



Albemarle
Broadband
Authority

Broadband Status Report

2nd Quarter CY2022

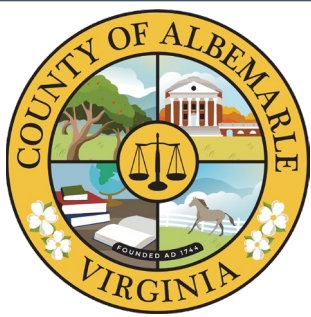
June 29, 2022

The Albemarle Broadband Authority (ABBA) reviewed and is submitting the Broadband Status Report for the second quarter of calendar year 2022 (April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022). 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. Here is this quarter's *From the Chair*:

By the close of this quarter the VATI 2022 award to bring fiber to the home for more than 5000 locations in Albemarle should be under contract. Procedurally this is more complex than previous awards, as ABBA and a number of other localities are contracting with the TJPDC, who is in turn contracting with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the state funds and with Firefly for the fiber installation. The able work of our legal staff, Richie DeLoria, has led to completion of the work for this effort on our part.

As mentioned previously, we still have opportunity in Albemarle to secure better internet connections options for some parts of the county. While VATI 2022 will bring fiber to the home, and hence the best available technology, to the more rural parts of the county, parts of the county with older infrastructure and technology located in more urban areas have deficient service levels in their internet offerings. Some of these problems are speed related – internet connections that are not up to the new 100/20 Mbps (down/up) speed standards. Some of these problems are related to the age of the infrastructure and its susceptibility to weather and other causes of outages. In both cases we will be seeking funding to improve what is available to these county residents.

VATI 2023 as it is planned will not have the large budget that was available in VATI 2022. Additional federal funds may grow that budget, but we expect these funds to be more likely available in future fiscal years. As a result, those areas of Virginia which are still trying to bring connectivity of any kind to their population will have priority over areas such as ours where we are looking to improve on existing connectivity. Regardless, we will organize an application for VATI funds to support improving the existing internet service, and if our efforts to achieve



Albemarle
Broadband
Authority

Broadband Status Report

2nd Quarter CY2022

that funding this year are not successful, we will have this application already prepared to apply next year when we anticipate better chances.

Bucky Walsh
ABBA Chair

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) 2022 Update

The VATI 2022 award to Firefly and the TJPDC is scheduled to be under contract soon. At the May 25th ABBA meeting, the Authority was able to discuss and approve the three-party agreement between TJPDC, Firefly, and the Authority.

When the contract is completed, Firefly can begin issuing schedules for the project areas. Firefly remains committed to completing this progress by 2025, and we will continue to support Firefly in its efforts in Albemarle County. With a pre-contract agreement in place, Firefly assures ABBA that work is progressing on the project.

As part of Firefly's outreach program, the company has previously hosted webinars with residents in the project areas, including two in Albemarle County, and it intends to continue to do so for this project. The Broadband Accessibility and Affordability (BAAO) intends to attend and support these events.

During the June ABBA meeting, Garrett Braun, Marketing and Communications Coordinator for Dominion Energy, presented details for Dominion's public engagement plans as it relates to the Middle Mile program upon which portion's of Firefly's network will be built.

Additionally, ABBA was updated on the impacts of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) on areas that were previously included in the VATI 2021 project.

As a result, ABBA authorized BAAO to draft a letter encouraging Firefly to do what it can to accelerate the timeline for broadband deployment for the affected RDOF areas.



Albemarle Broadband Authority

Broadband Status Report

2nd Quarter CY2022

The Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office (BAAO) will continue to monitor the progress of this project and will begin disseminating the schedule for Albemarle County as soon as it is available.

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) 2021 Update

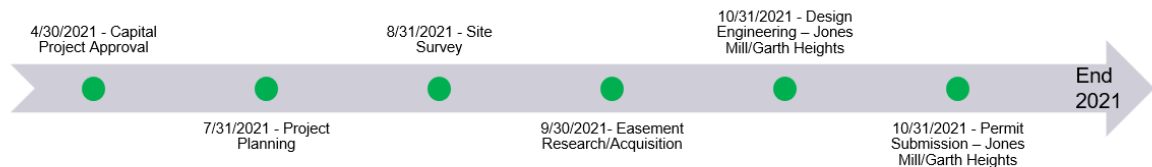
Work on the VATI 2021 project with CenturyLink will continue through the Fall, and despite several delays due to material and labor shortages, the expectation is that the first six project areas will be launched by the end of this month.

Our office has begun focusing some of our weekly calls with CenturyLink staff on a discussion of where material and labor shortages are impacting the timeline. At the moment, no further delays are expected, though the remaining projects may be broken up into smaller pieces and those rollouts staggered.

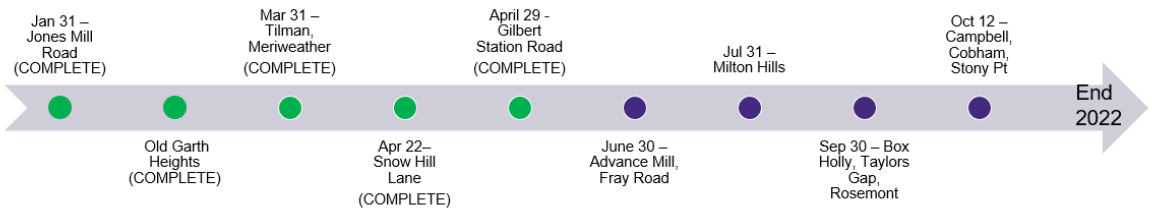
Community Webinars
Fridays at Noon

12/3/2021
1/7/2022
2/4/2022
3/4/2022
4/1/2022
5/6/2022
6/3/2022
7/1/2022
8/5/2022
9/1/2022
10/7/2022
11/4/2022

ABBA CenturyLink VATI 2021 Work Schedule



Calendar Year 2022 Subscriber Install Order Dates



● - COMPLETE

All open dates are estimates and subject to change based on equipment availability and other factors

Quantum
FIBER



Albemarle Broadband Authority

Broadband Status Report

2nd Quarter CY2022

BAAO has continued its informational webinar series associated with this project. This continues to be an essential venue for residents to ask questions and receive answers from CenturyLink and County staff.

ABBA Public Meetings

Pursuant to the County's Continuity of Government Ordinance, as amended, and Virginia Code Section 15.2-1413, ABBA meetings during this reporting quarter continued to be held by electronic communication means on either the Zoom platform or Teams platform.

The public had real time audio-visual access to the April, May, and June ABBA public meetings over Zoom and real time audio access over telephone, pursuant to lawful notice. ABBA welcomed public comment at its meetings and invited and still invites the public to send questions, comments, and suggestions through email at broadband@albemarle.org. All public meetings held this quarter were recorded and are available for viewing through links on the County's website. ABBA meetings are experiencing higher public attendance since the start of the virtual meetings. Many public comments highlight the increased reliance on and need for broadband during the pandemic.

Among the topics discussed by the Authority during its meetings, but not otherwise covered in this document:

- The initial guidance regarding DHCD's Line Extension Customer Assistance Program
- Preparations for shifting to in-person attendance by Authority members at future meetings
- Preparations for engaging in future Federal funding opportunities

BAAO Updates

BAAO has continued to administer the VATI 2021 project, while working with TJPDC in preparations for the VATI 2022 project. Additionally, the Office has continued in its role as a resident advocate, especially during a



Albemarle Broadband Authority

Broadband Status Report

2nd Quarter CY2022

recent spate of (at times, large) outages related to missed utility markings of certain telecommunications assets.

The Office has also finalized preparations for its affordability programs, with the expectation to launch both in July of this year. The Office is launching a supplement to the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), known as the ACP Bridge.

This program has been in development since November of 2021, with a stakeholder group that now includes representatives from the Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Finance and Budget, along with staff from Performance and Strategic Planning and the County Executive's Office.

ACP Bridge provides up to an additional \$20 per month supplement to ACP beneficiaries in the County with remaining broadband costs beyond the Federal benefit. The Office expects to have participation from several internet service providers, with a goal of having all providers in the County participating by year's end.

In addition to the ACP Bridge, the Office is working on enrolling the County as a participant in Comcast's Internet Essentials Partnership Program (IEPP), which allows the County to provide no-cost internet service to eligible residents in Comcast's service footprint. The expectation is to use IEPP to initiate service for new residents referred by local community groups, before transitioning them to ACP and ACP Bridge when they are established.

The Office, with guidance from DSS, believes there are over 8,000 households eligible for these programs in Albemarle County and are eager to alleviate the burden of monthly broadband costs for these households.

Plans for Next Quarter

ABBA will closely monitor the continuing work of VATI 2022. Coordination of communications with TJPDC, Firefly and partner municipalities will be an important aspect of future work. While neither BAAO nor ABBA are the primary administrators of this project, it is expected to be a major discussion point for the Authority throughout the project's 3-year term.



Albemarle
Broadband
Authority

Broadband Status Report

2nd Quarter CY2022

Work will continue on the VATI 2021 project, and ABBA and BAAO will continue to monitor progress.

Additionally, ABBA and BAAO will work to prepare for new funding opportunities from the Federal government and expect to submit a letter of intent to apply for the upcoming VATI 2023 cycle.



Albemarle
Broadband
Authority

Broadband Status Report

2nd Quarter CY2022

Appendix A – ABBA Summary Budget Report

				Update: 06/15/2022
4-4300-91097-491097-950030-9999 (EXPENSE CODE)				
BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY				
	Fund Balance	Commitment/ Projected Expenses	Paid Expenses	Remaining Project Funds
Current FY22 Balance (includes \$4.5mil in ARPA Appropriation, \$4.37mil of that for VATI 2022)	\$5,806,415.16			
VATI 2020 Project at 8 locations Commitment (PO 2021-7747 CenturyLink)		\$291,300.00	\$291,300.00	\$0.00
Administrative Fee for DHCD VATI 2020 Award 1% of \$291,300		\$2,913.00	\$2,913.00	\$0.00
Administrative Fee for DHCD VATI 2021 Award 1% of \$2,276,110		\$22,761.10	\$22,761.10	\$0.00
Administrative Fee for ARPA Appropriation 1% of \$4,500,000		\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
VATI 2021 Project Commitment		\$640,000.00	\$0.00	
VATI 2022 Project Commitment		\$4,368,000.00	\$0.00	
	\$436,441.06	\$5,369,974.10	\$361,974.10	\$436,441.06

End of report