

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT Local and Regional Broadband Projects

City of Charlottesville

David E. Brown
Jason Pearson, Treasurer

Albemarle County

Sally H. Thomas
Ann H. Mallek

Fluvanna County

Charles W. Albaugh, Vice Chair
Chris Fairchild

Greene County

Carl Schmitt
Andrea Wilkinson

Louisa County

Richard Havasy
Jackson Wright

Nelson County

Fred Boger
Connie Brennan, Chair

WHEREAS, localities in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) region in recent years have pursued the establishment and expansion of broadband services; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) provided funding for a Rural Broadband Planning Initiative, which was made available to successful grant applicants for developing needs assessments, analyzing current and future uses, and assessing community computer literacy and technology education needs; and

WHEREAS, Louisa and Nelson Counties received planning grants under the DHCD program; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$7.2 billion for grants to deploy broadband in underserved and unserved areas; and

WHEREAS, of that total, \$4.7 billion would be for a new grant program run by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for competitive grants to accelerate broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas, while \$2.5 billion would flow through the existing Department of Agriculture Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Program; and

WHEREAS, localities, public/private partnerships and private companies could receive such funding; and

WHEREAS, the governor must provide NTIA with a list of the state's priorities within 75 days of approval of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, to date, more than 160 broadband projects have been submitted to the State, including those for Fluvanna, Nelson and Louisa Counties, and a proposal to develop infrastructure and last mile broadband and wireless throughout Albemarle, Fluvanna and Greene Counties; and

WHEREAS, affordable broadband service, particularly in rural areas, provides numerous opportunities to positively impact those communities, in such areas as education, employment, public safety and health care; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the TJPDC supports locality efforts to implement broadband projects and supports requests for funding such projects that would benefit the region's localities; and be it

RESOVLED FURTHER, that the TJPDC stands ready to work with the region's localities through contractual or other means to assist with, manage or administer such grants that may be received.

Adopted the 5th day of March, 2009

Connie Brennan, Chair