

APPROVED Minutes

The October 25, 2023, meeting was postponed until November 2, 2023. A postponed meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on November 2, 2023. The meeting was held in room 241 of the Albemarle County Office Building located at 401 McIntire Road.

PRESENT: Mr. Bucky Walsh, Mr. Waldo Jaquith, Mr. Jim Andrews, Ms. Donna Price, Mr. Trevor Henry, Mr. Bill Fritz

ABSENT: None

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 5:01 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

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

Mr. Andrews **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 Brief Announcements from the Board

None

Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment

None

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

There were five virtual attendees.

Agenda Item No. 5 Consent Agenda

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

Mr. Andrews **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6 Approval of September 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were not ready. No action was taken.

Agenda Item No.7 Old Business

Agenda Item No. 7a VATI 2021 Update Brightspeed VATI 2021 Letter of Intent

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

Mr. Culp stated that Brightspeed has accepted all the ABBA proposed changes. Mr. Culp noted that DHCD does not sign the Letter of Intent because it is between ABBA and Brightspeed. DHCD will get a copy of the letter of intent and send an acknowledgement.

Ms. Price **moved** to authorize the Chair to sign the Letter of Intent.

Mr. Henry **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 7b VATI 2022 Update

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

Mr. Culp noted that there has been some difficulty working with railroads to get crossings approved. Mr. Culp stated that connections are being made in the Keene and Red Hill areas.

Mr. Walsh asked that VATI 2022 milestones be provided for work in Albemarle County and not just the entire project.

Mr. Culp stated that information would be provided in future updates.

Agenda Item No. 7c BAAO Update

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

Mr. Walsh asked how many digital navigators are being considered.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that two to four navigators are being considered.

Mr. Walsh asked how the success of the program will be measured.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that the number of interactions the navigators are having with the members of

APPROVED Minutes

the public is being counted. Mr. Inofuentes stated he is also working with organizations such as The Jefferson Area Board for Aging to identify metrics to determine if skills are being provided.

Mr. Walsh stated that feedback at the individual level would be a good way to get examples of the what people can do with the digital skills that they could not do before.

Agenda Item No. 8 New Business

None

Agenda Item No. 9 Other Matters

None

Agenda Item No. 10 Adjourn

Mr. Walsh **moved** to adjourn.

Ms. Price **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. FOR APPROVAL (by recorded vote):

No items

5. FOR APPROVAL (Information Only)

5.1 Financial Report

Update: 10/18/2023

4-4300-91097-491097-950030-9999 (EXPENSE CODE) + ARPA 4301 Fund

BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY + ARPA Funding

	Original budget	Encumbrances	Expenditures	Balance
VATI 22	\$4,500,000.00	\$ 4,222,949.31	\$190,050.69	\$87,000.00
VATI 21	\$2,916,110.00	\$2,916,110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Broadband Incentives	\$30,044.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,044.00
Subtotal	\$7,446,154.00	\$7,139,059.31	\$190,050.69	\$117,044.00
October 2023 Funds Transfer to BAAO				
ARPA Grant				\$ (117,044.00)
Total				\$ -



Albemarle Broadband Authority

November 2nd, 2023

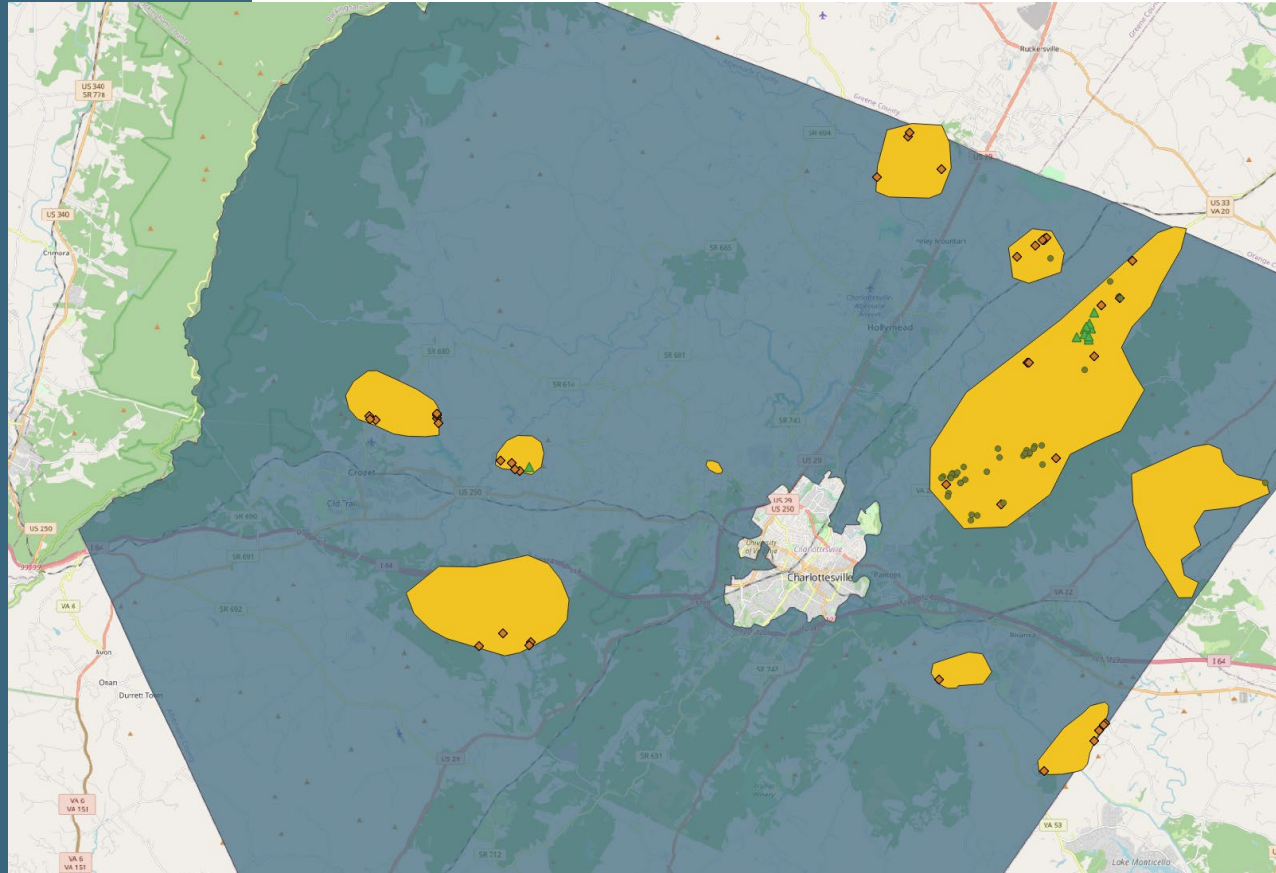


Agenda

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 September 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes
7. Old Business
 - a. VATI 2021 Update
 - b. VATI 2022 Update
 - c. BAAO Update
8. New Business
9. Other Matters
10. Adjourn



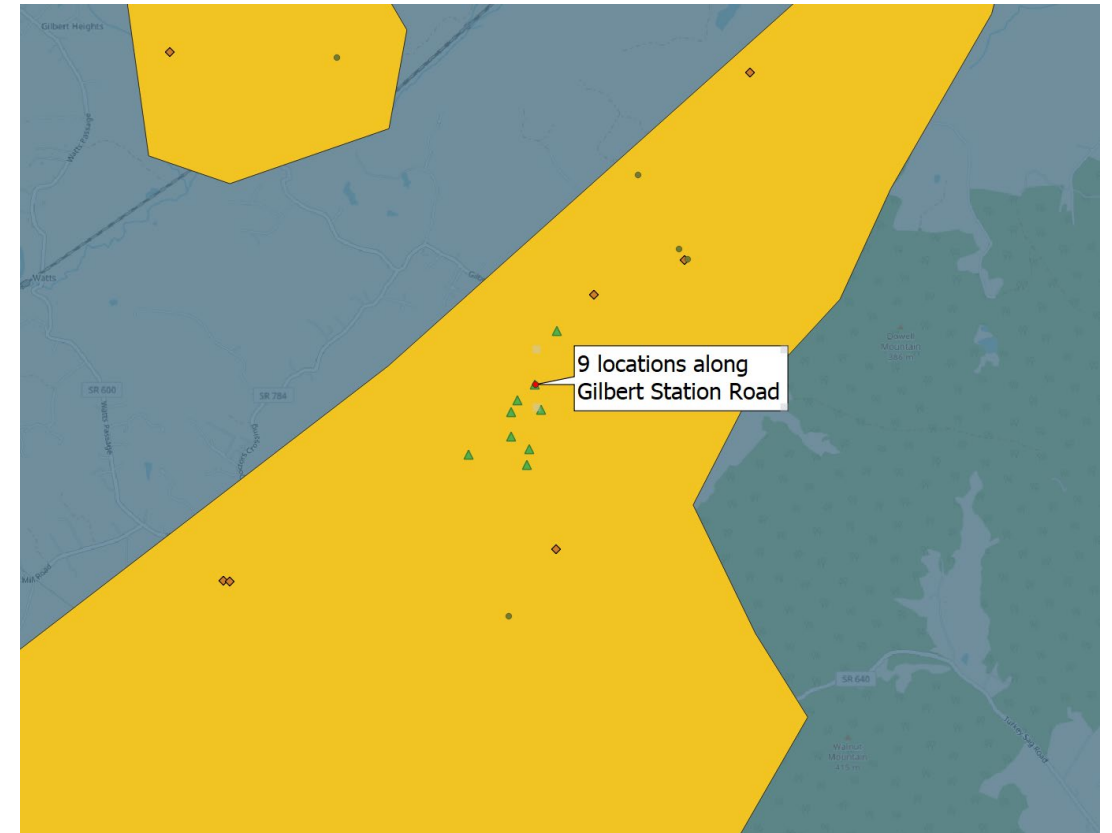
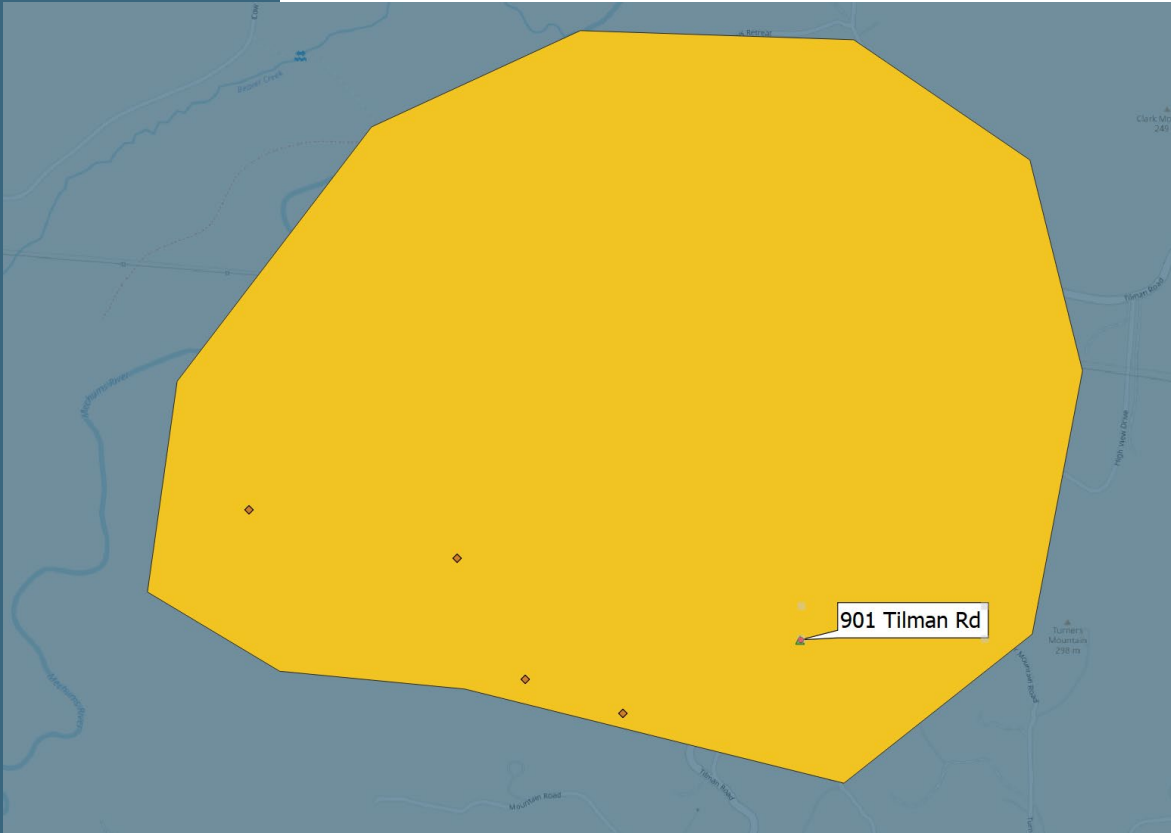
VATI 2021 Update



- A letter of intent has been agreed to and circulated that specifies plans for completing this project
- 10 additional locations will be built, including 9 on Gilbert Station Rd
- Construction work is now expected to be completed in June 2024

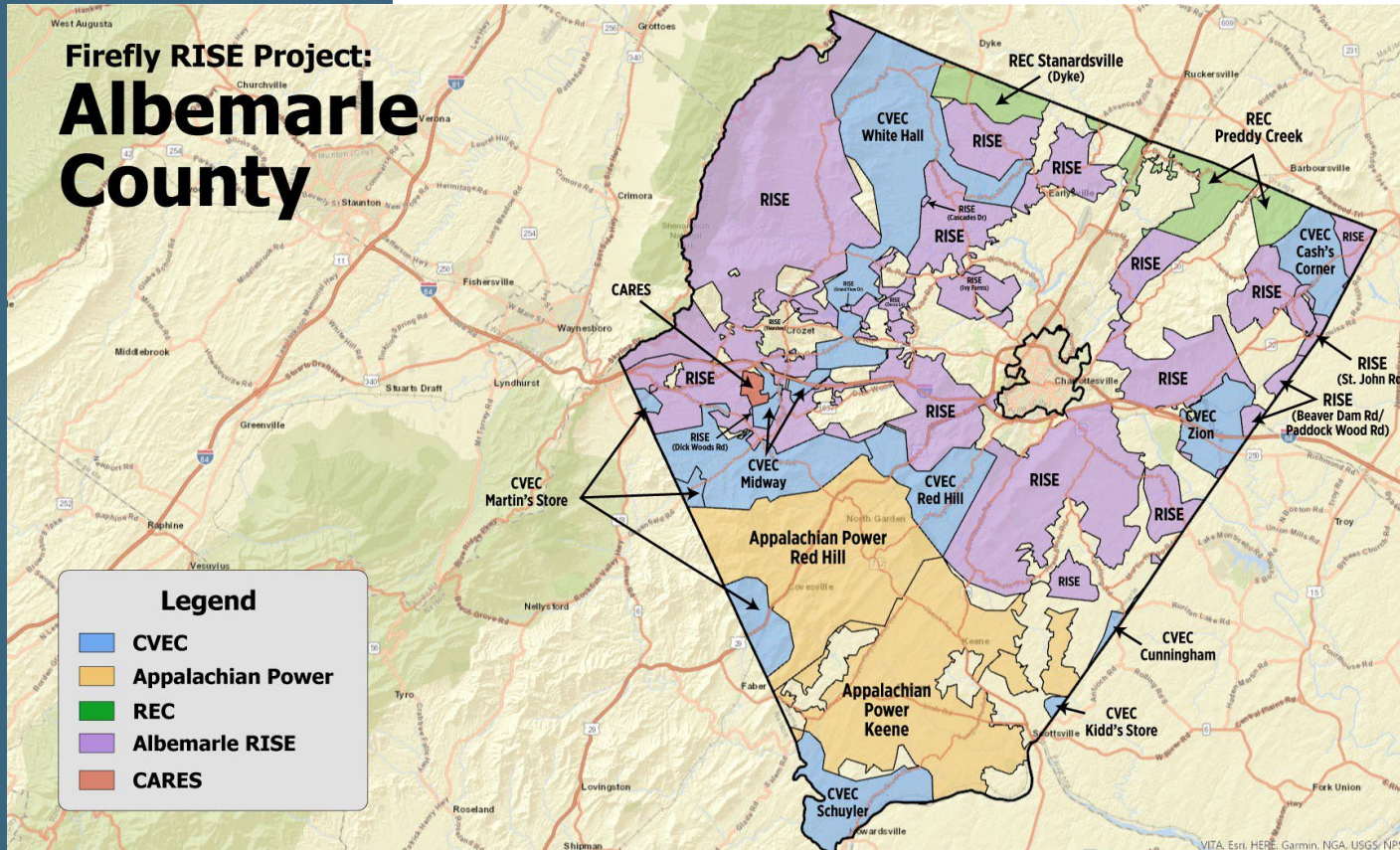


VATI 2021 Update





VATI 2022 Update



- Construction work continues
- Connections ongoing in Appalachian Power Red Hill area
- Dominion has made submissions to the SCC regarding its Middle Mile project



VATI 2022 Update

VATI 2022 Project Milestones	Progress as of September 2023	Percentage Completed to Date*
Miles of Field Data Collection	387	24.74%
Miles of Fiber Design	2,047	61.56%
Miles of Make Ready Construction	910	46.15%
Number of Communication Huts set	2	10.53%
Miles of Aerial Fiber Placement	606	30.73%
Miles of Underground Fiber Placement	246	18.18%
Miles of Splicing	381	11.66%
Number of Passings	4,584	12.65%



BAAO Report

- ARPA Grant Status
- Digital Navigator Pilot
- BEAD Challenge Process

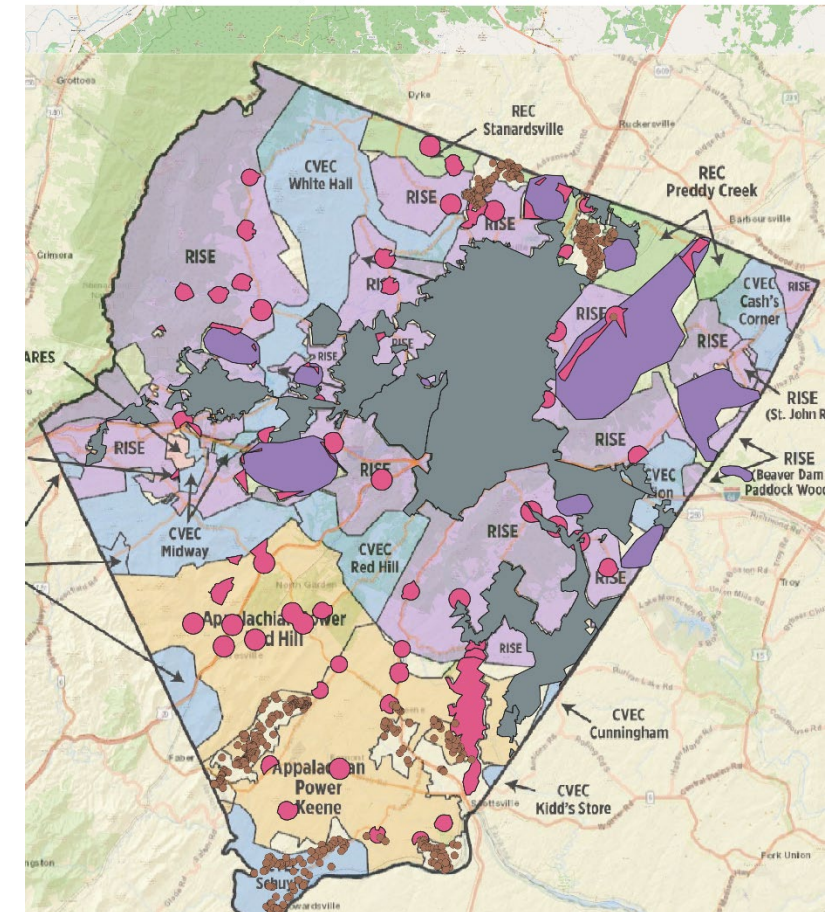


BAAO ARPA Grant Discussion

- Firefly has been awarded the Albemarle ARPA Grant
 - 1,466 passings across Albemarle County
 - Includes nearly all remaining unserved locations not currently allocated to a project
- Project work to be completed by December 31, 2025
- Total project cost: **\$8,134,940**
 - BAAO Share: **\$2,459,003**
 - BAAO ARPA **\$2,000,000**
 - ABBA ARPA **\$87,000 (pending)**
 - ABBA Operating **\$30,044 (pending)**
 - County Reappropriation **\$341,959 (pending)**

Albemarle County Broadband Coverage

- Albemarle ARPA Grant Areas
- Comcast Coverage Areas
- VATI 2020 Locations
- Firefly CVEC/RISE Project Areas
- VATI 2021 Project Areas



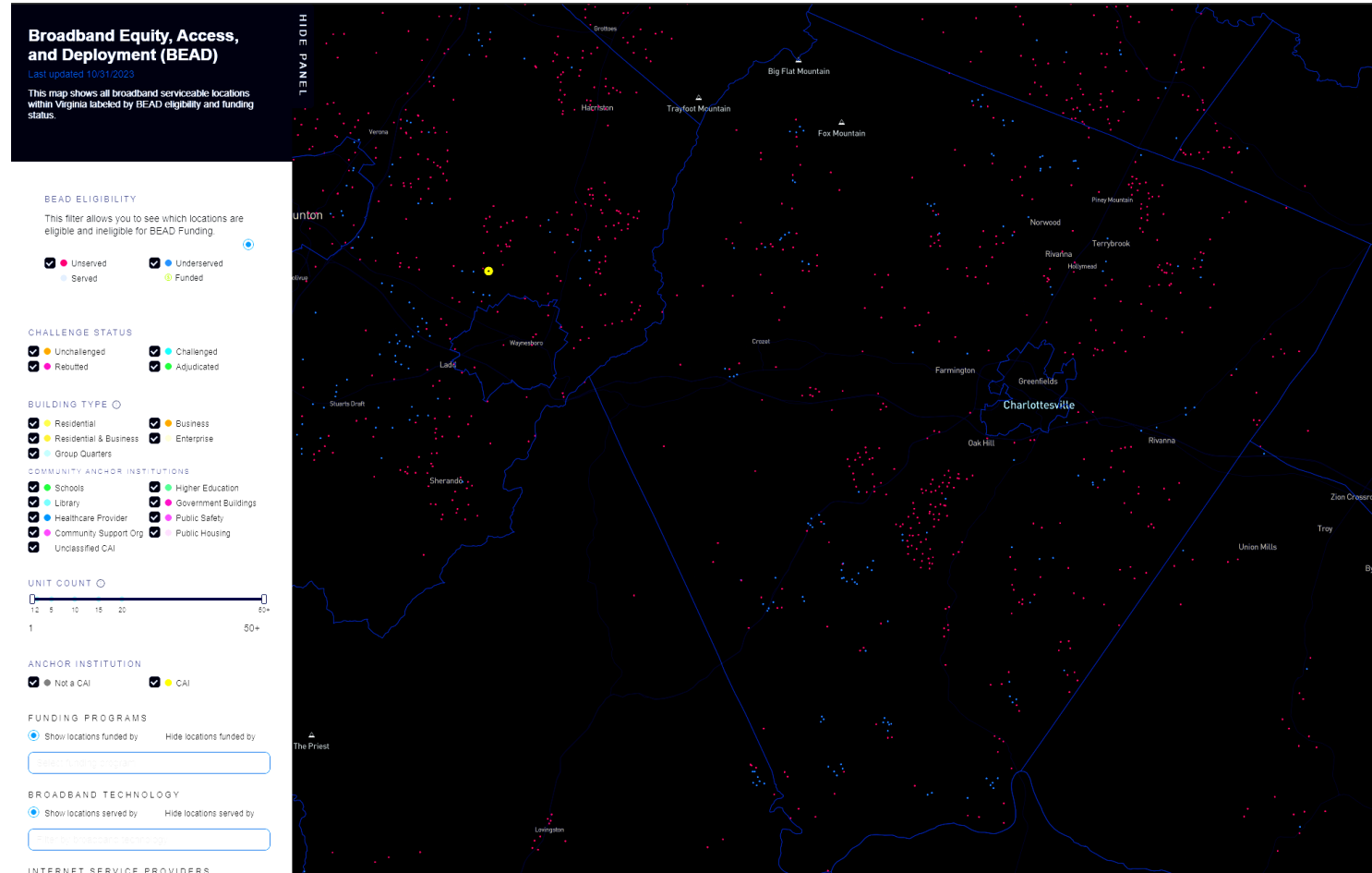


Digital Navigator Pilot

- A collaboration between the Jefferson Area Board for Aging and the Digital Equity Coalition will bring navigators to work broadly throughout the community to provide digital skills training, device assistance, and referral to community resources
- The partnership is funded through support from Ting and Comcast, along with the Center for Civic Innovation
- Hiring will begin soon and the pilot will last 6 months



BEAD Challenge Process





BEAD Challenge Process

- The Challenge window closes on November 30th and is followed by approximately two months for rebuttal and determination
- BAAO is working with providers and Community Anchor Institutions to prepare a challenge
- DHCD is working to remedy some accuracy issues, our office will provide guidance for officials and community members to share possible inaccuracies with us for inclusion in our challenge



ABBA Financial Report

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