BROADBANDUSA
CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

Organization:	**Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative – Southern Virginia**
Project Name:	**Middle Mile Expansion for Southern Virginia**
Project Type:	**Infrastructure**
State(s):	**Virginia**
Federal Award:	**$16,044,290**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Middle Mile Expansion for Southern Virginia project proposes to add 465 miles of new fiber to an existing 800-mile fiber network, focused on directly connecting 121 K-12 schools, a majority of which are in unserved and underserved areas of southern Virginia. The expanded fiber network expects to improve connection speeds for these schools from 1.5 Mbps to at least 10 Mbps, with a goal of 100 Mbps. The new fiber connections are expected to allow these schools, many in isolated areas, to take advantage of distance learning and virtual classroom opportunities. The service area includes 12 counties in Southern Virginia, and includes the cities of Danville, Emporia, and Martinsville near the North Carolina border.

The Middle Mile Expansion for Southern Virginia project proposes to:

- Improve broadband access for more than 58,000 elementary and high school students.

- Spur affordable broadband service to local consumers by enabling more than 30 Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.

- Benefit public safety agencies by providing access to the open network to improve emergency coordination and services.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC), a not-for-profit organization, was established in 2004 as an independent broadband cooperative to promote economic development in Southern Virginia. MBC's broadband initiatives are responsible for developing more than 2,200 jobs and attracting $300 million of investment to the region, including a Network Operations Center in South Boston. MBC has experience in bringing advanced broadband services to the region's residents, businesses, hospitals, and school systems. Currently, more than 55 telecommunications providers have joined MBC's cooperative. MBC has agreements in place with several local companies certified under Virginia's Small, Women and Minority Certification program. The International Telecommunications Union recognizes MBC as a model open access network.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Better Cable Systems, Inc.
- GCR Communications, Inc.
- KimbaNet, Inc.
- RACO, Inc.
- Telephone Engineering Consultants

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

ABOUT THE PROJECT

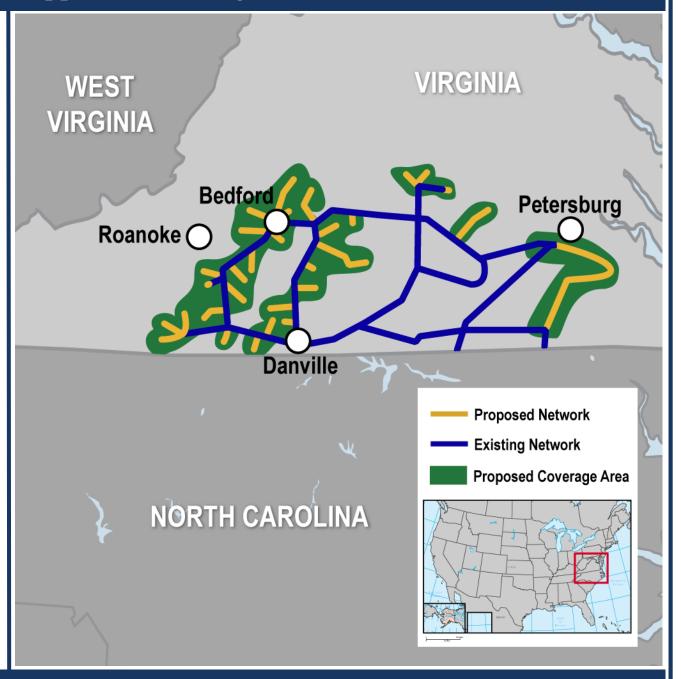|	
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DISCLAIMER
This map serves for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect precise coverage areas or network lines.

An executive summary of this application can be found in the Application Database on *www.broadbandusa.gov*.

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