Organization:	Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc.
Project Name:	Allegheny Fiber: Extending Virginia's Open Access Fiber Backbone to the Ridge and Valley
Project Type:	Infrastructure
State(s):	Virginia
Federal Award:	$5,540,000

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Virginia Tech Foundation (VTF) proposes to construct a 110-mile open access fiber-optic network between Blacksburg in Montgomery County to Bedford City in Bedford County in its Allegheny Fiber Project. VTF is partnering with Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC) to extend the Cooperative's fiber-optic footprint to unserved and underserved communities in the Appalachian region. The resulting network would cross six counties in Virginia's Appalachian region and provide direct high-speed connections to Virginia Tech's main campus in Blacksburg and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke. Improved capacity and speed will enhance the ability for both institutions to collaborate on cutting-edge medical and other scientific research with institutions in the United States and abroad. The project proposes network speeds from 10 Gbps to 200 Gbps and could offer point-to-point, private line services ranging from 10Mbps through 10Gbps.

The Allegheny Fiber project also plans to:

- Spur affordable broadband service to local consumers, potentially including up to 98,500 households, nearly 5,400 businesses, and 128 anchor institutions, by enabling more than 30 Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.

- Establish three active interconnection points for the communities of Newport, New Castle, and Bonsack.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Virginia Tech Foundation, established in 1948, provides community and economic development, and advances Virginia Tech's academic, outreach, and research programs by providing financial support, and implementing strategic initiatives. The Foundation plans to partner with the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC) to connect with and extend the existing fiber network. MBC plans to design, build, and operate the proposed network in collaboration with more than 30 last-mile service providers. MBC, a not-for-profit organization, has experience in bringing advanced broadband services to the region's residents, businesses, hospitals, and school systems since 2004. Currently, more than 55 telecommunications providers have joined MBC's cooperative and use its established 800-mile network. As a middle mile service provider, MBC offers a number of capabilities critical to the success of this project including its Network Operations Center in South Boston, established operational support systems, and a proven track record in network construction.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute
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Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

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DISCLAIMER
This map serves for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect precise coverage areas or network lines.

Legend:
- Proposed Network
- Existing Network
- Proposed Coverage Area