



## Gloucester Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Gloucester receives grant funding to bolster broadband in underserved areas

Governor Ralph Northam announced Thursday an award of \$20.1 million in a second round of the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants to improve broadband infrastructure in 17 localities.

Gloucester County was among the localities awarded, receiving a grant of **\$342,657** to construct a fixed wireless network with Open Broadband, a North Carolina based internet service provider. The award is projected to expand broadband access to 313 “serviceable units,” including 19 businesses, with 131 addresses located in Gloucester, 2 in Middlesex and 180 in Mathews.

“We are thrilled with the Governor’s announcement and are truly appreciative of this grant. This important funding will provide much needed broadband, while introducing a new provider to the region who will be utilizing fixed wireless service,” said Carol Steele, Deputy County Administrator. “The grant criteria were limited and all addresses possible were included. We have a way to go in bringing total connectivity to our County, but this is certainly a step in the right direction. We are grateful that the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors has identified access to broadband as a strategic priority, and provided the required matching grant funds. That, coupled with the hard work and perseverance of County Staff, our Telecommunications Committee, and the collaboration of our neighboring communities, is starting to move the needle as we work together to expand quality broadband access across the County, and the Middle Peninsula.”

For a map of the grant area and listing of impacted addresses, visit

<https://www.gloucesterva.info/158/Community-Engagement-and-Public-Information>. Mathews and King and Queen County are also among the recipients in this second round of 2021 VATI grants.

In a release from the Governor’s Office, Governor Northam is quoted, “Quality broadband service is key to growing our economy, and learning, competing, and succeeding in today’s digital

world. This funding will have an enormous impact on thousands of unserved Virginians and bring us closer to our goal of every community in our Commonwealth having access to high-speed internet.”

The VATI program is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and provides “targeted financial assistance to extend broadband service to areas that are unserved by an internet service provider.

“Projects were selected through a competitive process that evaluated each project for demonstrated need and benefit for the community, applicant readiness and capacity, and the cost and leverage of the proposed project. The level of funding awarded is based on the infrastructure needs in the project area, “the Governor’s release added.

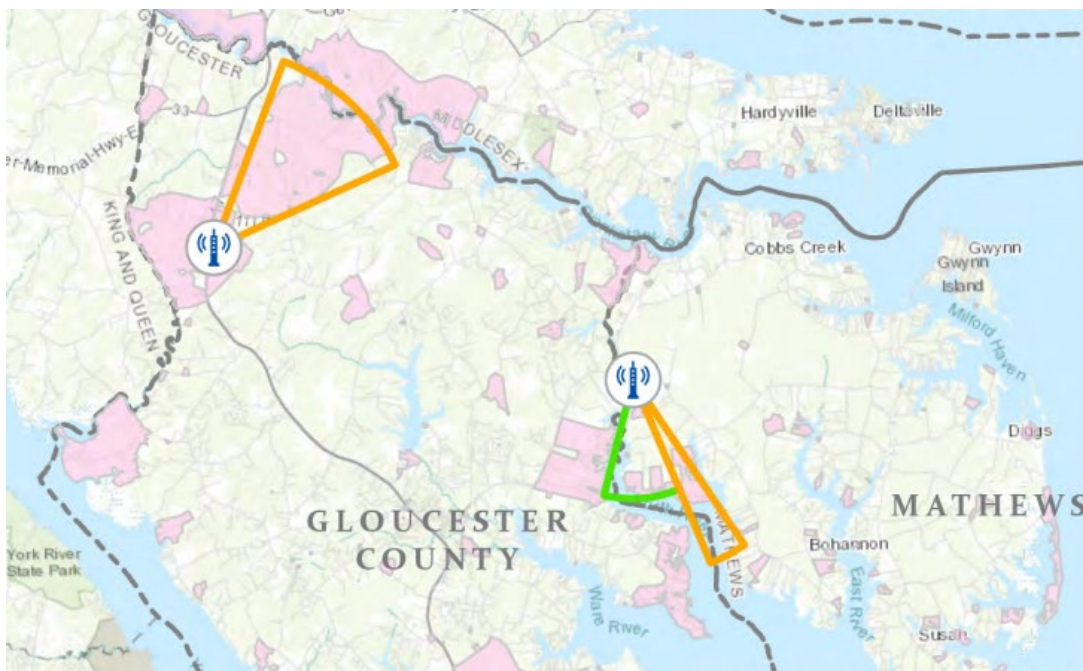
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# More Information about Gloucester County's Broadband Project

*The Gloucester County Board of Supervisors has made it a strategic priority to provide all residents access to unrestricted, fast, and reliable broadband service throughout the County.*

Studies indicated that **approximately 14%** of the County does not have access to Cox Communications, the only broadband provider in the County. Other Internet providers are accessible within the County, including utilizing cell data, but at the current time, Cox is the only Broadband (fast Internet) provider.

Fixed wireless broadband service is an economically feasible way to reach structures throughout the County, including homes that are in remote locations. Signals travel through the air from towers that are connected to the Internet by fiber to small receivers placed at the home or business. The County partnered with Open Broadband, LLC out of North Carolina for the service. The grant will allow Open Broadband to reach unserved residents and businesses utilizing the County's communication tower near the office of Waste Management on Route 17.



Addresses within the "cones" that don't have access to Cox Communications in Gloucester or Atlantic Broadband in Mathews County are included in the Fixed Wireless Service Grant.

Grant criteria limited the homes that could be reached to 131 homes in Gloucester. The goal of the Broadband Project is for access to be made available throughout Gloucester County. While the Board has allocated \$500,000 towards expansion, the balance of funds needed has not been obtained at this time. Several promising sources are being explored.

The County will continue to work with Cox Communications to try and expand their service while also supporting growth of the fixed wireless network. In addition, the County is monitoring the work of SpaceX for their Starlink product - low orbiting satellites to provide broadband – for its potential use in the County.

Additional information about the construction timeline for the fixed wireless grant will be announced as soon as possible. In the future, public meetings will be held so that Open Broadband can provide more information about their product, the cost for service and to answer questions of potential customers.

Addresses that will be included in the grant are listed in the tables below. For more information about the Broadband Project contact County Administration at (804) 693-4042 or email Carol Steele, Deputy County Administrator at [csteele@gloucesterva.info](mailto:csteele@gloucesterva.info).

**Gloucester County Fixed Wireless Project Addresses**

12386	BELLEVIEW RD
12480	BELLEVIEW RD
12486	BELLEVIEW RD
12512	BELLEVIEW RD
12550	BELLEVIEW RD
12582	BELLEVIEW RD
12644	BELLEVIEW RD
12650	BELLEVIEW RD
12666	BELLEVIEW RD
12692	BELLEVIEW RD
11985	CARVERS CREEK LN
11930	ELIZABETH CURTIS LN
11956	ELIZABETH CURTIS LN
12967	GEORGE WASHINGTON MEM HWY
4287	GLENNS RD
4289	GLENNS RD
4488	GLENNS RD
4530	GLENNS RD
4560	GLENNS RD
4599	GLENNS RD
4618	GLENNS RD
4628	GLENNS RD
4644	GLENNS RD
4664	GLENNS RD
4690	GLENNS RD
4704	GLENNS RD
4734	GLENNS RD
4749	GLENNS RD
4788	GLENNS RD
4802	GLENNS RD
4827	GLENNS RD
4830	GLENNS RD
4834	GLENNS RD
4836	GLENNS RD
4839	GLENNS RD
4847	GLENNS RD
4876	GLENNS RD
4924	GLENNS RD
4942	GLENNS RD
5031	GLENNS RD
5709	GLENNS RD
5711	GLENNS RD

4602	HUNNY POT LN
4646	HUNNY POT LN
4682	HUNNY POT LN
4734	HUNNY POT LN
4815	HUNNY POT LN
4872	HUNNY POT LN
5182	OWL RIDGE RD
5228	OWL RIDGE RD
5231	OWL RIDGE RD
5272	OWL RIDGE RD
5310	OWL RIDGE RD
5314	OWL RIDGE RD
3807	OWL TRAP RD
3860	OWL TRAP RD
3876	OWL TRAP RD
3920	OWL TRAP RD
3931	OWL TRAP RD
3989	PAMPA RD
4287	PAMPA RD
4521	PAMPA RD
12633	POINT OF VIEW LN
12642	POINT OF VIEW LN
12036	RILEES FARM RD
12111	RILEES FARM RD
12143	RILEES FARM RD
12146	RILEES FARM RD
12188	RILEES FARM RD
12288	RILEES FARM RD
12293	RILEES FARM RD
12295	RILEES FARM RD
12375	RILEES FARM RD
12390	RILEES FARM RD
12397	RILEES FARM RD
12453	RILEES FARM RD
12526	RILEES FARM RD
11408	SALEM CHURCH RD
11451	SALEM CHURCH RD
11487	SALEM CHURCH RD
11616	SALEM CHURCH RD
11625	SALEM CHURCH RD
11647	SALEM CHURCH RD
11664	SALEM CHURCH RD
11668	SALEM CHURCH RD

11683	SALEM CHURCH RD
11719	SALEM CHURCH RD
11753	SALEM CHURCH RD
11789	SALEM CHURCH RD
11797	SALEM CHURCH RD
11846	SALEM CHURCH RD
11847	SALEM CHURCH RD
11867	SALEM CHURCH RD
11872	SALEM CHURCH RD
11878	SALEM CHURCH RD
11881	SALEM CHURCH RD
12032	SALEM CHURCH RD
12086	SALEM CHURCH RD
12090	SALEM CHURCH RD
12398	SALEM CHURCH RD
12417	SALEM CHURCH RD
12424	SALEM CHURCH RD
12563	SALEM CHURCH RD
12567	SALEM CHURCH RD
12614	SALEM CHURCH RD
11541	SALEM WOOD RD
11543	SALEM WOOD RD
11710	SALEM WOOD RD
11753	SALEM WOOD RD
11801	SALEM WOOD RD
11808	SALEM WOOD RD
11828	SALEM WOOD RD
11837	SALEM WOOD RD
11875	SOUTH GRIMES LN
11899	SOUTH GRIMES LN
4703	TURKS FERRY RD
4763	TURKS FERRY RD
4783	TURKS FERRY RD
4817	TURKS FERRY RD
4835	TURKS FERRY RD
4869	TURKS FERRY RD
4887	TURKS FERRY RD
4905	TURKS FERRY RD
4921	TURKS FERRY RD
4935	TURKS FERRY RD
4953	TURKS FERRY RD
5047	TURKS FERRY RD
5243	TURKS FERRY RD

3715	WASTE MANAGEMENT WAY
3844	WASTE MANAGEMENT WAY
3870	WASTE MANAGEMENT WAY