

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
 February 6th, 2025
 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
 Virginia State Capitol Building
 Senate Room 3
 1000 Bank Street
 Richmond, Virginia 23219
 Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Steve Sandy
 Ray LaMura
 Gary Wood
 Rich Schollman
 Jimmy Carr
 Secretary Katie Frazier
 Secretary Carrie Chenery

Members Absent

Chair, Senator Boysko
 Delegate Herring
 Vice-Chair, Delegate Krizek
 Delegate Willett
 Kristie Proctor
 Delegate Leftwich
 Senator Hackworth
 Christian Goodwin

Call to Order	Ray C. LaMura, Acting Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 1:17p.m.
Roll Call	Chandler Vaughan, Ph.D. Director of the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was not present.
Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2025 Meeting	With no quorum present, the November 14, 2025 unapproved meeting minutes will be voted on next Broadband Advisory Council meeting.
General Remarks	Secretary Frazier and Secretary Chenery, the two newest members of the council, introduced themselves and described their roles in the Broadband Advisory Council.
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. Additionally, Secretary Chenery provided brief remarks on future collaboration between the Office of Governor Spanberger and the Broadband Advisory Council.
Office of Broadband Updates	<p>Dr. Tamarah Holmes shared achievements in deployment: over 200,000 locations have reached access to broadband services since 2022.</p> <p>Mr. Vaughan provided the Office of Broadband’s Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program deployment updates and</p>

	<p>presented on: BEAD deployment timeline and general status in Virginia; notable contractual requirements of DHCD in General Terms and Conditions under BEAD’s federal contract, including the establishment of permitting roundtable – A request for consideration was presented asking for BAC to form a sub-committee to be this permitting round table. Proposed to bring back as a vote to the next BAC meeting when quorum is present; project management responsibilities after subgrantee contract execution.</p> <p>Cole McAndrew, Senior Policy Analyst, provided the Office of Broadband’s BEAD non-deployment updates and presented on: President Trump’s executive order, ‘<i>Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence</i>,’ and its impact on BEAD non-deployment funding.</p> <p>Caroline Luxhoj, VATI Program Manager, presented on: Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) total passings built since 2021; VATI project progress detailing passings constructed and remaining; risk determination statuses; an updated reporting on reasons for project delay.</p>
<p>Joint Commission on Technology and Sciences Referred Broadband Affordability Study Items</p>	<p>Chandler informed the Council that the Joint Commission on Technology and Sciences (JCOTS) Research Study Presentation would not be held at today’s meeting and instead be presented the next BAC meeting because of the lack of a quorum.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>No public comment was offered at the meeting.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Steve Sandy asked a question on BEAD deployment – curious on coordination with utilities – issues of delays working with utilities and asked Mr. Vaughan to speak on it and if any efforts have been made to streamlining project deployment.</p> <p>Mr. Vaughan stated that BEAD permitting roundtable is a good opportunity to elevate issues and recommend best practices related to delays in broadband deployment projects.</p> <p>Jimmy Carr expressed his support for the development of a BEAD permitting roundtable. Additionally, he brought awareness to the FCC’s order through the Rural Broadband Acceleration Taskforce which ordered that, in Virginia, investor-owned utilities are now subject to FCC’s rules and policies on pole attachments. Mr. Carr</p>

	requested that such guidelines are made very clear to stakeholders at the beginning of the BEAD process.
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Unapproved