



## Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

6382 Main Street

Gloucester, Va. 23061

804.693.5730 • [www.gloucesterva.info](http://www.gloucesterva.info)

---

May 25, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gloria Williams

[gwilliams@gloucesterva.info](mailto:gwilliams@gloucesterva.info)

### **Progress toward wireless broadband expansion of underserved areas continues with Gloucester Mathews VATI Committee**

Despite international and national supply chain issues, fixed wireless broadband equipment is arriving, and the network build is underway. Open Broadband is currently working on the first phase of the local project in both Mathews and Gloucester Counties, outfitting towers with antennas, receivers, and other new technology to help meet distance and speed goals for the internet service.

Much of the legwork of this project is being completed by the Gloucester and Mathews VATI (Virginia Telecommunication Initiative) Committees, which continue to work in tandem to expand broadband in underserved areas, fulfilling all requirements of VATI grant funding. Both localities are working towards ubiquitous broadband access throughout their Counties.

The VATI Committee is made up of stakeholders, County leadership and IT professionals, both inside and outside Gloucester and Mathews Counties, who have helped to guide the application and implementation processes. This grant application was awarded in 2021 and will help build out a new fixed wireless network with North Carolina-based ISP Open Broadband. The grant will expand broadband access to 313 “serviceable units,” including 19 businesses, with 131 addresses located in Gloucester, 2 in Middlesex and 180 in Mathews.

For more information on the VATI Grant, and broadband information in Gloucester County, residents can go to the Broadband Hub at <https://gloucester-broadband-gcgis.hub.arcgis.com/>. Mathews County Residents can go to the Broadband Advisory Board website at <https://www.mathewscountyva.gov/255/Broadband-Advisory-Board>.

Individuals interested in learning more about the services provided by Open Broadband can sign up for their regular updates here: <https://openbb.net/gloucesterco/#service-request>.



***Judy Rowe, Chair of the Mathews Broadband Advisory Board, Eric Beach, Gloucester’s Director of Information Technology, and Noah Davila, Open Broadband Area Manager are discussing the different pieces of equipment. The residential antennas that will be affixed to a home are as small as 11”x11”, shown at the top left by Mr. Beach.***

###