

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
APPROVED MINUTES
May 14, 2025
3:30 PM
Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump
12042 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23233
Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Chair, Senator Boysko
Delegate Herring
Delegate Krizek
Delegate Willett
Senator Hashmi
Steve Sandy
Ray LaMura
Casey Logan
Rich Schollman
Jimmy Carr
Ray LaMura
Kristie Proctor
Secretary Juan Pablo Segura
Secretary Matthew Lohr

Members Absent

Delegate Leftwich
Christian Goodwin
Senator Hackworth

Call to Order	Senator Jennifer Boysko, Acting Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.
Roll Call	Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D. Director of the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council	<p>Motion by Delegate Krizek to nominate Jennifer Boysko as Chair. The motion was seconded. No other nominations held. Voting held All BAC members in favor to.</p> <p>Nominations for Vice Chair was motioned by Boysko to elect Krizek.</p>
Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2024 Meeting	<p>Christian Goodwin should be added as present to the list of attendance to previous meeting.</p> <p>A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2024, meeting of the Broadband</p>

	Advisory Council. The motion passed to adopt the minutes as presented.
General Remarks	Bryan Horn, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provided remarks on the cancellation of the Digital Equity Act Capacity Grant
Overview of Discussion	Tamarah Holmes Ph.D., Director of the Office of Broadband provided brief verbal updates on the Office's work. Dr. Holmes detailed how we are adding focus on affordability and adoption in addition to maintaining focus on infrastructure.
Office of Broadband Updates	<p>Caroline Luxhoj, VATI Program Manager, presented on: VATI project progress detailing passings constructed and yet to be constructed; VATI 2022 risk determination statuses; common reasons for project delay; and an overview of the funding rounds for the Virginia Make Ready Initiative (VMRI).</p> <p>Director of the Office of Broadband Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D. gave an overview on the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program highlighting that 100% of BEAD eligible locations will be covered via a mix of technologies to reach all unserved and underserved locations. All states and territories received a 90-day extension to submit Final Proposals bringing the deadline for Virginia to July 2025.</p> <p>Kayla Bravo, Policy Planner within the Office of Broadband provided an overview of DHCD's work to build on the momentum of addressing broadband access to close the digital divide in Virginia, including: (1) a cellular connectivity program which can help cover the cost of cell towers and extend service to locations without baseline cell coverage; (2) multi-dwelling unit (MDU) connectivity program to provide unit-level connectivity to unserved MDUs targeting low-income households first; (3) state agency and state organization partnerships to implement broadband adoption programs which fall under six digital opportunity focus areas; and (4) a gap fill long-term connectivity barriers to service locations left of BEAD mapping or one-off locations discovered during project build outs. They also gave a call to action to engage all cities, counties, and tribal governments to apply for the Virginia Affordability and Adoption Planning Grant (VAAPG) to begin a study to better understand broadband affordability and adoption needs within their</p>

	<p>jurisdictions to best address their needs with the forthcoming federal funding.</p> <p>Council members shared their sentiments, interests, thoughts on the developing work within the Office of Broadband.</p>
Public Comment	No public comment was provided at the meeting.
New Business	<p>Council members fielded commentary and questioning on BEAD deployment progress and BEAD non-deployment planning and framework developed by the Office of Broadband.</p> <p>Ray LaMura expressed concern over the specific barriers to broadband deployment and requests data from DHCD on entities most responsible for deployment delays. Additionally, he requests the Solicitor General be present at the next Broadband Advisory Council to engage on the passing of legislation pertaining to broadband deployment.</p> <p>Delegate Paul Krizek requests for a representative for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to be present to elucidate councilmembers on the consistency of permitting and zoning codes and their enforcement as it pertains to the process of deploying broadband.</p>
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.