



Albemarle  
Broadband  
Authority

# Broadband Status Report

## 1st Quarter CY2024

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Albemarle Broadband Authority (ABBA) reviewed and is submitting the Broadband Status Report for the third quarter of calendar year 2024 (July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024). The report is provided to the County of Albemarle, VA Board of Supervisors as information. This report provides summary level information on all activities completed and underway by ABBA and the Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office (BAAO). Here is this quarter's *From the Chair*:

*The Albemarle Broadband Authority cancelled our regular meeting scheduled for July 24, 2024 as there was no new business to consider. We met as planned on August 28 for our Annual meeting where the current officers were all re-elected to their positions and again on September 25 as a regular meeting.*

*During this quarter we have continued to await sufficient documentation from Brightspeed for VATI 2021 work so that this completed project can be paid out. We have yet to authorize payments for this work and will not do so until it has been properly billed.*

*All members of the Authority reported encountering crews of linemen working in the county on telephone poles doing make-ready and cabling work for the VATI 2022 project. The slight inconvenience now should lead to broadband for all by the end of 2025. Firefly reports that they are largely on target for timely completion.*

*Bucky Walsh  
ABBA Chair*



Albemarle  
Broadband  
Authority

# Broadband Status Report

## 1st Quarter CY2024

### Virginia Telecommunication Initiative 2022 Update

Make-ready and construction operations continue in the VATI 22 project in partnership with Firefly Fiber Broadband and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC). This project represents a partnership between Albemarle’s four power providers to leverage utility infrastructure to deploy a fiber network that spans 13 counties.

RISE PROJECTS	
Albemarle County	
CARES - Albemarle	In-Service
Appalachian Power - Red Hill	In-Service
REC - Stanardsville (Dyke)	Connecting Now
RISE (Beaver Dam/Paddock Wood Rd)	Fall 2024
RISE (Decca Ln)	Fall 2024
RISE (Ivy Farms)	Fall 2024
RISE (St. John Rd)	Fall 2024
RISE (Thurston)	Fall 2024
RISE (Batesville)	Spring 2025
RISE (Free Union/Earlsville/Waverly)	Spring 2025
RISE (Rockfish Gap)	Spring 2025
RISE (Sugar Hollow)	Spring 2025
RISE (Windrift)	Spring 2025
Appalachian Power - Keene	Summer 2025
REC - Preddy Creek	Summer 2025
RISE (Carters Mtn)	Summer 2025
RISE (Ragged Mtn)	Summer 2025
RISE (Stony Point/Eastham)	Summer 2025

Construction timelines for Dominion Energy portions of the project have slipped from Summer 2024 to Fall 2024 in four service areas. Additional project areas remain on schedule.

Reporting from Firefly and TJPDC suggests that Field Data Collection has largely been completed. Fiber design and make-ready have made significant progress, though the delay in the Dominion project areas has held the passings figure below 1,000 through the quarter.

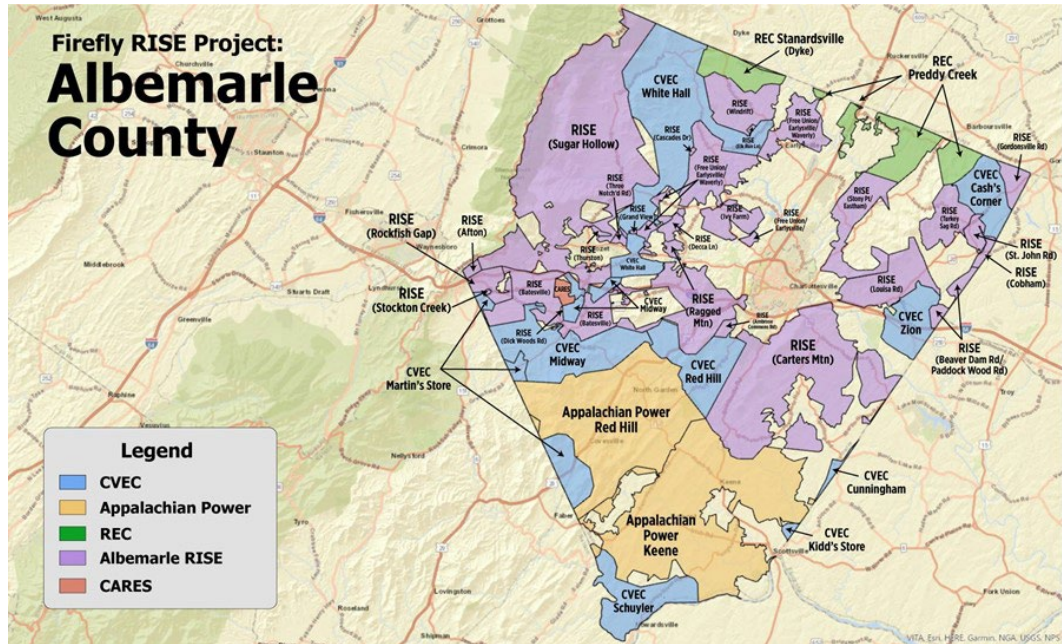
VATI 2022 Project Milestones	Progress as of February 2024	Progress as of April 2024	Progress as of May 2024	Progress as of June 2024	Progress as of August 2024	% Increase since last ABBA Update
Miles of Field Data Collection	104	118	431	431	431	0%
Miles of Fiber Design	96	107	107	107	202	47%
Miles of Make Ready Construction	87	87	87	89	98	9%
Miles of Aerial Fiber Placement	75	80	82	82	82	0%
Miles of Underground Fiber Placement	11	11	11	12	12	0%
Miles of Splicing	66	87	91	92	95	3%
Number of Passings	830	921	921	921	921	0%



Albemarle  
Broadband  
Authority

# Broadband Status Report

## 1st Quarter CY2024



A quarterly call for VATI 2022 stakeholders was held on September 19<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. During the meeting, TJPDC updated stakeholders on the project progress. During the call Dominion Energy was able to provide updates on its progress in Albemarle. Fiber design has been completed, and 40% of construction has been completed.

Dominion Middle Mile Milestones	Progress as of June 2024	Progress as of September 2024	% Progress
Total Miles	215	211	--
Miles Designed	170	211	100%
Construction status	In progress	In progress	--
Miles Completed	40	85.3	40%
Splicing % Complete	0	0	0%

BAAO will continue to monitor the progress of this project and will provide guidance to residents interested in this project on how to register with Firefly to receive updates.



Albemarle  
Broadband  
Authority

# Broadband Status Report

## 1st Quarter CY2024

### **Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) 2021 Update**

A call was held with Brightspeed staff, BAAO, and representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development's Broadband Office to discuss invoicing and close-out. As of the end of the quarter, Brightspeed has not submitted an adequate invoice for reimbursement to the Authority.

During the call DHCD expressed its satisfaction with Brightspeed's plans for reimbursement submissions and expressed a desire to conduct a site visit ahead of close-out. Brightspeed continues to be unable to produce project take-rate data, nor speed tests, elements required for close-out; its representatives, however, remain confident they will be able to produce the necessary reports.

Brightspeed expects to provide all required invoicing and close-out prior by December 2, 2024, the date of the most recent extension.

### **ABBA Public Meetings**

The public had in-person and real time audio-visual access to ABBA regular meetings at the County Office Building and over Zoom and real time audio access over telephone on August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The July meeting was cancelled due to lack of business before the Authority.

ABBA welcomed public comment at its meetings and invites the public to send questions, comments, and suggestions through email at [broadband@albemarle.org](mailto:broadband@albemarle.org) . All public meetings held this quarter were recorded and are available for viewing through links on the County's website.

The Authority held its annual reorganization during its August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. During the meeting all officers were reelected to their prior roles and the by-laws were updated to reflect the current legislative guidance regarding virtual meetings and remote attendance by Authority members.



Albemarle  
Broadband  
Authority

# Broadband Status Report

## 1st Quarter CY2024

### **BAAO Updates**

The Broadband Office continues to serve as administrators for the Authority, while also developing and engaging programs to meet the County's digital inclusion goals.

BAAO continued and expanded its Digital Navigator program. Two digital navigators now serve our community through office hours at the Central and Northside libraries, and through outreach and referrals. Navigators have assisted community members enroll in broadband service, explore device and skills options, and completing on-line tasks such as obtaining vital records.

The Albemarle County Bridge program, a broadband benefit program that provides \$30 per month for community members previously enrolled in the ACP, continues to expand its enrollment. Over 700 households are now receiving support through the County benefit.

Ahead of Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment funding opportunities from DHCD, the Office has analyzed FCC Broadband Data to identify areas that are shown as erroneously served or unserved. The FCC's data collection process does not accurately reflect service in many locations throughout the County, resulting in over 3,000 locations being shown unserved.

Through careful analysis the Office has confirmed that most of the locations shown as unserved are within existing expansion plans or currently served by a provider. Over the coming quarter the Office will work with DHCD to explore options for correcting this data.

As BEAD projects have until 2029 to be completed, the Office is working with providers to potentially reach agreements to serve these locations outside of any BEAD investments.



Albemarle  
Broadband  
Authority

# Broadband Status Report

## 1st Quarter CY2024

### Appendix A – ABBA Summary Budget Report

Update: 09/18/2024

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

**BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY**

	Original budget	Encumbrances	Expenditures	Balance
VATI 22	\$4,500,000.00	\$ 3,160,529.94	\$1,252,470.06	
VATI 21	\$2,916,110.00	\$2,916,110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,416,110.00</b>	<b>\$6,076,639.94</b>	<b>\$1,252,470.06</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Notes:</b>				

*BAAO, OGA, & DHCD met with Brightspeed 9/17/2024. Brightspeed provided DHCD access to confidential detail data supporting all project costs. BAAO, OGA, and DHCD will review while Brightspeed prepares one or more invoices for reimbursement and finalizes fiber subscriber counts and begins the efforts to document speed tests.*

**VATI 2022** Expenditures include payment of 11 invoices to TJPDC totaling \$1,252,470.06 and the transfer of \$87,000 to the ARPA Grant Project (BAAO)