



Broadband Advisor Update

House Appropriations Committee
Monday, September 17, 2018

Necessity of Universal Broadband

- + Access to high-quality broadband, at school, at work, AND at home is critical to full participation in American life
- + The divide in availability between urban and rural districts is a huge economic stumbling block for our rural localities
- + The divide is also a moral failing – children’s opportunities shouldn’t be dependent on where they’re born
 - + School quality in rural Virginia is still high – yet outcomes are worse
 - + The anecdotes are real, and reflected in data

Governor Northam's Directive

- + Governor built on the leadership from the General Assembly
- + Work of the office of Broadband Advisor will be robust
- + "Functionally Universal" broadband availability
- + Delivering a plan this year
 - + Iterative
 - + Multi-level
 - + Strong Stakeholder buy-in
- + Builds on the work that has gone before

Broadband General Principals

- + Technology Agnostic
- + Can't wait for technology to solve the problem
- + Private sector and nonprofits are necessary partners
- + This is achievable
 - + Virginia has a rural population of approximately 1,041,000.
 - + ~64% of Virginia's rural population lacks access to broadband
 - + Thus ~666,240 Virginians need broadband access
 - + There have been gains made, but this count also missed folks

Tobacco Commission Efforts To-Date

- + Longstanding investment: Over \$130 million to-date
- + Recent Last-mile program:

Request #	Organization	Project Title	Requested Amount	Matching Funds	Proposed Project Budget	Co-Applicant	Premises passed	TRRC cost per premise passed (\$)	speeds upload/download (Mbps)
3389	Appomattox County	CVEC Members' Fiber Project	\$979,850	\$2,939,550	\$3,919,400	CVEC	1,650	\$594	100/100
3387	Appomattox County	Shentel Broadband Expansion to Vera	\$45,000	\$48,000	\$93,000	Shentel	100	\$450	10/1
3392	Bedford, County of	Comcast Broadband Project in Southern Bedford County	\$4,000,000	\$5,372,634	\$9,372,634	Comcast	6974	\$573.56	10Mbps-1Gbps / 2-35Mbps
3384	Dinwiddie County	Regional Broadband Initiative: Dinwiddie and Amelia Counties	\$1,708,090	\$1,708,090	\$3,416,180	StraightUpNet LLC	15,000	\$114	8-10/6
3385	Halifax County	Halifax County Broadband Initiative	\$206,202	\$866,823	\$1,073,025	SCS AcelaNet	2,977	\$69	10-15/2-8
3378	Mecklenburg County	EMPower Project	\$2,611,391	\$2,611,391	\$5,222,782	Meck Elec Co-op	2,909	\$898	25/3
3391	Pittsylvania County	Pittsylvania County Broadband Initiative	\$491,000	\$491,000	\$982,000	SCS AcelaNet	6362	\$77	10-15/2-8
3379	Sussex County	Sussex County High Speed Broadband Initiative	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000	Prince George Elec Co-op	2,300	\$543	30/30
		TOTALS	\$11,291,533	\$15,287,488	\$26,579,021		31,298	\$415	

VA Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)

- + VATI funds public/private partnerships in localities
- + Funded at \$1 million/year in 2017 and 2018 & Oversubscribed
- + 1666 residents, 32 businesses, and 2 community anchors connected

2017 VATI		2018 VATI	
Locality/Co-applicant	Award	Locality/Co-applicant	Award
Augusta County/Lingo	\$ 278,880	Albemarle County/Comcast	\$ 473,366
Albemarle County/CenturyLink	\$ 118,400	Mecklenburg County/Buggs Island Telco	\$ 217,173
Bland County/WVVA.net	\$ 192,141	Spotsylvania County/Comcast	\$ 167,260
Gloucester County/Cox	\$ 193,094		
Greensville County/Telpage	\$ 162,334		
Total	\$ 944,849	Total	\$ 857,799

Future of VATI

- + Primary vehicle for state broadband incentives
- + Successful public/stakeholder engagement
- + Basic principals moving forward
 - + Public/private partnership
 - + Best leverage on core metrics
 - + Focus on unserved population
- + Needs your continued and increased support

GO Virginia Update

- + GO Virginia has indicated a desire to be involved
- + Initial planning meeting was cancelled due to storm; this will be convened as described in this year's budget
- + Planning and intergovernmental coordination a natural role for GO Virginia
- + The Organization will need to settle on an investment strategy

Complementary Efforts within State Government

- + Broadband Advisory Council
 - + Key legislative partners & important means of coordination and idea generation
- + CIT
 - + Strong local planning support but limited scope – needs to increase
- + Tobacco Commission
 - + Continued funding and grant-making expertise
- + VDOT
 - + P3 office is a critical partner & significant physical assets and enabling ability
- + DHCD
 - + VATI program & CDBG block grants
- + Other Secretariats on ad-hoc basis

Federal Partnerships

- + Federal Programs are numerous
 - + USDA
 - + NTIA
 - + EDA
 - + FCC
 - + ARC
 - + Etc.
- + Many have multiple programs that touch multiple sorts of projects
 - + Economic Development
 - + Public Safety
 - + Etc.
- + Alignment is key – we will act as clearinghouse

HB1258/SB405 – Wireless Infrastructure

- + Cellular Service is related but not broadband
- + Some assets can be multi-use
- + Bill streamlines zoning and creates stakeholder group
 - + Dep. Sec. of Commerce Demeria leading group
 - + We will support
- + There is overlap regarding vertical assets/fixed wireless
- + Note about 5G

Forthcoming Plan

- + Aiming to have first version by December
- + Will include:
 - + Basic background
 - + Scoping
 - + Timelines for deployment
 - + Local planning support
 - + Issue area discussion
 - + State/Federal program discussion
 - + Interstate comparisons
 - + Policy Recommendations

Work of the Broadband Office So Far

- + Scoping, planning, research, and internal organization
- + We're hiring!
- + Stakeholder engagement
- + Policy development
- + Budget development
- + Drafting

Milestones for the Fall/Winter

- + Policy proposals
- + Firm budget numbers
- + Briefings for GA Members
- + Coalition-building
- + Streamlined and improved grant-making
- + Citizen engagement
- + The plan
- + The Session

Working with the General Assembly

- + As soon as policy ideas are ready we will share
- + No monopoly on good ideas
- + Budget decisions are statement of political will
 - + We can lead the pack
 - + This is a unique political moment
- + We also want to support you
 - + Policy/legislative support
 - + Constituent communication
 - + Connection to state agency activities

Questions and Contact

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