

**RESOLUTION**  
**MATHEWS COUNTY COMMITMENT TO BROADBAND INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS** reliable, accessible, high speed, affordable access to universal broadband across all of the Mathews County is imperative for all of its residents, students, emergency services, businesses, non-profit organizations and visitors; and

**WHEREAS** internet and e-connectivity are changing how humans and businesses interact with each other and with the world at large, as well as being a driving force for the current and future economy; and

**WHEREAS** research indicates that introduction of universal broadband into rural areas increases the rate of job growth and income of rural areas and that the presence of broadband in a community is the greatest indicator of future economic success; and

**WHEREAS** internet and e-connectivity create opportunity for increased innovation for consumers, real estate values, increased tourism, businesses, agriculture, and government; and

**WHEREAS** broadband access has evolved from a luxury and entertainment item to an essential infrastructure for emergency services, business, health care, education and government and the speeds needed to maintain local and global competitiveness are greater than telecommunication companies serving Mathews County are willing to provide at an economically feasible price; and

**WHEREAS** countries, states, counties, tribal nations and municipalities that prioritize and provide access to advanced internet infrastructure such as fiber, and wired and wireless solutions, are surpassing those that do not in terms of safety, health, social, economic and knowledge development; and

**WHEREAS** demand exists for broadband access, but without a concerted and unified effort being made to obtain appropriate access for the citizens of Mathews County, it is likely that demand will not be met; and

**WHEREAS** private sector providers are currently unwilling and/or unable to provide the highest speed, highest capacity access to broadband services to all of the citizens and businesses of Mathews County via last mile fiber, wireless or other means; and

**WHEREAS** Mathews County must plan and prioritize on behalf of its citizens for the deployment and adoption of this infrastructure including but not limited to establishing a broadband committee, pursuing collaborations and partnerships and creating a Broadband plan in the effort to effectively achieve greater access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet in every inch of the County; and

**WHEREAS** Mathews County must prioritize this infrastructure as an essential public service that should be available to all citizens of Mathews County, as was done with the provision of electricity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mathews County Board of Supervisors that access to the internet and e-connectivity is a crucial element of the Mathews County mission, so as to provide leadership, cooperation with all units of government, sound fiscal management, and planning thereby promoting public safety, health, well-being and prosperity in order to improve the quality of life for present and future generations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all places within Mathews County, regardless of location, shall have access to quality broadband services at an affordable price, at speeds of no less than 20 mbps download, and 10 mbps upload no later than Dec. 31, 2022; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the citizens of Mathews County shall have significantly greater speeds and technologies empowering the latest in internet and cell service access by Dec. 31, 2025.