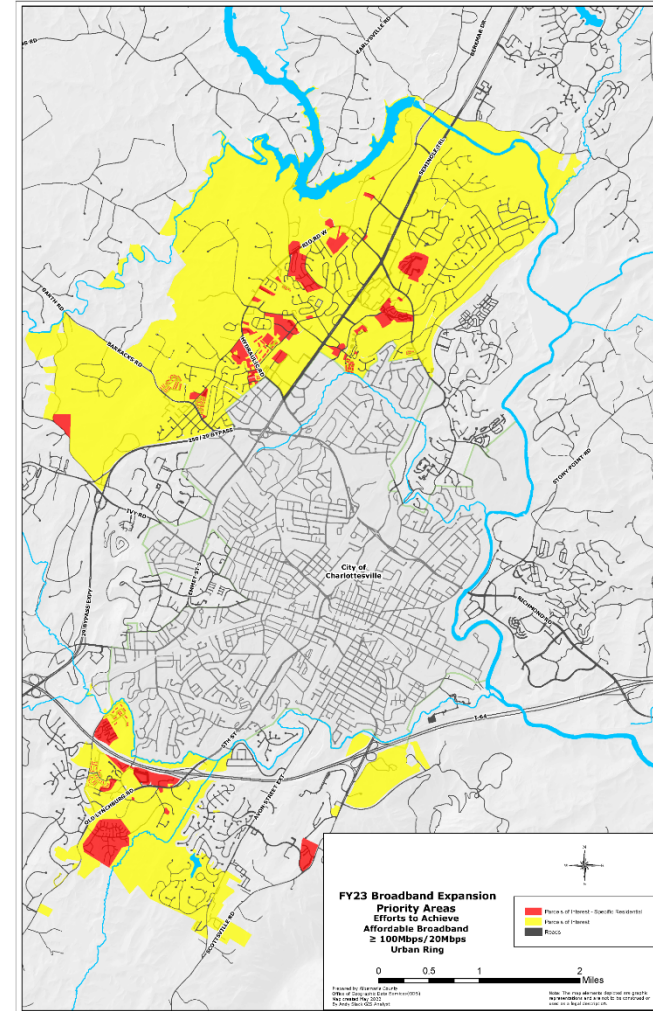
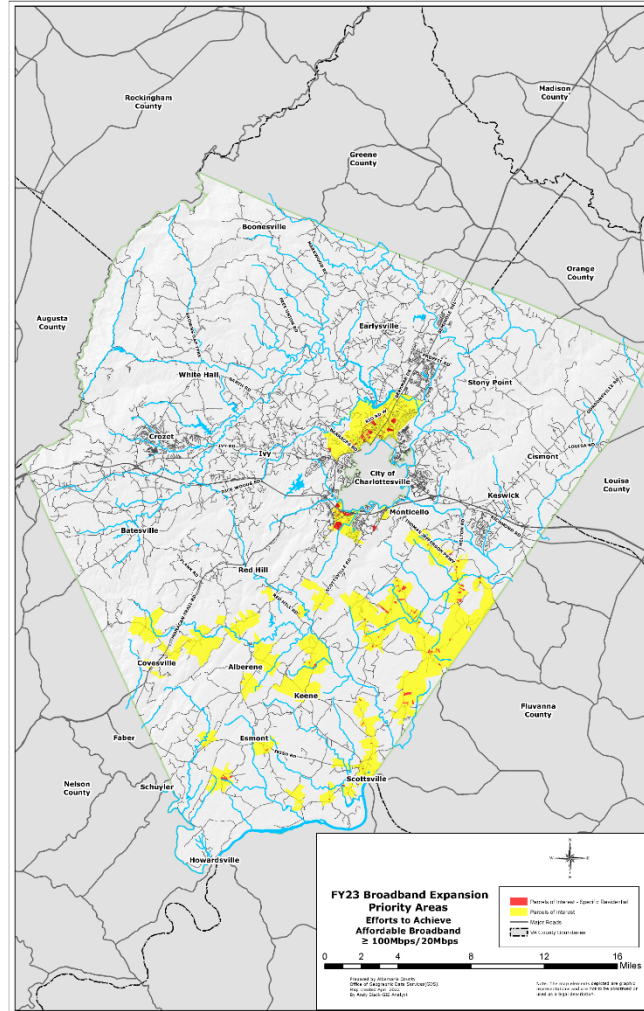


VATI 2023 Guidelines

- Notice to apply by July 7, 2022; application due by August 25, 2022
- Prepared two letters of intent, one from ABBA, one from BAAO
- Continuing to do data collection to identify areas where performance may not be at 100/20
- Work done for this will apply to future funding opportunities



VATI 2023 Maps





ABBA Financial Report

Update: 06/15/2022

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



BAAO Report

ACP Bridge Launch

CenturyLink/Lumen service update

Pew Broadband-Access Summit



ACP Bridge Launch

- 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
- 2 ISPs reporting they are reviewing the MOU



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 72 cables completed; 67 cables to receive rehabilitation
- 23.61% of work completed
- Work to be completed by July 31, 2022



Pew Broadband-Access Summit

Mr. Inofuentes was able to serve as a panelist alongside Dr. Tamara Holmes of DHCD to discuss Meaningful Coordination between Levels of Government

The conference was engaging and informative, our office will share content as Pew makes it available



Agenda

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Brief Announcements by Authority Members
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of May 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes
6. Old Business
 - a. VATI 2021 Update
 - b. VATI 2022 Update
 1. RDOF Areas Strategy Discussion/Recommendations
 - c. VATI 2023 Notice of Intent to Apply

- d. ABBA Financial Report (Appendix A)
- e. Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Report

1. New Business

- a. Dominion Energy Fiber Deployment Process

Garrett Braun, Rural Broadband Program

- a. Approve 2nd Quarter Calendar Year Report to Board of Supervisors

2. Adjourn

Rural Broadband Update

Albemarle County



Garrett F. Braun

Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Rural Broadband Program

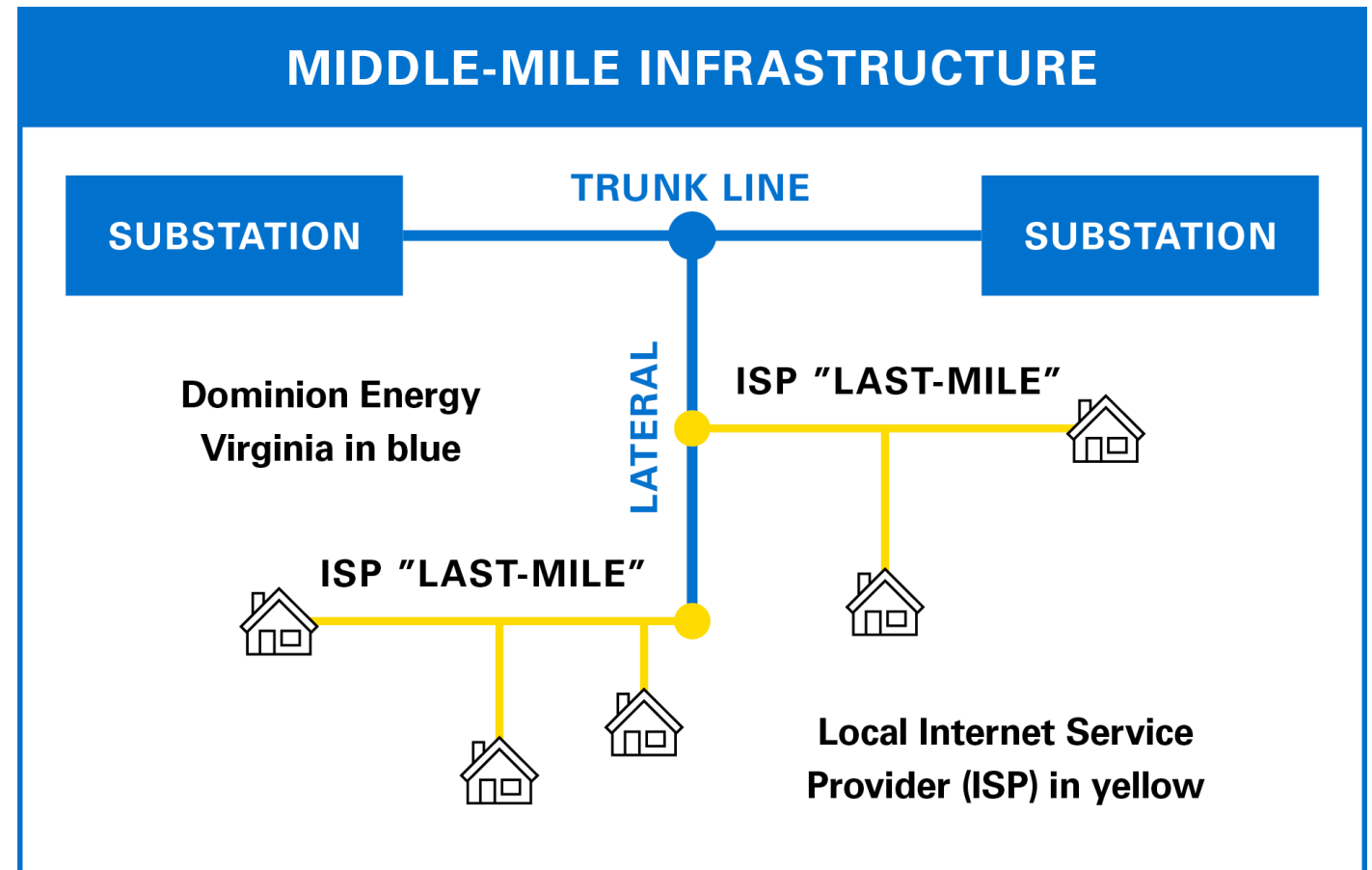
Dominion Energy Virginia
600 East Canal Street, Richmond, VA 23219
M: 804-205-7850
garrett.f.braun@dominionenergy.com
dominionenergy.com/ruralbroadband



The Rural Broadband Program has been created to bridge the digital divide and bring access to unserved communities in Virginia

Dominion Energy and our municipality partners work with local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to bridge the digital divide

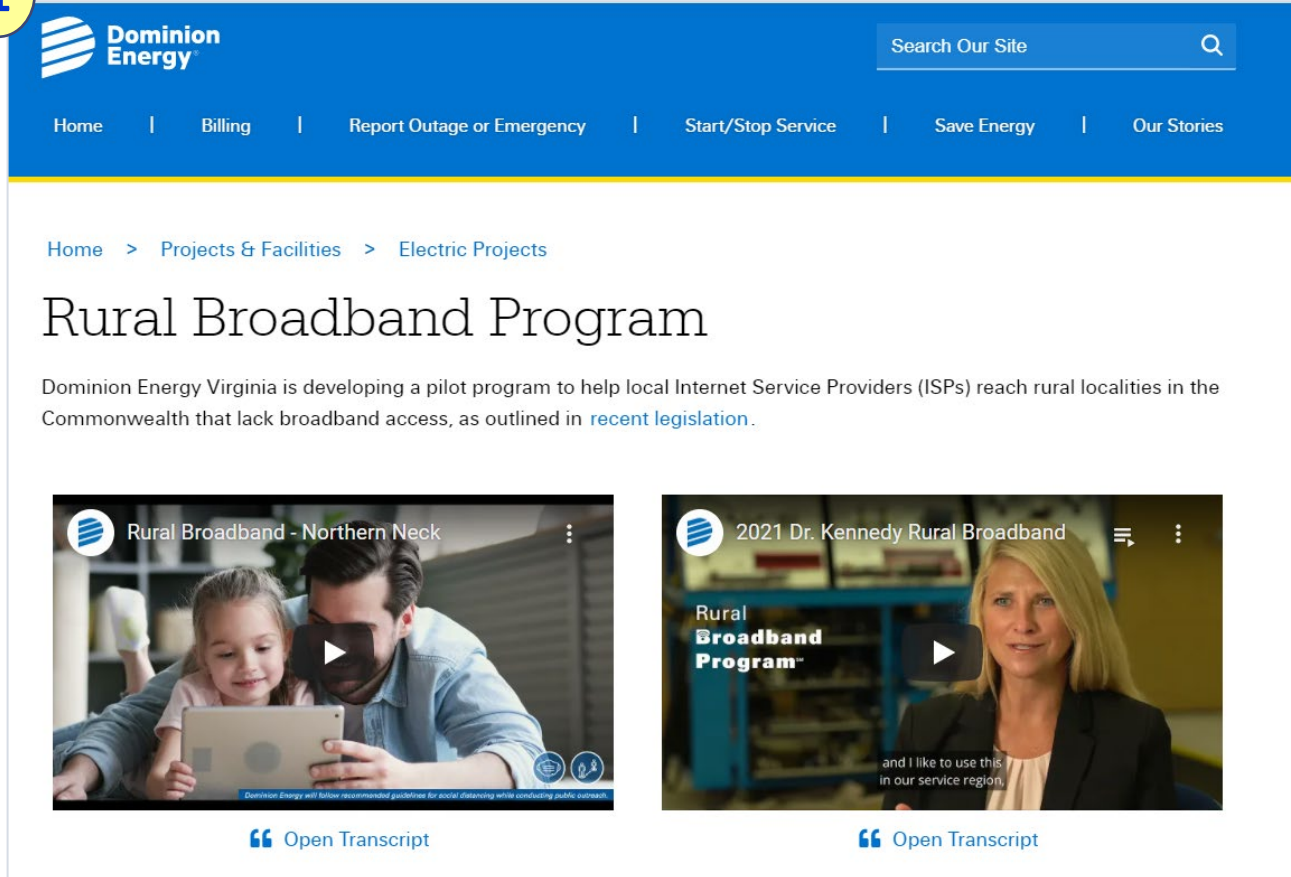
- **Dominion Energy plans to install “middle-mile” fiber optic cable along existing electric distribution lines**
- **The partnering ISP will install the “last-mile” fiber and reach unserved rural communities**



Trunk Line is defined as the communication line between substations
Lateral is defined as the communication line that connects to a trunk line

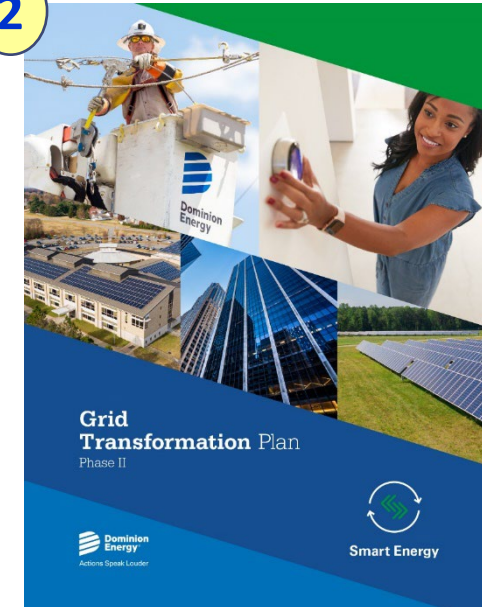
Fiber on our Distribution System

1



The screenshot shows the Dominion Energy website's navigation bar with links for Home, Billing, Report Outage or Emergency, Start/Stop Service, Save Energy, and Our Stories. The breadcrumb trail indicates the user is in the 'Electric Projects' section. The main heading is 'Rural Broadband Program'. Below the heading, a paragraph states: 'Dominion Energy Virginia is developing a pilot program to help local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) reach rural localities in the Commonwealth that lack broadband access, as outlined in [recent legislation](#).' Two video thumbnails are displayed: 'Rural Broadband - Northern Neck' and '2021 Dr. Kennedy Rural Broadband'. Each video has an 'Open Transcript' link below it.

2



The cover features a collage of images: a utility worker on a bucket, a woman holding a smartphone, a modern glass skyscraper, and solar panels. The text reads 'Grid Transformation Plan Phase II'. At the bottom, it includes the Dominion Energy logo and the 'Smart Energy' logo.

3



MIDDLE-MILE PROJECT PHASES

- Project Scoping (ISP Coordination)
- Design & Permitting
- Easement Research & Acquisition
- Site Preparation
- Make-Ready Construction & Fiber Installation
- Property Restoration



COMMUNICATIONS

Project Life Cycle

SCOPING

DESIGN &
EASEMENT
RESEARCH*

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETION

Rural Broadband Program Authorized Contractors

The contractors listed below are supporting the Rural Broadband Program. You may see their employees and vehicles while they survey, conduct rights of way work, repair damaged lines, and/or install fiber optic cable. Each authorized Dominion Energy Virginia certified contractor carries an identification badge and will gladly present it to you upon request.

Construction/Design Partners

Environmental/Permitting Partners

ISP Partners

For more information, visit our project website at DominionEnergy.com/RuralBroadband or email us at RuralBroadband@DominionEnergy.com.

Everyone deserves access.

Moving forward to bridge the digital divide across Virginia.

«Month XXX,XXXX»
 Dear «First Name, Last Name»,

Connecting Virginians to new opportunities.

Over 200,000 homes and businesses in Virginia lack high speed internet access. Dominion Energy Virginia is in a unique position to help bridge this gap.

Rural Virginians are accustomed to neighbors coming together to serve their community's best interests. Our Rural Broadband Program is similarly rooted in Dominion Energy Virginia's ongoing commitment to providing value to the communities we are privileged to serve.

We're acting as a "middle mile" fiber optic cable provider in «County or Ind. City» by teaming up with «ISP Partner», enabling them to connect unserved homes and businesses with broadband's many critical benefits, including:

- **Virtual learning:** Broadband gives children a real chance to even the playing field by ensuring a wealth of knowledge, collaborative tools and educational resources.
- **Quality healthcare:** Access to broadband enables rural residents to consult with doctors and review medical records from home.
- **Telework:** Broadband creates new work from home opportunities.

Dominion Energy Virginia will notify you before fiber installation begins. Should any concerns arise, they must be brought forward within the 60-month limitation period set forth in § 56.1-306.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Your support for expanding access to unserved residents is much appreciated. We're excited for the opportunity to ensure broadband expansion becomes a beneficial community-wide reality.

Sincerely,
 MCC «First Name, Last Name»
 Rural Broadband Team
 Dominion Energy Virginia
 MCC «email»
 MCC «phone»

Open the camera on your mobile phone and scan this code to learn more online.

Dominion Energy Virginia's Rural Broadband Program

We Look Forward to Speaking with You

Date: _____
 Work Request #: _____

We stopped by today to

Assess work required to install fiber optic cable on existing power lines.

Discuss a Supplemental Communications Easement required for the Rural Broadband Program. A representative will reach out to schedule a follow up visit or please feel free to contact us at the number below.

Other: _____

Thank you for your cooperation as we party with Internet Service Providers to extend broadband capabilities to unserved communities.

Bridging Virginia's Digital Divide

Expanding broadband access to unserved, rural communities.

Home internet service is an essential utility in today's society.

We're installing fiber optic cable in rural areas.

Crews are focused on safety and will begin work soon.

Rural Broadband Program

Committed to bridging Virginia's digital divide.

Great news—we've completed installation in your area.

Together, we've made a difference in the community.

*additional mailings when easement required

Everyone
deserves
access.

Moving forward
to bridge the
digital divide
across Virginia.

Rural
Broadband
ProgramSM

<Address 1>
<Address 2>
<City, ST Zip code>
Work Request #: <00000>
Project Location: <County or Ind. City>



<Month XX, XXXX>

Dear <First Name_Last Name>,

Connecting Virginians to new opportunities.

Over 230,000 homes and businesses in Virginia lack high-speed internet access. Dominion Energy Virginia is in a unique position to help bridge this gap.

Rural Virginians are accustomed to neighbors coming together to serve their community's best interests. Our Rural Broadband Program is similarly rooted in Dominion Energy Virginia's ongoing commitment to providing value to the communities we are privileged to serve.

We're acting as a "middle-mile" fiber optic cable provider in <County or Ind. City> by teaming up with <ISP Partner>, enabling them to connect unserved homes and businesses with broadband's many critical benefits, including:

- **Virtual learning: Broadband gives children a real chance to even the playing field by unlocking a wealth of knowledge, collaborative tools and educational resources.**
- **Quality healthcare: Access to broadband enables rural residents to consult with doctors and review medical records from home.**
- **Telework: Broadband creates new work-from-home opportunities.**

Dominion Energy Virginia will notify you before fiber installation begins. Should any concerns arise, they must be brought forward within the six-month limitation period set forth in § 55.1-306.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Your support for expanding access to unserved residents is much appreciated. We're excited for the opportunity to ensure broadband expansion becomes a beneficial community-wide reality.

Sincerely,
MCC <First Name_Last Name>
Rural Broadband Team
Dominion Energy Virginia
MCC <email>
MCC <phone>



Open the camera on
your mobile phone
and scan this code
to learn more online.



Bridging Virginia's Digital Divide

Expanding broadband access
to unserved, rural communities.



Home internet service is an
essential utility in today's society.



We're installing fiber
optic cable in rural areas.



Crews are focused on safety
and will begin work soon.

Rural
Broadband
ProgramSM

Dear <First Name_Last Name>,

Virginia can help change that. As we continue transforming our electric distribution grid, we've also developed partnerships with local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to connect unserved homes and businesses across Virginia with broadband service.

In most locations, our crews will simply install fiber optic cables along our existing overhead powerlines. Although Dominion Energy Virginia is not an ISP, we are committed to helping <ISP Partner> deliver expanded broadband access that greatly benefits rural and other residents. We appreciate your patience as we work safely in your area.

MMC <First Name_Last Name>
Rural Broadband Team, Dominion Energy Virginia
MMC <Email>
MMC <Phone>

<First Name_Last Name>
<Address 1>
<Address 2>
<City, ST Zip code>



PO Box 26666
Richmond, VA 23261

Work Request #: <00000>
Project Location: <County or Ind. City>



Want to learn more about the status
of broadband access in your area?

Open the camera on your mobile
phone to scan this code and visit
DominionEnergy.com/RuralBroadband



**Dominion
Energy®**

Garrett F. Braun

Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Rural Broadband Program

Dominion Energy Virginia
600 East Canal Street, Richmond, VA 23219
M: 804-205-7850
garrett.f.braun@dominionenergy.com
dominionenergy.com/ruralbroadband



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