



**RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY
BROADBAND AUTHORITY**

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**RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VIRGINIA
PRESS RELEASE**

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VATI Award and Rappahannock County Broadband Website

(Washington, VA) – The Rappahannock County Broadband Authority (RCBA) joined with seven other counties, the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC), All Points Broadband, and several electrical service providers to include Rappahannock Electric Cooperative to submit a Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant application seeking funding to support a fiber to the home project for unserved households. On December 13, 2021 Governor Northam announced that this regional application received the single largest VATI award in the commonwealth (\$95.3 million). “Today is a historic day for Rappahannock County,” said Jimmy Carr, Chief Executive Officer of All Points Broadband. “We are honored to be partnering with the County to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to fully and finally bridge the digital divide with a project that will extend an all-fiber broadband network to all remaining unserved locations in the county.” A more detailed construction timeframe will be made available early next year.

“Internet service providers have told us for years that due to our low residential density universal broadband access was not commercially viable in Rappahannock County,” said Debbie Donehey, Chair, Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors and Broadband Authority. “Now, with the federal ARPA investment passed through the VATI program, we are poised to deliver the gold standard of fiber to the home to our currently unserved households and businesses; a reality that only a short time ago was unfathomable.”

With the announcement of the grant award, the RCBA has launched a new website for county residents to remain informed regarding this fiber to the home initiative. Residents and businesses who want to learn more about the project, sign up for updates, or pre-register their locations for service once available, should visit rappbroadband.org. Through this site, residents and businesses can complete a survey to register their non-binding interest in the project.

The RCBA will be working hard to advance this opportunity and will share progress on the referenced website.

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