

# AGENDA

## Broadband Advisory Council Virtual Meeting

November 13, 2020

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*To access the meeting using video*

[meet.google.com/swn-ggvq-mfy](https://meet.google.com/swn-ggvq-mfy)

*To access the meeting using audio*

1(626) 733-8949 PIN: 364 235 895#

- |       |   |                                  |
|-------|---|----------------------------------|
| I.    | Opening   |                                  |
|       | a. Call to Order  | Chairman                         |
|       | b. Roll Call  | DHCD Staff                       |
| II.   | Consent Agenda  | Chairman                         |
|       | a. Approval of Minutes: August 14, 2020 meeting                                   |                                  |
| III.  | Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) update                               | Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D             |
| IV.   | Discussion Overview   | Erik C. Johnston<br>Evan Feinman |
| V.    | Municipal Broadband Authority Models:   |                                  |
|       | a. Public/Private Partnership Model-Michael Culp, Albemarle County                |                                  |
|       | b. Municipal Broadband Authority -Frank Smith, Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority |                                  |
|       | c. Municipal Open Access Networks-Jason Grey, City of Danville Utilities          |                                  |
| VI.   | Public Comment  | Chairman                         |
| VII.  | New Business  | Council Members                  |
| VIII. | Adjournment   | Chairman                         |

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL  
August 14, 2020  
3:00 PM  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
Digital Meeting via Google Meets

Members Present

Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair  
James Carr  
Mike Culp  
Senator Ghazala Hashmi  
Kristie Helmick Proctor  
Delegate Chris Hurst  
Mike Keyser  
Delegate Paul E. Krizek  
Ray LaMura  
Richard Schollman  
The Honorable Bettina K. Ring  
Delegate Roslyn C. Tyler, Vice Chair  
Rosemary Wilson  
The Honorable Brian Ball ( Proxy by Evan Feinman)

Members Absent

Delegate James A. Leftwich, Jr.  
Senator Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.

Call to Order

Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Holmes announced that due to the Governor's Declared State of Emergency due to COVID-19, it is impracticable and unsafe for the Broadband Advisory Council to assemble in a single location, so the Council meeting will be held electronically, by video conference and telephone options, pursuant to 2020 Amendments to the 2020 Appropriation Act. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Broadband Advisory Council and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. The public is welcome to use the link and phone number options made available by staff to attend the meeting electronically. The Broadband Advisory Council will make available a recording or transcript of the meeting on its website in accordance with the timeframes established in Sections 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3701.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Roll Call	Dr. Holmes, Director of the Office of Broadband for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made by Delegate Hurst and properly seconded by Delegate Krizek to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2020 meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed (Yea: Boysko, Carr, Culp, Feinman, Hashmi, Helmick Proctor, Hurst, Keyser, Krizek, LaMura, Lewis, Showman, Ring, Tyler, ; Nay: None; Abstain: Wilson; No-Vote: None)
Virginia Telecommunications Initiative Budget Overview (VATI)	<p>Dr. Holmes provided the Council with a summary of the VATI application process and the results of the FY20 round of funding. She noted that the Office of Broadband had received 58 notices of application for the FY21 round of funding, which is \$19M in total. It was noted that the Governor’s recently released budget proposes \$85M to the VATI program over the FY21 and FY22 application cycles, which will result in an increase in available FY21 funds from \$19M to \$49M.</p> <p>After discussion, a motion was made by Delegate Krizek and properly seconded by Mr. Feinman to produce both a resolution of support from the Council and a letter of support from the Chair of the Council in support of the Governor’s proposed increase in VATI funding. The motion passed (Yea: Boysko, Carr, Culp, Feinman, Hashmi, Helmick Proctor, Hurst, Keyser, Krizek, LaMura, Lewis, Schollman, Ring, Tyler, Wilson; Nay: None; No-Vote: None)</p>
Update on CARES Act Funding	<p>Ms. Caroline Luxhoj, Telecommunication and Broadband Project Manager for the Office of Broadband at DHCD, gave a brief presentation on the CARES Act and how those funds may be utilized to support expansion of broadband in the Commonwealth. She noted that several counties across the state had already committed part of their CARES Act funding to broadband projects.</p> <p>Mr. Culp presented on how the Albemarle Broadband Authority (ABBA) plans to use CARES Act funds on broadband-related projects in the county. The county is pursuing two projects that will support rural area distance learning, telehealth and other vulnerable resident life needs due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.</p>

Virginia Department of Education Presentation

Dr. Myers from the Virginia Department of Education provided an overview of the ongoing challenges facing schools across the state in terms of providing adequate broadband coverage for students, including supply chain challenges when ordering various technologies.

VCTA, Hotspots, and Keep American's Connected Pledge Presentation

Mr. LaMura presented the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which includes over 800 pledgees. He also relayed information on everything the VCTA is doing to help Virginian's with their broadband needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, including local government sponsorship programs to lower costs of families to access broadband.

VTIA Presentation

Mr. Schollman provided a brief update on VTIA's efforts to make broadband more accessible during the COVID-19 pandemic, including joining the Keep Americans Connected Pledge and providing free hotspots in service areas. VTIA members have also created payment plans to help families adversely affected by the pandemic.

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative and Firefly Presentation

Mr. Reece gave a brief update on what Central Virginia Electric Cooperative's broadband subsidiary, Firefly, is doing to help Virginians during the COVID-19 pandemic, including membership in the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, creating payment plans for families adversely affected by the pandemic, waiving connection fees, and providing free hotspots.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comment Period

No comments were made by the public; the public comment period was then closed.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Tamarah Holmes Ph.D, Director, Office of Broadband

Partners for Better Communities

# Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Update

FY 2021	
Appropriation	\$19 million Proposed increased to \$49.7 million
Applications	45 representing 53 localities
Total Funds Requested	\$105 million
Challenges	Received 14 challenges for 13 applications

# VATI Next Steps

- Working with applicants to re-scope projects that received a valid challenge so that their applications can be re-evaluated.
- Waiting for results for the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction. Auction started October 29, 2020.





**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Erik C. Johnston, Director DHCD  
Evan Feinman, Chief Broadband Advisor

Partners for Better Communities



# Budget Language

The Broadband Advisory Council shall assess updating the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) to allow for public broadband authorities to apply directly for VATI funds without investment from the private sector. The Department of Housing and Community Development on behalf of the Council shall submit feedback on the potential impacts of this policy change to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees on or before the start of the 2021 General Assembly Session."

# BROADBAND IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Mike Culp  
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(434) 296-5891  
<https://www.albemarle.org/broadband>

## Albemarle County Broadband Survey

[Haga Clic Aqui para Español](#)

We are gathering information about internet speeds throughout the county, but we need your help!

If you're at the location where you'd like to report your internet access and speed, please click on the "Start" button. After the test is complete, you will need to click on the "Report on Broadband Access" button that will appear.

Even though we prefer you to run the speed test, if you aren't able to run the test (e.g. because you aren't at the location that you'd like to report), you can bypass the automated speed test and click on the "Bypass Speed Test" button to go directly to our brief survey where you can manually give us your internet speed information.

[Start](#)

[Bypass Speed Test](#)

Download  
0.00  
Mbps

Upload  
0.00  
Mbps

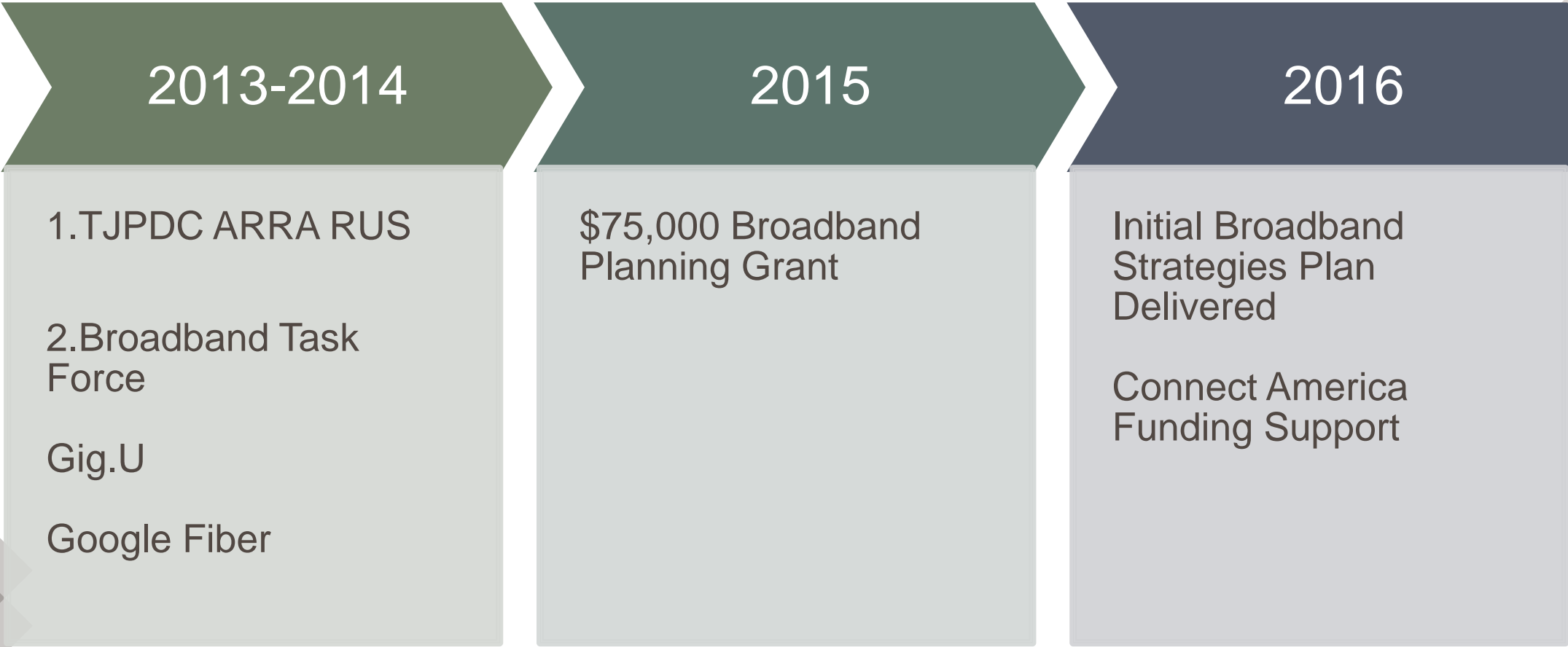
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# Early Years



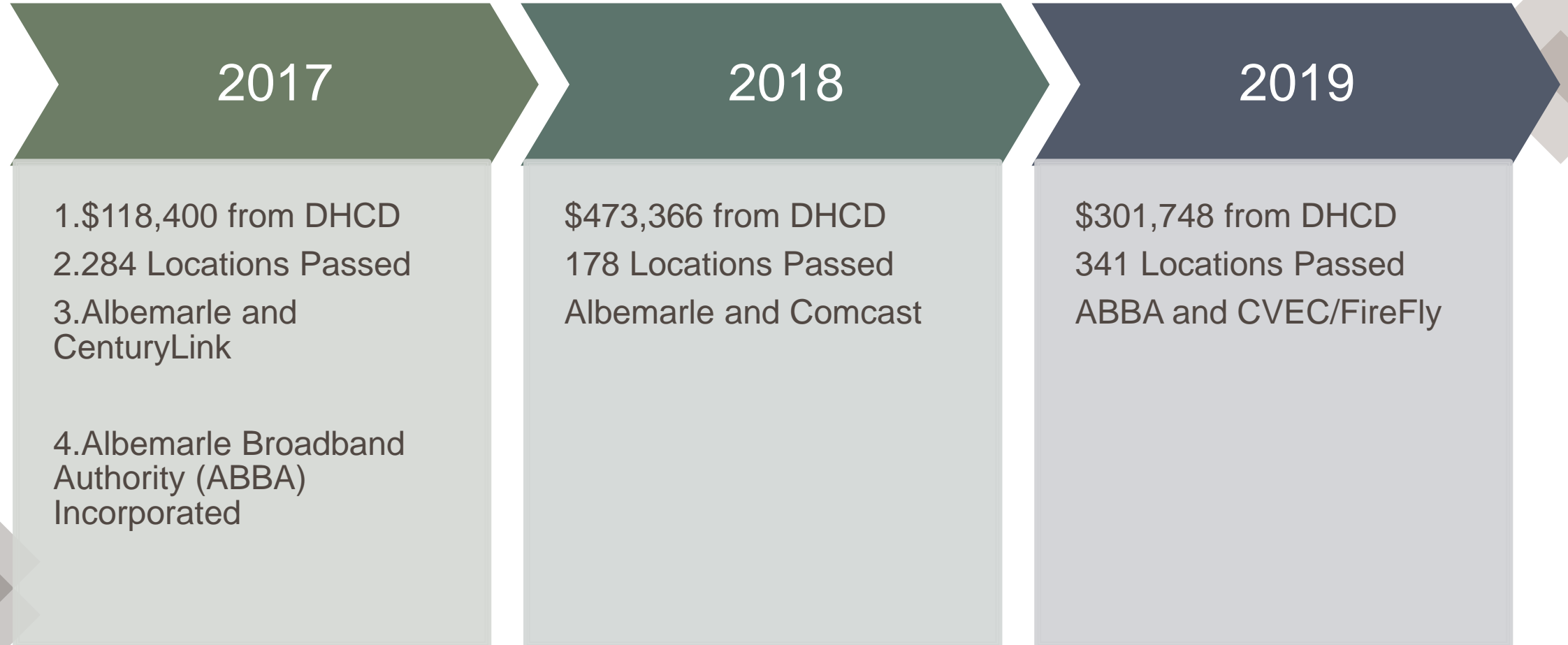
## 2017 Decision Time: Plan to Partner, No Plans to Solo Build

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- Broadband Strategies Plan -> Analyzed Options, Costs were a consideration.
- The Board of Supervisors decided against a strategy to own and/operate a network.
- Decided against locality owned fiber with the intention to Lease or otherwise become a “revenue positive” investment.

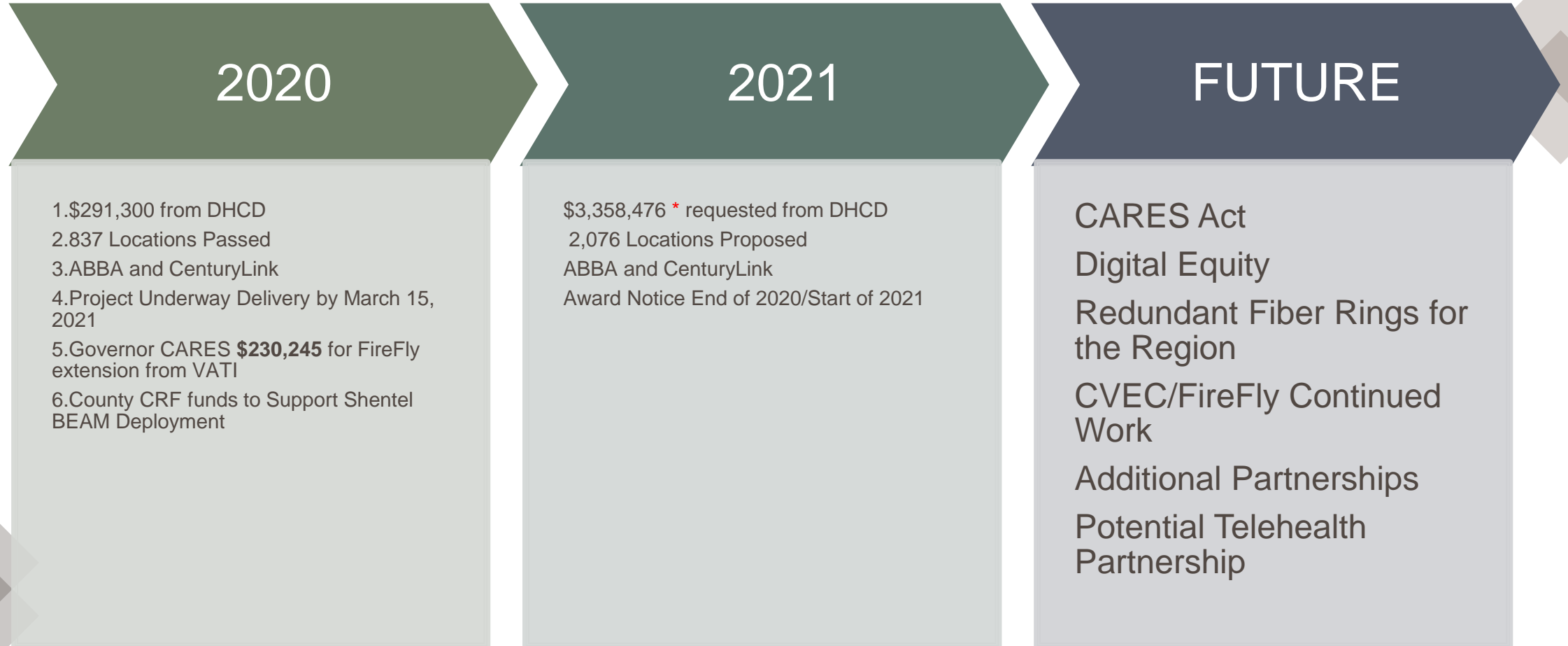
Category	Albemarle Broadband Authority (ABBA)
Goal Statement	Extend affordable broadband internet service access to every customer in Albemarle county.
Target Services	Residential, Agritourism, and other rural and home-based business.
Network Operation	ABBA does not intend to own or operate a network, but to partner with existing networks to increase connectivity and range and to seek funding to extend or build networks where needed.
Network Owner	Not applicable
Service Provider	Multiple qualified providers will partner with ABBA to extend existing networks or build new infrastructure owned by the provider.
Created By	Albemarle County
Authority Type	Local initially and then integration into a regional authority.
Miles of Fiber	Not applicable
Governance	Volunteer executive committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
Rate Structure	Not applicable

# Virginia Telecommunication Initiative History





# Virginia Telecommunication Initiative



# Summary

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- Four Years of Success with VATI
- 803 Locations including Rural Businesses offered service
- Upcoming
  - 837 more locations to be offered broadband fiber
- Recent Application with \***Broadband Standard of 25mbps Down/3mbps Up** qualifies an area for Grant Application if 90% of area falls beneath standard
  - 2,322 more locations will be offered broadband fiber!
- CARES funding timely for expanding FireFly

Mike Culp

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<https://www.albemarle.org/broadband>

# Community Connectivity

## Plan & Practice

*A Presentation to the Broadband Advisory Committee*

**Friday, November 13, 2020**

## Of, By, and For Our Community

- Roanoke City
- Roanoke County
- City of Salem
- Botetourt County
- RVARC
- GE/Meridium
- Eldor
- Western Virginia Water Authority
- Virginia Western Community College
- MtnNet/Bent Mountain
- Blue Ridge PBS
- RBTC / RAMP
- Feeding America SWVA
- Roanoke Libraries

*\*Partial List of Partners, Founders, and  
Early Adopters*

# Goals:



Access

Prices



Innovation



## Advancing Regional Infrastructure + Serving the Community:

Fiber Optic  
Network  
Built With  
100%  
Carrier  
Grade  
Technology

Attracting  
Government,  
Education and  
Business  
Customers

24x7 Local  
Network with  
World-Class  
SLA's &  
Enterprise  
Level  
Response  
Services

100%  
Transparent  
Business  
Operations  
(FOIA  
Obligations)

Financially  
Sound  
Business  
Operations  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Party  
Audit  
Published  
Annually)

Status:

- RVBA's 100-Mile Fiber Backbone is connecting more businesses than ever before encouraging investment in the region
- Increase in competition has provided measurably more choice, faster speeds, lower costs, and better coverage in each of our four-member localities
- Increased infrastructure (9 switching centers and 3 colocation centers) and reliability has led to innovative new partnerships (Higher Education, Public Health, Public Safety, Social Services, and more)
- Enterprise clients across real estate & development, manufacturing, finance, professional services, education, government, non-profit, and healthcare++

High quality,  
carrier grade  
network



**CUSTOMERS**

## Services

**Dark Fiber**

→ Custom configurations with full and partial ring leases and 10+ year IRU contracts

**Transport**

→ High speed ethernet and multiple location connectivity

**Internet**

→ Open access network capable of speeds over 200 Gbps with the right equipment

## Our Ask...

- Remove artificial barriers
- Let the best solutions rise for the committee's consideration
- Allow Virginia's Broadband Authorities to do what they were formed to do – solve each localities biggest and most pressing broadband challenges

# Questions?

Frank M. Smith II

President & CEO

Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority

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540-904-4739



Advancing community objectives with technology infrastructure

# COMMUNITY DRIVEN TECHNOLOGY





Jason Grey

Director of Utilities

# Danville Utilities

- Danville has been in the utility business since 1876
  - Natural gas system formed first (April, 1876)
- Danville Utilities functions as a municipal utility department
  - City Council serves as governing board with Danville Utility Commission serving as advisory board to Council



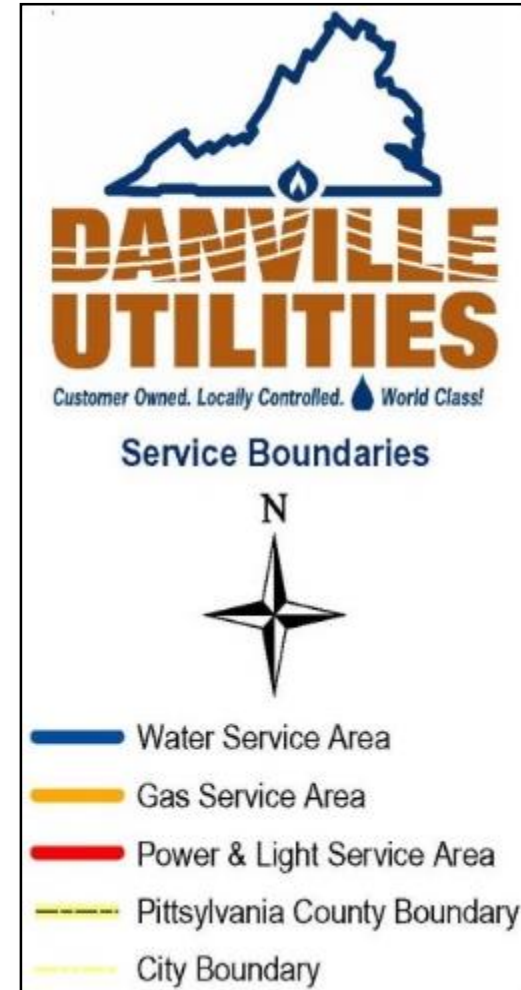
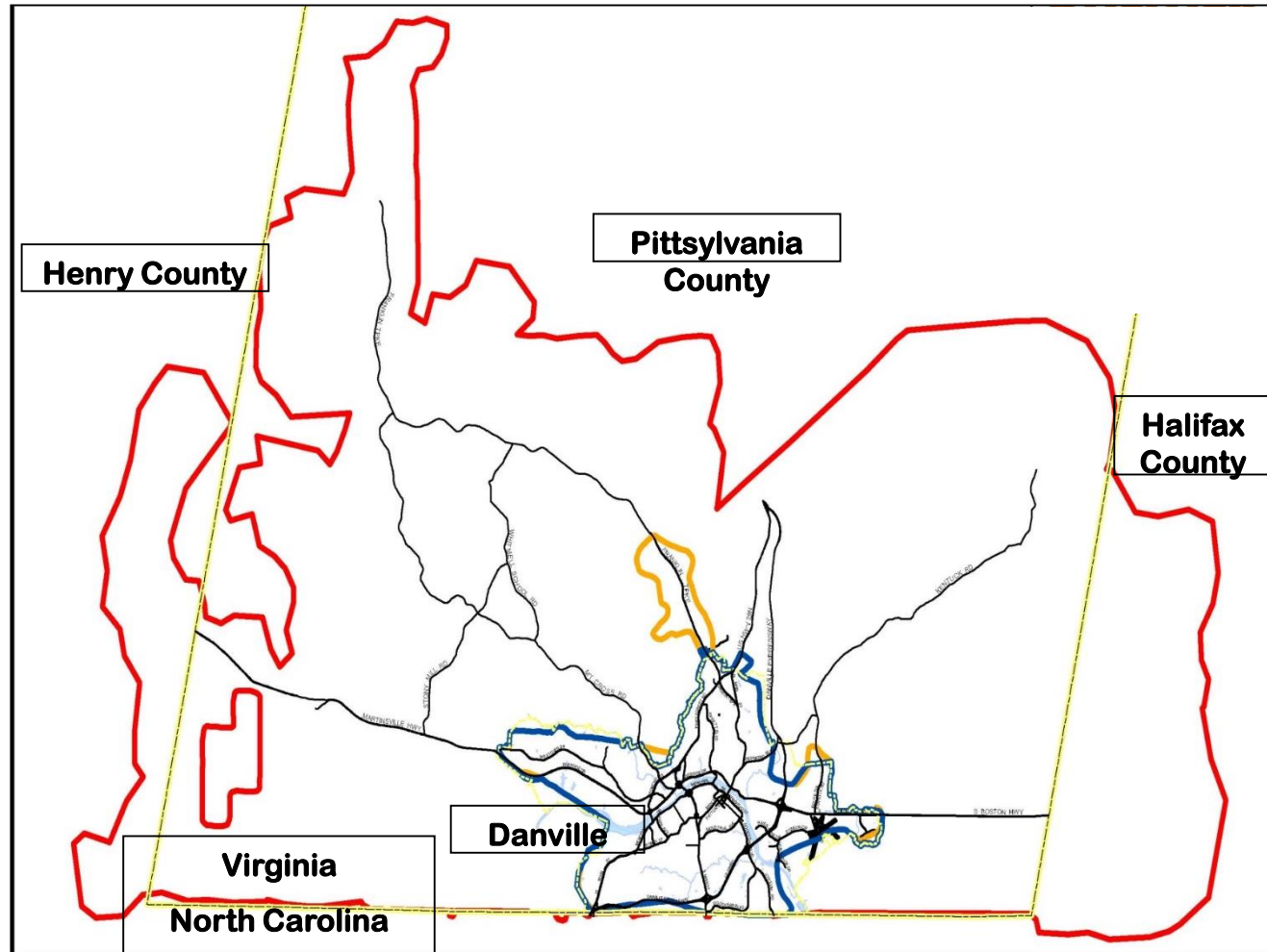


# Danville Utilities

- Only city in Virginia to operate all four essential utilities - electricity, natural gas, water and wastewater
  - One of few public telecommunication service providers in Virginia
- \$170 + million operating budget; 130 full-time equivalent employee positions



# Service Area





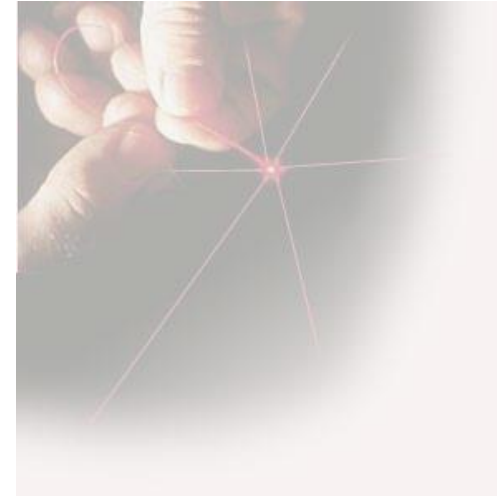
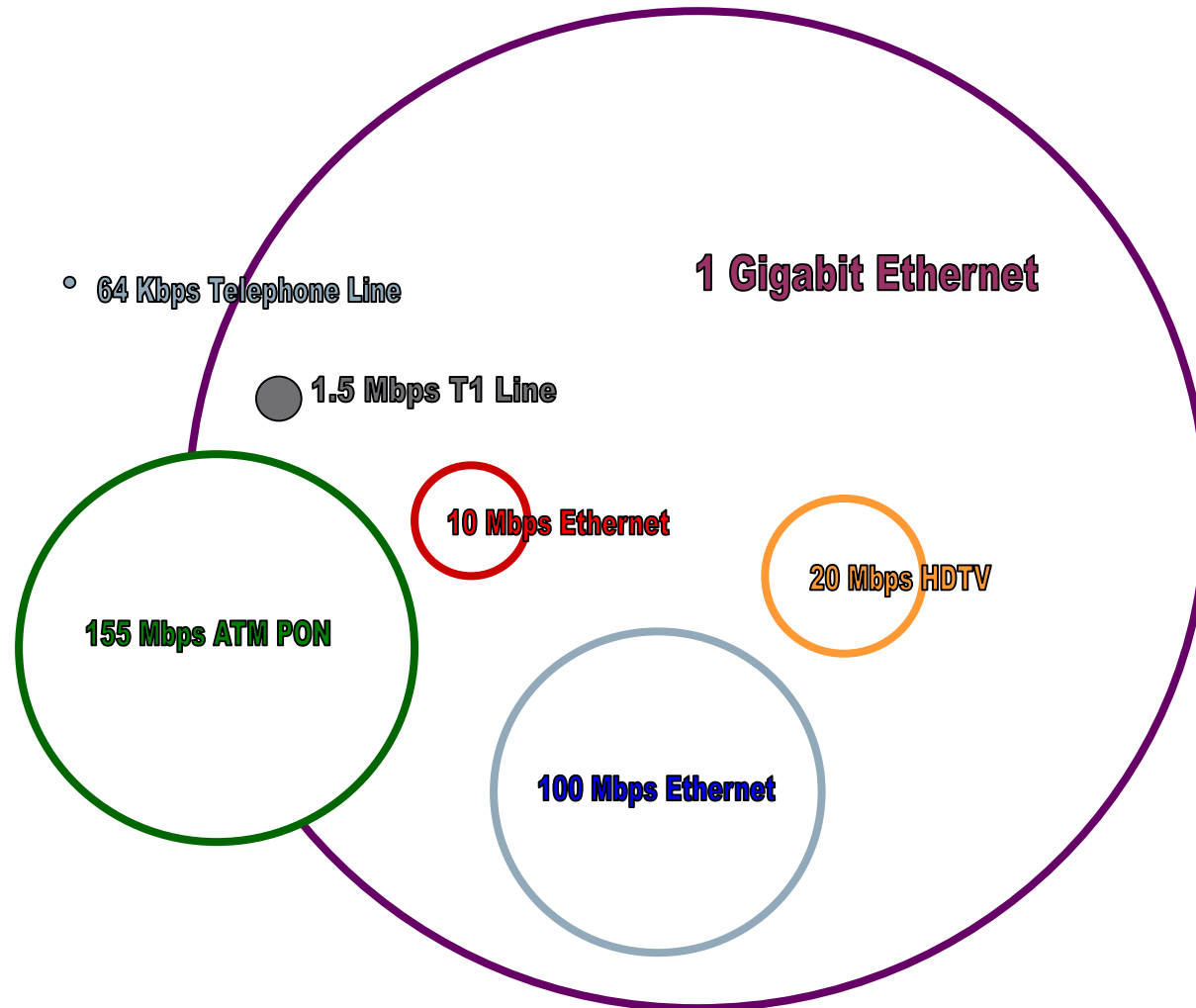
# Danville's Broadband Dilemma

- Advanced telecommunications capabilities are needed to support the community's economic development and education
- Businesses requiring multiple-megabit connectivity are not well served.
- Fiber to the premises is the best solution, but is expensive. (Installation = \$1,800 per customer served)
- Danville is a moderate/low-income community. Utility rates cannot be increased to deploy fiber to the premises.

# Operating Principal

Danville's businesses, institutions, and households should have affordable broadband services on par with those available elsewhere in Virginia in order to ensure access to entertainment, cultural, health, and **especially** to educational and economic opportunities.

# Advanced Broadband Connectivity



# What role should the City have?

- The private sector should take the lead in providing telecommunications services
- The City should provide open access to nDanville in order to
  - Reduce service provider's cost of market entry
  - Stimulate market competition
  - Encourage private investment
  - Avoid overbuilding infrastructure

# Phased Deployment

- Phase I (Completed 2004): Fiber to government & schools
- Phase II (Ongoing since 2006): Fiber to businesses
- Phase III (ongoing): Fiber to homes

# Network Fundamentals

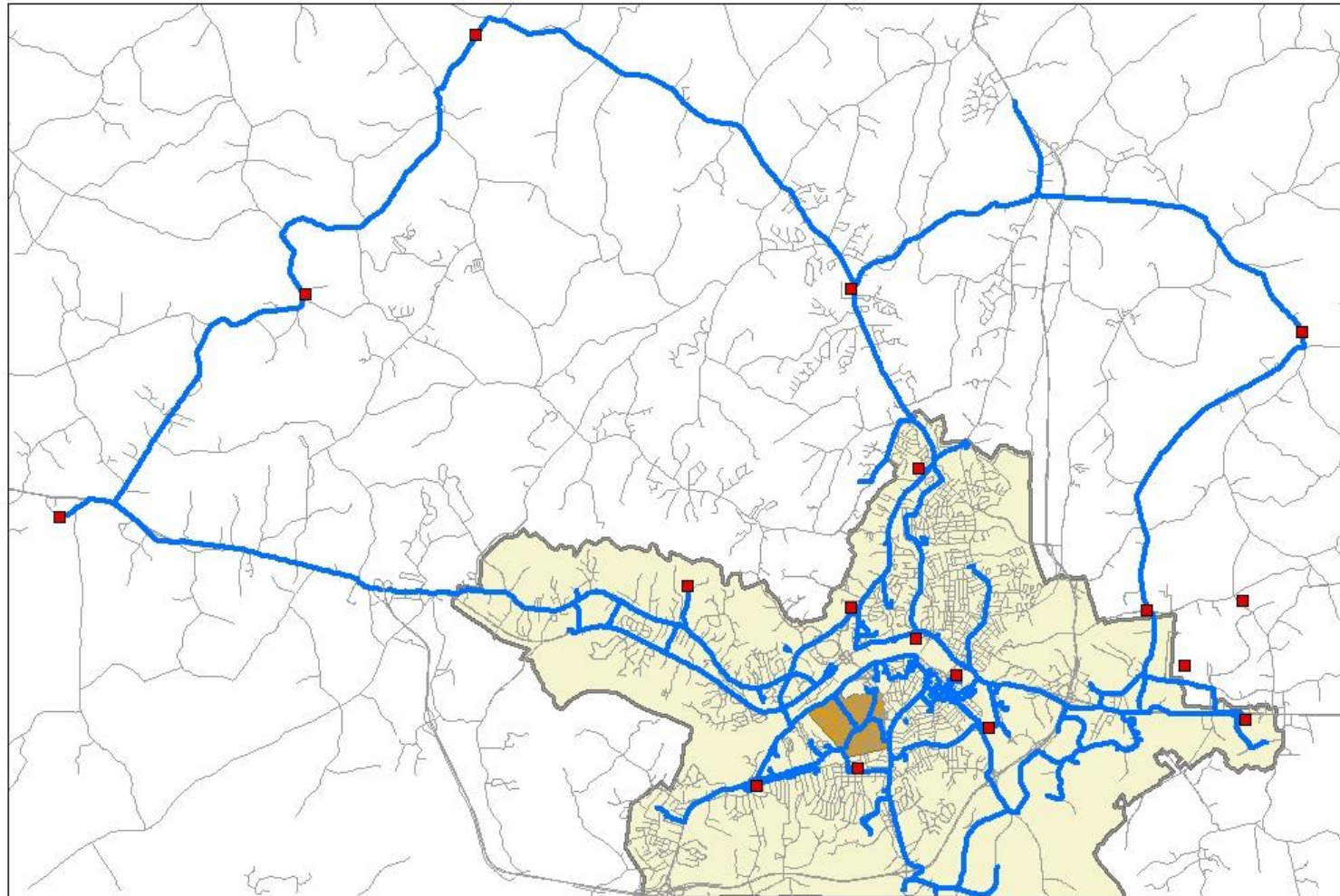





- nDanville is an open-access multiple- service network. City does not provide Internet or TV services but rather bandwidth for providers to sell their own services.
- Danville Utilities maintains all fiber optic cables and customer equipment.
- Customer speeds can reach up to 10 gigabit per second (10 gbps)
- Retail services are provided by private sector telecommunications firms using a revenue sharing basis
- Local government & school needs were the first to be met, financed by federal education (E-rate) service fee revenue
- Industries, large commercial customers & institutions have been connected as part of the City's economic development strategy
- Phase III Fiber to the Home is being funded from customer charges & revenues shared by private sector service providers





# nDanville System Map

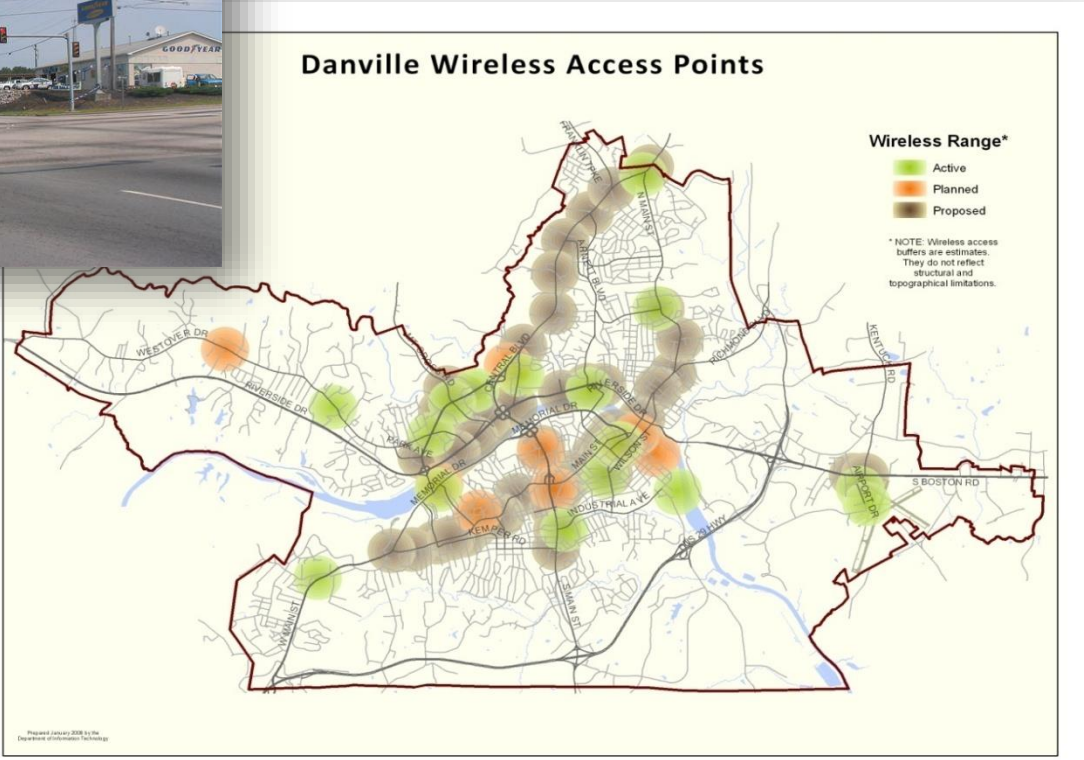


-  nDanville Fiber
-  Substations
-  Residential Service Area

# Smart Grid

- Danville Utilities has implemented a system-wide two-way advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) deployment (smart meters) in 2009
  - Approximately 75,000 total meters installed
- Smart Meters: Enable two-way communication between the meter and our central system
- Allows more information for customers
  - Customers are able to access account online through My eAccount web portal

# Traffic Signal Coordination







- Carrington Pavilion
- Anglers Park
- Dan Daniel Park
- Visitor Center
- Ballou Park
- Main Street



**QUESTIONS?**