

Connecting the Commonwealth: *Field Notes from Virginia's Broadband Build Out* September 2025

The Virginia Office of Broadband joined Campbell County officials and Shentel, a Virginia-based broadband provider, on a site tour in July to see the progress of their joint VATI broadband expansion project, which seeks to better connect Campbell County to



reliable, high-speed internet. Since construction began in April 2023, almost 300 miles of fiber have been built, paving the way for customers to access gigabit connection speeds.

“Campbell County is excited by the progress Shentel has made in making broadband internet available to so many underserved households and businesses in the county,” says Paul E. Harvey, Assistant County Administrator for Campbell County. “The collaboration on the VATI project is noteworthy and is resulting in a tangible benefit to many of our citizens.”

Currently, 89% of the project’s homes and businesses now have access to high-speed internet, connecting

hundreds of homes, businesses, and community anchors and ensuring that no community is left behind.

This project is on schedule to wrap up this month, and Campbell County is on the verge of unprecedented connectivity.

“Shentel is proud to have partnered with Campbell County and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to expand high-speed broadband access through the VATI program,” says Dan Meenan, Vice-President of Operations at Shentel. “With deep roots in Virginia and a long-standing commitment to serving rural communities, we have worked hard to expand to previously unserved areas of Bedford, Campbell, Franklin, and Shenandoah Counties. The municipal leadership in each of these counties has also been incredibly supportive and collaborative throughout the

process, and their dedication to improving connectivity for their residents has made a meaningful impact.”



Reliable, high-speed internet access is a prerequisite for full participation in modern life. In Campbell County, this expansion will open doors to telehealth services, precision agriculture, remote work, online education, and growth opportunities for small businesses.

“It’s one of the first questions people ask when they’re thinking about moving here,” said a local realtor DHCD had the opportunity to interview: “What’s the internet like? They’ll tour the property, then immediately check cell service and internet availability. I’ve seen how much more excited buyers are about a home when they know they can get reliable service. The people contacting me from Shentel are local, community-oriented, and genuinely

helpful.” Broadband build-out projects like this one help families, professionals, and retirees feel confident about making Campbell County and the Commonwealth their home.

The Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) funds partnerships to extend broadband service to unserved areas across the state by preparing communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure with the goal of creating strong, competitive, and connected communities. The program is crucially supported by Governor Youngkin and the General Assembly and is administrated by the Office of Broadband at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Campbell County is also partnering with Firefly Fiber Broadband and RiverStreet Networks in other areas of the county to deliver high-speed internet access. Residents can learn more about the status of these projects in their communities by visiting DHCD’s VATI Dashboard [here](#).