

Draft Stakeholder Advisory Group Recommendations

Adopt Dig Once Policy under the Optional Subdivision Ordinance (Legislative)

- Enact legislation requiring ISPs, developers, electric providers, utilities, or localities to provide public notice of easement requests and/or trenching when installing utility or broadband infrastructure in the public right of way, and invite proposals from other interested stakeholders to share the cost with the initial trencher.
 - Initial trencher required to post notice on state platform, maintained by VDOT

Legislative Action, Adopt Coordination Policies (Legislative)

- Require local governments to notify internet service providers and developers that trenches are open, or will be open, when public utilities are installed to new development
 - Alternatively, *authorize* local governments to notify internet service providers and developers that trenches are open, or will be open, when public utilities are installed to new development
- Authorize local governments to install conduit when installing public utilities infrastructure and give or lease that conduit to last mile internet service providers

Facilitate Broadband Development via Local Governments (Legislative)

- Authorize local governments to use local resources (monetary, infrastructure, etc.) to promote the extension of broadband networks to new development
- Suggest or require localities to consider how broadband service would be deployed to new development in conjunction with utility services in their comprehensive plans.
 - Suggest or require localities to analyze and report on the availability of broadband service in areas of the city/counties during the comprehensive planning process.
 - Authorize local governments to require or suggest developers to complete a questionnaire regarding broadband readiness of the development before permitting.

Fund Programs to Expand Service to New Developments (Budget)

- Create a program which works directly with internet service providers to expand service coverage into new developments and pockets of unserved locations, filling existing or new gaps in service coverage
- Create an "infrastructure buildout" fund to support the expansion of infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband) into new development; potentially prioritize programs to historically divested areas. Two potential programmatic pathways:
 - For low to moderate income housing, establish a program to extend water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure to new low-income housing development.
 - For residential development only, establish a program to extend water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure to new development.

- Could be established as a revolving loan fund or grant program
- Authorize local governments to issue 'broadband ready' areas for local development
 - Change budget language of broadband availability map data to permit usage of data for this designation
- Establish a "broadband-ready" county/city program where DHCD would "award" a county/city broadband ready designation upon completion of universal broadband access build outs
 - Change budget language of broadband availability map data to permit usage of service territory data for this designation

Rule Making Solutions (Administrative)

- VML/VACO + VCTA/VTIA + Developers enter into cooperative agreement to identify new development as they are being planned and built and work to extend broadband networks to these areas
- Recommend that Virginia Housing require broadband infrastructure installation in their next LIHTC qualified allocation plan for new developments and rehabilitations.
- Recommend that Virginia Housing's QAP scoring guidelines be changed to award more points to HTC applicants with explicit plans for broadband infrastructure in developments and significant rehabilitations.