



Albemarle
Broadband
Authority

Broadband Status Report

3rd Quarter CY2025

September 30th, 2025

The Albemarle Broadband Authority (ABBA) reviewed and is submitting the Broadband Status Report for the third quarter of calendar year 2025 (July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025). The report is provided to the County of Albemarle, VA Board of Supervisors as information. This report provides summary level information on all activities completed and underway by ABBA and the Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office (BAAO). Here is this quarter's *From the Chair*:

Note from the Chairman - Q3-2025

The Albemarle Broadband Authority met once this quarter, our regular annual meeting got pushed from August to September 2 to meet posting requirements. With the VATI 2021 Brightspeed project in its final wrap-up with the state, and the VATI 2022 Firefly project scheduled for completion this winter, ABBA is shifting closer to its eventual wind-down.

As you will read further in this report, we have handed over the future development of broadband options to the able hands of the Broadband Office. I anticipate a time in the next year when ABBA will ask the Board of Supervisors for permission to wind-up any remaining obligations and be done.

I take note here of the retirement of our long-standing counsel, Richie DeLoria from the County Attorney's office. Andy Herrick, the County Attorney, got us off to a start, then handed the reins in our first year over to Richie who has been a tremendous asset to ABBA. He kept us on the straight and narrow many times, with a quick wit, a prepared motion or a contract revision and his presence will be missed.

*Bucky Walsh
ABBA Chair*



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Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Funding

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) released its Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Final Proposal for public comment on August 13, 2025. Previously, the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) issued updated BEAD guidance that removed regulatory requirements and established administrative parity between low-earth orbit fixed wireless broadband and wireline broadband deployments. DHCD's Final Proposal demonstrated a significant reduction in cost over the planned proposal prior to the updated guidance.

Albemarle County's remaining unserved BEAD eligible locations have provisionally been awarded to Comcast. This is part of a broader effort by Comcast to cover nearly 13,000 locations across the Commonwealth. Interestingly, for our market, the plan is to provide fiber broadband rather than a hybrid-fiber coaxial cable solution; Comcast has confirmed that this reflects its plans to upgrade the entire market to a fiber to the home solution.

The Broadband Office will continue to monitor developments around BEAD. The next milestone, acceptance of the final proposals by NTIA, is expected to come by December 4th. Once that has occurred, the Office will work closely with Comcast to prioritize the remaining unserved locations and to ensure that no locations go unserved.

In the coming months, NTIA is also expected to release guidance on non-deployment activities that can be funded through remaining BEAD allocations; Virginia intends to spend just \$600M of its \$1.48B on connections. It is expected that NTIA will claw back all remaining funding, stymying digital inclusion and broadband adoption efforts.

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) 2022 Update

Firefly continues its construction work and has updated its timeline guidance, as necessary. The grant has received an extension through June of 2026, largely as a result of the addition of several project areas previously assigned to a different provider. In Albemarle County, many project areas have slid from Spring and Summer into Fall. Three locations, Free Union,



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RISE PROJECTS	
Albemarle County	
Appalachian Power - Red Hill	In-Service
CARES - Albemarle	In-Service
REC - Stanardsville (Dyke)	In-Service
RISE (Beaver Dam Rd)	In-Service
RISE (St. John Rd)	In-Service
RISE (Decca Ln)	Connecting Now
RISE (Ivy Farms)	Connecting Now
RISE (Thurston)	Connecting Now
RISE (Ragged Mtn)	Connecting Now
Appalachian Power - Keene	Fall 2025
REC - Preddy Creek (Advance Mills)	Fall 2025
REC - Preddy Creek (Burnley)	Fall 2025
REC - Preddy Creek (Vineyard Rd)	Fall 2025
RISE (Afton-East)	Fall 2025
RISE (Batesville)	Fall 2025
RISE (Carters Mtn)	Fall 2025
RISE (Gordonsville Rd)	Fall 2025
RISE (Louisa Rd)	Fall 2025
RISE (Midway)	Fall 2025
RISE (Rockfish Gap)	Fall 2025
RISE (Sugar Hollow)	Fall 2025
RISE (Turkey Sag)	Fall 2025
RISE (Free Union/Earlsville/Waverly)	Winter 2025-2026
RISE (Stony Point/Eastham)	Winter 2025-2026
RISE (Windrift)	Winter 2025-2026

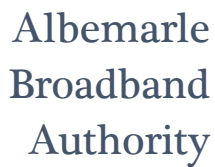
Stony Point, and Windrift have been moved into Winter, following the identification of locations for two fiber huts.

This will move several hundred locations into the new year, however, the delay is not expected to be long.

Dominion Energy's portion of the project is nearly complete at 200 of 204 miles constructed, and half of the splicing work completed. This is a major achievement as construction on this portion began just two years ago.

VATI 2022 Project Milestones	Progress as of April 2024	Progress as of February 2025	Progress as of April 2025	Progress as of June 2025	Progress as of July 2025
Miles of Field Data Collection	118	430	430	430	430
Miles of Fiber Design	107	270	276	420	420
Miles of Make Ready Construction	87	94	104	129	174
Miles of Aerial Fiber Placement	80	83	83	83	83
Miles of Underground Fiber Placement	11	33	33	50	50
Miles of Splicing	87	101	102	119	119
Number of Passings	921	938	1019	1280	1280

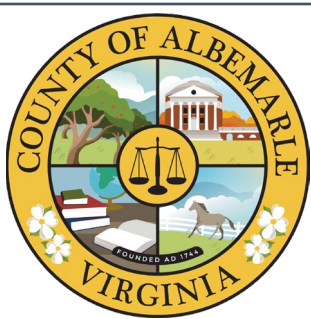
The Authority will continue to monitor Firefly's progress and will update the Board of Supervisors as the project nears its end. Once completed, Albemarle County will have achieved 99.9% of universal broadband access.

[illegible]

This project has achieved close-out status. Final financial review is expected to take place on December 2nd, officially closing out the project and completing all necessary reporting.

The public had in-person and real time audio-visual access to ABBA regular meetings at the County Office Building and over Zoom and real time audio access over telephone on September 2nd, 2025. The July and September meetings were cancelled due to lack of business and the August meeting was delayed from its original date to a posting error.

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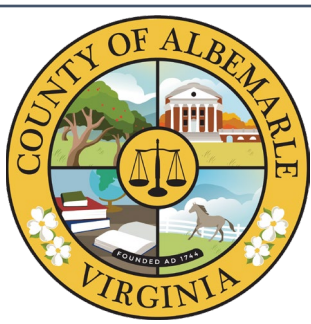
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At the meeting held on September 2nd, the Authority had its reorganization meeting. There were no changes to the installed officers, and a schedule for future meetings was agreed upon.

BAAO Updates

Following the suspension of DHCD's Digital Skills, Literacy, and Devices program, the office has refocused its efforts at expanding the reach of its existing digital navigator program and developing new partnerships with community partners to provide support and guidance for novel and existing digital inclusion programming.

Additionally, the office continues to work with its consultant, locality, and internal partners to prepare a regional digital opportunity plan. The work continues with plans to have a draft available for public review by the end of next quarter.



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Appendix A – ABBA Summary Budget Report

				Update: 08/04/2025
4-4300-91097-491097-950030-9999 (EXPENSE CODE)				
BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY				
	Original budget	Encumbrances	Expenditures	Balance
VATI 22	\$4,413,000.00	\$ 2,078,539.06	\$2,334,460.94	\$0.00
VATI 21	\$2,849,348.00	\$85,343.00	\$2,764,005.00	\$0.00
Total	\$7,262,348.00	\$2,163,882.06	\$5,098,465.94	\$0.00
Notes:				
VATI 21 original budget was adjusted to reflect the reduction in expected state funding that resulted from decreasing the number of served passings. VATI 22 original budget has been adjusted to reflect the transfer of \$87,000 towards the ARPA Grant. VATI 21 Encumbrances were also adjusted to reflect this reduction. Encumbrance and Expenditure calculations have been adjusted and will not match prior calculations. Previously encumbrance was the total encumbrance, it now reflects the remaining encumbrance. The balance has also been adjusted to reflect the the original budget less remaining encumbrances and expenditures. This results in a zero balance in all fields, however, ABBA's reduction in VATI 21 match will result in a surplus of \$85,343 in that account.				