



Rural Broadband Task Force

January 26, 2021

Deborah E. Hall, CPA, Deputy County Administrator

Evelyn Jacobson, Chief of Information Technology

Rural Broadband Task Force

Members

- ▶ **Deborah Hall and Erica Rizer**, County Administrator's Office
- ▶ **Evelyn Jacobson and Matt Jacobson**, Information Technology Division
- ▶ **Chief Equity Officer**, Department of Human Resources
- ▶ **Jeffrey Clements**, Department of Emergency Services
- ▶ **Marcia Keeth and Michelle DeSoto**, Economic Development Department
- ▶ **Gina Markovich**, Department of Planning & Growth Management
- ▶ **Steve Andritz**, Charles County Board of Education
- ▶ **Thomas Dennison**, SMECO
- ▶ **Kevin Warring**, District 1 Resident
- ▶ **Katie Stickle**, District 2 Resident

Rural Broadband Task Force

Special Guests

- ▶ **Mark Wagner**, Chief Executive Officer
- ▶ **Dee Anna Sobczak**, Chief Operating Officer



- ▶ **Lora Bennett**, Executive Director of IT Strategy
- ▶ **Charmaine Thompson**, Chief of Instructional Technology



NCN Broadband Buildout

December 2020 Recap

- ▶ On December 15, the Board of County Commissioners approved:
 - ▶ Public-Private Partnership (P3) Fiber Agreement
 - ▶ Fiber Optic Sale & Maintenance Agreement
 - ▶ Resolution 2020-34
- ▶ BIG “thank you” to our consultant and legal teams.
- ▶ The documents are posted on the Rural Broadband Task Force website under “What We’re Doing”
 - ▶ charlescountymd.gov/our-county/rural-broadband-in-charles-county

NCN Broadband Buildout

P3 Fiber Agreement

- ▶ 20-year partnership agreement between Charles County and TBN
- ▶ \$6 million project
- ▶ 2.5-year construction period
- ▶ County-owned fiber will be co-laid during construction
- ▶ TBN must follow all normal permitting requirements
- ▶ CCG and TBN will continue to meet every week to share information, data, and construction plans

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P3 Fiber Agreement

- ▶ Installations to every home in the Funded Service Area (FSA)
 - ▶ Underground and on poles
 - ▶ Aerial or direct bury will be no charge to the resident for the first 300 feet, then \$1.00 per foot (adjusted annually)
 - ▶ Directional boring or trenching will be charged to resident at TBN's actual cost
- ▶ Agreement outlines Customer Service Standards
 - ▶ Includes liquidated damages for non-performance
- ▶ Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filing during construction period
 - ▶ Secured transaction that provides the right to foreclose on the network should TBN default on the agreement
 - ▶ Will be a valuable asset to the County

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Fiber Optic Sale & Maintenance Agreement

- ▶ County owns fiber strands and can use them for a public purpose
- ▶ County fiber will be co-laid with TBN's fiber
- ▶ Agreement requires that TBN maintain and repair County fiber
 - ▶ Ex: If fiber is cut by accident, TBN will repair both sets of fiber.
- ▶ Non-compete clause
- ▶ Liquidated damages for non-performance

Background

Categories of Unserved

- ▶ **Category 1** - No existing infrastructure or contiguous fiber in the area
- ▶ **Category 2** - Unserved pockets in areas where infrastructure exists
 - ▶ Pockets do not meet density requirements for current companies in the area
- ▶ **Category 3** - Long driveways where construction costs are unaffordable

NCN Broadband Buildout

Overview

- ▶ Comprehensive broadband network in Nanjemoy and Cobb Neck
- ▶ Category 1 projects (no existing infrastructure)
- ▶ Service will be available to 1408 residences and businesses
- ▶ Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP)
 - ▶ Minimum data rate transmission of 25 Mbps down / 3 Mbps up
- ▶ 2.5-year construction project
 - ▶ Aerial lines will be installed on SMECO poles
 - ▶ Underground lines will require an easement
- ▶ Long-term/permanent solution

NCN Broadband Buildout

Project Plan - Big Picture

GANIT CHART

	i	Task Mode	Task Name	Durati	Start	Finish	Predecessors	Resource Names
1			Charles County Pre Planning	70.4 day	Mon 1/4/21	Wed 5/5/21		
10			Phase 1 Nanjemoy Surveys	30.6 day	Mon 1/4/21	Wed 2/24/21		
45			Phase 1 Cobb Neck Surveys	33.8 day	Mon 1/4/21	Tue 3/2/21		
67			Phase 1 Nanjemoy Engineering	57.8 day	Mon 1/4/21	Tue 4/13/21		
136			Phase 1 Cobb Neck Engineering	70.6 day	Mon 1/4/21	Wed 5/5/21		
184			Phase 1 Nanjemoy Permits	137.8 da	Mon 1/4/21	Tue 8/31/21		
241			Phase 1 Cobb Neck Permits	137.8 da	Mon 1/4/21	Tue 8/31/21		
280			Phase 1 Nanjemoy Material Order	97.8 day	Mon 3/29/21	Tue 9/14/21		
401			Phase 1 Cobb Neck Material Order	103.4 da	Mon 3/29/21	Thu 9/23/21		
483			Phase 1 Nanjemoy Construction	163.4 da	Tue 3/30/21	Fri 1/7/22		
613			Phase 1 Cobb Neck Construction	113 days	Wed 5/12/21	Thu 11/25/21		
697			Phase 2 Nanjemoy Surveys	40.2 day	Mon 1/4/21	Fri 3/12/21		
726			Phase 2 Cobb neck Surveys	44.2 day	Mon 1/4/21	Fri 3/19/21		
742			Phase 2 nanjemoy Engineering	58.6 day	Tue 3/2/21	Thu 6/10/21		
796			Phase 2 Cobb Neck Engineering	58.15 da	Wed 4/7/21	Fri 7/16/21		
826			Phase 2 Nanjemoy Permits	134.6 da	Mon 1/4/21	Wed 8/25/21		
876			Phase 2 Cobb Neck Permits	155.4 da	Mon 1/4/21	Thu 9/30/21		
902			Phase 2 Nanjemoy Material Order	73 days	Mon 12/13/21	Tue 4/19/22		
993			Phase 2 Cobb Neck Material Order	49 days	Mon 8/2/21	Mon 10/25/21		
1037			Phase 2 Nanjemoy Construction	184.2 da	Mon 1/10/22	Thu 11/24/22		
1140			Phase 2 Cobb Neck Construction	63.4 day	Thu 8/19/21	Tue 12/7/21		
1192			Phase 3 Nanjemoy Surveys	79.5 day	Mon 2/8/21	Fri 6/25/21	726	
1265			Phase 3 Cobb Neck Surveys	20 days	Fri 6/25/21	Fri 7/30/21	1192	
1300			Phase 3 Nanjemoy Engineering	89.8 day	Mon 4/5/21	Tue 9/7/21		
1418			Phase 3 Cobb Neck Engineering	24.2 day	Tue 4/27/21	Mon 6/7/21		
1473			Phase 3 Nanjamoy Permits	100.2 da	Mon 1/3/22	Fri 6/24/22		
1567			Phase 3 Cobb Neck Permits	129 days	Wed 4/14/21	Wed 11/24/21		
1612			Phase 3 Nanjamoy Material Order	66.6 day	Mon 5/2/22	Tue 8/23/22		
1739			Phase 3 Cobb Neck Material Order	49.8 day	Mon 9/27/21	Tue 12/21/21		

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Project Plan - Detailed

GANTT CHART

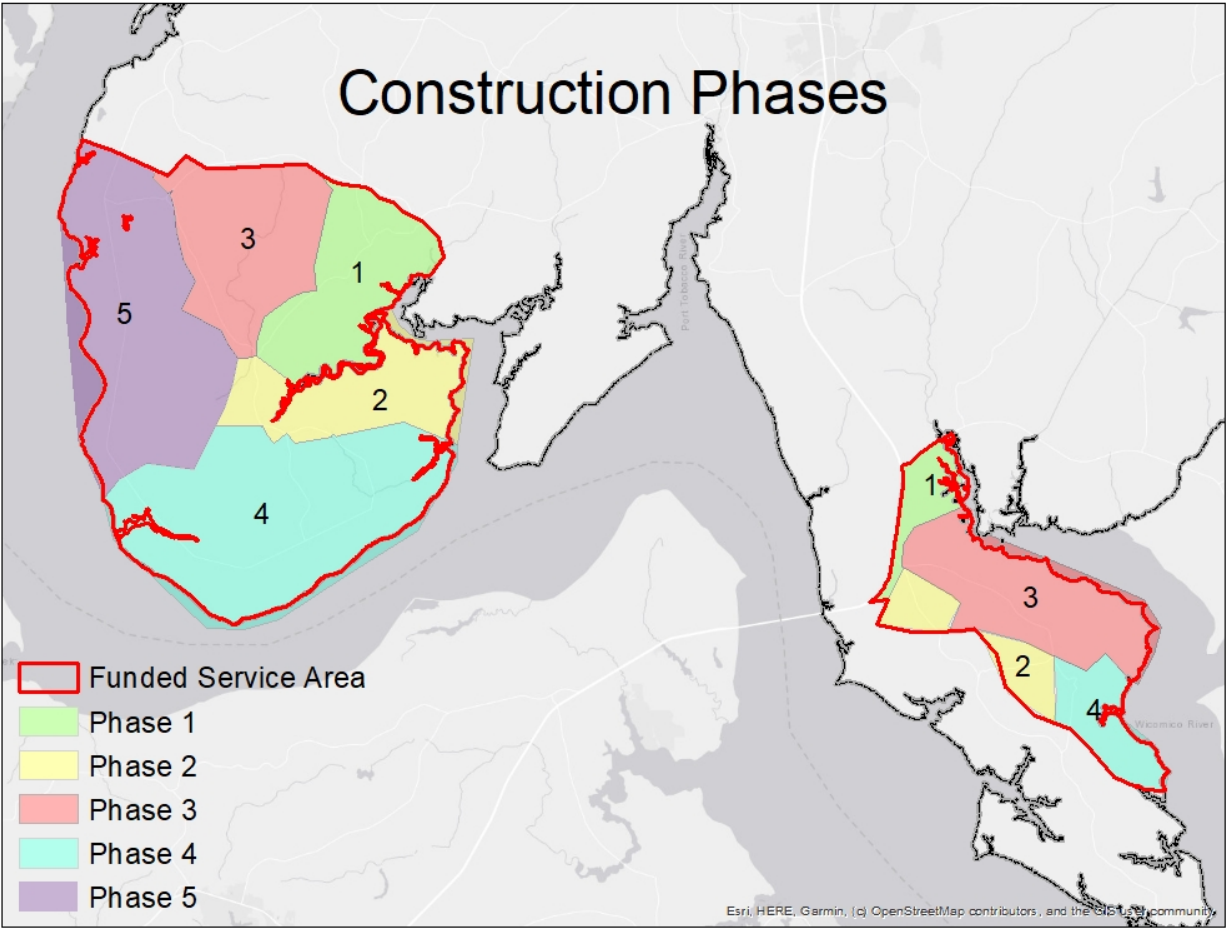
ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors	Resource Names	% Comp	Distance Feet
1		Charles County Pre Planning	70.4 days	Mon 1/4/21	Wed 5/5/21			0%	
10		Phase 1 Nanjemoy Surveys	30.6 days	Mon 1/4/21	Wed 2/24/21			0%	
11	✓	Sequence 1 Segment 201	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
12	✓	Sequence 2 Segment 202	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
13	✓	Sequence 3 Segment 101	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
14	✓	Sequence 4 Segment 299	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
15	★	Sequence 5 Segment 499	1 day	Mon 2/8/21	Tue 2/9/21			0%	
16	★	site walk	1 day	Mon 2/8/21	Tue 2/9/21			0%	
17	✓	Sequence 6 Segment 204	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
18	✓	Sequence 7 Segment 205	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
19	★	Sequence 8 Segment 401	2 days	Mon 2/15/21	Wed 2/17/21			0%	
20	★	pole line survey	2 days	Mon 2/15/21	Wed 2/17/21			0%	
21	★	Sequence 9 Segment 402	1 day	Wed 2/17/21	Thu 2/18/21			0%	
22	★	pole line survey	1 day	Wed 2/17/21	Thu 2/18/21	19		0%	
23	✓	Sequence 10 Segment 314	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
24	✓	Sequence 11 Segment 102	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
25	★	Sequence 12 Segment 405	1 day	Thu 1/7/21	Fri 1/8/21			0%	
26	★	pole line survey	1 day	Thu 2/18/21	Fri 2/19/21	22		0%	
27	★	Sequence 13 Segment 207	1 day	Tue 2/9/21	Wed 2/10/21			0%	
28	★	site walk	1 day	Tue 2/9/21	Wed 2/10/21	16		0%	
29	★	Sequence 14 Segment 406	1 day	Mon 2/22/21	Tue 2/23/21			0%	
30	★	pole line survey	1 day	Mon 2/22/21	Tue 2/23/21	26		0%	
31	✓	Sequence 15 Segment 104	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
32	✓	Sequence 16 Segment 108	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
33	★	Sequence 17 Segment 412a	1 day	Tue 2/23/21	Wed 2/24/21			0%	
34	★	pole line survey	1 day	Tue 2/23/21	Wed 2/24/21	30		0%	
35	✓	Sequence 18 Segment 412z	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
36	✓	Sequence 19 Segment 105	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
37	✓	Sequence 20 Segment 125	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	
38	✓	Sequence 21 Segment 286	0 days	Mon 1/4/21	Mon 1/4/21			100%	

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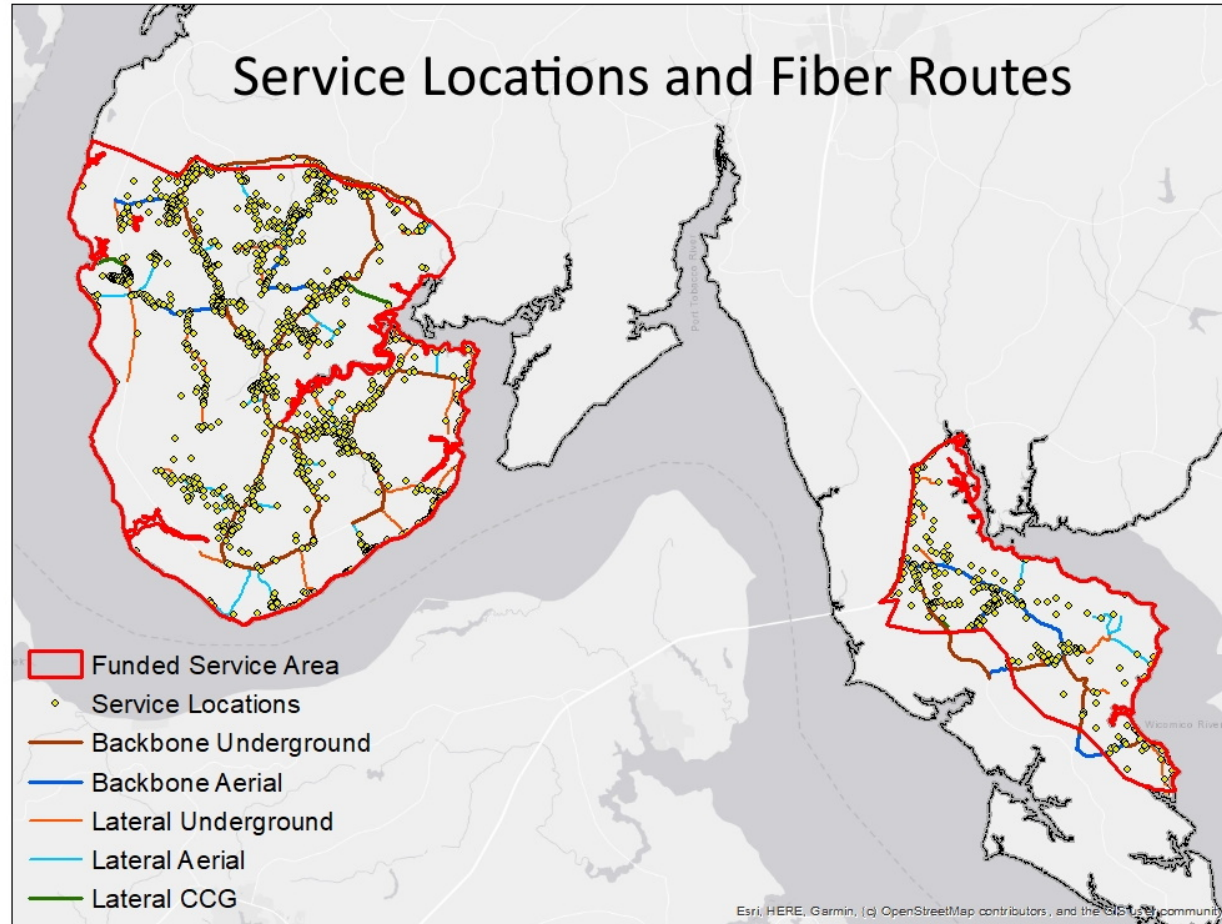
Phases

- ▶ The overall project is sectioned off into 5 phases for each area
- ▶ Construction will occur in both areas simultaneously
- ▶ Points of Presence (POPs) and backbone fiber will be installed first
- ▶ Estimated dates of completion:
 - ▶ Phase 1 - January 18, 2022
 - ▶ Phase 2 - May 30, 2022
 - ▶ Phase 3 - March 8, 2023
 - ▶ Phase 4 - July 10, 2023
 - ▶ Phase 5 - August 29, 2023

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Managing Expectations

- ▶ Aerial installation requires extensive engineering and typically takes longer due to safety requirements, pole replacements, make-ready studies, etc.
 - ▶ SMECO sits on our Task Force and we continue to have a great partnership.
- ▶ Underground installation is faster but may require an easement.
 - ▶ TBN will solicit easements from residents if/when needed.
 - ▶ The County will not be compensating residents for easements.
- ▶ Long-term “surgery” versus short-term “triage”

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Communication Strategy

- ▶ Will send a postcard to all residents in the Nanjemoy & Cobb Neck FSAs
 - ▶ Scheduled to be mailed by the end of February
- ▶ Created a webpage for the project: charlescountymd.gov/ncnbroadband
 - ▶ Will contain project overview, status updates, FAQs, and the signed agreements
 - ▶ Residents can search their address to see if they are in the FSA
- ▶ TBN project website: <http://www.thinkbignets.com/charles-county>
 - ▶ Residents may contact TBN at Fiber4CharlesCounty@thinkbignets.com

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Next Steps

- ▶ Continue to meet with TBN weekly
- ▶ Work with Media Services to overcome communication challenges and manage residents' expectations
 - ▶ Need the Commissioners' help
- ▶ TBN applied for the Community Connect Grant program through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - ▶ If awarded, would further enhance services in Nanjemoy
 - ▶ Awards will be announced in March

Other Broadband Efforts

Updates & Next Steps

- ▶ Expansion of Existing Broadband Networks Funding Program
 - ▶ State grant program targeted at Category 2 households
 - ▶ County partnered with Comcast to apply
 - ▶ Awards will be announced in February
- ▶ Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
 - ▶ Reverse auction program through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
 - ▶ Monitoring deadlines and status updates from winning bidders
- ▶ Continue to research available broadband grants

Questions / Comments



Charles County Government
200 Baltimore Street • La Plata, MD • 301-645-0550
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www.CharlesCountyMD.gov



About Charles County Government

The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility. We support and encourage efforts to grow a diverse workplace. 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.

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.