



Rural Broadband Task Force

October 1, 2019

Deborah E. Hall, CPA, Deputy County Administrator

Evelyn Jacobson, Chief of Information Technology

Thomas Dennison, Government & Public Affairs Director, SMECO

Agenda

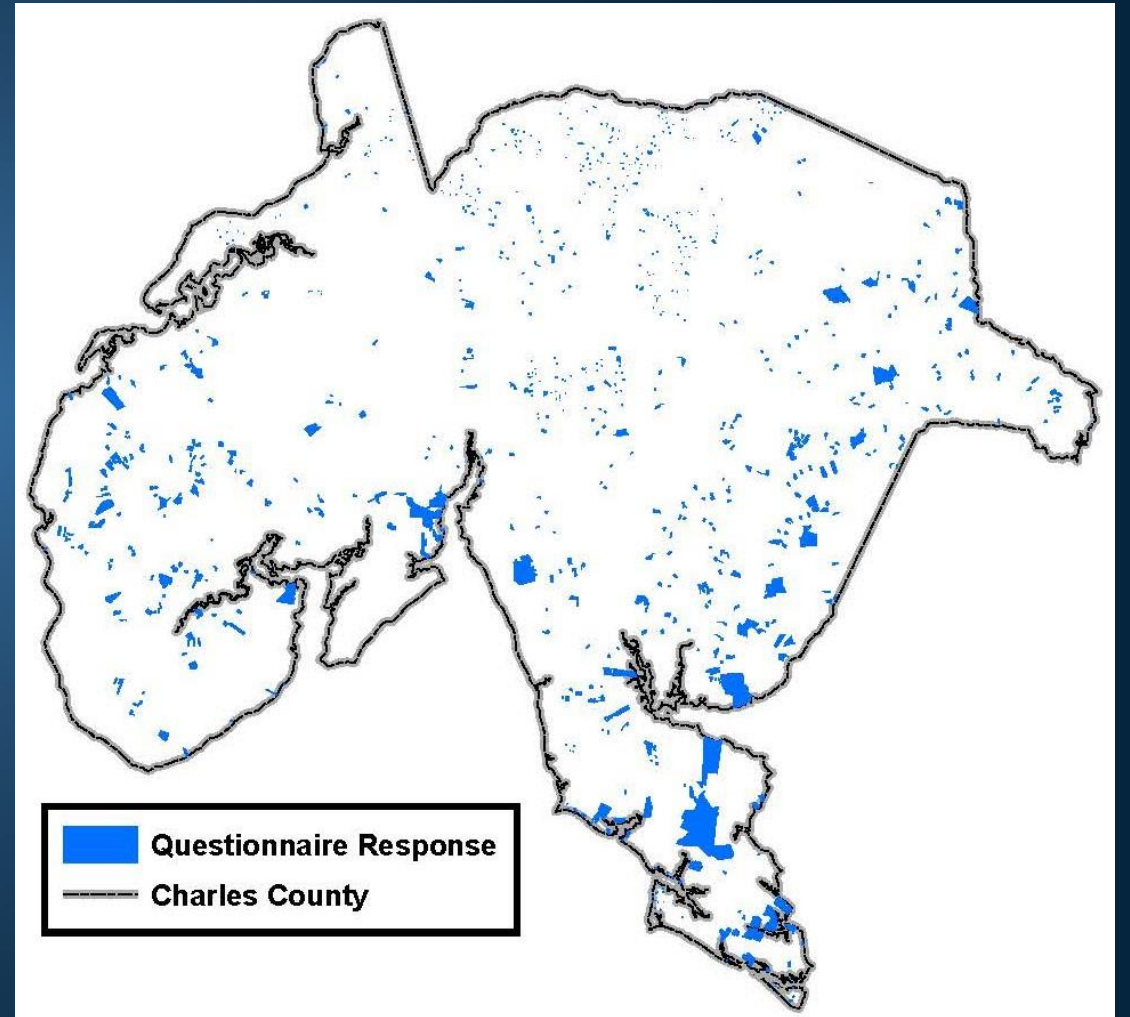
- Introduce New Task Force Members
- Update on Questionnaire and Maps
- Atlantic Broadband
- Podcast
- SMECO Update
- Broadband Strategic Plan – CTC Technology & Energy
- Update on Project Plan
- Broadband Communities Conference & Expo

New Task Force Members

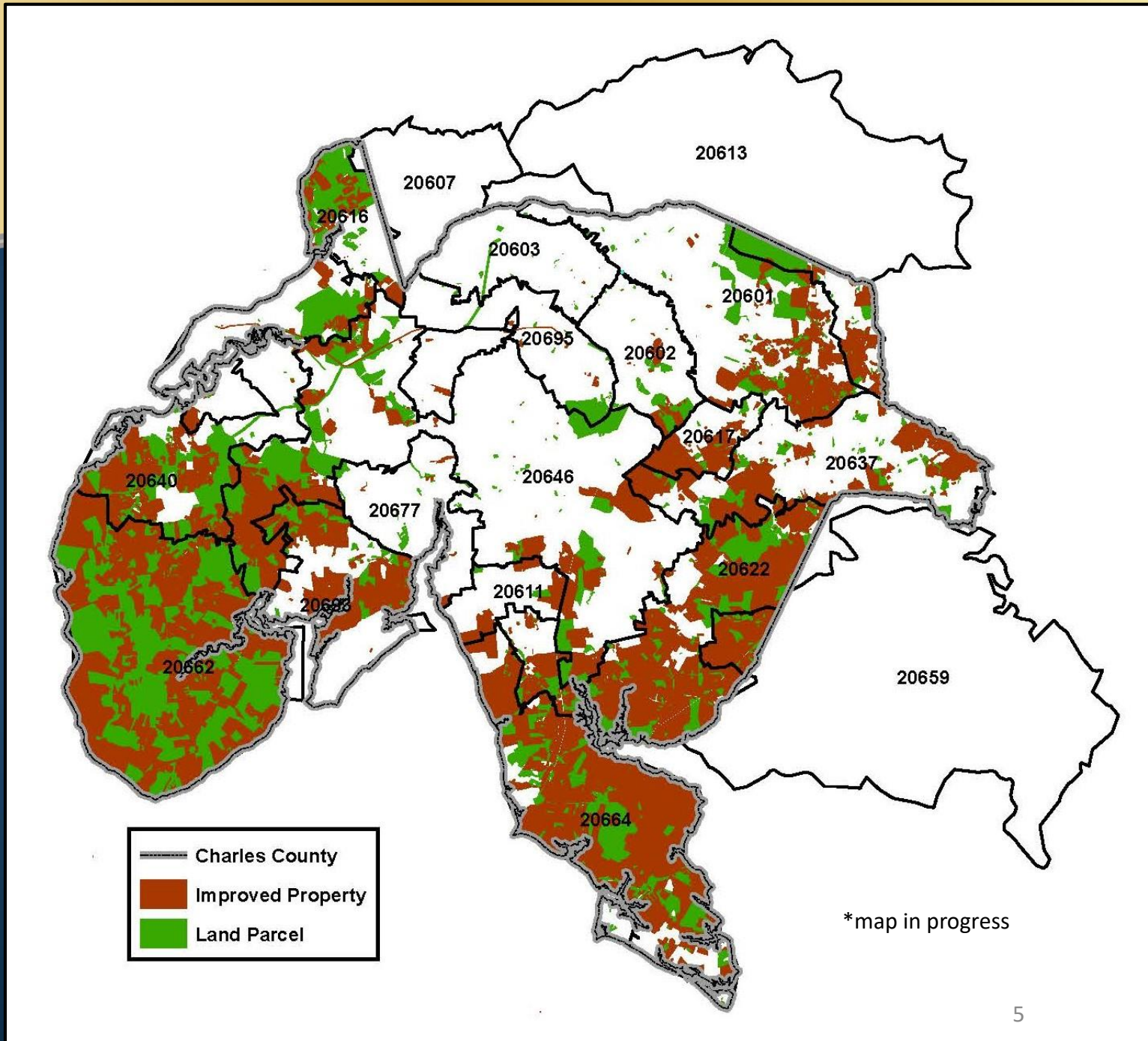
- Thomas Dennison – SMECO
 - Knowledgeable about SMECO's infrastructure, easements, and future development.
 - Can provide (limited) updates on SMECO's task force that is evaluating the SB 634 legislation.
 - Will be an important partner and conduit for broadband deployment.
- Steve Andritz – Charles County Board of Education
 - Knowledgeable about CCBOE's property, assets, and future construction projects.
 - Representative of the group with the strongest need for broadband – the students of Charles County.

Internet Access Questionnaire

- To date we have received 1,247 completed questionnaires from 998 unique addresses.
- Promoted on social media, posters with QR code in strategic locations, SMECO newsletter, and Charles County Government e-news promotions.



Zip Code	Improved Property	Land Parcel	Total
20662 – Nanjemoy	1105	719	1824
20664 – Newburg	853	405	1258
20622 – Charlotte Hall	765	253	1018
20601 – Waldorf	637	378	1015
20640 – Indian Head	572	250	822
20646 – La Plata	384	390	774
20616 – Bryans Road	190	549	739
20637 – Hughesville	497	151	648
20695 – White Plains	16	330	346
20613 – Brandywine	249	34	283
20693 – Welcome	165	76	241
20617 – Bryantown	102	60	162
20602 – Waldorf	39	121	160
20632 – Faulkner	94	47	141
20603 – Waldorf	5	121	126
20659 – Mechanicsville	90	31	121
20677 – Port Tobacco	12	36	48
20677 – Issue	2	37	39
20612 – Benedict	32	3	35
20658 – Marbury	10	8	18
20675 – Pomfret	14	3	17
20611 – Bel Alton	7	5	12
20625 – Cobb Island	1	4	5
20607 – Accokeek	1	1	2
Totals	5842	4012	9854

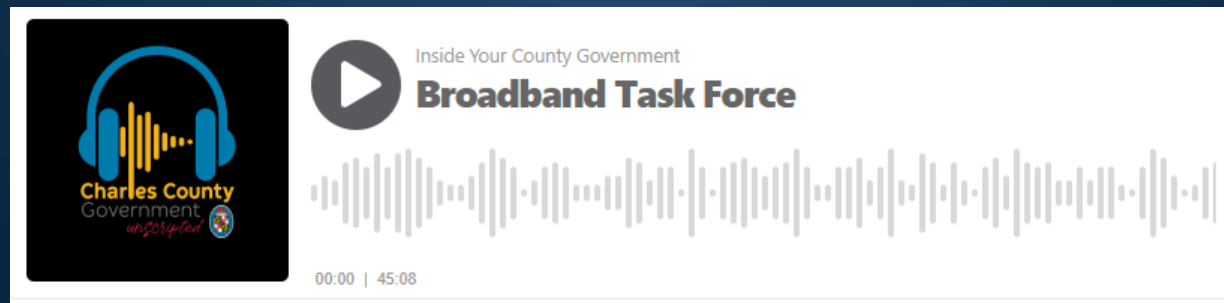


Atlantic Broadband

- Charles County Government staff met with Atlantic Broadband, a service provider in King George, VA and St. Mary's County.
- Want to gauge Atlantic Broadband's interest in providing service to any areas of Charles County.
- Atlantic Broadband drove around the county to survey unserved areas and is currently analyzing data to determine feasibility.

Inside Your County Government Podcast

- Interview with members of the Rural Broadband Task Force – Kevin Warring, Katie Stickel, Evelyn Jacobson, and Deborah Hall.
- Opportunity to discuss what's being done to bring broadband internet to the rural areas of the County.
- Listen on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Google Play Music, or at buzzsprout.com.



Update from SMECO

- Senate Bill 634 goes into effect October 1, 2019.
- SMECO has formed a task force to determine how best to move forward under the new legislation.
- SMECO representatives, county staff, and CTC met in August at the county Government Building
- CTC has requested GIS information from SMECO on the electrical system.

Broadband Strategic Plan

- CTC Technology & Energy is working on the development of our Broadband Strategic Plan.
- Conducted a kick-off workshop in June, bringing together various stakeholders from Charles County Government, Board of Education, Sheriff's Office, Public Library, College of Southern Maryland, Towns of La Plata and Indian Head, SMECO, and the Governor's Office.



Broadband Strategic Plan (cont.)

- CTC has conducted meetings with county staff and internal and external stakeholders:
 - SMECO
 - Reviewed SMECO's infrastructure and access requirements; discussed possible collaboration between SMECO and the County, as well as SMECO and local cable providers.
 - Local cable providers
 - Discussed possible partnerships between local providers and the County, as well as the next round of state and federal funding.
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Provided overview of the project; Chamber representative outlined the need for, and value of, high-speed internet for businesses and telecommuters.
 - Parks Division
 - Reviewed County parks ownership as well as Program Open Space grant.

Broadband Strategic Plan (cont.)

- Additional meetings with CTC are scheduled throughout October:
 - Utilities Division
 - Planning & Growth Management
 - Emergency Services
 - Capital Services
 - Economic Development
 - Board of Education
 - Public Library
- County technicians have provided CTC analysts with data regarding all elements related to the project and continue to provide updated information on an ongoing basis.

Broadband Strategic Plan (cont.)

- CTC is reviewing the county's existing infrastructure assets.
 - Currently conducting desk surveys and analyzing data from the County and other sources.
 - Will conduct a field survey the week of October 7th.
- CTC has reviewed typical broadband construction costs within the county and is working on the Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) sample design for the unserved areas.
 - FTTP will be the most expensive option and serve as a baseline for other, multi-faceted solutions to be proposed.

Project Plan

WBS	Task Name	Start	Finish		Notes
1	Broadband Expansion	Mon 1/28/19	Fri 12/30/22		
1.1	Monitor SB634	Mon 1/28/19	Mon 4/8/19	✓	
1.2	Paper questionnaire	Mon 2/18/19	Wed 3/27/19	✓	
1.3	Online questionnaire	Wed 3/27/19	Mon 4/1/19	✓	
1.4	Webpage implementation	Mon 2/18/19	Thu 4/11/19	✓	
1.5	Work with Media Services to promote questionnaire	Thu 4/11/19	Fri 12/6/19		
1.6	MD Rural Broadband Feasibility Grant	Mon 3/4/19	Fri 5/3/19	✓	
1.7	SMECO meetings/discussions	Tue 4/16/19	Thu 2/20/20	🟡	Ongoing
1.8	Meet with ISPs	Fri 2/22/19	Fri 12/30/22	🟡	Ongoing
1.9	Monitor grant opportunities	Mon 1/28/19	Fri 12/30/22	🟡	Ongoing
1.10	Develop, enhance and maintain maps	Mon 3/4/19	Fri 12/30/22	🟡	Ongoing
1.11	Develop Broadband Strategic Plan	Mon 2/18/19	Fri 12/6/19		
1.11.1	Research vendors	Mon 2/18/19	Sun 3/31/19	✓	
1.11.2	Check references	Mon 4/1/19	Fri 4/26/19	✓	
1.11.3	Execute Contract	Mon 4/29/19	Tue 5/14/19	✓	
1.11.4	Conduct Strategic Workshop with key stakeholders and internal staff	Thu 6/6/19	Thu 6/6/19	✓	
1.11.5	▸ Assess current infrastructure and services - Task 1	Tue 6/25/19	Fri 10/11/19	🟡	75% complete
1.11.6	▸ Evaluate current & future broadband demand - Task 2	Thu 6/6/19	Fri 11/1/19	🟡	40% complete
1.11.7	▸ Prepare high-level design/cost estimate - Task 3	Mon 9/2/19	Fri 11/15/19	🟡	50% complete
1.11.8	Evaluate funding options/develop grant strategy - Task 4	Mon 9/2/19	Fri 11/15/19	🟡	20% complete
1.11.9	Develop public-private partnership strategy - Task5	Mon 9/16/19	Fri 11/15/19	🟡	20% complete
1.11.10	Develop financial analysis and business plan - Task 6	Tue 10/1/19	Fri 11/15/19		
1.11.11	Prepare & present comprehensive written project report - Task7	Fri 11/1/19	Fri 12/6/19		
1.12	Execute Broadband Strategic Plan	Mon 12/9/19	Fri 12/30/22		

Broadband Communities Conference & Expo

- October 30-31, 2019
- Alexandria, VA
- High-Speed Broadband: Driving America's Growth
- On the Agenda:
 - Critical Broadband Issues
 - Broadband Policy
 - Funding Sources
 - Public Private Partnerships

Next Update

- The Broadband Task Force will continue to regularly meet and work with the consultant to develop the strategic plan.
- In early 2020, a briefing will be provided to include potential budget impacts so that the BOCC can plan for the FY 2021 budget implications.

Questions

Happy to address questions or concerns...



Charles County Government

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www.CharlesCountyMD.gov



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Vision Statement – Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

Equal Opportunity Employer – It is the policy of Charles County to provide equal employment opportunity to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religious or political affiliation or opinion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or expression, or any other status protected by law.