



Gloucester Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

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February 6, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Progress Being Made on Broadband in Gloucester

Gloucester County is making headway on its broadband initiative to connect as many residents as possible. Currently, the County is in the process of connecting those who are completely unserved by Internet providers. Most of these customers are expected to be connected by mid-May of this year.

This portion of the project is being partially funded by a Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant. Customers in this initial phase of the project will be connected via the tower just south of the Gloucester Landfill, via the water tower off Main Street and the American Tower, just east of the county line going into Mathews off Route 14. The project, conducted by Open Broadband, LLC, is designed to provide up to 100/20 Mbps fixed wireless internet to residents and businesses.

Once the unserved residents are connected, the second phase of the broadband project will make broadband available to the rest of the county's residents and businesses. This portion of the project will involve erecting three more towers - two in the Achilles area; and another to serve Ware Neck near Brent & Becky's Bulbs. A fourth location is planned on the existing Verizon tower near Bethel Elementary School.

Construction has not begun on these towers, but site plans have been approved and permitting for them is underway. Eric Beach, Gloucester's Director of Information Technology, who is overseeing the project, expects the remainder of the County will be connected as these additional towers come online, beginning in the Fall of this year.

"We are very excited about the strides we are making in providing affordable broadband service to all of our residents and businesses," said Carol Steele, Gloucester's County

Administrator. “This has been a priority of the Gloucester Board of Supervisors and a much-needed service for our residents and businesses that we have been working diligently to provide.”

Gloucester residents who would like to be placed on the waiting list for receiving broadband service should visit <https://openbb.net/gloucesterco>. More information can also be found by visiting Gloucester’s Broadband Information Hub at <https://gloucester-broadband-gcgis.hub.arcgis.com/> or by calling 804-693-4042.

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