



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Partners for Better Communities

DHCD - Office of Broadband

September Commonwealth Connect Coalition Meeting

September 16, 2021

Agenda

- VATI Application Updates and Statistics
- VATI Challenge Requirements & FOIA Exemption
- Accepted Data Formats and GIS Best Practices
- Rebuttal Best Practices
- Office of Broadband Updates and Upcoming Programming

VATI Application Statistics

- **57** applications representing **84** localities (unduplicated)
 - 52 Wireline
 - 5 Wireless or Wireless/Wireline-Wireless Hybrid Applications
- Total Requested: **\$943,300,424**
- Total Matching Funds: **\$1,159,125,288**
- **26** Applications where Matching Funds exceed Funds Requested
- **Approximately 300,000** proposed passings
 - Subject to change due to the FCC finalization of RDOF awards
 - Subject to change through the challenge process
 - Final number to be determined after passings forms corrected and clarified

VATI Application - Key Dates

- **September 21** – DHCD Posts Applications on VATI Website
- **October 21** – Challenges Due
- **October 28** – DHCD Notifies Challenged Applicants
- **November 18** – Deadline for Challenge Rebuttals
- **December 3** – DHCD Notifies All Parties of Challenge Determination
- **Late December** – Anticipated Announcement of Awards

VATI Challenge Requirements - Attachments

- A signed and notarized affidavit affirming information is true
- Current Form 477 or equivalent
- Minimum/maximum speeds available
- Number of serviceable units and with speeds those serviceable units can receive
- Street level data of units receiving service within the proposed project area
- If challenging due to planned state or federal funding, documentation detailing commitment to provide service in or adjacent to the proposed project area.
 - Polygon shapefiles of those funded areas
- Wireless providers must also note if the bandwidth is dedicated or shared in challenged area

FOIA Exemption

- Information submitted with challenges are eligible for FOIA exemption
- Letters requesting FOIA exemption MUST be submitted before materials are sent
- **Do not include the confidential materials in the FOIA exemption request.**
- More details listed in program guidelines.

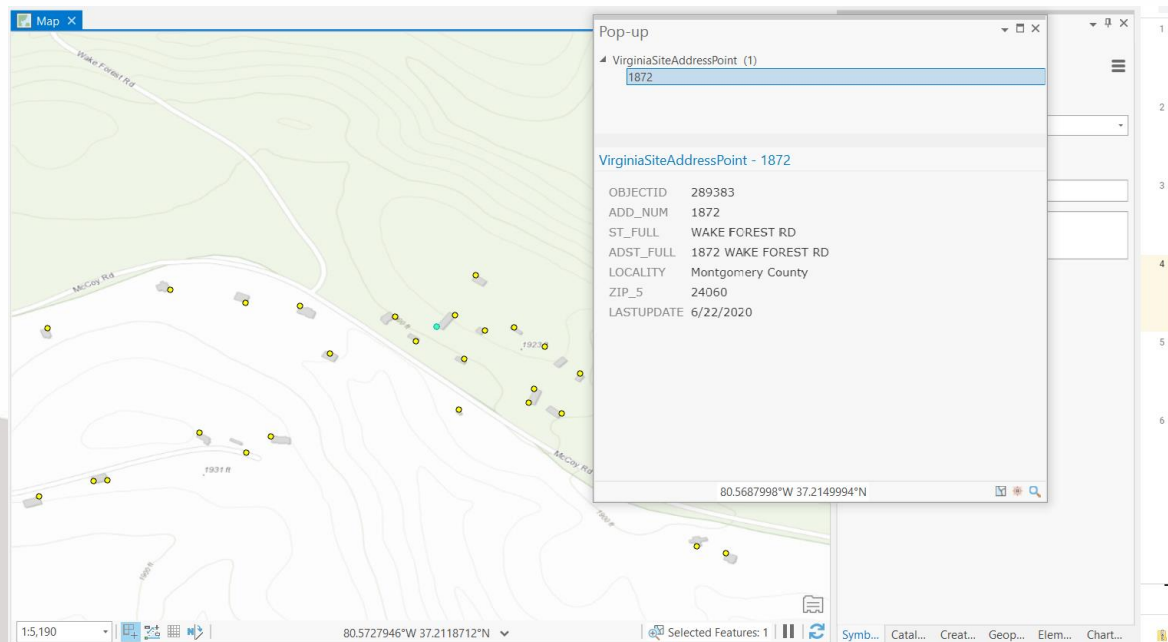
Challengers wishing to receive FOIA exemption must request exemption directly to vati@dhcd.virginia.gov, detailing the nature of the requested material.

VATI Challenge Requirements - Mapping

- Street level data of serviceable addresses within the proposed project area:
 - Point shapefiles that show each passing in the challenged area, designated by a singular mapped point, in the challenged area containing attribute data showing the addresses of and speeds available at each point.
 - Polygon shapefiles delineating the general challenged area(s).
- For wireless providers: Heat maps indicating received signal strength indicator (RSSI) in the challenged area.
- Using the project area map submitted by the applicant, create a map indicating where the challenger's serviceable units are located in the proposed project area. Challengers are encouraged to submit additional maps and information if necessary.

Point Shapefiles

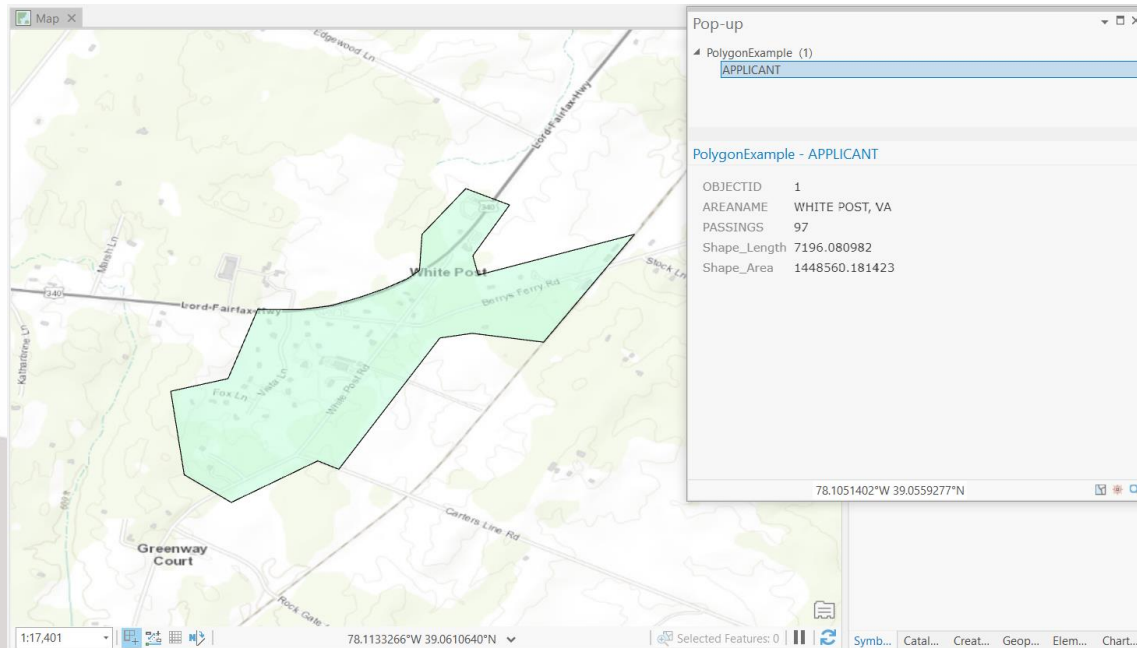
“Point shapefiles that show each served address in the challenged area, designated by a singular mapped point, in the challenged area containing attribute data showing the addresses of each point”



- Need to be able to see address/location and speeds
- Best practice is to clip served address points to the project area polygon

Polygon Shapefiles

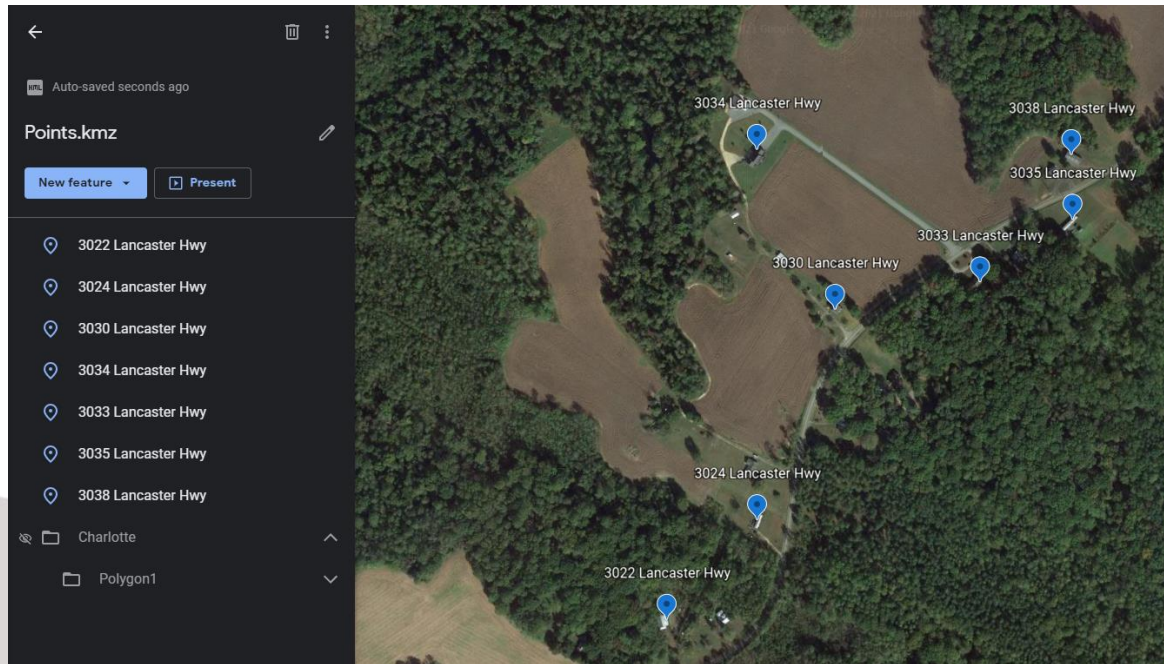
“Polygon shapefiles delineating the general challenged area(s)”



- These can be general
- Preference for summary of area contents in attributes showing number of served addresses in area and speeds present

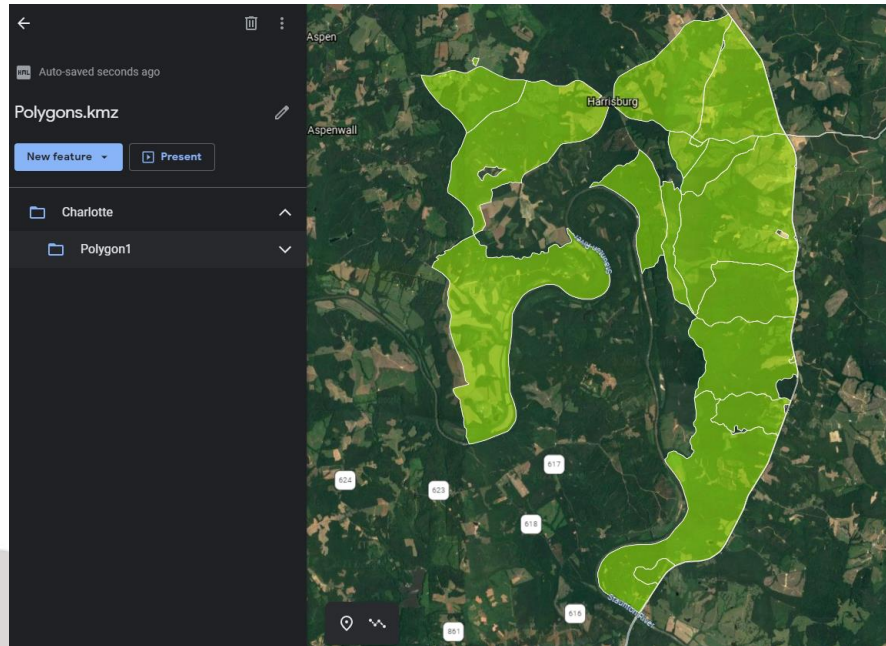
Point KML Files

Should follow the same guidelines as shapefile counterparts - “Show each served address in the challenged area, designated by a singular mapped point, in the challenged area containing attribute data showing the addresses of each point”



Polygon KML Files

Should follow the same guidelines as shapefile counterparts - “Delineating the general challenged area(s)”



CSV Files

Still need to include point information - address (or coordinates) and speeds

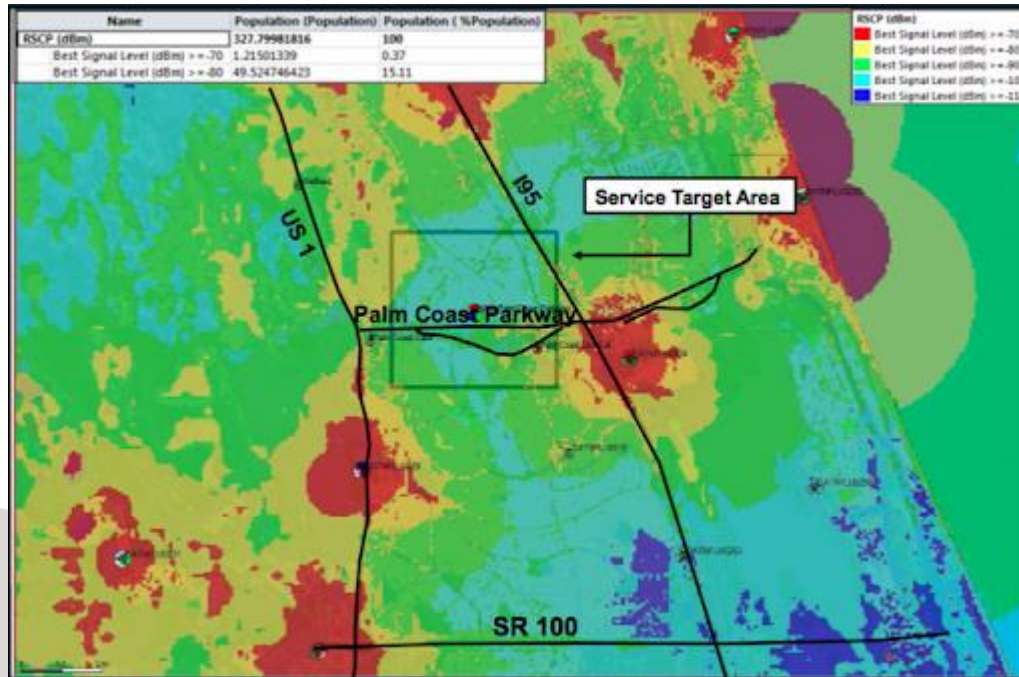
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	Fund	Company Name	Deployment Address	Deployment City	Deployment State	Deployment Year	Locations	Download/Upload Speed	Deployment Year	Census Block	Latitude	Longitude	SAC	
2	ACAM	CITIZENS TEL COOP	598 BURKS FORK RD SV	WILLIS	VA	24380	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2019	5.11E+14	36.8434	-80.4834	190225	
3	ACAM	CITIZENS TEL COOP	2057 SUNNY RIDGE RD	CHECK	VA	24072	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2019	5.11E+14	37.0153	-80.2656	190225	
4	ACAM	CITIZENS TEL COOP	220 LUKES LN NW	WILLIS	VA	24380	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2020	5.11E+14	36.9044	-80.5197	190225	
5	ACAM	CITIZENS TEL COOP	327 DOGWOOD LN SW	WILLIS	VA	24380	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2019	5.11E+14	36.8499	-80.4781	190225	
6	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	26035 E SAYLERS CREE	JETERSVILLE	VA	23083	1	25 Mbps/5 Mbps	2020	5.1E+14	37.3337	-78.1813	193029	
7	ACAM	LUMOS NETWORKS CORP	2087 OLD FINCASTLE R	FINCASTLE	VA	24090	1	25 Mbps/3 Mbps	2016	5.1E+14	37.5455	-79.8752	190226	
8	ACAM	LUMOS NETWORKS CORP	1083 CRAIG CREEK RD	EAGLE ROCK	VA	24085	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2016	5.1E+14	37.6505	-79.832	190226	
9	ACAM	LUMOS NETWORKS CORP	1246 SUGAR TREE HOL	EAGLE ROCK	VA	24085	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2020	5.1E+14	37.6275	-79.851	190226	
10	ACAM	MGW COMMUNICATIONS	1084 RIVER RD	MILLBORO	VA	24460	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2017	5.1E+14	38.0625	-79.678	190238	
11	ACAM	CITIZENS TEL COOP	1449 FERNEY CREEK RI	WILLIS	VA	24380	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2018	5.11E+14	36.9035	-80.4326	190225	
12	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	212 PATTON DR	NEW CASTLE	VA	24127	1	25 Mbps/5 Mbps	2020	5.1E+14	37.5636	-80.0229	193029	
13	ACAM	CITIZENS TEL COOP	1309 PARKWAY LN S	FLOYD	VA	24091	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2020	5.11E+14	36.8797	-80.3296	190225	
14	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	7740 CHEATHAMS RD	AMELIA	VA	23002	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2015	5.1E+14	37.3171	-77.9258	193029	
15	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	739 MILLER CV	CATAWBA	VA	24070	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2020	5.1E+14	37.3875	-80.1942	193029	
16	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	16512 ROCKY BRANCH	AMELIA	VA	23002	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2020	5.1E+14	37.4651	-77.9411	193029	
17	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	178 TEABERRY LN	CATAWBA	VA	24070	1	25 Mbps/5 Mbps	2019	5.1E+14	37.37	-80.2587	193029	
18	ACAM	HIGHLAND TEL COOP	1676 JACKSON RIVER R	MONTEREY	VA	24465	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2017	5.11E+14	38.3926	-79.5973	190237	
19	ACAM	MGW COMMUNICATIONS	188 WILD CAT SCHOOL	MILLBORO	VA	24460	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2017	5.1E+14	38.0391	-79.6737	190238	
20	ACAM	MGW COMMUNICATIONS	6730 DRY RUN RD	WILLIAMSVILL	VA	24487	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2019	5.1E+14	38.127	-79.6807	190238	
21	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	371 RED BARN TRL	NEW CASTLE	VA	24127	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2020	5.1E+14	37.4018	-80.4039	193029	
22	ACAM	CITIZENS TEL COOP	595 MOORE RD NE	FLOYD	VA	24091	1	25 Mbps/5 Mbps	2018	5.11E+14	36.956	-80.299	190225	
23	ACAM	HIGHLAND TEL COOP	1354 THE PINES RD	MONTEREY	VA	24465	1	25 Mbps/3 Mbps	2019	5.11E+14	38.4413	-79.5459	190237	
24	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	15901 FIVE FORKS RD	AMELIA	VA	23002	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2020	5.1E+14	37.3256	-77.9703	193029	
25	ACAM	TELEPHONE AND DATA SY	13270 DYKELAND RD	AMELIA	VA	23002	1	25 Mbps/5 Mbps	2020	5.1E+14	37.4099	-77.9108	193029	
26	ACAM	CITIZENS TEL COOP	2223 MACKS MTN RD	INDIAN VALLE	VA	24105	1	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2020	5.11E+14	36.9344	-80.6037	190225	
27	ACAM	MGW COMMUNICATIONS	3844 INDIAN DRAFT R	MILLBORO	VA	24460	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2017	5.1E+14	38.0518	-79.6073	190238	
28	ACAM	LUMOS NETWORKS CORP	380 ELBURNELL DR	EAGLE ROCK	VA	24085	1	25 Mbps/3 Mbps	2016	5.1E+14	37.6268	-79.8161	190226	
29	ACAM	MGW COMMUNICATIONS	2787 HANKEY MOUNT	CHURCHVILLE	VA	24421	1	100 Mbps/25 Mbps	2016	5.1E+14	38.2829	-79.2557	190238	
30	ACAM	MGW COMMUNICATIONS	270 HICKORY HILL DR	MILLBORO	VA	24460	1	10 Mbps/1 Mbps	2017	5.1E+14	38.0628	-79.6888	190238	

- Each row should contain a single address or set of coordinates along with the speeds offered there



RSSI Submission (Wireless Challengers)

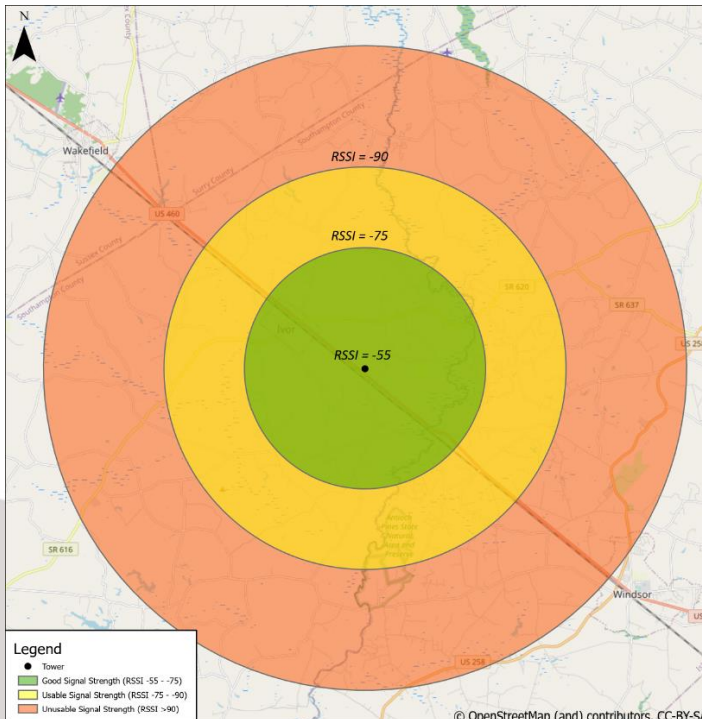
Raster shapefile with each raster containing the RSSI value of the area it covers.



- Rasters should be at a reasonable resolution
- We generally consider -90dbm to be the threshold for broadband-level service

Alternate RSSI Submission (Wireless Challengers)

Polygon shapefile with each “bin” of RSSI values represented by features in the polygon



- Single polygon shapefile
- Range of “bin” of RSSI values shown as a feature in the polygon
- Polygons should be representative of real ground conditions - the image here is a *rudimentary* example
- We generally consider -90dbm to be the threshold for broadband-level service

Challenge Submission Best Practices

- Shapefiles are preferred submission format. FOIA exemption is available.
- KML and CSV also acceptable
- Shapefiles should be packaged in a zipped folder and submitted with other challenge materials to vati@dhcd.virginia.gov by October 21

Questions should be submitted via email to vati@dhcd.virginia.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

- Do the point shapefiles and/or CSV files need to include subscriber information?
 - DHCD requires information if a serviceable unit subscribes to service, but not identifying information of subscribers.
 - DHCD does reserve the right to request verified speed tests on all or portion(s) of the challenged area at time of peak network usage.

Rebuttal Best Practices

- Applicants will be notified of a challenge no later than COB October 28th and will have 15 business days to provide a challenge rebuttal.
- DHCD will provide the challenge to the applicant, some information may be redacted.
- Conduct a thorough review of the challenged area(s):
 - Previous state or federal awards - available online or contact DHCD for assistance.
 - Perform a deep dive into potential overlap
 - 10% for wireline, 25% for wireless
 - Speak directly to citizens, challenging provider's website
 - Conduct speed tests

Rebuttal Best Practices

- DHCD will review both challenge and rebuttal information and determine if the challenge is valid.
- May request verified speed tests.
- Challenged applicants may submit a rescope for their rebuttal.
- If a challenge is determined to be valid, DHCD may request that the applicant remove the challenged area and submit their rescope.
- DHCD will notify both the applicant and challenger of its determination no later than December 3rd.

Office of Broadband Updates

- **Utility Leverage Program Guideline Update**
 - Draft Guidelines will be released September 27 for Public Comment Process
 - Comment period closes October 15, input session tentatively scheduled for October 12, 2021
 - Final Guidelines will be released in late October on Town Hall
- **Statewide Broadband Availability Map**
 - DHCD developing service territory data submission guidelines
 - Guidelines to be released for public comment in late September on Town Hall
- **Line Extension Customer Access Program**
 - DHCD is in the process of developing draft guidelines. This program will be administered in partnership with internet service providers