



Lancaster County Broadband Authority
Report to the Board of Supervisors
September 26, 2019

Complete minutes of the Broadband Authority's meetings are available online at www.lancovabroadband.org, but this report will update you on important items that are in process.

1. The first stage of the Telecommunications Planning Grant is now complete. We received the analysis from the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) and they informed us that the Lancaster County community survey response rate was 35%. This is more than 10% above the previous record response rate of 24%. CIT advised that the high response rate allows a 99% degree of confidence in the results. In addition, we have been informed by the Department of Housing and Community Development, that they have approved us to continue to the next stage of the grant. We will now have access to the full amount of the grant funds. We will hold a public meeting in the next few weeks to share the analysis with the public.
2. We met with our Project Management Team to discuss the survey outcome and confirm an overall approach to our contract planning. We are using this information to continue the process of issuing a formal Request for Information (RFI) from interested parties and potential vendors to design and implement a comprehensive plan for extending internet service to the entire County. We are reviewing the final draft and plan to release the RFI before the end of the month.
3. We held a special public meeting on September 3rd at the Lancaster Community Library. Representative Rob Wittman, hosted the meeting along with the Governor's Chief Broadband Adviser, Evan Feinman, and Virginia Senator Ryan McDougle who is a member of the Governor's Broadband Advisory Council (BAC) all participated. The meeting was opened by Supervisor Jack Larson and also in attendance were Supervisors Bill Lee and Dr. Robert Westbrook. Members of the public asked questions about the Commonwealth's views on various topics. We filmed this presentation and hope to make it available on our website.
4. Senator McDougle invited the Broadband Authority to appear on a panel at the September 18th meeting of the Governor's Broadband Advisory Council. We discussed concerns about funding and substantive issues surrounding broadband expansion in rural Virginia. The Council decided pursue several of our concerns as a result of the presentation. Importantly, Senator McDougle recommended that the Council look at Lancaster County as a unique County with our own unique issues as regards broadband expansion. He also stated that the Council should look

to expanding those eligible to use funds in the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission's broadband program to other areas of the Commonwealth. The Council provided positive comments regarding the work done by the Authority to date and encouraged us to continue with our efforts.

5. We sent a formal expression of interest regarding Dominion Energy's recent Request for Information on middle-mile broadband infrastructure projects using additional fiber strands brought to and through Dominion substations located in rural areas.

6. One member of the Authority has submitted his resignation, stating that his business pursuits required him to step down. We are refining our process for the identification of a new Authority member and once an individual has been identified we will forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.