



ENHANCING COMMUNITIES WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT

What is the eCorridors Program about?

The eCorridors Program is an economic development and outreach program of Virginia Tech that is focused on a long-term vision of facilitating the development of next generation network infrastructure and services in collaboration with interested communities in Virginia. As the build-out of the interstate highway system increased economic development for communities along its route, “eCorridors” are electronic Internet routes that, when fully completed, will resemble a grid, or mesh, of network connectivity into and out of every community throughout the Commonwealth. These networks will be specifically architected to enable communities to leapfrog existing technologies and provide next generation network access for such purposes as economic development, quality of life, education and workforce training.



Our Mission

To create competitive advantage by facilitating the deployment of advanced technology infrastructure and applications leveraging inter-regional connectivity for, and collaboration among, communities.

Rationale

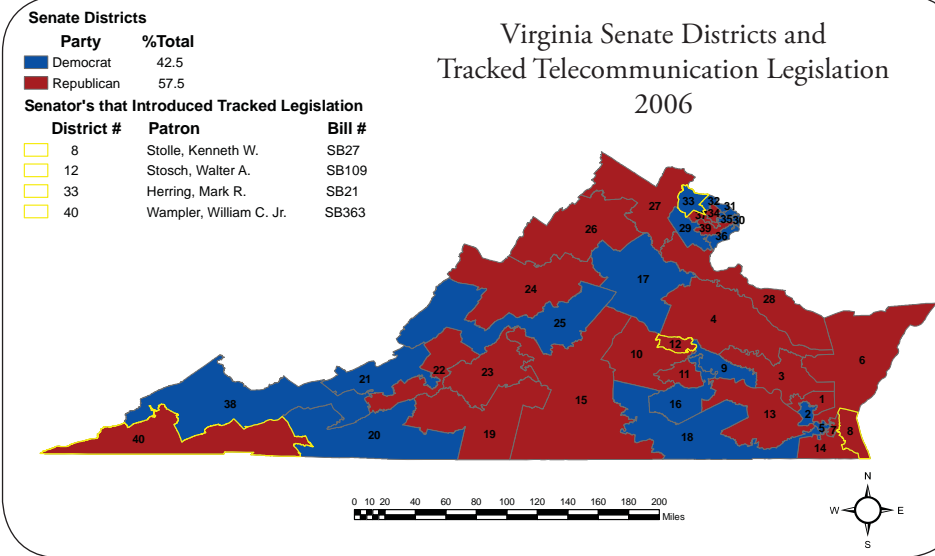
Underpinning the new economy is access to advanced information and network technology infrastructure. Its driving force is creativity and inventiveness and new knowledge, all

enabled and multiplied by technological advantages in access to the right information, producers, and consumers at the right time.

Overview

Access to advanced communications and network infrastructure has become critical for ensuring economic competitiveness in today’s global economy. Beyond standard telephone systems and basic Internet access, communities are suddenly finding that businesses and other stakeholders are making specific demands for access to fiber optic infrastructure with very explicit route diversity and fiber specification requirements. Communities with advanced fiber, wireless, and “next generation” Internet infrastructure will have a distinct competitive advantage. Those without such infrastructure will fall behind in ways that may not be recoverable over a period of decades (such as difficulty attracting and retaining sustainable job creation opportunities).

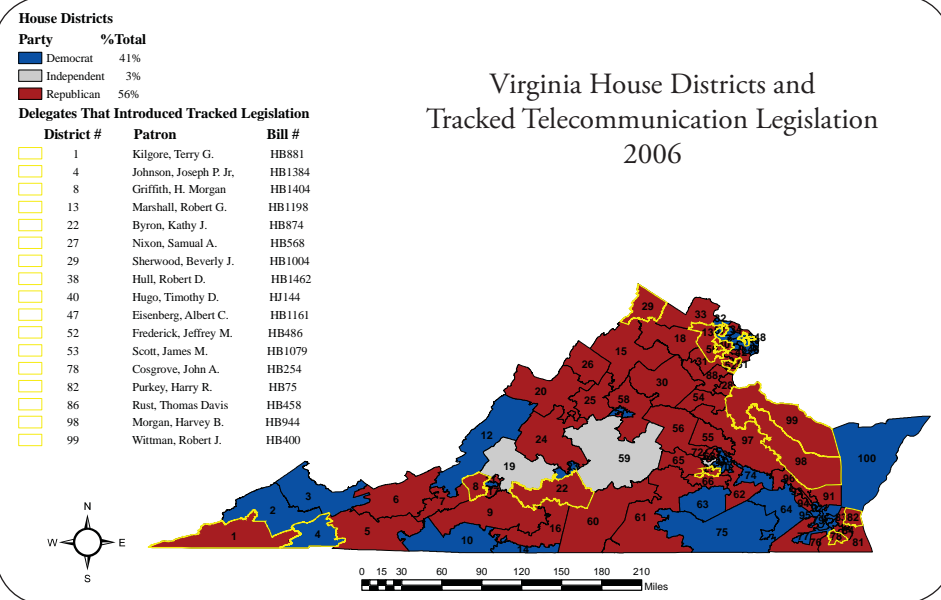
Many of the inquiries to eCorridors from communities engaged in or considering public telecommunication projects revolve around the legality of their proposed plans. The legislative policies project began out of an in-house, need-to-know the regulatory environment for our day to day activities. We developed a means of tracking state policy legislation that is related to telecommunications on a GIS interface so that we could have a visual interpretation of the legislative activity from the House, and on a separate map, the Senate. The purpose of the bill tracking project is to provide regulatory information to those interested in telecommunication related legislation. Using the online Virginia



Policy / Legislation

State and federal regulators, legislators, and policy makers are beginning to comprehend the price their constituents are paying for the communications industry's rational reluctance to deploy technologies that do not sustain current ways of doing business and profit margins. Promises by these traditional players to meet new economy requirements

for communications services and protectionist pleadings are received with increasing skepticism, and with more critical assessment. Policy is rapidly tilting towards accepting and encouraging innovators, new service providers and increased competition.



Legislative Information System, available at: <http://leg1.state.va.us/> and GovTrack.us, an ongoing collection of state and federal bills and resolutions related to telecommunications were compiled and then made publicly available on the eCorridors website. This project benefits communities considering incorporating telecommunications into their economic development efforts as well as others interested in legislative intelligence surrounding strategic planning for telecommunications infrastructure and services, and regulatory issues affecting ecommerce, software, and network devices.