

Virginia Broadband Advisory Council

**2025 Annual Report
October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025**

Introductory Background

In today's connected world, the societal importance and economic relevance of broadband is increasingly clear. Recognizing the need to provide all Virginians with broadband access, the Broadband Advisory Council ("the Council") was established pursuant to § 2.2-100 Code of Virginia, within the executive branch of the Commonwealth. The Council's purpose is to advise the Governor on policy and funding priorities in order to expedite deployment and reduce the cost of broadband access in the Commonwealth. The Council was established due to a recommendation by the Broadband Roundtable, established by Governor Kaine in 2007, and was codified during the 2009 legislative session (Chapter 818, 2009 Acts of Assembly).

This overview will provide an outline of the Council's duties, Council membership, broadband legislation passed, and a summary of the Broadband Advisory Council meetings between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025.

Council Duties

The Broadband Advisory Council was established to determine the Commonwealth's broadband goals and how best to achieve them. The Council is charged with the following duties per § 2.2-2699.4 Code of Virginia:

- Monitor the broadband-based development efforts of other states and nations in areas such as business, education, and health;
- Consult with the Department of Housing and Community Development to designate the unserved areas to receive funds.
- Advise the Governor, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and the General Assembly on policies and strategies related to making affordable broadband services available to every Virginia home and business;
- Monitor broadband-related activities at the federal level;
- Encourage public-private partnerships to increase the deployment and adoption of broadband services and applications;
- Annually report to the Governor and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science on the progress towards the goal of universal access for businesses and on the assessment of Commonwealth broadband infrastructure investments and utilization of Council-supported resources to promote broadband access;
- Periodically review and comment on the quality, availability, and accessibility of state-maintained or funded broadband resources and programs, including but not limited to: Virginia Resources Authority Act funding of the "Online Community Toolkit"; the Center for Innovative Technology's mapping and outreach initiatives; investments made through programs administered by the Department of Education, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Public Rail and Transportation, and the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission; and

- Monitor regulatory and policy changes for potential impact on broadband deployment and sustainability in the Commonwealth.

Council Membership

As prescribed by the § 2.2-2699.3 Code of Virginia, the Council consists of members representing various stakeholders in the Virginia broadband industry and the state legislature. The Broadband Advisory Council is comprised of 17 members. The Council consists of: four members of the House of Delegates, three members of the Senate, six non-legislative citizen members appointed by the Governor, one representative of the Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association, one representative of the Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association, one representative from local government recommended by the Virginia Municipal League and Virginia Association of Counties, one representative of the Virginia Wireless Internet Service Providers Association, one representative of a wireless service authority, one representative of the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, the Executive Director of the Center for Rural Virginia, and three Secretaries as defined in Va. Code § 2.2-200 to be appointed by the Governor shall serve ex officio members.

At the end date of this report, council members are:

Delegate Charniele L. Herring – House of Delegates
 Delegate James Leftwich - House of Delegates
 Delegate Paul Krizek (Vice Chair) – House of Delegates
 Delegate Rodney T. Willett – House of Delegates
 Senator Jennifer Boysko (Chair) - Senate
 Senator Ghazala Hashmi - Senate
 Senator T. Travis Hackworth - Senate
 Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Juan Pablo Segura
 Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Matthew Lohr
 Kristie Helmick Proctor - Center for Rural Virginia
 Steve Sandy – Local Government Representative (Franklin County)
 Ray LaMura - Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association (VCTA)
 Casey Logan - Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC)
 Richard Schollmann - Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association (VTIA)
 James Carr - Virginia Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA)
 Christian Goodwin - Wireless Service Authority Representative

Meeting Minutes

Between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025, the Council met two (2) times (December 6th and May 14th) to discuss, deliberate, learn, and report on broadband issues and public policy as it relates to the broadband deployment interests of the Commonwealth. Minutes of each meeting are provided below:

December 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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
Christian Goodwin

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	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. 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</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Office of Broadband Updates</p>	<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>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>No public comment was provided at the meeting</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<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 grants were to collaborate with the private sector to extend the internet to unserved areas, that were without an economic</p>

	rationale.
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 p.m.

May 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes

**BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED 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	Motion by Delegate Krizek to nominate Jennifer Boysko as Chair. The motion was seconded. No other nominations were made. All councilmembers voted in favor. Motion by Senator Boysko to nominate Delegate Krizek as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded. No other nominations were made. All councilmembers voted in favor.
Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2024 Meeting	Christian Goodwin should be added as present to the list of attendance to previous meeting. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2024, meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed to adopt the minutes as Presented, with the edit to add Christian Goodwin in attendance.
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 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	Council members fielded commentary and questioning on BEAD deployment progress and BEAD non-deployment planning and framework developed by the Office of Broadband.

	<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.