

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
November 14, 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
General Assembly Building - Senate Committee Room B
201 N 9th St
Richmond, VA 23219
Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Chair, Senator Boysko
Delegate Herring
Delegate Willett
Steve Sandy
Ray LaMura
Casey Logan
Rich Schollman
Gary Wood
Kristie Proctor
Jimmy Carr
Secretary Matthew Lohr

Members Absent

Vice Chair, Delegate Krizek
Delegate Leftwich
Lt. Governor-Elect Hashmi
Sen. Hackworth
Secretary Juan Pablo Segura

Call to Order	Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
Roll Call	Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director of the Office of Broadband called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2025 Meeting	A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the May 14, 2025 meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed to adopt the minutes as presented.
Overview of Discussion	Maggie Beal, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), provided remarks on upcoming grant awards and connections made by the Office of Broadband.
Office of Broadband Updates	Caroline Luxhoj, VATI Program Manager, presented on: Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) total passings made from FY21 through FY24; VATI project progress detailing passings constructed and remaining; risk determination statuses; an updated reporting on reasons for project delay; Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP) passings constructed and remaining. Mr. Vaughan provided the Office of Broadband's Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program updates and presented on: BEAD Timeline in Virginia; proposed awards by type of technology; proposed awards by internet service provider;

	proposed awarded funding by internet service provider including subsidy per location; differences in grants administration between VATI and BEAD; and proposed uses for BEAD Non-Deployment funding for the remaining \$800M of the \$1.48B state allocation. Council members shared their sentiments, interests, and questions on the continued work within the Office of Broadband.
Virginia Department of Transportation	Joshua Heslinga, Director of Governance and Legislative Affairs and Robert W. Hofrichter, Director of Land Use from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provided remarks on the implementation of JLARC Broadband report recommendations, three of which directly relate to VDOT: (1) VDOT created a fiber broadband checklist for the elements required for an acceptable permit application; (2) VDOT's permit application calls for the applicant to indicate whether the requested permit is related to a time-sensitive broadband project; (3) VDOT communicated internally for VATI projects with ARPA dollar expenditure deadlines of December 2026.
Joint Commission of Technology and Sciences Research Study Presentation: "Beyond Access Broadband Affordability & Adoption"	Chair Boysko informed the Council that the Joint Commission on Technology and Sciences (JCOTS) Research Study Presentation would not be held at today's meeting because of JCOTS staff illness. Ray LaMura recommended the Broadband Advisory Council send a letter to the Commission and Chair of JCOTS to respond to the draft recommendations and to clarify inconsistencies which may be present in reporting metrics concerning broadband affordability and adoption. Gary Wood made a motion to provide JCOTS with feedback on provisions on the study. It was properly seconded and the motion was passed to circulate and send a letter to JCOTS regarding their study's recommendations.
Discussion of 2026 Session Legislative Items	Chair Boysko structured this portion of the Council meeting consider support of conceptual legislative items that are coming before the 2026 General Assembly. The following members proposed items: Rich Schollmann proposed to eliminate state tax on broadband grants, citing the benefits for projects experiencing delay and constrained budgets. Mr. Schollmann mentioned this was not an issue until 2017, when the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) which changed the tax treatment of federal grants including broadband grants

	Mr. LaMura is interested in expanding the permissible usage of VATI funds for reducing barriers to broadband deployment progress and forced relocation, such as for pole replacements and railroad crossings. Mr. LaMura spoke to internet service providers needing to reallocate assets due to other infrastructure projects, and since ISPs are non-utility, they cannot approach State Corporation Commission to cover costs for damage to fiber due to forced relocation. The proposal includes the ability for ISPs to submit costs incurred to DHCD for reimbursement. Mr. LaMura requests a modification of language in Virginia Code to include broadband as a telecommunication service when fiber is damaged. Individual motions calling for conceptual support for each item were made by Mr. LaMura and promptly seconded in concept for the above-mentioned four legislative items. A fifth was included, the JCOTS study letter. All motions passed by unanimous voice votes. Chair Boysko requested that the Office of Broadband prepares a Broadband 101 pamphlet which covers the logistics and progress of broadband deployment in the Commonwealth for state legislators in preparation for the 2025 General Assembly Session. It is asked this is prepared and presented prior to Session and be completed before the end of December. Mr. LaMura stated VCTA is already preparing a “Broadband 101 Bootcamp” and extends an invite to all Broadband Advisory Council members to present and attend.
Public Comment	No public comment was offered at the meeting.
New Business	Steve Sandy asked a question on the status for 2025 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) funding. Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D, Director of the Office of Broadband, explained that, amidst BEAD, the VATI program has not yet opened but there is \$20M available and that remaining broadband serviceable locations will be reached with this VATI investment.
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.