

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
APPROVED MINUTES
December 6, 2024
10:00 AM
Meadow Hall (Meadow Event Park)
13111 Dawn Blvd
Doswell, VA 23047
Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Chair, Senator Boysko
Senator Hashmi
Delegate Herring
Delegate Willett
Delegate Srinivasan
Casey Logan
Rich Schollman
Steve Sandy
Jimmy Carr
Ray LaMura
Kristie Proctor

Members Absent

Delegate Leftwich
Senator Hackworth

Call to Order	Senator Jennifer Boysko, Acting Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
Roll Call	Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director at the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2024 Meeting	A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2024, meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed to adopt the minutes as presented.
General Remarks	<p>Acting Chair Senator Boysko acknowledged Breezeline for their hospitality in arranging meeting accommodations and their demonstration of fiber optic network construction efforts in Caroline and Essex counties.</p> <p>Bryan Horn, VA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provided remarks on the recognition Virginia has received in efforts to bridge digital divide (e.g. BEAD, Virginia Make Ready Initiative, Digital Opportunity).</p>

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. from infrastructure to affordability and adoption of broadband
Office of Broadband Updates	<p>Caroline Luxhoj, VATI Program Manager, presented on: historical funding of the program (FY17-FY23), the risk determination process in light of new language added to FY2025 and FY2026 biennium budget, and provided updates on the contracting status of Virginia Make Ready Initiative awards.</p> <p>Director of the Office of Broadband Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D. provided an overview of federal last-mile deployment program, BEAD, to close the availability gap because "access to affordable, reliable high-speed broadband is essential to full participation in society." A timeline of the state's application window and how many letters of intent were received per locality was showcased.</p> <p>Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director of the Office of Broadband provided an overview of DHCD's approach to non-deployment recommendations in alignment with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) guidance, including: (1) a cellular connectivity program which can help cover the cost of cell towers to extend cell service in regions without coverage; (2) multi-dwelling unit (MDU) connectivity program to provide unit-level broadband availability; (3) state agency and state organization partnerships to implement broadband adoption programs; and (4) a gap fill long-term connectivity barriers wherein innovative technologies will be used to reach locations mis-mapped under BEAD.</p> <p>Council members shared their sentiments, interests, and initial 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 shared their interests, and initial thoughts on the BEAD Non-Deployment initiatives under development within the Office of Broadband.</p> <p>Ray LaMura requested that the Broadband Advisory Council review concerns from ISPs about state agencies mandating the relocation of broadband that was built to unserved areas with a federal or state grant. As the original purpose of these broadband</p>

	grants were to collaborate with the private sector to extend the internet to unserved areas, that were without an economic rationale.
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 p.m.