

Public Hearing

Serving the Unserved

December 15, 2020



COMCAST



Purpose

- To conduct a public hearing and receive public comment on funding the final phase of Comcast cable service within 300' of the existing right-of-way.
- The public hearing has been advertised in accordance with the County Code.



Cable Franchise Scope

According to FCC rules:

Cable franchises DO address provision of cable television service in exchange for use of the public rights-of-way.

They DO NOT

- Address broadband or internet service.
- Provide exclusive right to provide cable television service.
- Allow the county to regulate cable rates.



Franchise Agreement Key Points:

- Maintains 15 homes per mile density requirement
- Lowest density approved in Maryland
- Extended the length of a standard (cost-free) drop from 125 feet to 300 feet
- Provides a clear cost-sharing formula for line extension when minimum density is not met

Serving the Unserved

There were originally 20 unserved communities identified in Calvert County, or approximately 475 (318 remain) homes.

Red = Unserved

Yellow = Under review

Green = Comcast agreed to provide service



Serving the Unserved – Construction Schedule



COMPLETION DATE	QTR
Double Oak Rd	Q1 - 2021
E Cheney Rd	Q1 - 2021
Mackall Rd	Q1 - 2021
Simmons Ridge Rd	Q1 - 2021
Solomons Island Rd	Q1 - 2021
3875 Fish Hook Drive	Q1 - 2021
Marsh Lane	Q1 - 2021
4149 Robinson Rd	Q1 - 2021
12060 Thelmas Lane	Q3 - 2021
2540 Chaneyville Rd	Q3 - 2021
Weems Rd	Q3 - 2021
Tobacco Ridge Rd	Q3 - 2021
St. Johns Chapel	Q3 - 2021
W. Cheney Rd	Q3 - 2021
Williams Wharf	Q4 - 2021
Blunts Cove	Q4 - 2021
Ferry Landing	Q4 - 2021
Marshall & Chminey Rd	Q4 - 2021
Laveille Rd	Q4 - 2021
Adelina Rd	Q4 - 2021
Potts Point Rd	Q4 - 2021
Barstow Rd	Q4 - 2021

Funding



Today's public hearing will move \$1.6 million from the General Fund using funds collected from the Comcast Franchise Fee.

- The Franchise Fee has been budgeted in the County's General Fund. *This fee is collected on consumer bills; funding comes only from those that had paid this fee.*
- To make up the difference for this transfer in FY 2021, Finance & Budget recommended use of income tax revenue; projects have exceeded budget for this fiscal year.

Funding



Future Fiscal Years

- The Franchise Fee will be budgeted in FY 2022 to complete full buildout of Comcast in the community.
- In FY 2023, as part of the budget process, staff will submit budget needs for the Public Education Channel – or Channel 6 – to determine how much of the Franchise Fee will be dedicated to fund those operations.

Summary:

- Making steady progress since April
- Comcast approved full buildout
- Reviewed funding options and recommend:
 - Use of Calvert County Franchise Fee with shared contribution from Comcast
 - Obtain grants where feasible

Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects:

- ✓ Total Construction: \$3,766,158
- ✓ **Potential State Contribution: \$1,883,079**
- ✓ County Contribution: \$1,476,918
- ✓ Comcast Contribution: \$406,161
- ✓ Total Homes: 318
- ✓ Total Miles: 49.2



Summary:

- **In October, the BOCC authorized connection options for consideration:**
 1. Franchise Agreement states connection will occur up to 300' from right-of-way
 2. Customer contribution is still required beyond 300' per the Franchise Agreement

Requested Actions:

Staff seeks approval on the following:

1. Approve the Resolution authorizing budget adjustment 171 in the amount of \$1.6 million to begin the construction/buildout.
2. Authorize the Board president to sign the Agreement to extend Comcast services in the Community.

Thank you.
Questions?

