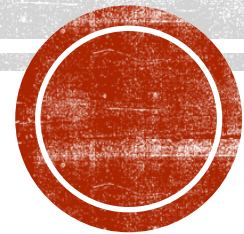


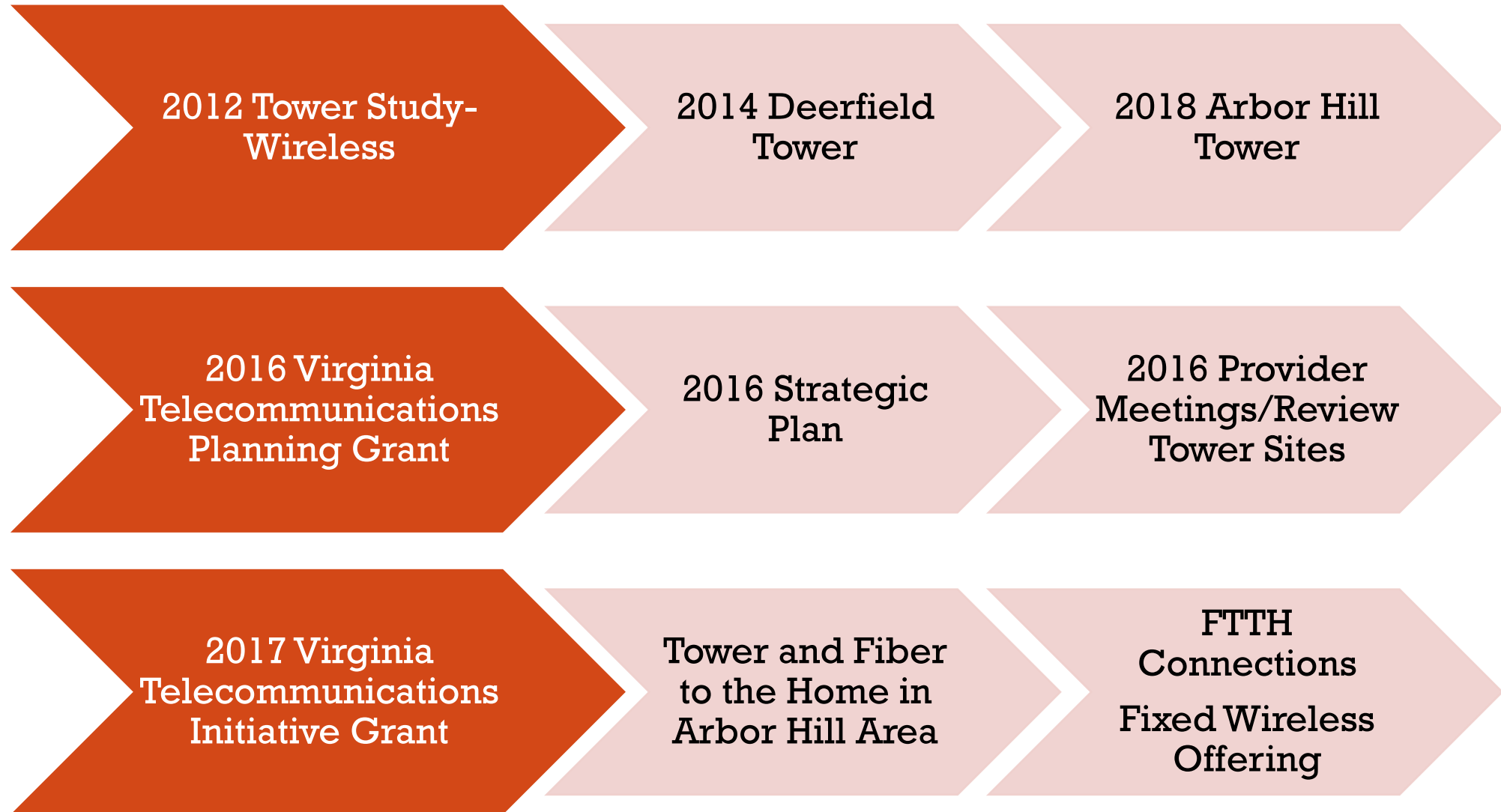
AUGUSTA INTERNET INITIATIVE

Board of Supervisors Update

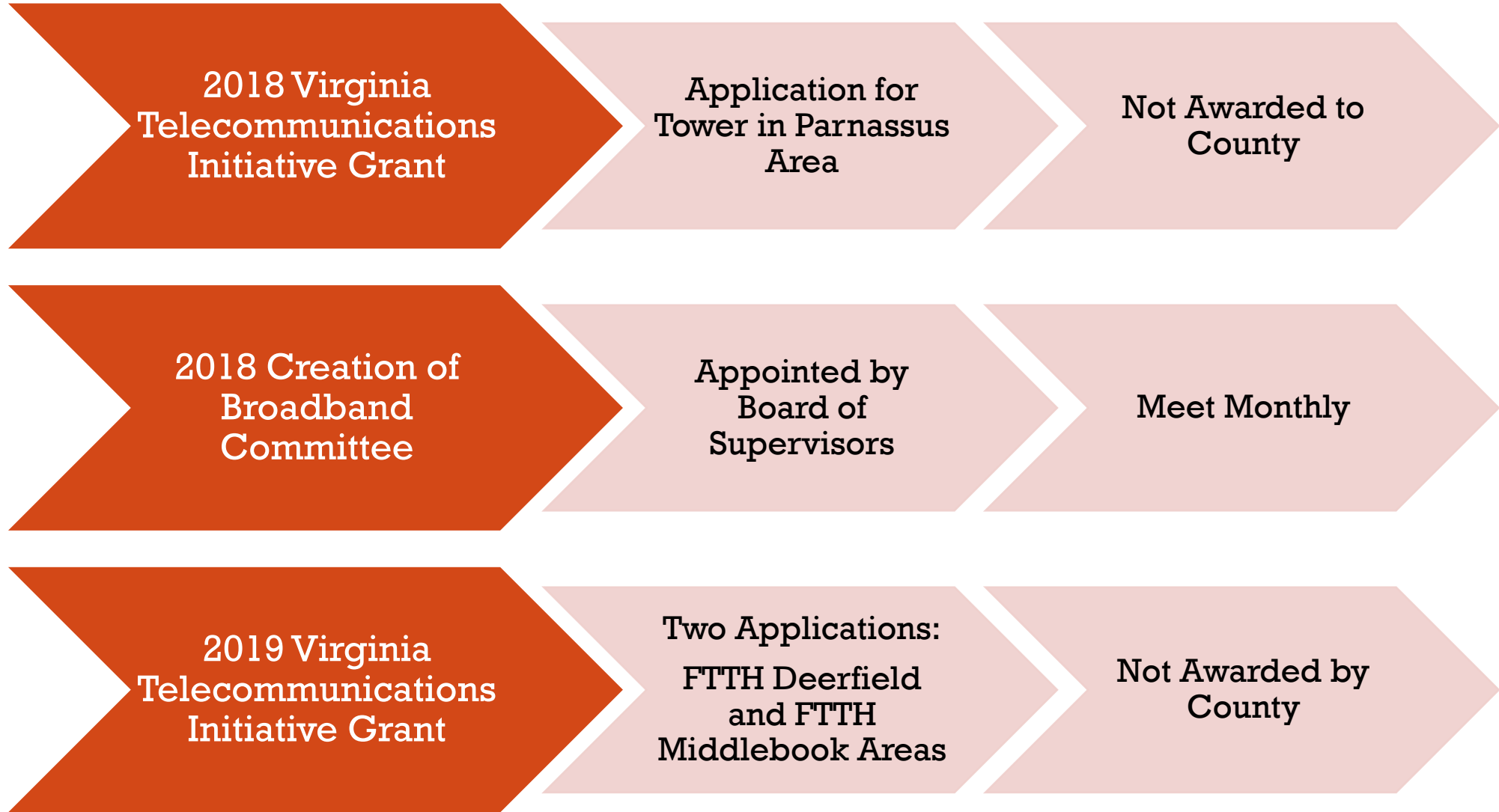
September 23, 2020



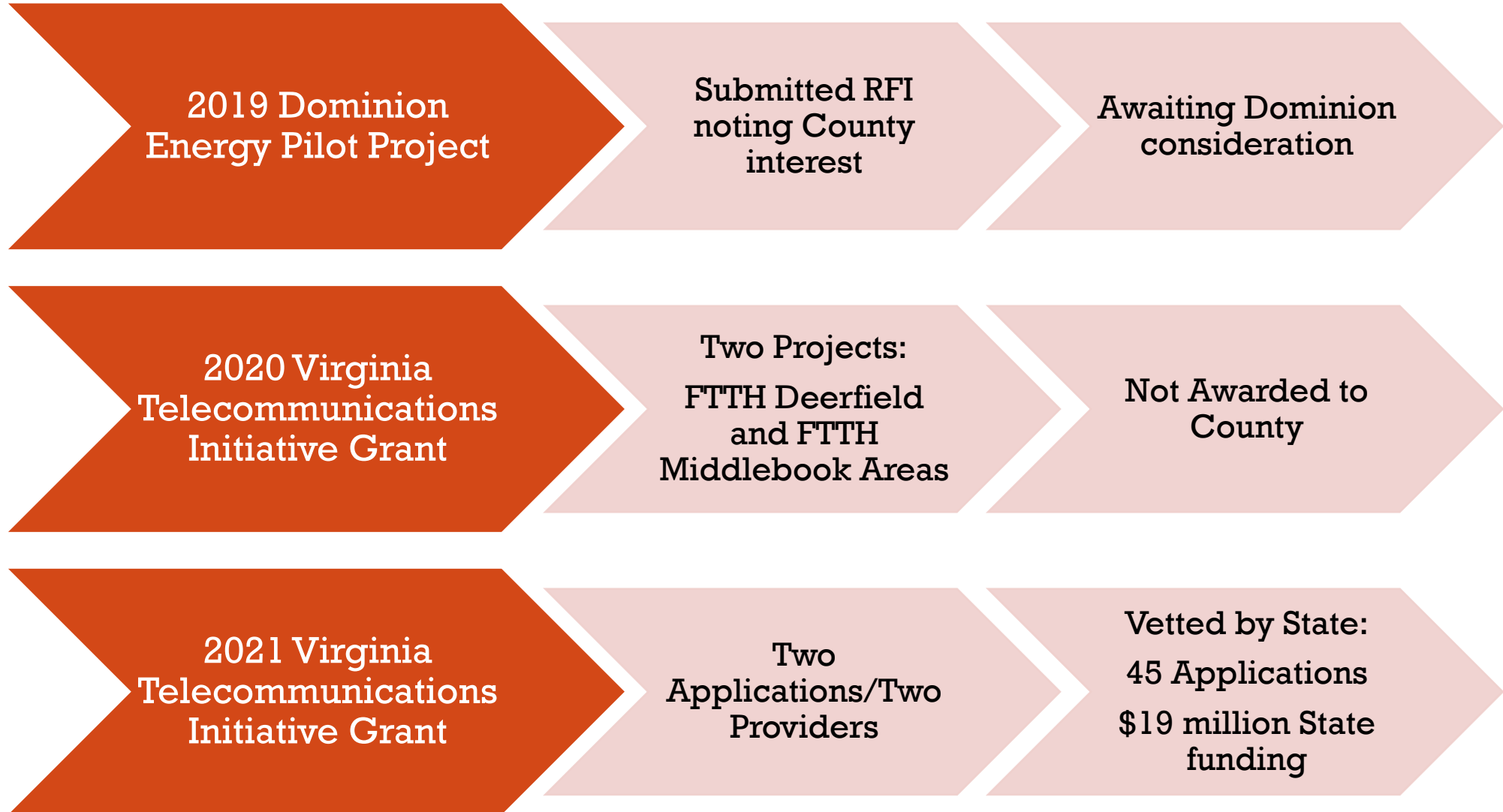
TIMELINE



TIMELINE (CONTINUED)



TIMELINE (CONTINUED)



AUGUSTA COUNTY CHALLENGES

- 967 Square Miles w/ Population ~75,000
- 43% of Parcels in Augusta are 2+ Acres (Very Low Density)
- Rolling Hills make Wireless Challenging
- Low Housing Density Increases Network Build Costs
- Making ROI Less Competitive for Private Investment



GRANT COMPETITION CHALLENGES

- Provider Coverage Data
 - Self Reported
 - Coarse Grained for Low Density – by Census Block
 - Inaccurate – Coverage is Often Over Reported
- Provider Competition
- Procurement Requirements and Scoring
 - Non-Coverage Verification is Labor Intensive
 - Low Density puts us at a significant Disadvantage



DENSITY EXAMPLE





**Crawford Manor
High Density Neighborhood**

**~ 170 Homes, Small Parcels
Not a Challenge to Network
Already Served**

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. The landscape is dominated by large, green, undeveloped parcels. Scattered throughout are several houses, mostly with light-colored roofs. A network of roads is visible, including Morris Mill Rd, Fairview Ln, and Belle Vista Dr. The overall impression is one of a less dense, more rural or suburban setting.

Belle Vista
Less Dense Neighborhood

~38 Homes

Larger Parcels make Connections more Expensive

Belle Vista

Several Road Miles from Existing Networks

4.5 Road Miles

3.5 Road Miles

Network Build Cost
~\$60k per mile
(based on \$12/ft)





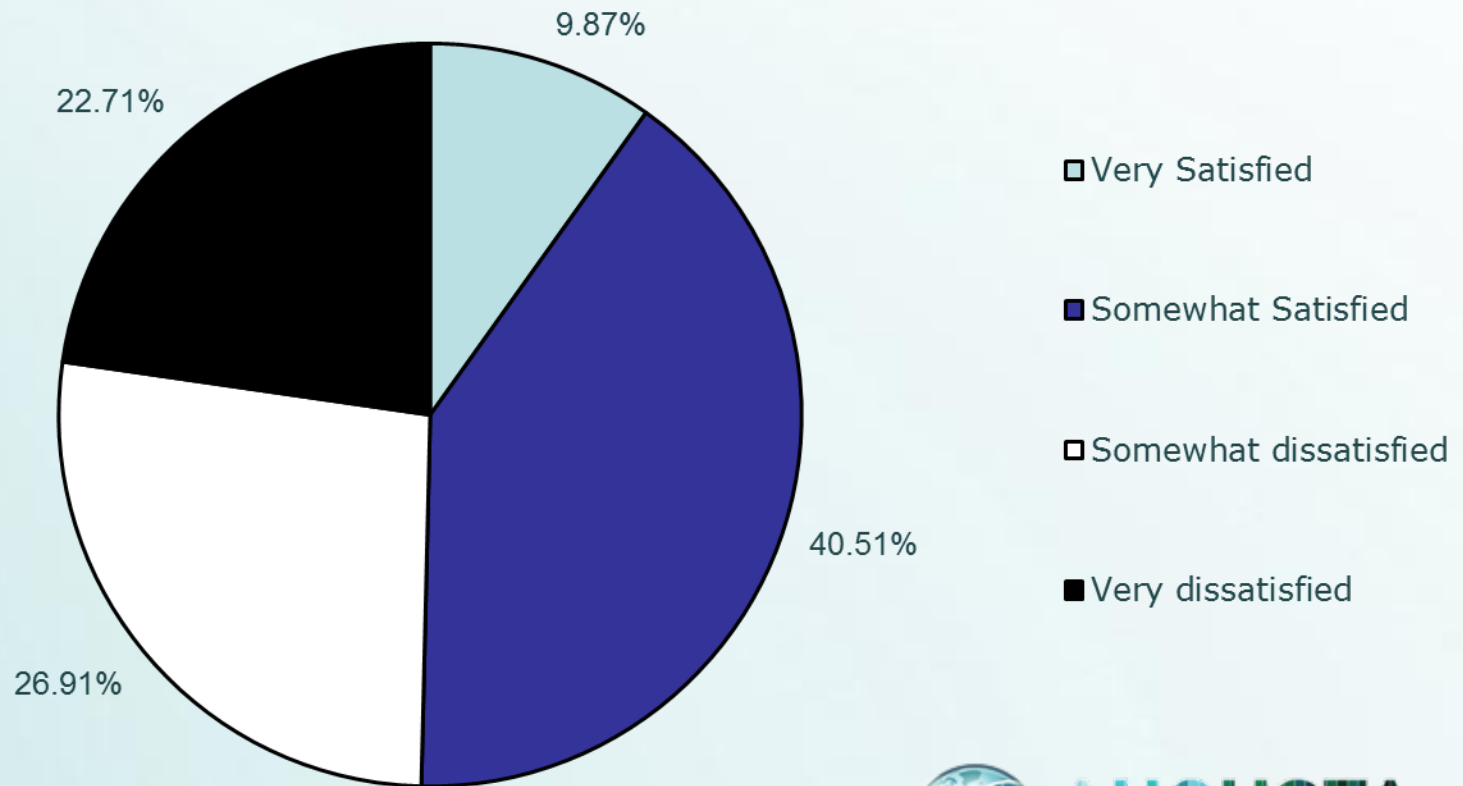
Survey Highlights:

- Majority of end-users using:
 - Cable Modem (co-axial or fiber) 22.5%
 - Cellular service or mobile card 20.0%
 - DSL 19.0%
 - Wireless (from service provider, not home network) 16.2%
 - Satellite or Microwave (dish) 11.3%
- When Rating Current Speed of Connection:
 - 46.3% Somewhat or Very Dissatisfied
- The major reasons for Internet dissatisfaction:
 - Bandwidth 62.1%
 - Price too high 52.2%.
 - Unreliable service 31.7%



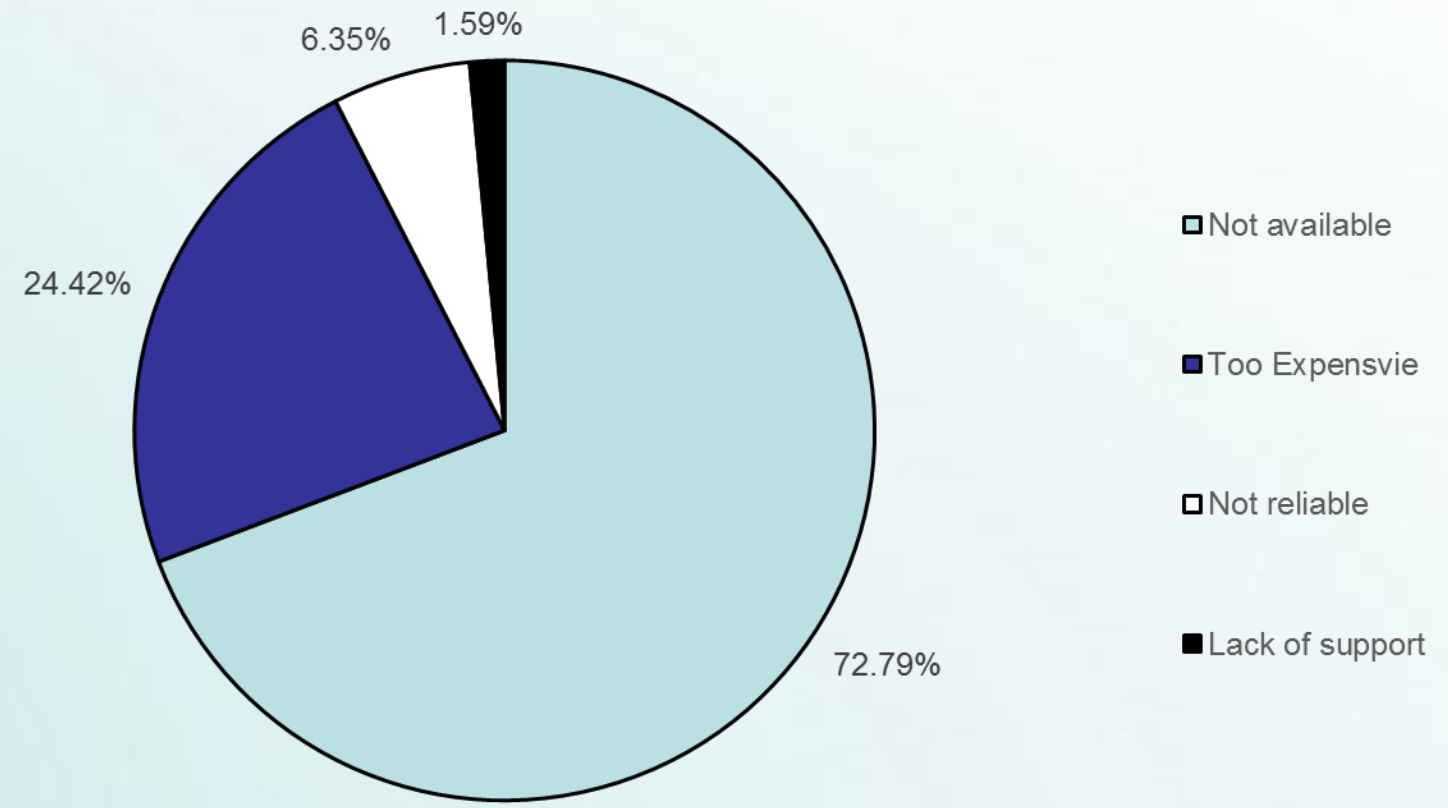
Overall Satisfaction:

How would you describe your overall satisfaction with your current Internet service?



If you do not subscribe to a high-speed internet service, why not?

1040 answers



CURRENT STATUS

- **2021 VATI Grant Proposal Submitted**
 - **Could Improve Service in Deerfield, Morris Mill, Fort Defiance and Middlebrook if Awarded**



DIRECTION

- Public-private partnerships with providers to extend coverage to areas of need



THANK YOU & QUESTIONS

