



Rural Broadband Task Force

May 25, 2021

Deborah E. Hall, CPA, Deputy County Administrator
Evelyn Jacobson, Chief Information Officer

Rural Broadband Task Force Members

- ▶ Deborah Hall & Erica Rizor, County Administration
- ▶ Evelyn Jacobson, Matt Jacobson & Alexa Steen, IT
- ▶ Renesha Miles, Chief Equity Officer
- ▶ Jeffrey Clements, Department of Emergency Services
- ▶ Marcia Keeth & Michelle DeSoto, Economic Development
- ▶ Gina Markovich, Planning & Growth Management
- ▶ Steve Andritz, Charles County Board of Education
- ▶ Thomas Dennison, SMECO
- ▶ Kevin Warring, District 1 Resident
- ▶ Katie Stickle, District 2 Resident

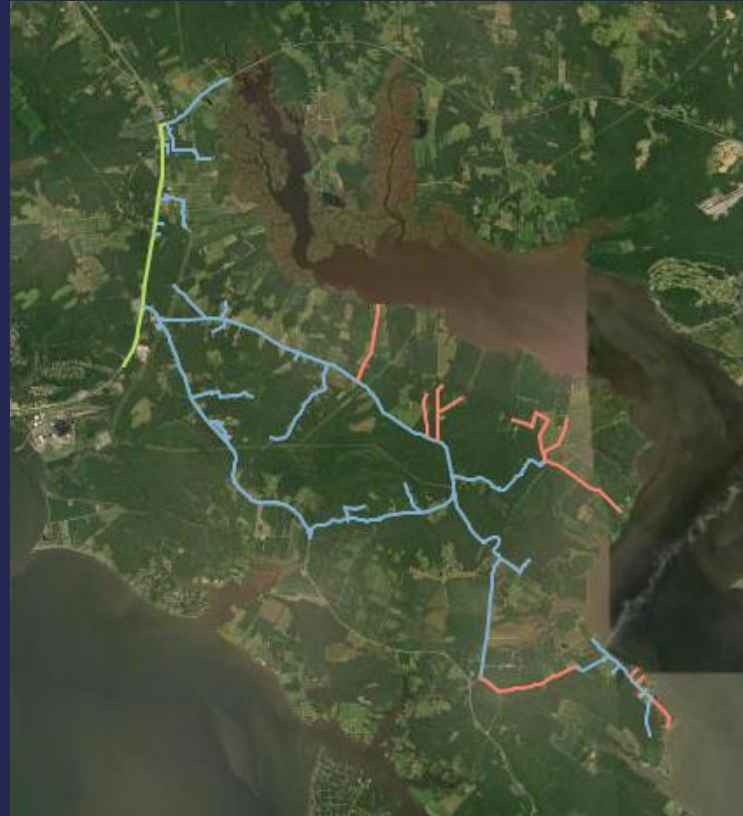


NCN Broadband Buildout Groundbreaking Ceremony



May 25, 2021

NCN Broadband Buildout Progress

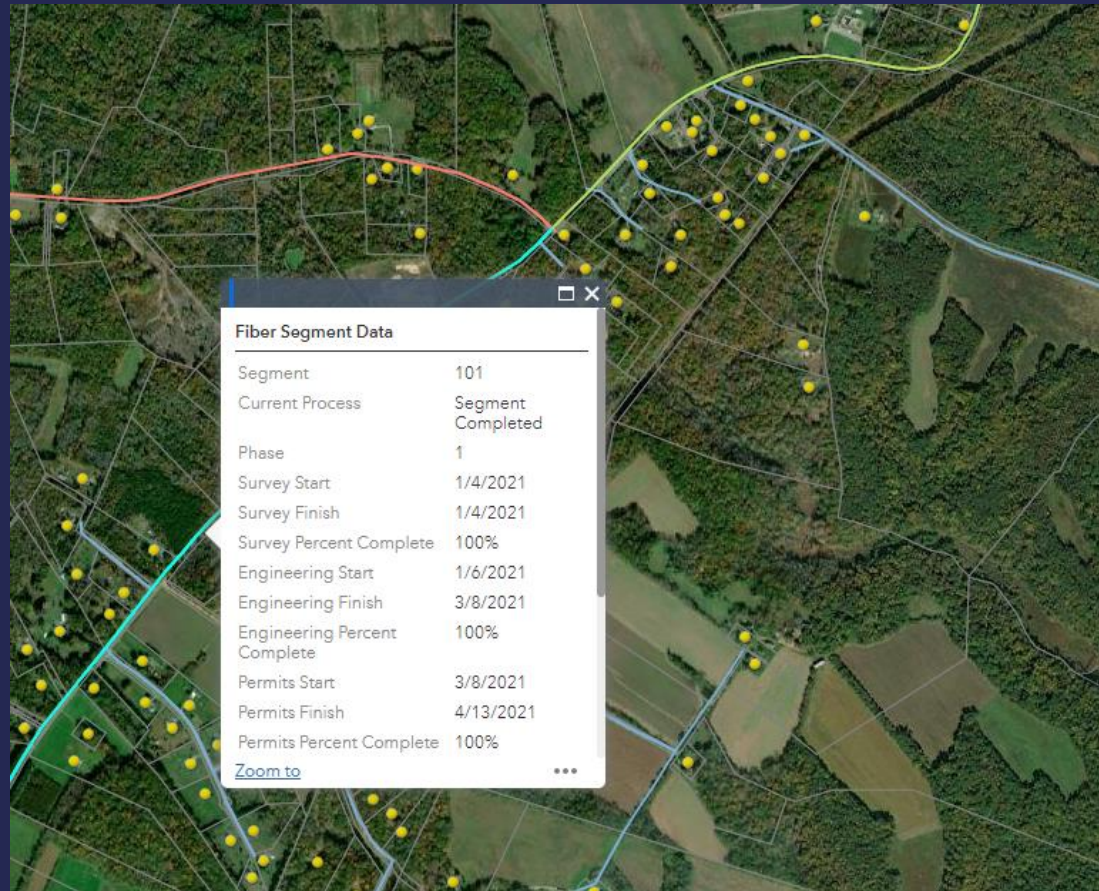


Legend

Fiber Segments

- Not Started Yet
- Surveying
- Engineering
- Permitting
- Material Order
- Construction
- Segment Completed
- Segment Under Review

NCN Broadband Buildout Progress



NCN Broadband Buildout

Progress

- ▶ The build is on schedule - four segments already have fiber in the ground
- ▶ Easements
 - ▶ Cobb Neck - Approximately 35 easements required - Received 20 to date
 - ▶ Nanjemoy - Approximately 200 easements required - Received 15 to date
 - ▶ ThinkBig has held 2 Easements events - one in Cobb Neck and one in Nanjemoy
 - ▶ Some of these easements are critical, meaning they impact the entire build
 - ▶ Additional easements, beyond the approximately 235 above, are desired as it would allow the fiber to be laid underground as opposed to riding SMECO's poles

NCN Broadband Buildout Podcast

Inside Your County Government

NCN Broadband Build Out

APRIL 28, 2021 CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT SEASON 3 EPISODE 17



Inside Your County Government

NCN Broadband Build Out



00:00 | 25:21

LISTEN ON



SHARE EPISODE

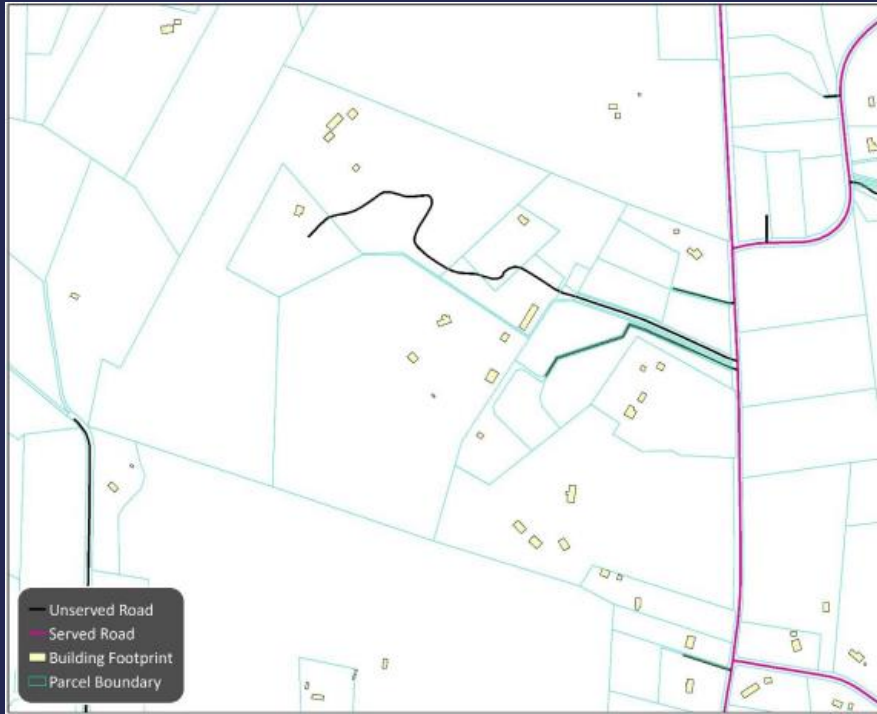


SHOW NOTES

We're talking about the NCN Broadband project. A public-private partnership between Charles County Government and ThinkBig Networks to bring broadband to the Nanjemoy and Cobb Neck areas of the County. The build-out is under way and joining us today to talk about that build-out are:

- **Mark Wagner**, CEO, ThinkBig Networks
- **Dee Anna Sobczak**, COO, ThinkBig Networks
- **Matt Jacobson**, Network Specialist III, Charles County Government

Category 2 Definition



- ▶ Unserved “pockets” in areas where infrastructure exists
- ▶ Pockets do not meet density requirements for the providers that are in the area

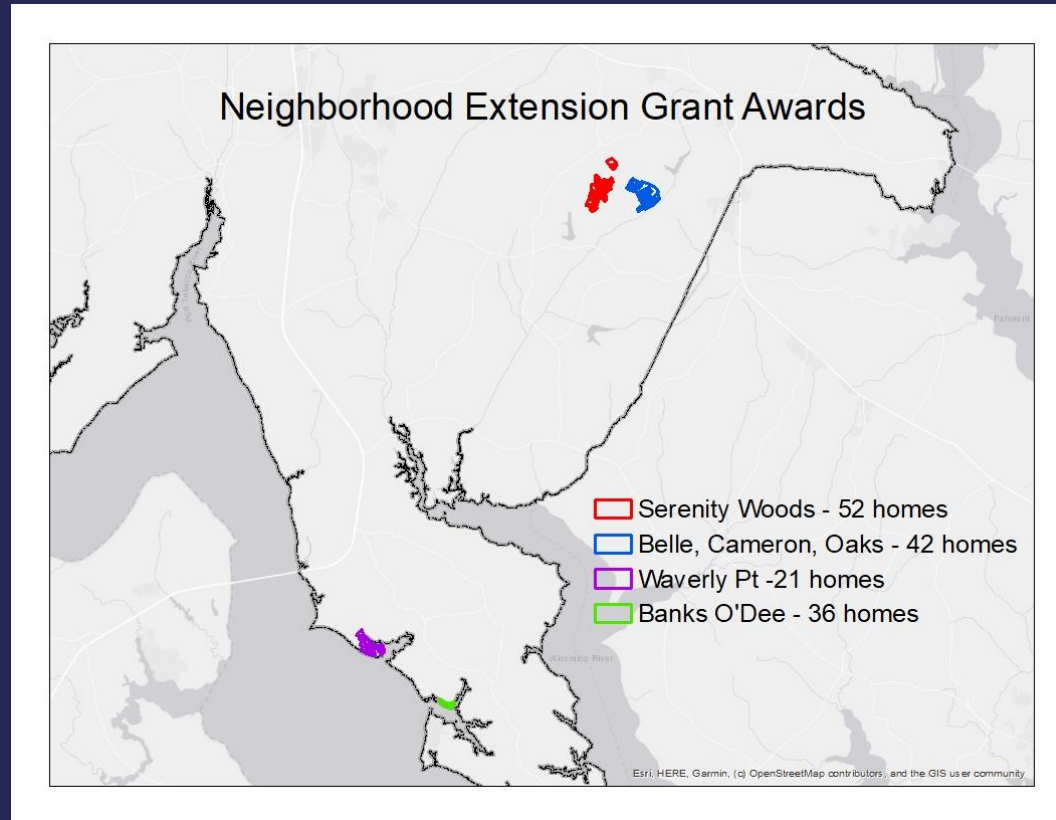
Category 2

Grant Award

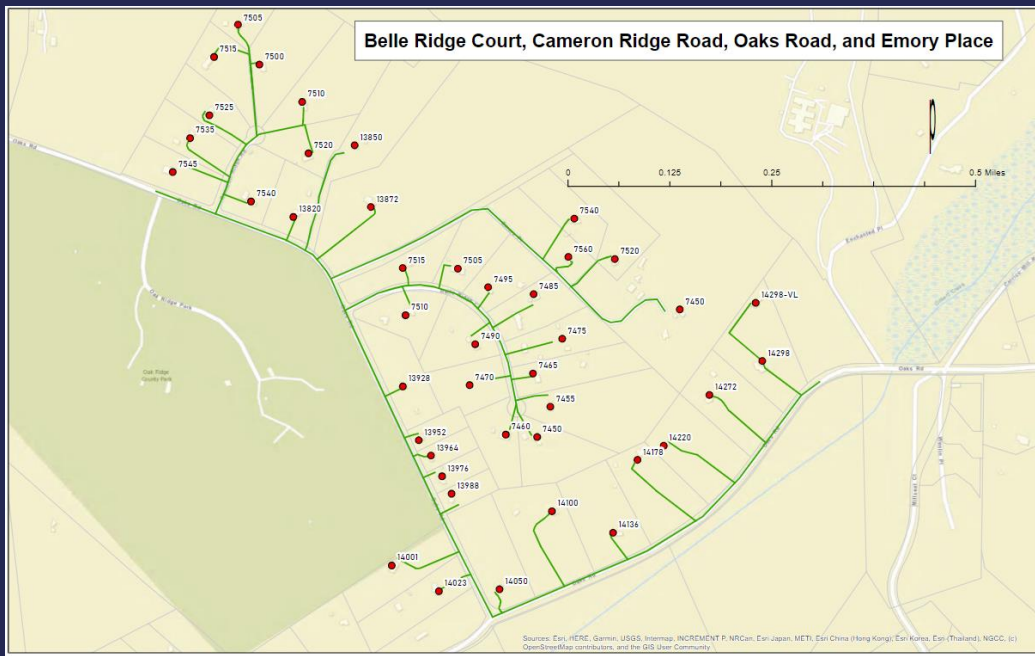
- ▶ The County applied for and received the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband's **Expansion of Existing Broadband Networks** grant.
- ▶ The grant required that the County work with an existing ISP partner for this expansion.
- ▶ Comcast worked with the County to identify Category 2 areas close to their existing infrastructure.
- ▶ Funding is as follows:
 - ▶ State contribution: \$617,294
 - ▶ Comcast contribution: \$178,715
 - ▶ County contribution: \$335,699 - BTR approved by Commissioners on May 4
- ▶ Total number of homes served: 151
- ▶ Neighborhood Broadband Expansion - Category 2 (NBE - Cat2) project

NBE - Cat2

Map of Award Areas



NBE - Cat2 Hughesville



Belle Ridge, Cameron Ridge, Oaks Road
42 homes



Serenity Woods
52 homes

NBE - Cat2

Newburg



Waverly Point Road
21 Homes



Banks O'Dee Road
36 Homes

NBE - Cat2

Current Status

- ▶ The grant requires that the project be completed by December 31, 2022.
- ▶ MOU is being developed between Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband and Charles County.
- ▶ MOU will need to be developed between Comcast and Charles County.
- ▶ Once we have the MOUs in place, we will be able to provide more specific details.

Other Broadband Efforts

Updates & Next Steps

- ▶ Addendum to Broadband Strategic Plan
- ▶ Category 3 efforts

Questions / Comments

May 25, 2021

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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.