

Approved Minutes

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on May 24, 2023. The meeting was held in room 241 of the Albemarle County Office Building located at 401 McIntire Road.

PRESENT: Mr. Bucky Walsh (attending remotely), 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 Jason Inofuentes (Program Manager, Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office). Mike Culp (Director of Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office) attended remotely.

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

Mr. Jaquith established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Walsh requested to attend the meeting remotely due to a medical reason.

Mr. Andrews **moved** to authorize Mr. Walsh to attend the meeting remotely.

Ms. Price **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Jaquith **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

There were no comments from the public.

There were no members of the public present for the meeting.

There were two virtual attendees.

Approved Minutes

Agenda Item No. 5 Consent Agenda

Ms. Price **moved** to approve the agenda.

Mr. Henry **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6 Approval of March 22, 2023, and April 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Action on the April 26, 2023 minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

Mr. Andrews **moved** to approve the March 22, 2023 minutes.

Ms. Price **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No.7 Old Business

Agenda Item No. 7a VATI 2021 Update

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

Mr. Henry asked why a nondisclosure agreement was needed.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that it is needed because Brightspeed will be providing detailed infrastructure information.

Mr. Andrews stated that ABBA needs to be able to sort between the NDA and implementing a solution.

Mr. Richey stated that an NDA will allow Mr. Culp and Mr. Inofuentes to meet with a variety of people and organizations such as ABBA and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission to develop solutions and identify how and where improvements can be made.

Mr. Richard Schollman from Brightspeed announced that he will be leaving Brightspeed for a couple of months and that a new contact will be brought up to speed to work with ABBA.

Mr. Jaquith asked what progress has been made towards addressing installation problems.

Mr. Schollman stated that work is in progress, but no new information is available.

Agenda Item No. 7b VATI 2022 Update

Approved Minutes

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

Mr. Inofuentes stated that there have been no changes from last month. Mr. Inofuentes noted that Mr. Culp met with Beaver Dam Road residents to discuss why that area was not included in prior applications.

Mr. Gary Wood from Central Virginia Electric Cooperative stated that FireFly is working to bring fiber to that area.

Agenda Item No. 7c BAAO Update

i. DHCD BEAD Listening Session Report

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

Mr. Inofuentes stated that the amount of BEAD funding is unknown and that the FCC has not released mapping. Mr. Inofuentes noted that the 25% match in funding is preferred to be from the internet service provider and not from other entities.

Mr. Inofuentes noted that VATI 2024 is geared towards public private partnerships and smaller ISPs and BEAD is geared towards larger ISPs. DHCD will be looking at the FCC mapping to get an idea of what the unserved need is and where it is. This will determine the funding request.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that funding for non-deployment uses will be available in years 2-5. What qualifies has not been determined.

Ms. Price stated that as ABBA determines what coverage exists and is proposed thru VATI/RISE the smaller areas that are left will require ABBA to reach out to providers to encourage them to submit for coverage and that if no ISP responds the options to provide coverage are limited.

Mr. Jaquith noted that ABBA can still work with DHCD and use the VATI process. Mr. Jaquith stated that the remaining areas will be limited and scattered. These areas are likely to be adjacent to areas covered by other projects. The threshold to determine what is a high-cost area has not been determined. This may give options for alternative technologies such as fixed wireless. The high-cost threshold may be around \$20K per passing.

Mr. Henry asked for examples of non-deployment uses.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that it may include affordability programs, device distribution and digital literacy training.

Mr. Henry asked if ABBA could get a baseline of where we are in implementing VATI and other programs to get an idea of what is remaining.

Approved Minutes

Mr. Inofuentes stated that BAAO office is working on this.

- ii. VACo, VML, and Broadband Association of Virginia Conference Report

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

Mr. Culp stated that Virginia is ahead of other states.

Mr. Culp noted that Albemarle has multiple providers which will hopefully lead to competition.

- iii. RDEP and ACP Outreach

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

Mr. Inofuentes stated that the demand for devices is high. Mr. Inofuentes noted that some people have expressed fear regarding the risks associated with connectivity.

Agenda Item No. 8 New Business

Agenda Item No. 8a VATI 2023 not awarded, next steps discussion.

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

Mr. Inofuentes stated that BAAO is working with FireFly to use about \$2 million in remaining ARPA funds to construct as much as possible.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that he was working with DHCD to determine how the scoring went.

Mr. Andrews asked if speeds were considered and will that change in the future.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that is expected that everything that was eligible in 2023 will be eligible in 2024.

Mr. Henry noted that we didn't get the award for 2023 and BAAO was looking at VATI 2022 and the possibility of changing the scope of that project using our remaining ARPA fund. What is left unserved will then be included in the 2024 request.

Agenda Item No. 9 Other Matters

Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Jaquith for running the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10 Adjourn

Approved Minutes

Ms. Price **moved** to adjourn.

Mr. Andrews **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. FOR APPROVAL (by recorded vote):

No items

5. FOR APPROVAL (Information Only)

5.1 Financial Report

					Update: 05/16/2023
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)	\$5,099,325.90				
VATI 2021 Project Commitment Brightspeed: Payment on Hold		\$640,000.00	\$0.00		
VATI 2022 Project Commitment TJPDC/Firefly: First payment for \$121,863.50 PAID. Second payment for \$23,187.19 PAID.		\$4,368,000.00	\$145,050.69		
	\$91,325.90	\$5,008,000.00	\$145,050.69	\$91,325.90	
<i>Note: Remaining Project Funds unless noted otherwise are subject to ARPA Guidelines and Rules.</i>					



Albemarle Broadband Authority

May 24, 2023



Agenda

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Brief Announcements by Authority Members
4. Public Comment
5. Consent Agenda (on next sheet)
6. Approval of March 22, 2023 and April 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes
7. Old Business
 - a. VATI 2021 Update
 - b. VATI 2022 Update
 - c. BAAO Update
 - i. DHCD BEAD Listening Session Report
 - ii. VACo, VML, and Broadband Association of Virginia Conference Report
8. New Business
 - a. VATI 2023 not awarded, next steps discussion
9. Other Matters
10. Adjourn



VATI 2021 Update

- Brightspeed has offered to share network information in order to resolve remaining concerns regarding completion of the project
- An NDA is being prepared for the sharing of this information
- Once the information is made available, BAAO will prepare an analysis of the areas that remain to be constructed which will be shared with ABBA and DHCD.



VATI 2021 Update – After Construction Completion

- Numerous reports of facilities that lacked fiber, preempting installations
- Additionally, subcontractor work was concerning
 - Lines buried insufficiently
 - Work completed without utility markings
 - Missed installations
- A new tracking document has been opened to keep abreast of these issues



VATI 2021 Update

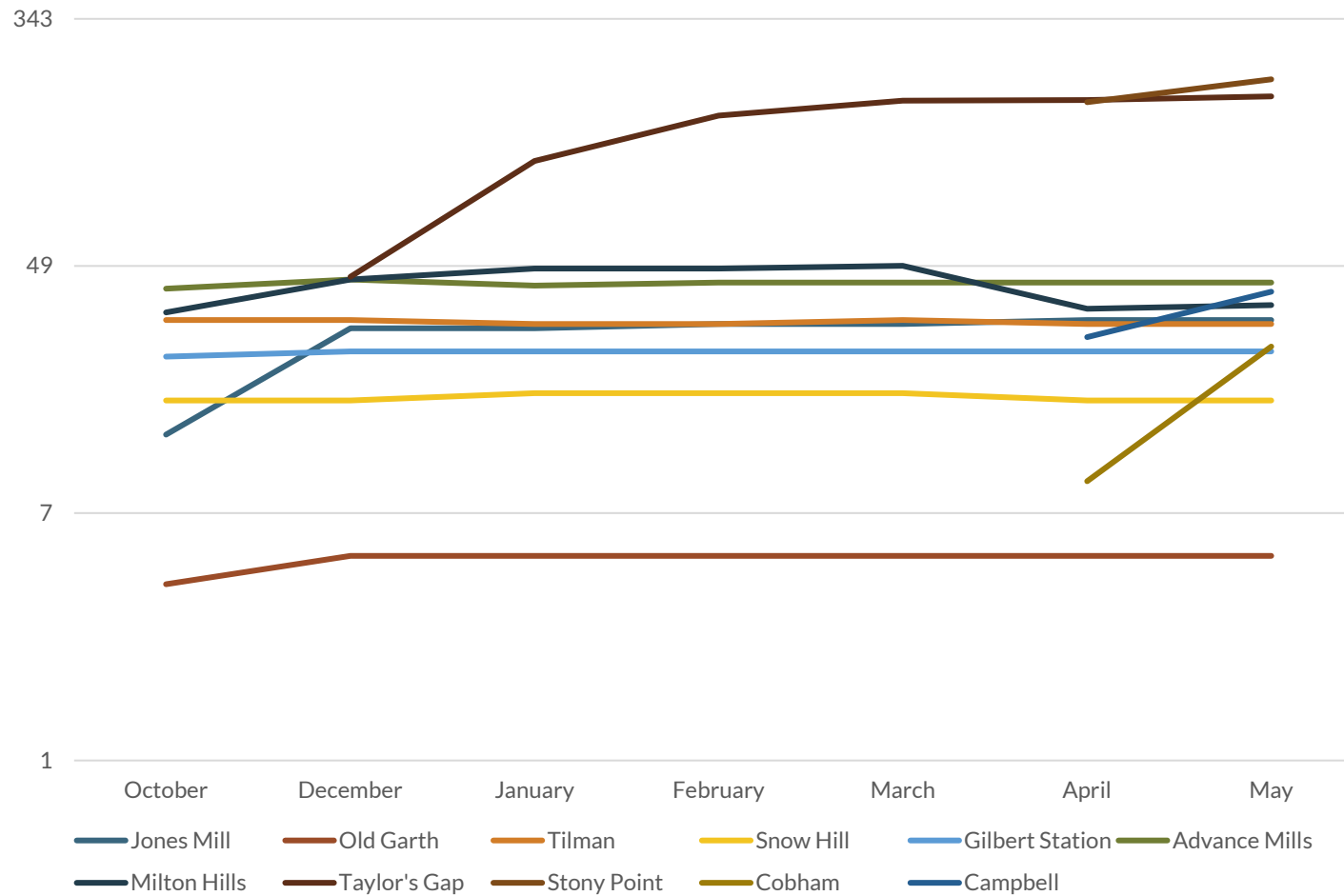
Last updated: May 15, 2023

Project Areas	March				April				May				Current Passings
	Orders	Pending	Active	Take Rate	Orders	Pending	Active	Take Rate	Orders	Pending	Active	Take Rate	
Jones Mill	31	1	30	54%	32	-	-	56%	32	-	-	56%	57
Old Garth	5	0	5	83%	5	-	-	83%	5	-	-	83%	6
Tilman	32	3	29	67%	31	-	-	65%	31	-	-	65%	48
Snow Hill	18	1	17	25%	17	-	-	24%	17	-	-	24%	71
Gilbert Station	25	0	25	54%	25	-	-	54%	36	-	-	78%	46
Advance Mills	43	0	43	35%	43	-	-	35%	43	-	-	35%	122
Milton Hills	49	6	43	28%	35	-	-	20%	36	-	-	21%	172
Taylor's Gap	180	13	167	51%	181	-	-	51%	186	-	-	53%	352
Stony Point					178			33%	213			40%	536
Cobham					9			15%	26			43%	60
Campbell/Cismont					28			15%	40			21%	189
Total	383	24	359	23%	584	0	0	35%	665	0	0	40%	1659



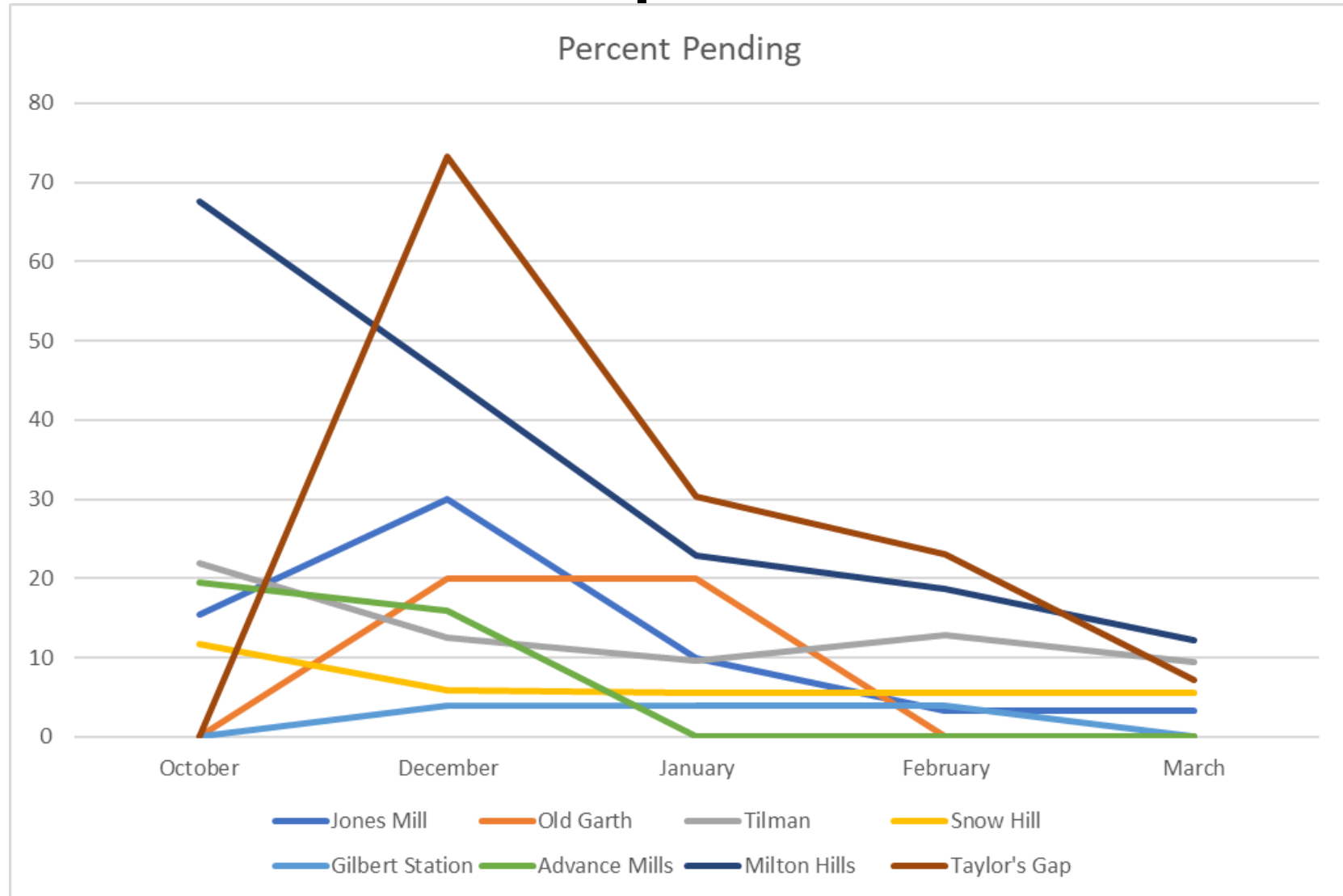
VATI 2021 Update

Orders by Project Area



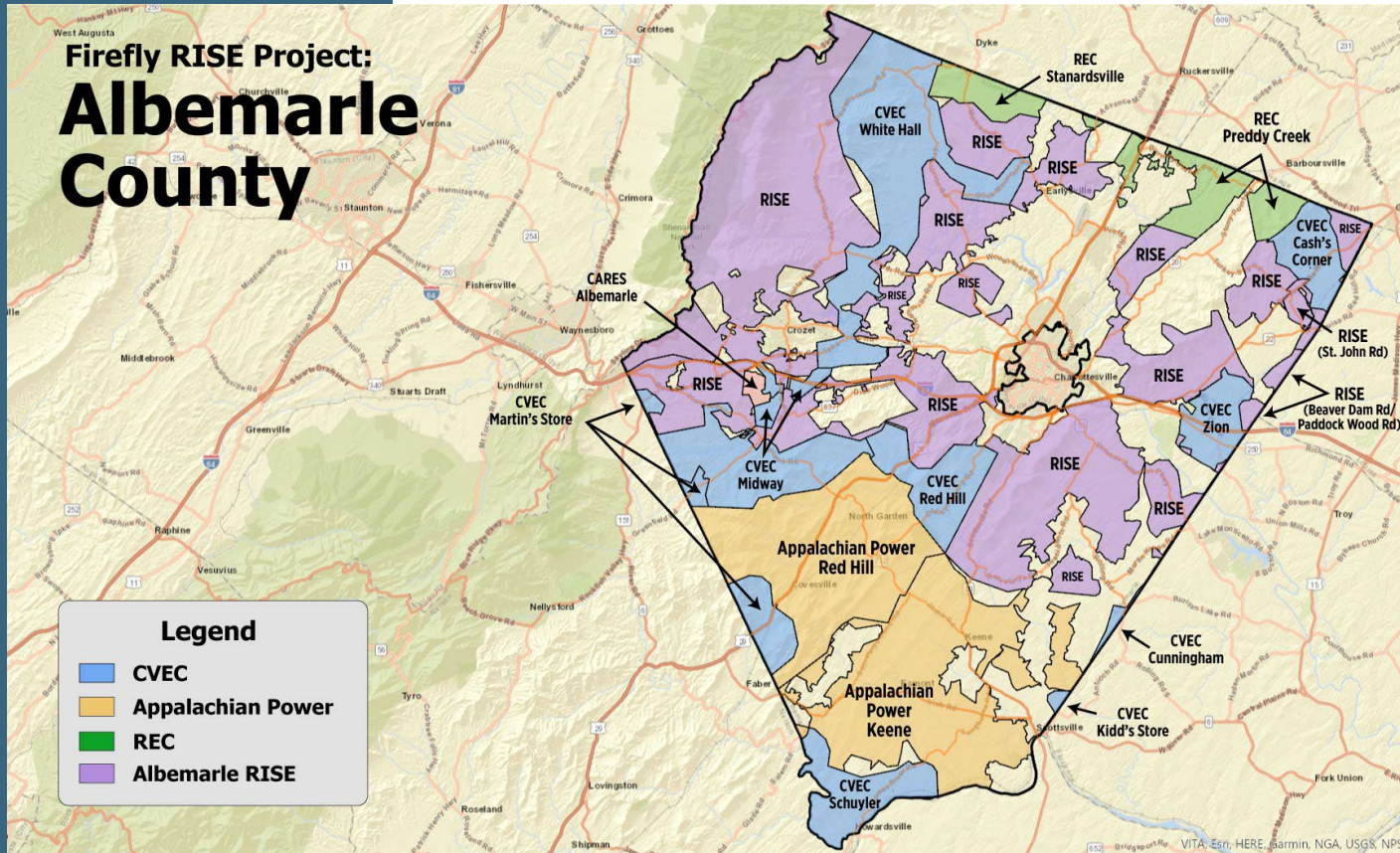


VATI 2021 Update





VATI 2022 Update



- Updated project map includes additional detail
- The first virtual town hall associated with this project occurred for the Appalachian Power – Red Hill area on April 20th.
- REC Stanardsville areas in Fall
- [Partners-Albemarle - Firefly Fiber Broadband \(fireflvva.com\)](http://fireflvva.com)



VATI 2022 Update

RISE – Albemarle (Beaver Dam/Paddock Wood Rd)



Current Status: Data Collection

Connections Expected to Begin: Spring 2024

Note: Firefly will serve this area as the last mile internet service provider in partnership with Dominion Energy's Middle Mile Project. Projects will be completed by the end of 2025. For questions regarding the Middle Mile Project, please contact the Dominion Energy Broadband Team at ruralbroadband@dominionenergy.com.

Map/Communication: [Click here to view](#)

RISE – Albemarle (St. John Rd)

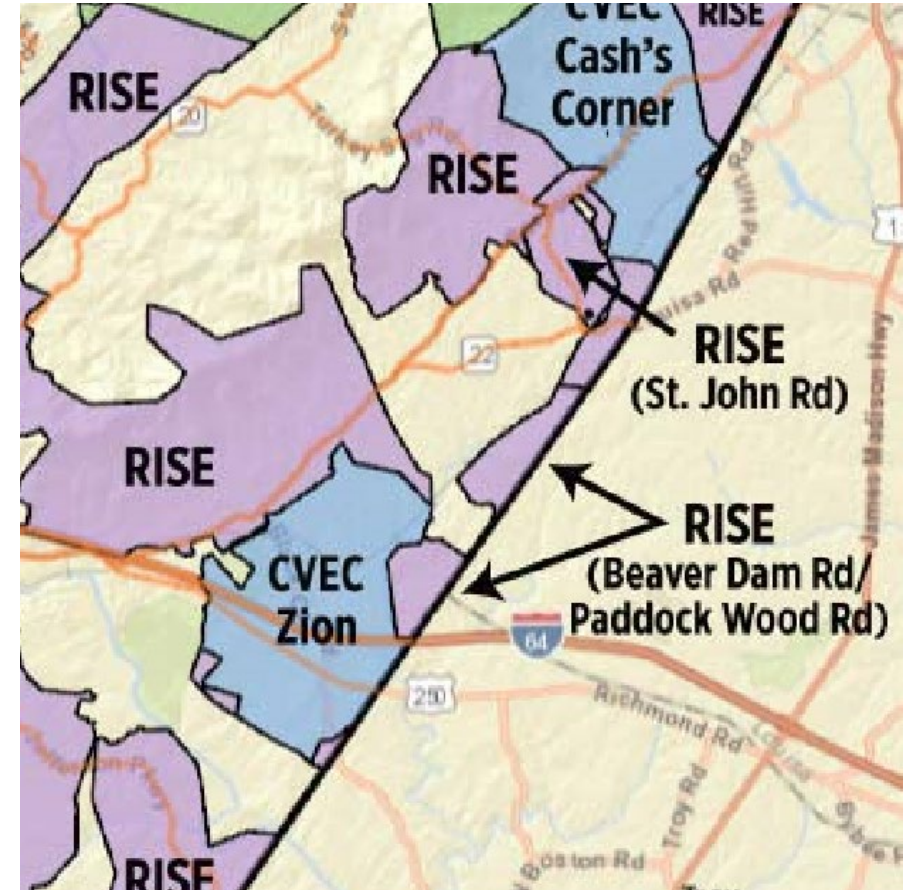


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Map/Communication: [Click here to view](#)





BAAO Report

- DHCD BEAD Listening Session Report
- VACo VML BAVCO
- RDEP Update



DHCD Listening Sessions

VATI 2024

- \$49M from general appropriations
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Similar reporting and regulatory requirements
- Match amount not yet announced

Targeted toward smaller ISPs and projects

BEAD

- \$XXXM (to be announced on or about June 30th)
- ISP submissions
- Significant financial, environmental, and labor regulatory hurdle
- 25% match

Targeted toward larger ISPs

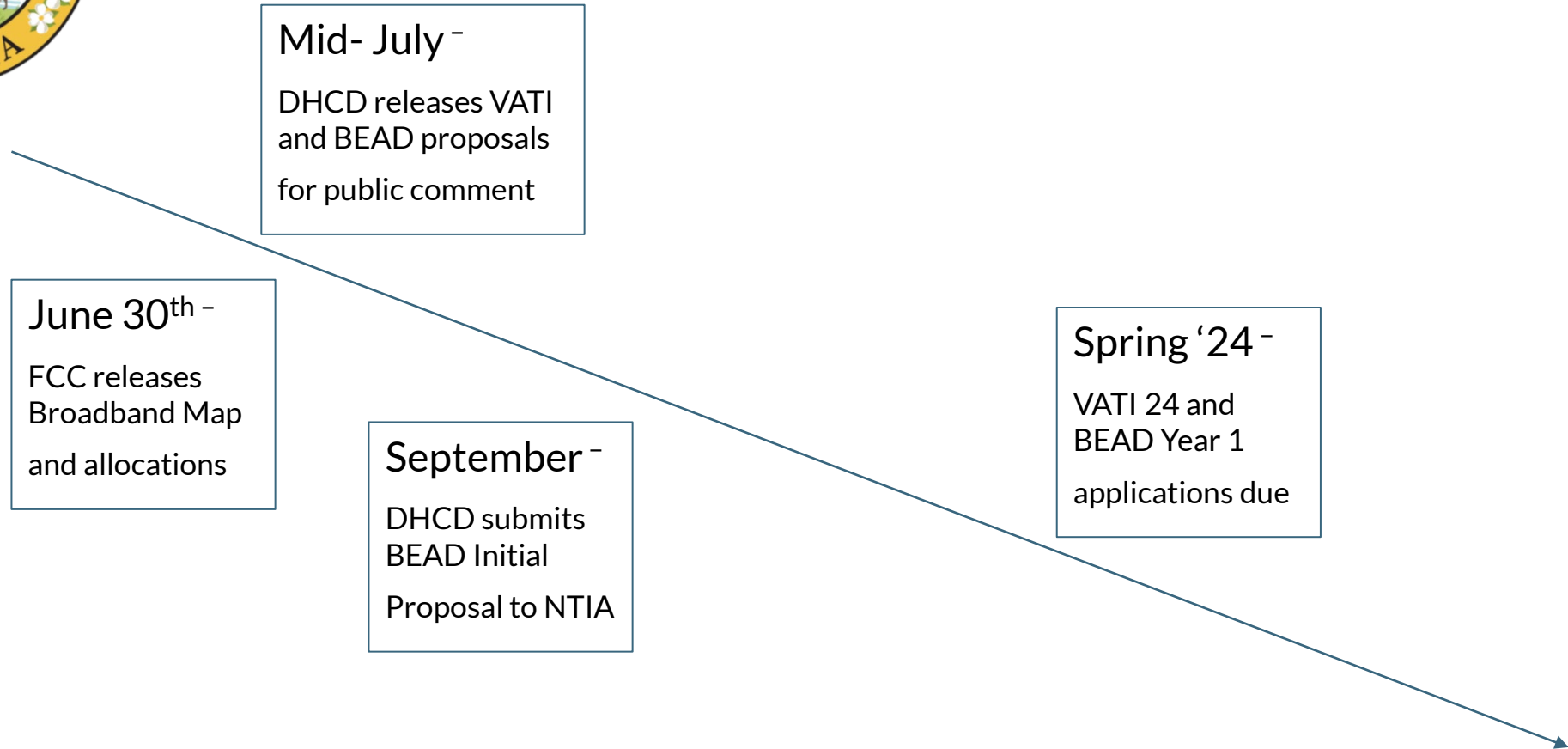


DHCD Listening Sessions

- BEAD funding will be phased and sequenced across 5 years
 - Year 1 – At least 20%
 - All funds dedicated to deployment and workforce
 - Year 2-5 – 25% of the remainder
 - Non-deployment uses once deployment needs are addressed
- Three categories allocated across 75% of scoring (Cost Efficiency, Fair Labor Standards, Affordability)
- Remaining 25% at DHCD discretion, to include local coordination element



DHCD Listening Sessions





VACO/VML/BAV Conference

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER
TO CONNECT VIRGINIA
**BROADBAND
TOGETHER**
MAY 17-18 2023

Home
Agenda
Register
Reservations
Sponsorships
Contact Us
2022 Attendees

Presented by

VML
VIRGINIA
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

 Broadband
Association
of Virginia


Virginia Association of Counties

Industry sponsored conference focusing on connectivity within the Commonwealth.

May 17th-18th at the Hilton Short Pump

Registration: <https://fs16.formsite.com/kvoxland/j3ebzstjfg/index>



RDEP and ACP Outreach

RDEP:

- Student research completed
 - Highlights include demand for device availability and sense of fear regarding risks associated with connectivity
 - Recommendations demonstrated failure to delineate existing programming to students
- Upcoming meeting to serve as platform for statewide engagement towards Digital Equity Act planning

ACP Outreach:

- Awaiting Notice of Award
- Coordinating with all internal stakeholders to ensure that action can be taken as soon as award is in hand



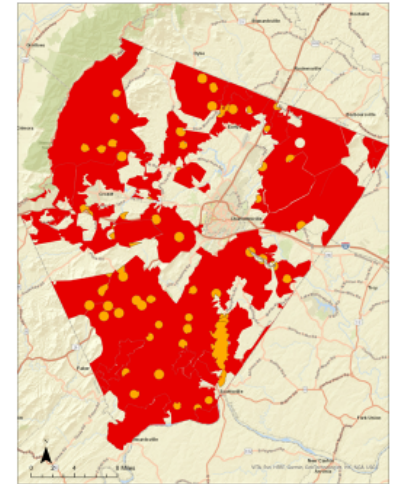
Next Steps – VATI 2023

- Working with Firefly to prioritize and phase the project
- ARPA funds to be utilized to ensure continuity of work
- Remainder to be included in VATI 2024 submission



VATI 2023 Application

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





ABBA Financial Report

Update: 05/16/2023

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