

November 2, 2016 Albemarle Board Presentation



Virginia Telecommunication Planning Initiative Telecommunication Plan (VATPI Plan)

Objective:

Receive and Provide Direction on 7 Strategic Considerations for
Advancing Broadband in Albemarle County

November 2, 2016

VATPI Plan Presentation to Albemarle Board



- VATPI Background
- Vision
- 7 Strategic Considerations for Broadband
- Next Steps
- Discussion

VATPI Background



- Albemarle County awarded \$75K to complete a Telecommunication Plan
- The Telecommunication Plan identifies priorities, preliminary network design and next steps for review
- Design Nine worked with the *Broadband Management Team* to complete the Telecommunication Plan (VATPI Plan)
- The VATPI Plan Highlights 7 Strategic Considerations

Broadband Management Team

Liz A. Palmer; Valerie Palamountain; Rick Randolph; Thomas A. Hanson; Chip Boyles; Tim Keller; Frank Friedman; Billie Campbell; Faith McClintic; Susan Stimart; Bill Fritz; Vincent Scheivert; Mike Culp; Andrew Cohill (Design Nine)

[illegible]

- Improved broadband affordability and accessibility will bring qualitative and quantitative improvements to Albemarle in public safety, education, telemedicine and telehealth, and increased opportunities for job creation, business attraction, and business retention. Public action is needed to remove barriers, provide incentives, and enable competition for adequate and reliable high speed broadband service to be available throughout the County.*

- The VATPI Plan is a guide for Achieving the Vision
- Priorities set based on 7 Strategic Considerations in the VATPI Plan

7 Strategic Considerations for Broadband

1. Establish Goals
2. Form Public/Private Partnerships
3. Treat Broadband as a Utility
4. Improve Awareness/Understanding of Broadband Challenges
5. Identify Broadband Leadership
6. Update the Tower Ordinance to Help Improve Wireless
7. Improve Access to Tower Space

1. Establish Goals

- The FCC recently redefined “broadband” to be 25 Megabits download speed and 3 megabits upload speed (25/3). In most rural areas of the county, the existing DSL services are unable to deliver even the older FCC broadband definition of 10 Megabits down, 1 Megabit up (10/1).
- Near term goal: is affordable access to a minimum of 10/1 service, with a long term goal of 25/3. These goals would guide the County’s initiatives to improve service. In the development areas, 25/3 is a reasonable near term goal, with a long term goal of widespread Gigabit fiber availability.

2. Form Public/Private Partnerships



- Create incentives for existing and new private sector providers to expand service availability and affordability, which will improve competition and pricing.
- VATI is one example of a grant opportunity including a partnership component.
- Partnerships can take many forms other than a legally binding P3.

3. Treat Broadband as a Utility

- Telecommunications is critical for:
 - Business
 - Education
 - Training
 - Personal - social connections, data access, shopping, entertainment, and safety.
- Manage broadband as a utility and essential infrastructure.



4. Improve Awareness/Understanding of Broadband Challenges

- Create learning opportunities for leaders, residents and businesses to acquire a better understanding of the importance of improved broadband throughout Albemarle.
- Involve Piedmont Virginia Community College as a valuable resource to increase awareness of broadband.



5. Identify Broadband Leadership



- Create an Albemarle Broadband Authority, or join a regional Broadband Authority in collaboration with adjacent counties such as Augusta, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson, and Orange.
- Authority will provide the leadership needed to coordinate the numerous public and private entities that are making broadband investments and deployment decisions.
- Authority will improve our ability to apply for and to obtain grant funding, and simplify any regional efforts.
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission would be an instrumental partner in this effort.

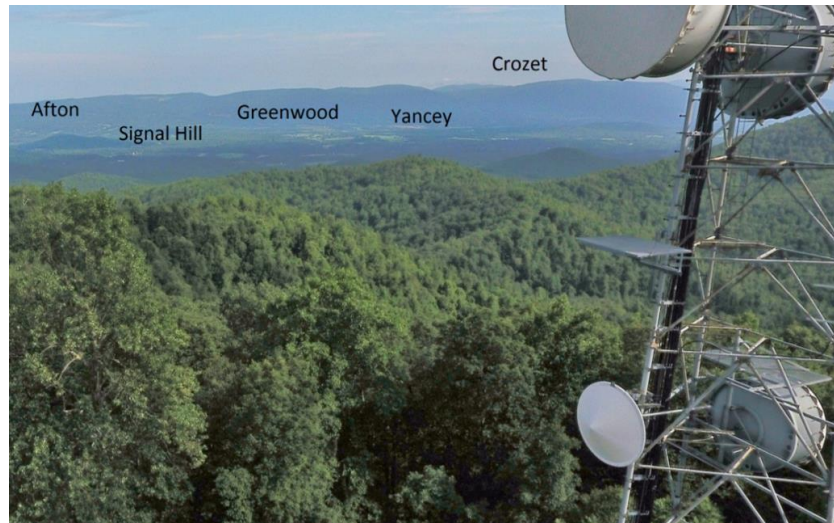
6. Update the Tower Ordinance to Help Improve Wireless



- Mountainous terrain and heavy tree cover make it difficult for properties in the rural areas to have adequate Line Of Sight (LOS) to towers where fixed point wireless services could be made available.
- Allowing rural residents to erect 80' wood utility poles by right would make wireless broadband more widely available.

7. Improve Access to Tower Space

- Strategically located towers with affordable access made available to WISPs (Wireless Internet Service Providers) would make significant improvements in broadband availability and cost, reducing the challenges of the mountainous terrain in the county.



Summary and Next Steps

- The Broadband Management Team and Design Nine Completed VATPI Project
- Report Available for Public Review
- Identify New Broadband Teams for Specific Functions
 - VATI Applications
 - Federal Funding
 - Regional Projects
 - Ordinance Review and Recommendations
 - Following standard processes involving the Planning Commission
 - Economic Development



VATPI PLAN QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

