

Virginia Tobacco Commission: Funding Revitalization and Innovation in the Tobacco Region



Southside
Southwest



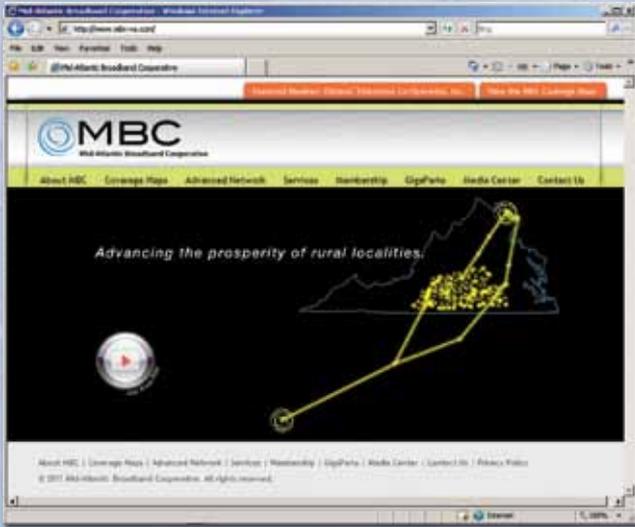
Technology Infrastructure Investment is a Key Component of the Tobacco Commission's Revitalization Plan for the Region

Featured Broadband Providers in the Tobacco Region

- 1. Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative**
Riverstone Technology Park
1100 Confroy Drive, Box 4
South Boston, VA 24592
- 2. Bristol Virginia Utilities**
15022 Lee Highway
Bristol, VA 24202
- 3. LENOWISCO Planning District Commission**
372 Technology Trail Lane, Suite 101
Duffield, VA 24244
- 4. Buggs Islands Telephone Cooperative**
100 Nellie Jones Road
Bracey, VA 23919
- 5. Citizens Telephone Cooperative**
220 Webbs Mill Road
Floyd, VA 24091
- 6. Scott County Telephone Cooperative**
121 Woodland Street
Gate City VA 24251

The Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative

About the Cooperative



The Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC) provides the leadership and technology infrastructure necessary to assist in the economic revitalization efforts of Southern Virginia by providing high-capacity optical transport services on MBC's 800+ mile regional and long-haul network from Atlanta, GA to Washington, DC.

MBC's History

MBC got started with a \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). This grant was matched by the Virginia Tobacco Commission (VTC). The Commission eventually invested \$34 million to enable the completion of the MBC network.

Expanding the MBC Network



In 2010, MBC was awarded two federal broadband stimulus grants. These grants will enable MBC to provide fiber connectivity to 121 K-12 schools in Southern Virginia that do not presently have access to a fiber network. MBC will also be able to build 170 new miles of fiber backbone into rural communities of Eastern Virginia.

The GigaPark Initiative



The VTC has continued to generously support MBC's economic development mission. In 2009, they provided funding for a "GigaPark" branding initiative. GigaParks are business and industrial parks located in the southern and southwestern regions of Virginia with access to advanced broadband connections. Additional VTC funds have allowed for marketing and advertising of the GigaParks, including signage at each park.



Last-Mile Broadband Projects

Since 2009, the VTC has funded two last-mile 50/50 matching grant programs, administered by MBC. The grants, totaling \$2,264,143, were awarded to seven MBC member companies. These grants leveraged an additional \$2.6 million in private sector capital, enabling over 19,460 residential and business customers in various Southern Virginia areas to have access to high-speed Internet services.

Contact Information



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www.gigapark-va.com

BVU Authority

BVU Becomes Municipal Broadband Pioneer. BVU Authority is a public utility company in Southwest Virginia that had the foresight more than 10 years ago to invest in fiber-optic telecommunications technology as a way to impact the economic future of the communities it served. In fact, it was BVU's pioneering spirit that enabled the company to become the first municipal entity in the country to offer the triple play of cable, phone and broadband services over an all-fiber-optic network. Little did its leadership know that BVU would gain international notoriety when – sparked by Virginia Tobacco Commission (VTC) funding and interest from local legislators, governments and economic development groups – the utility expanded its broadband infrastructure 900 miles into eight neighboring counties. That network – called OptiNet and CPC OptiNet in four of the counties – now provides fiber-optic speeds of up to 1 Gbps (gigabit per second) to customers in the city of Bristol and the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington and Wythe, positioning Southwest Virginia for unprecedented economic growth.

Bristol Virginia's new welcome sign touts the city as a national and global technology award winner, thanks to the overwhelming success of OptiNet.



Bristol Virginia is congratulated for being the only U.S. city among the Top 7 finalists in 2009 for the global "Intelligent Community of the Year" honor, sponsored by the Intelligent Community Forum headquartered in New York City.



VTC Funds and Leverages OptiNet Growth. Monetary grant awards of nearly \$40 million from the Virginia Tobacco Commission since 2003 have helped to fund the existing 900-mile OptiNet infrastructure. But, just as important, the VTC also provided needed leverage to attract an additional \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to build CPC OptiNet – a broadband partnership BVU established with Cumberland Plateau Company to serve businesses in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell.

OptiNet Begins Middle-Mile Expansion. As recently as July 2010, the VTC continued its support of OptiNet by providing another \$5 million, facilitating acquisition of a Recovery Act grant of \$22 million from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The monies go toward construction of 388 miles of middle-mile fiber into seven of OptiNet's rural counties. This project paves the way for eventual fiber-to-the-home connectivity across Southwest Virginia. For more information, visit www.bvu-optinet.com.

BVU Authority's headquarters located in Bristol, Virginia – home to OptiNet, the nation's first municipal utility to offer the triple play of cable, internet and phone services via an all-fiber network.



LENOWISCO Rural Area Network

With nearly 500 miles of broadband backbone through its three-county, one-city district, the LENOWISCO Rural Area Network has brought exciting new educational, research and economic development opportunities to the people of far southwestern Virginia.



The Lee Regional Medical Center has operated in Pennington Gap for more than 70 years. The 70-bed facility joined the Wellmont Health System (www.wellmont.org) in 2007. The LENOWISCO network is credited with bringing many benefits of Wellmont's nationally recognized heart program to rural Lee County.

Lee Regional implemented its cardiac telemedicine program in January 2011, and through its relationship with the Wellmont CVA Heart Institute, hosts a cardiologist and a nurse practitioner with cardiac experience on-site certain days of the week. Involving additional cardiac experts as needed via telemedicine has enabled Lee Regional to get patients to appropriate care more quickly.

With its initial focus on cardiology, an area where telemedicine could provide immediate, significant benefit, Lee Regional will use that experience and expertise gained to expand into other service areas.



The University of Virginia's College at Wise is a major regional customer for LENOWISCO high-speed network services. With nearly 2,500 campus network users using commodity Internet services for everything from academic research to streaming video, UVA-Wise relies on fast, redundant and reliable Internet accessibility around the clock.

The secure, high-speed connection to the University in Charlottesville is also crucial for the College's daily administrative system users and datacenter backup operations. The LENOWISCO broadband network affords the high-end network capabilities needed to run the institution effectively and efficiently. This state of the art fiber-optic infrastructure would have been extremely costly for the College to develop and maintain on its own, thus increasing the overall cost of education for its students. With more than 60 percent of its students coming from the LENOWISCO or neighboring Cumberland Plateau districts, the regional broadband network contributes to the affordability of the College to its regional students, and helps the College be a strong and growing academic institution while helping keep tuition and fee costs low for the region's students.



OnePartner's Advanced Technology & Applications Center (ATAC), situated in the Duffield (Scott County) regional industrial park, enjoys designation as the first U.S. company providing outsourced commercial data center services (including colocation and disaster recovery) awarded Tier III Design Certification by the Uptime Institute of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The 9,200 square foot facility is truly world-class, providing its customers with an unparalleled computing environment, suitable for either primary or secondary systems. The Tier III classification is a measure of the facility's reliability of service. With redundant capacity components, multiple independent power distribution paths serving IT equipment, and all IT equipment being dual-powered, a Tier III data center has no single points of failure anywhere in the environment.

OnePartner's (www.onepartner.com) ATAC hosts CareSpark, with all medical records for the entire region. Other organizations from the health care industry relying on the ATAC include Holston Medical Group, Mountain Regional Family Medicine, Spectrum Laboratory Network, and COSEHC (Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control). The data center also houses Onepartner ecoSM, a unique new Electronic Health Record (EHR) cloud infrastructure.

BIT Communications

BIT Communications is the deregulated division of the Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative.

The Wireless Broadband Initiative & Expanding the BIT Network

In 2010, BIT was awarded an NTIA federal broadband stimulus grant and a Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission grant to build a wireless broadband network infrastructure. These grants will enable BIT to provide wireless broadband access to the fifteen county area where Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative has Federal Communications Commission wireless licenses. Those counties are: Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Greensville, Halifax, Isle of Wight, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Prince Edward, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex Counties.

About the Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative

The Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative, founded in 1951, provides quality communications services and products along with rapid deployment of the latest wireless technology and infrastructure necessary to assist in the economic revitalization efforts of south central Virginia.

Cooperative's Vision

BIT is committed to bringing broadband services to the 299,375 people, 102,400 households, 15,100 businesses and 834 community anchor institutions in south central Virginia.

THE BIT & MBC Connection

BIT is a proud, active member of the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative and utilizes MBC's high-capacity optical transport services on MBC's 800+ mile regional and long-haul network. BIT is managed by General Manager Mickey L. Sims and is governed by a nine-member elected Board of Directors.



Wireless Broadband
Web Services
Computer Sales & Services

COMMUNICATIONS

A map of Virginia with the service area highlighted in a darker blue color. The map shows county boundaries and is set against a background of a blue sky with white clouds.

Connections Matter

Serving Central and Southern Virginia

CORPORATE OFFICE
100 Nellie Jones Road
Bracey, Virginia
434.636.2274

TECHNOLOGY STORE
215 S. Mecklenburg Avenue
South Hill, Virginia
434.689.6300

1.888.829.2844

www.bit.coop

Connecting communities for over 50 years...because we CARE!

Citizens Telephone Cooperative (a.k.a. Citizens)



About the Cooperative

Citizens is a regional full service communications provider offering land-line telephone, VoIP, IPTV Video, web and e-mail hosting, DSL, and FTTP (Fiber to the Premise: Business Ethernet and FTTH, Fiber to the Home), serving 7 counties in Southwest Virginia.

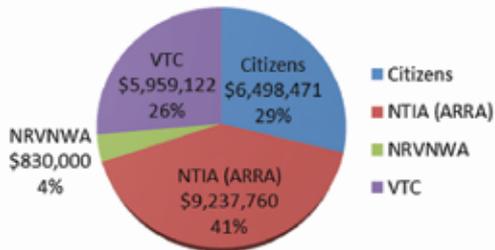
In addition, Citizens operates a 248 mile regional open access fiber network in 6 Virginia counties including 8 industrial parks. Along this network, Citizens provides wholesale transport and Internet bandwidth to a variety of service providers. Citizens is partnering with other open access networks in Virginia like Mid Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC) and Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU) to provide high-capacity optical transport services that are necessary to assist in the economic revitalization efforts of Southwest and Southside Virginia.

History

Citizens has a long history as a rural service provider in Virginia and traces its roots back to 1914. Today, Citizens has made Broadband available to over 95% of the residents and geographic area within Citizens traditional ILEC (Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier) service area.

Expanding the Citizens Open Access Network

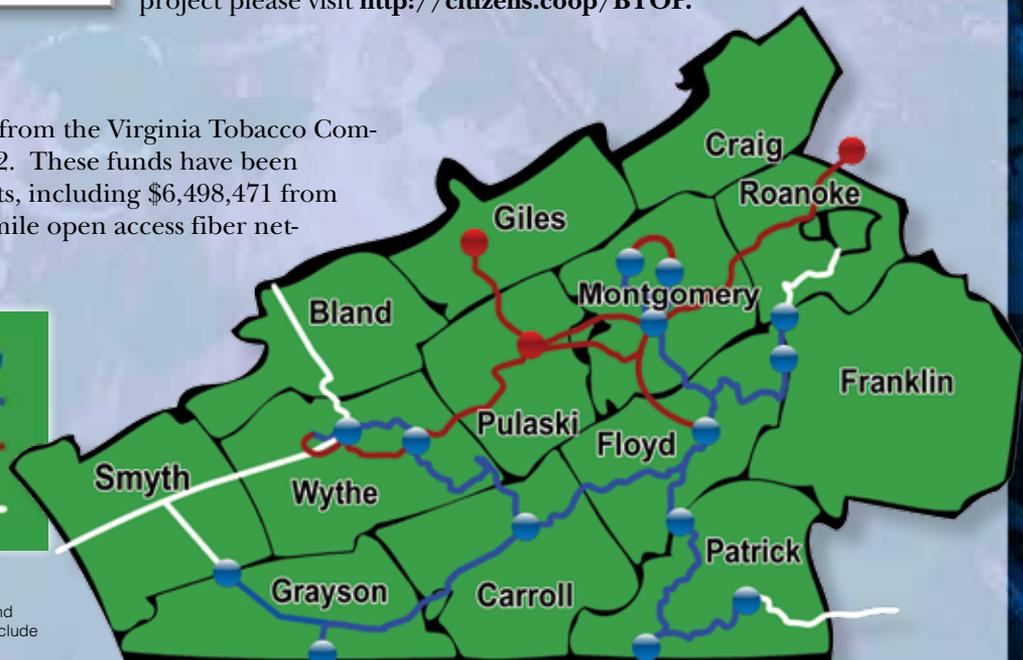
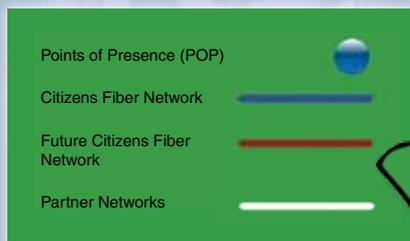
Open Access Fiber Network Total Investment: \$22,525,353



In 2010, Citizens in partnership with the New River Valley Network Wireless Authority (NRVNW) obtained a federal broadband grant from NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) to build an 186 mile middle mile open access network through 7 counties. This project will pass several industrial parks and over 60 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) including over 30 K-12 schools. This expansion will tie into Citizens existing open access fiber network in three locations as well as provide critical diverse connections to Mid Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC) and Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU). This project is scheduled to break ground this summer and will leverage \$396,622 of VTC funds for a project costing \$11,560,803. For more information on this project please visit <http://citizens.coop/BTOP>.

Leveraging VTC grants

Citizens has received three grants from the Virginia Tobacco Commission (VTC) for a total of \$5,959,122. These funds have been leveraged with other funding and assets, including \$6,498,471 from Citizens, to build out a 200Gbps, 434 mile open access fiber network totaling \$22,525,353.



This map is a representation of our fiber backbone and interconnections with partner networks. It does not include distribution fiber, nor does it specify co-location sites.

Scott County Telephone Cooperative



Who We Are

Scott County Telephone Cooperative (SCTC), a “501(c) (12) non-profit organization”, was Chartered by the State Corporation Commission on September 10, 1951 to serve 420.2 square miles of Scott County, Virginia and 15.4 square miles of Hancock County, Tennessee with dial-tone service. Today, SCTC’s service area includes an additional 125 square miles in Scott County, 110 square miles in Russell County and 15 square miles in Wise and Dickenson County. SCTC’s services have been upgraded to provide IP dial-tone, video and broadband services along with long-distance service. The SCTC Board of Director’s vision is to promote economic development by providing high-capacity (400 Gig) optical access and transport to the world along with providing enhanced broadband services that will improve the quality of life in Southwest Virginia.



Network Investments

In 1993, SCTC invested \$8,885,000 from a RUS (Rural Utilities Service) loan to update its digital switching facilities and to construct a 100 mile fiber loop throughout Scott County. In 1998, SCTC invested \$11,105,000 from a RUS loan to enhance this broadband network. SCTC received two Community Connect Grants from RUS in 2003 and 2004 totaling \$1,086,737. Since 2005, the Virginia Tobacco Commission has invested \$6,052,756 to expand and enhance SCTC’s network. SCTC has leveraged this investment to obtain another Community Connect Grant in the amount of \$999,207, a Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) award in the amount of \$24,850,000, and a Technical Assistant Grant in the amount of \$199,920 from RUS.

Network Expansion

SCTC has been able to bring its high-capacity fiber optic network to 385 business customers, 2,932 broadband customers, 3,350 IP video customers, 5,600 IP dial-tone customers, and 1,428 cable customers. SCTC’s present expansion plans will pass an additional 5,000 customers, including 100 new business customers. SCTC’s high-capacity optical transport network extends to the Tri-Cities in East Tennessee to locations in Bristol, Kingsport and Johnson City.

Partnerships and Collaborations

SCTC is working with Mid-Atlantic Broadband to bring high-capacity optical transport to Southwest Virginia. SCTC is a member of the LIT Networks of Virginia and is expanding access for two locations in Scott County to be part of the “GigaPark Initiative”.

SCTC is a partner in IRIS Networks which is a high-capacity optical transport network which covers the State of Tennessee. SCTC will provide connectivity between the LIT Networks of Virginia and the IRIS Network in Tennessee.



GigaParks

AMELIA

Amelia County
Industrial Park

APPOMATTOX

Appomattox Center for
Business and Commerce

BEDFORD

New London Business &
Technology Center
Bedford Center for Business

BRUNSWICK

Brunswick County
Industrial Park
I-85 Business Center Park

BUCKINGHAM

Buckingham County
Industrial Park

CAMPBELL

Dearing Ford Business and
Manufacturing Center
Seneca Commerce Park

CARROLL

Carroll County
Industrial Park
Gardner Industrial Park

CHARLOTTE

Heartland Regional
Industrial Park
Charlotte County Business
and Industrial Park

CUMBERLAND

Riverside Industrial Park
Cumberland Airport Site

DANVILLE

Airside Industrial Park
Cyber Park
Riverview Industrial Park

DICKENSON

Dickenson County
Technology Park

DINWIDDIE

Dinwiddie Airport
Industrial Park
Dinwiddie Commerce Park

EMPORIA

Emporia Industrial Park

FRANKLIN

Franklin County
Commerce Center
Franklin-Rocky Mount
Industrial Park

GREENSVILLE

Greensville County
Industrial Park
Greensville Megasite

HALIFAX

Riverstone Technology
Park
J Aubrey Houghton
Industrial Park
Southside Industrial Park
VIR

HENRY

Martinsville DuPont Site
Patriot Centre Industrial
Park
Commonwealth Crossing
Business Centre

LUNENBURG

Lunenburg Commercentre
Lunenburg Victoria
Industrial Park

MARTINSVILLE

Clearview Business Park
Martinsville Industrial Park
Rives Road Industrial Site

MECKLENBURG

Airport Industrial Park
Boydton Plank Road
Industrial Park

Chase City Industrial Park
Hillcrest Industrial Park
Interstate Industrial Park
Lake Country Business
Park

Northside Industrial Park
Roanoke River Regional
Business Park
Virginia Lakeside
Commerce Park

NOTTOWAY

Blackstone Industrial Park
Crewe Industrial Park
Pickett Park

PATRICK

Patrick County Business
Park
Rich Creek Corporate Park

PITTSYLVANIA

Brosville Industrial Park
Cane Creek Centre
Cherrystone Industrial
Park
Gretna Industrial Park
Hurt Industrial Park
Key Industrial Park
Ringgold East Industrial
Park
Ringgold West Industrial
Park

PRINCE EDWARD

Prince Edward County
Industrial Park

SMYTH

Battleground Industrial
Park
Deer Valley Industrial Park
Mountain Empire
Industrial Park

TAZEWELL

Bluefield Industrial Park
Wardell Industrial Park
Cedar Land Industrial Park
Tazewell Industrial Park

WYTHE

Fairview Industrial Park
Rural Retreat Industrial
Park
Progress Park

*If you would like more
information about locating
a business in one of
the parks listed, please
contact Suzanne Chvala
at the Virginia Economic
Development Partnership
(804) 545-5700
schvala@yesvirginia.org.*

The Virginia Tobacco Commission

Our Mission – Section 3.2-3101, Code of Virginia

“The Commission is established for the purposes of determining the appropriate recipients of moneys in the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Fund and causing distribution of such moneys for the purposes provided in this chapter, including using moneys in the Fund to (i) provide payments to tobacco farmers as compensation for the adverse economic effects resulting from loss of investment in specialized tobacco equipment and barns and lost tobacco production opportunities associated with a decline in quota and (ii) revitalize tobacco dependent communities.”

Contact

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