



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA

Loudoun Got Its \$17 Million VATI Grant!

Dear Catoctin residents,

We have some great news on the broadband front: Loudoun County just [secured its \\$17 million VATI grant](#) to help extend broadband into un- and underserved parts of the county! This funding is going to extend a fiber to the home solution to 8,629 locations in the county, and will help us close some of those hard-to-solve gaps in Loudoun's broadband coverage.

I've written a short press release with details about the VATI grant—you can read the whole thing below. If you'd like to learn more about the fiber expansion, including location eligibility, project timeline, and service details, check out the [Loudoun County Broadband Expansion Website](#). Finally, if you live in an area where this fiber expansion is going, *please* register your address on the [All Points Broadband website](#) to make sure you're included in the fiber network.



Image Credit: [Photo](#) of typing on a laptop, by [Pexels](#) / [Pixabay](#)

My Press Release on the VATI Grant

Leesburg, Virginia, December 14, 2021 – Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner (R–Catoctin District) issued the following statement regarding the \$17 million VATI Grant awarded to Loudoun County on December 13, 2021.

“The VATI grant and Loudoun’s partnership with All Points Broadband, Dominion, and NOVEC is an absolute game changer for Western Loudoun County residents who have suffered without adequate broadband connectivity for too long. Loudoun finally has a real fiber to the home solution that will cover 8,629 underserved or unserved Loudoun County locations.

If it weren’t for COVID-19, I’m not sure we would be talking about this solution today. COVID exposed how dire the situation had become in Western Loudoun. It didn’t take much to see how Western Loudoun residents were struggling. Normal routines and the rhythm of daily life were turned upside down. Students couldn’t even log on to participate in distance learning. Many sat in a car in the parking lot of a school or library during class. Parents and residents couldn’t telework, patients had no ability to connect with their doctors online, and some of our rural businesses couldn’t process transactions.

It occurred to me that this was the opportunity to try to get the broadband issue solved once and for all. I introduced the [Emergency Broadband Implementation Plan](#) on September 15, 2020, along with Chair Randall and Supervisor Buffington. This five-point plan built upon the work of prior Boards leveraging off the dark fiber network built by Segra. The fifth point directed staff

to identify additional solutions to deploy critical broadband to underserved areas of Loudoun County. After receiving unsolicited responses, the [Board on July 20, 2021](#) authorized the County Administrator to submit an FY 2022 VATI grant application, in partnership with All Points Broadband, for the extension of broadband into the western unserved portions of the County.

Now that we've secured this grant, the next step is to deploy the fiber to Loudoun homes as soon as possible. The next 12-15 weeks will be spent on business and legal contract issues to receive the grant, followed by equipment orders and construction. Work is expected to begin this summer and should take 24-30 months to reach all locations in the project area.

It's critically important for interested customers to register their locations on the [All Points Broadband website](#) so they can be included in the fiber network—that's the only way to register for the project. Additional information about this new fiber expansion, such as location eligibility, project timeline, and service details, can be found on the [Loudoun County Broadband Expansion Website](#).

This entire effort would not have been possible without the great work of Western Loudoun's previous Supervisors Geary Higgins and Janet Clarke, my colleague Tony Buffington, and Communications Commissioners Kevin Knoll, Mark Foster, and Tim Dennis. Our county staff, my office staff, and our partners at All Points Broadband, Dominion, NOVEC, and the Office of the Governor also deserve a great deal of thanks for their unwavering dedication to solving this problem for Western Loudoun."

Sincerely,

Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner

*Catoctin District Supervisor
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
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