All Points Broadband
Rockingham County Update

January 10, 2024

VATI Project Overview

- Grant awarded 7/2022, starting 36-month project timeline

- ~3,100 miles distribution fiber and middle mile infrastructure

- Making FTTH broadband available to 41,690 unserved locations

- In partnership with Dominion, REC, SVEC

County Overview

- Partners:
  - Rockingham County
  - VA DHCD
  - NSVRC
  - All Points Broadband
  - Dominion Energy
  - SVEC

- ~500 miles of last-mile fiber & ~175 miles of middle-mile

- Connecting more than 7,500 locations approved during grant process

- Key vendors: Timmons Group, Davey Resources Group
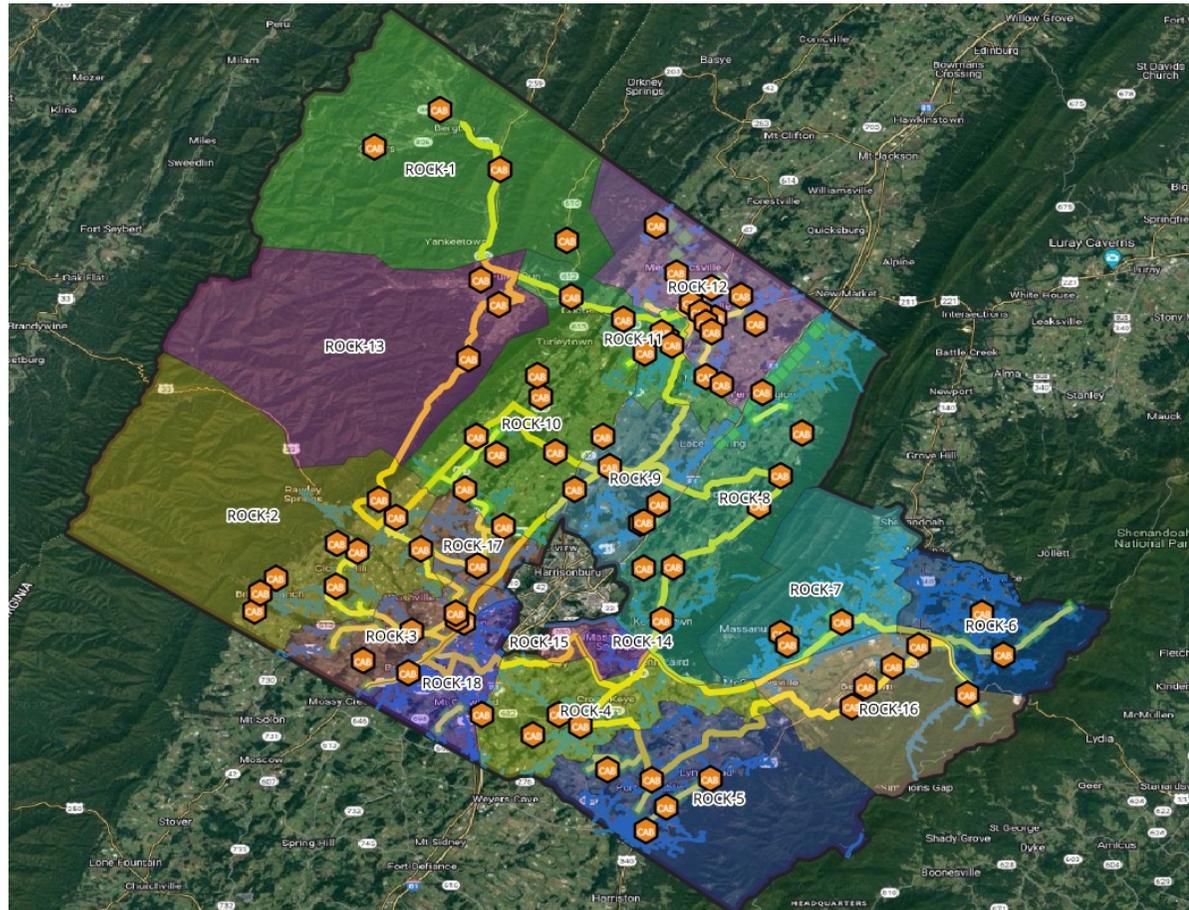
NSVRC Regional Project Timeline - Rockingham

- Q3/Q4 2022: Low-level design underway

- Q1 2023: Make ready fielding and engineering commenced

- Q2 2023: Make ready construction (MRC) commences; Rockingham preliminary design rideout completed by Timmons Group

- Q4 2023: 1st Preconstruction milestone achieved for Project; Rockingham expected 2nd overall

- Q1 2024: Submit 1st remittance request for Rockingham; State broadband office to finalize BEAD eligibility

- Q3 2024: Last-mile fiber construction to commence in Rockingham; submission of BEAD funding applications across region

- Q3/4 2024: Commencement of customer installations in completed Fiber Service Areas based on where MRC has been completed

- Q3 2025: Substantial completion of regional last-mile network

Project Status

- Key dependencies for last-mile deployment:
    - 1) Middle mile capacity in place
    - 2) Utility Make Ready
    - 3) Significant queue of constructable miles

- APB coordinating with Dominion on State Corporation Commission (SCC) process for petition on schedule for Project timeline

- Site selection activities underway (offices, materials handling, cabinets, etc.)
    - Regional office and warehouse facility acquired in Mt. Crawford
    - Laydown yard acquired across from SVEC location to improve make-ready

- Field-validated low-level design and utility pole fielding are complete; make-ready engineering & construction is well underway and APB expects last-mile fiber construction to begin in Q2
    - Pole fielding will be complete in Rockingham in six weeks (12.5k+ poles to date); attachment applications are beginning to be accepted
    - APB construction vendors need significant number of miles approved in a logical manner before they mobilize – disconnected pockets of installed fiber is inoperable

Website Reminder: APBfiber.com

- Send resident inquiries of service to APBfiber.com

- Residents can pre-register for service and sign up for project updates

- Click "Go To Survey"

- Customers will be notified of service availability on a rolling basis **~90 days in advance**

Remaining Eligible Locations Outside the Project

- The FY22 VATI grant is set for the specific locations in the polygons included with the application

- APB worked extensively to determine the initial project area. Reminders:
  - Any process involving humans is imperfect
  - Incumbent providers do not share the gaps in their networks and location-specific service data was not available at the time (national broadband map)
  - APB has committed to be your partner for universal service

- For unserved locations outside the FY22 VATI grant, solutions to extend service to these locations include:

  - APB private investment
  - LECAP (long drops within incumbent cable territory)
  - BEAD - No local match

- As APB conducts low-level design, national broadband data updates, and counties provide feedback, these locations are identified and flagged

- Key Point: This is an iterative process

# Overview of Virginia's Implementation of BEAD (Infrastructure Act)

- Virginia's Office of Broadband at DHCD will administer $1.48B of federal Infrastructure Act funding through program similar to VATI with key differences
  - **Final program guidelines are pending review & approval by NTIA**; however, Virginia is first state to submit all proposal documents
  - VA allocated sufficient funding available for high proportion of FTTH deployment to remaining unserved & underserved locations
  - Only available to "Broadband Serviceable Location" as of 6/15/2023

- Challenge process occurs *prior* to the BEAD application period
  - https://broadband-challenge-portal.dhcd.virginia.gov/
  - 30-day submittal window closed on Nov 30th
    - *APB submitted over 100,000 challenges (42% of challenges statewide)*
    - Maximize funding to truly unserved locations regardless of APB desirability
  - Challenged ISP have opportunity to rebut; DHCD to finalize ~1Q2024

- DHCD to receive letters of intent for BEAD within 60 days of challenge process completion *and* approval of its BEAD proposal by NTIA before application window
  - See submitted, unapproved Volume Two (the BEAD proposal): https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/vati/bead-ipv2-postpubliccomment-submittedtontia-unapproved.pdf

Overview of Virginia's Implementation of BEAD (Infrastructure Act)

- BEAD applications must be submitted to served 95% of unserved and underserved locations (including community anchor institutions) within a specific Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)
  - Reduces the number of unincluded locations and predefines BEAD project areas by existing geographic boundary (as opposed to allowing providers to draw their own cherry-picked project areas)

- Providers have 90 days from Letter of Intent period to submit full BEAD application(s) for DHCD evaluation
  - Remaining <5% of locations will require direct engagement by DHCD and likely provider(s)

- Proposed scoring criteria in addition to baseline requirements in BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (the NOFO)
  - 45%: BEAD funding per project location
  - 20%: Gigabit affordability relative to FCC's Urban Rate Survey
  - 10.2%: Fair Labor Practices of Provider According to NOFO
  - 5%: Speed to Deployment Within 3 Years of Award
  - 9.9%: Universality, Ranging from 95%-100% Locations Included
  - 9.9%: Locality Letter of Support

ZCTAs in the NSVRC Project

- 141 ZCTAs in the eight counties of the NSVRC project.
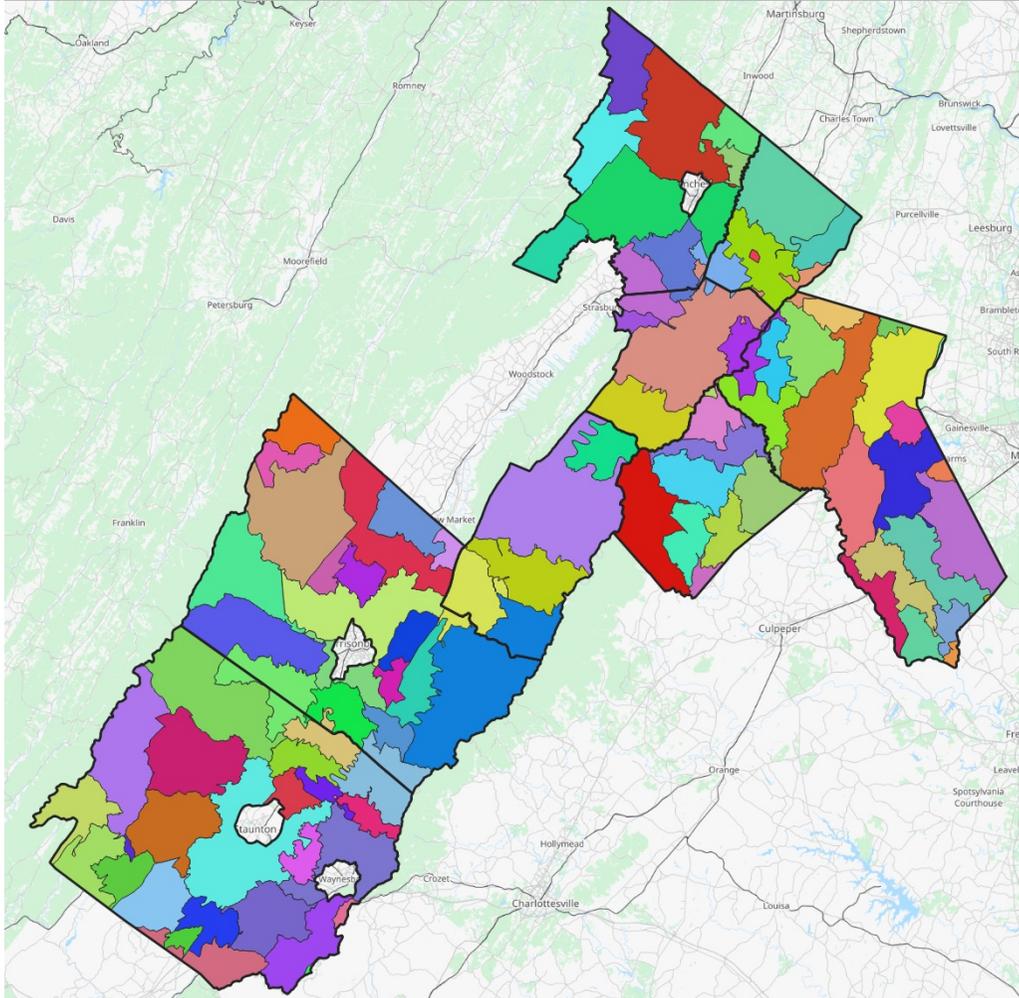
BEAD Key Observations

- BEAD is a tool to supplement the VATI project

- APB's goals for BEAD
    - Aggressively pursue BEAD for missed/newly eligible areas in the NSVRC
    - Wherever possible, construct VATI and BEAD awarded areas simultaneously so there is no on-the-ground difference for residents
    - Ensure localities are informed and prepared during the challenge period
    - Obtain local support for all BEAD applications

- Estimated Timeline:
    - Q4 2023 – Challenge process commences
    - Q1 2024 – Challenge process ends; Letter of intent submitted
    - Q2 2024 – Full applications submitted and scored
    - Q3 2024 – Awards announced; DHCD ISP engagement for remaining locations commences

- **VATI project remains #1 priority**

Thank You