

Approved Minutes

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on May 5, 2025. The meeting was held in room 241 of the Albemarle County Office Building located at 401 McIntire Road.

PRESENT: Mr. Waldo Jaquith, Mr. Jim Andrews, Mr. Mike Pruitt, Mr. Trevor Henry, Mr. Bill Fritz

ABSENT: Mr. Bucky Walsh

Also Present: Mr. Richard DeLoria (Deputy County Attorney), and Mr. Jason Inofuentes (Program Manager, Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office).

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.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

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

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 was no public comment.

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

There were no virtual attendees.

Agenda Item No. 5 Consent Agenda

Agenda Item No. 5a Financial Report (information only)

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

Mr. Henry **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6 Approval of February 20, 2025 and March 20, 2025 meeting Minutes

Approved Minutes

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

Mr. Henry **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. Inofuentes stated that he is working to try and find a solution to provide service to the sites not served.

Mr. Andrews noted that these are the hardest to serve, which is why they aren't being served.

Mr. Inofuentes noted that serving these sites will be a challenge and that hopefully the BEAD project will be able to serve them.

Mr. Pruitt asked if satellite is the only way to serve them.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that some of them have opportunities to be served by other providers, including Firefly.

Mr. Inofuentes noted that DHCD will be pro-rating their contribution to the project and the Broadband office is working on a pro-rating to consider.

Mr. DeLoria asked what reaction Brightspeed had.

Mr. Inofuentes stated they were eager to close the project and were not objecting.

Mr. Jaquith stated it was frustrating that the sites were not served but they should know we are still working on it.

Mr. Pruitt asked if the pro-rata reduction could be higher than the median value of each crossing because these sites are more difficult to serve and it will be more costly for the County to find someone now.

Mr. DeLoria stated that we must pay Brightspeed what DHCD gives us.

Mr. Jaquith stated he would like to see how many of these sites can be moved into another project before deciding what the pro-rata amount would be. Mr. Jaquith noted that he was not prepared to have a fight over the amount because it was likely to be insignificant.

Approved Minutes

Mr. Pruitt noted that the staff time spent would offset any savings.

Mr. Henry asked if the Broadband Office was following the same procedure as DHCD.

Mr. Inofuentes stated they were using the same procedure.

Mr. DeLoria stated that when payment is made, we should get a release and a surrender of the sites from Brightspeed.

Mr. Andrews **moved** to authorize Mr. Walsh and Mr. Inofuentes to sign any documentation necessary to close out the project for not more than \$554,657.40.

Mr. Pruitt **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 7b VATI 2022 Update

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

Mr. Andrews stated that he understood that the main issue was people not wanting to grant an easement. The issue of mapping was verifying the property owner to contact for an easement.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that CVEC/Firefly have contracted with other firms to address the mapping issue. No extension of the project has been requested.

Agenda Items No. 7c BAAO update

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

Agenda Item No. 8 New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item No. 9 Other Matters

There was no discussion.

Agenda Item No. 10 Adjourn

Mr. Andrews **moved** to adjourn the meeting.

Approved Minutes

Mr. Jaquith **seconded** the motion.

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 5:45.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

5. FOR APPROVAL (Information Only)
a. Financial Report

Update: 04/17/2025

4-4300-91097-491097-950030-9999 (EXPENSE CODE)

BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY

	Original budget	Encumbrances	Expenditures	Balance
VATI 22	\$4,500,000.00	\$ 2,593,148.30	\$1,819,851.70	\$773,296.60
VATI 21	\$2,916,110.00	\$2,916,110.00	\$0.00	\$2,916,110.00
Total	\$7,416,110.00	\$5,509,258.30	\$1,819,851.70	\$3,689,406.60

Notes:

VATI 2021: Reimbursement for this project remains on hold until verification of all project passings has occurred.

VATI 2022 Expenditures include payment of 17 invoices to TJPDC totaling \$1,732,852 and the transfer of \$87,000 to the ARPA Grant Project (BAAO)



Albemarle Broadband Authority

May 5, 2025



Agenda

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Brief Announcements by Authority Members

4. Public Comment

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Financial Report

6. Approval of February 10 Meeting Minutes

7. Old Business

- a. VATI 2021 Update
- b. VATI 2022 Update
- c. BAAO Update

8. New Business

- a. BEAD Update

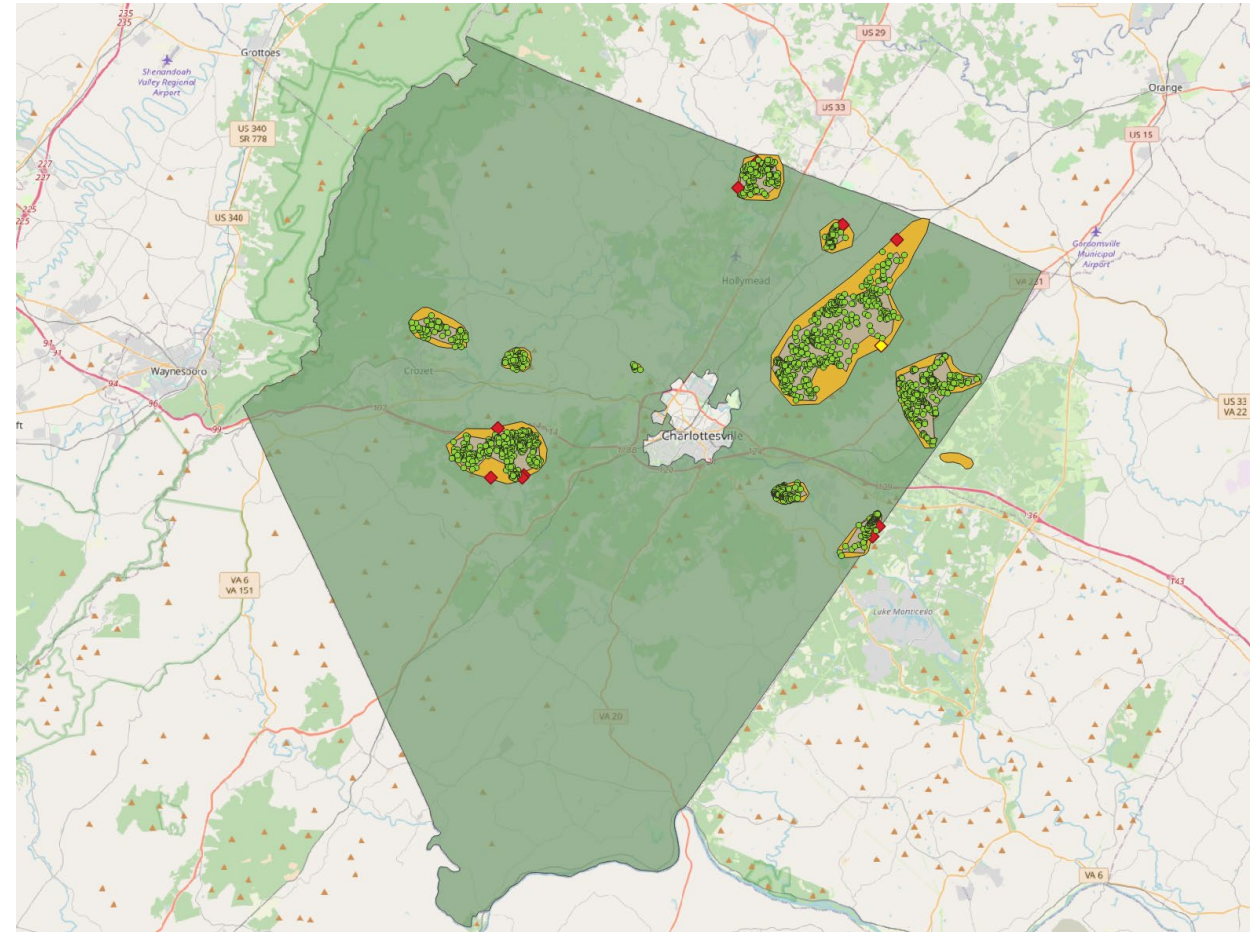
9. Other Matters

10. Adjourn



VATI 2021 Update

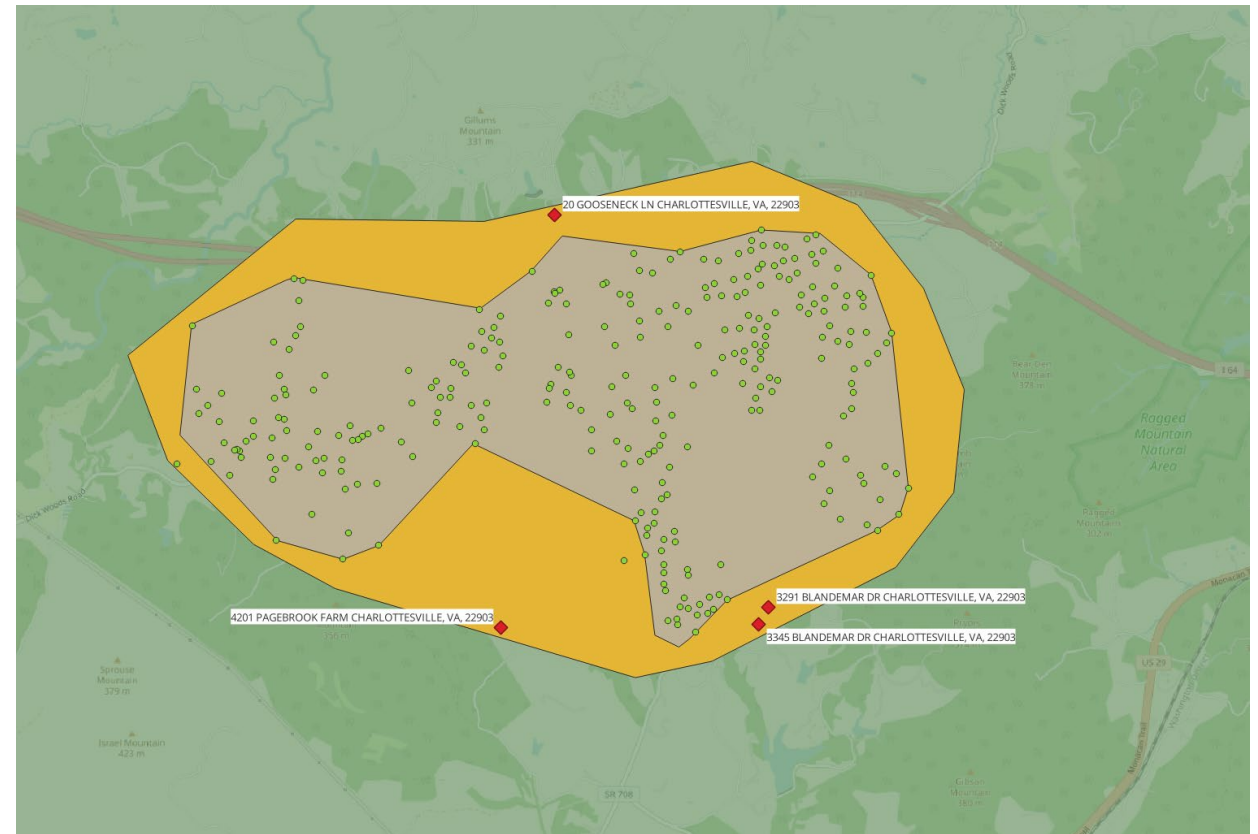
- 1,430 passings were agreed upon during the 2024 amendment
- Brightspeed has confirmed that 1,416 have been passed, the remaining 14 have been surrendered
- DHCD has stated it would pro-rate its funding to reflect the change in passings





VATI 2021 Update

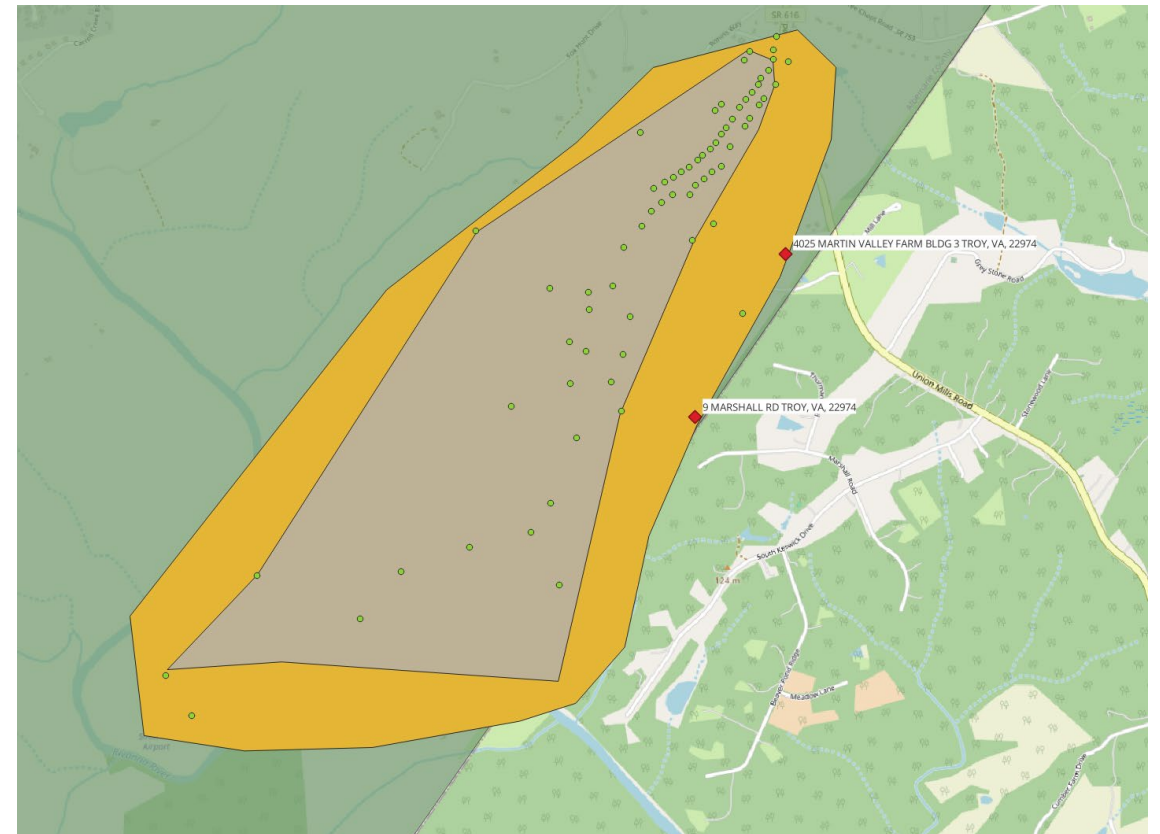
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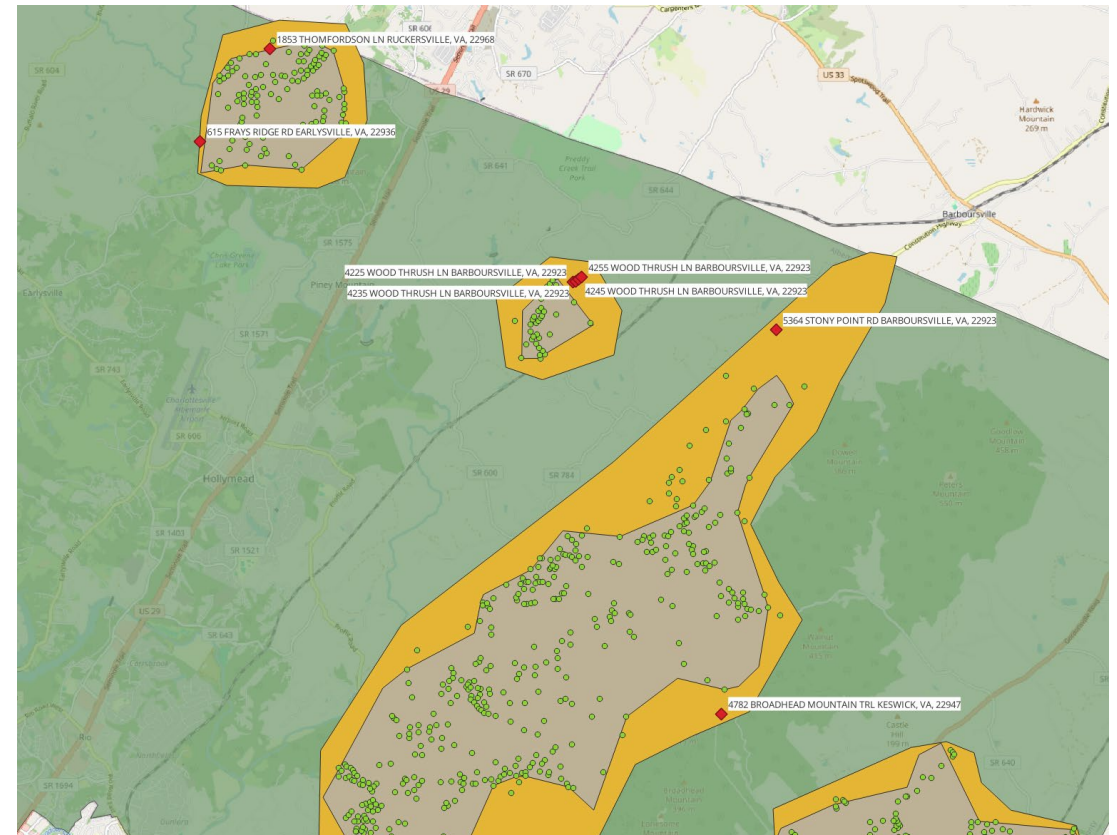
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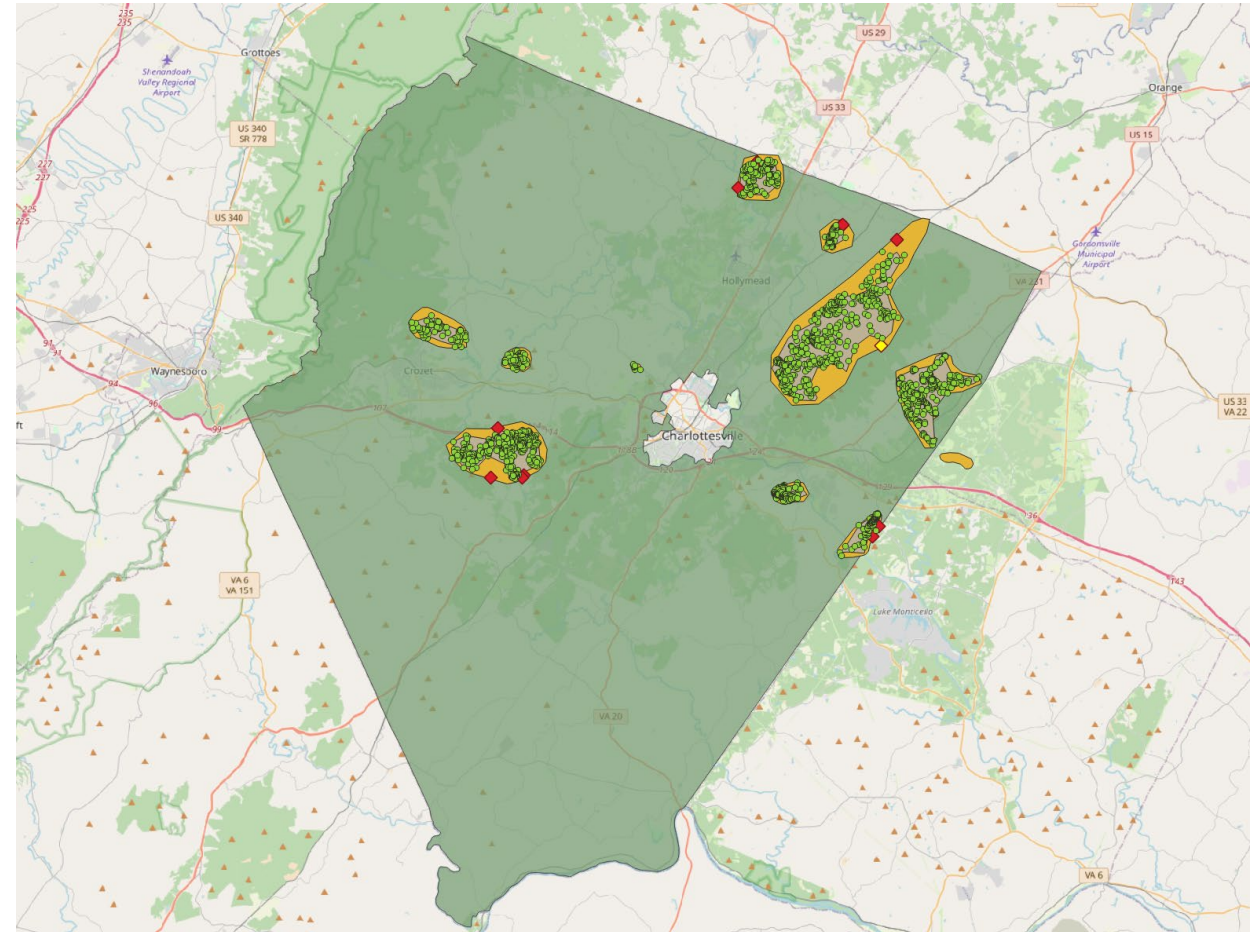
VATI 2021 Update

DHCD Budgeted Contribution:
\$2,231,084.60

DHCD Pro-Rated Contribution:
\$2,209,241.81

ABBA Budgeted Contribution:
\$560,141

ABBA Pro-Rated Contribution:
\$554,657.10



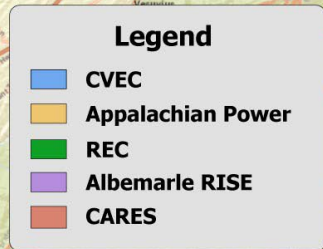
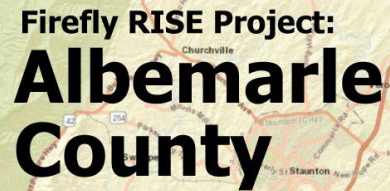


VATI 2021 Update

- The project deadline was extended to June 2nd, 2025
- Remaining activities include remittances and close-out
- There will be no 10% withholding so long as close-out and remittances are in order
- BAAO will meet with DHCD and Brightspeed to discuss the close-out procedures and remittances



VATI 2022 Update



- Construction work continues throughout the project area
- Firefly continues to work through easement issues as they come up
- Dominion continues its middle mile work; App Power will be moving into the Keene area soon
- Residents uncertain where their project falls should visit: <https://www.fireflyva.com/partners-albemarle/>



VATI 2022 Update

Appalachian Power - Red Hill	In-Service
CARES - Albemarle	In-Service
REC - Stanardsville (Dyke)	Connecting Now
RISE (St. John Rd)	Connecting Now
RISE (Beaver Dam Rd)	Connecting Now
RISE (Batesville)	Spring 2025
RISE (Decca Ln)	Spring 2025
RISE (Free Union/Earlysville/Waverly)	Spring 2025
RISE (Ivy Farms)	Spring 2025
RISE (Midway)	Spring 2025
RISE (Rockfish Gap)	Spring 2025
RISE (Sugar Hollow)	Spring 2025
RISE (Thurston)	Spring 2025
RISE (Windrift)	Spring 2025

Appalachian Power - Keene	Summer 2025
REC - Preddy Creek (Advance Mills)	Summer 2025
REC - Preddy Creek (Burnley)	Summer 2025
REC - Preddy Creek (Vineyard Rd)	Summer 2025
RISE (Carters Mtn)	Summer 2025
RISE (Gordonsville Rd)	Summer 2025
RISE (Louisa Rd)	Summer 2025
RISE (Ragged Mtn)	Summer 2025
RISE (Stony Point/Eastham)	Summer 2025
RISE (Turkey Sag)	Summer 2025

SERVICE CONNECTIONS IN EACH PROJECT AREA ARE ANTICIPATED TO BEGIN WITHIN THE NOTED PERIOD AND INTO THE FOLLOWING PERIOD UNTIL ALL WHO PRE-REGISTERED FOR SERVICE ARE CONNECTED.
(I.E. FIRST CONNECTIONS ARE MADE IN THE FALL AND WILL CARRY ON INTO THE WINTER UNTIL CONNECTIONS ARE COMPLETE)



Summer 2024
ends 9/22/2024



Fall 2024
ends 12/21/2024



Winter 2024-2025
ends 3/20/2025



Spring 2025
ends 6/20/2025



Summer 2025
ends 9/22/2025



VATI 2022 Update

VATI 2022 Project Milestones	Progress as of April 2024	Progress as of February 2025	Progress as of April 2025	% Increase since last ABBA Update
Miles of Field Data Collection	118	430	430	0%
Miles of Fiber Design	107	270	276	2%
Miles of Make Ready Construction	87	94	104	10%
Miles of Aerial Fiber Placement	80	83	83	0%
Miles of Underground Fiber Placement	11	33	33	0%
Miles of Splicing	87	101	102	1%
Number of Passings	921	938	1019	8%



VATI 2022 Update - Dominion

VATI 2022 Project Milestones	Progress as of April 2024	Progress as of February 2025	Progress as of April 2025	% Increase since last ABBA Update
Miles of Field Data Collection	118	430	430	0%
Miles of Fiber Design	107	270	276	2%
Miles of Make Ready Construction	87	94	104	10%
Miles of Aerial Fiber Placement	80	83	83	0%
Miles of Underground Fiber Placement	11	33	33	0%
Miles of Splicing	87	101	102	1%
Number of Passings	921	938	1019	8%



BAAO Report

- Application for DHCD Digital Skills, Literacy, Devices Program
- Digital Opportunity Plan Progress
- Implications of Federal Program Review



Application for DSLD Program

- BAAO has applied for DHCD's DSLD Program, part of the Digital Equity Act's State Capacity Grant Program
- Approximately \$15M in funding was made available, capped at \$400k for regional efforts, and \$200k for local efforts
- DHCD states they have received 47 applications for \$13M in funding requests





Application for DSLD Program

- BAAO's application was for a regional effort that would encompass the 6 TJPDC localities
- The goal is to create a digital inclusion ecosystem that includes digital skills training, device distribution, digital navigators and affordability programs benefiting the whole region
- The strategy is to use community partners already serving covered population's, as per the DEA





Application for DSLD Program

- BAAO pursued options for strategies to apply for more than \$1.2M, and approached DHCD for guidance
- Ultimately, no suitable option was available
- Our application for \$400k will provide sufficient funding for a limited program for one year, rather than three





Digital Opportunity Plan Progress

- Our partner, EPR, has conducted focus groups and stakeholder interviews in every locality
- These engagements have given us insights into barriers to digital access and goals
- Both rural and urban community members are eager to work on-line, both work-from-home and entrepreneurial initiatives



Digital Opportunity Plan Progress

- Barriers are also remarkably consistent, affordability and skills gaps exist in both rural and urban contexts
- We will have the plan prepared this Summer



BEAD Update

- A negotiation cycle has been completed by DHCD as part of its BEAD program, Albemarle was not involved
- DHCD is expected to announce awards before Summer, pending approval at NTIA
- Albemarle is expected to see an award that will cover all remaining unserved locations



Implications of Federal Program Review

- Both BEAD and DEA are managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- The new administration's nominee to lead NTIA has not yet been installed
- Normal processes for approval of such programs can take as long as three months



Implications of Federal Program Review

- Reports surfaced last month that there is an ongoing program review by NTIA of both DEA and BEAD
- There is no guidance regarding the timeline for this review, no guidance has been provided from DHCD regarding Federal timelines for approval



Implications of Federal Program Review

- While we are confident in both our DSLD and BEAD outcomes, there is significant uncertainty regarding when any funding will become available



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