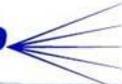


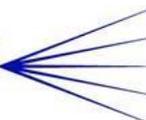


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After meeting with Millheim Borough (Centre Co.) on Sept. 10, Atlantic Broadband said it is looking to potentially expand its service into Penns Valley and other surrounding areas. Limited broadband connectivity has been a hot issue in the area as reliable broadband service remains unavailable to many in the area.

Penns Valley residents hope to change that soon, as access to reliable internet services can be a strong determination of one's potential success. Borough council member Robert Zeigler said at the meeting, Atlantic Broadband representatives discussed expanding its service from the Mifflinburg area into Penns Valley. In doing so, it would bring

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the needed broadband service to parts of the Penns Valley area that is currently underserved.

Along with Millheim, the internet provider is looking to serve Coburn, Woodward, Aaronburg, Rebersburg and Madisonburg by way of Route 45, down from Millheim. "They are very confident that they can serve those communities," said Zeigler. He said that Gregg Township is also a community the company could potentially serve, but more work will need to be done to determine if that is possible.

And before there can be any forward movement, Atlantic Broadband would need to sign franchise agreements with the involved municipalities. Zeigler said the estimated cost of the project would be \$1.5 million and they need to have the municipalities on board to make it a practical investment. If Atlantic Broadband procures the franchise agreement from all the municipalities, it would take roughly 12 months for service to become available. The company currently offers services in Mifflinburg which include limited, value and MoreTV packages. Video arrangements range from \$32.63 to \$92.14 and include potential add-ons.

Zeigler said Atlantic Broadband is upgrading its services in Mifflinburg, so prices are subject to change and will depend on what level of service and premium add-ons customers select. Centre WISP recently installed broadband equipment on county 911 towers in a public-private partnership in an effort to improve the area's access to service. Representatives from the company were at the meeting said Zeigler. He said Centre WISP welcomes the competition. – [statecollege.com](#)

An update on the SEDA-Council of Governments and Design Nine Inc. Broadband Study for Lycoming, Clinton, Northumberland and Union counties will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Trade and Transit Centre II, 100 W. Third St. Design Nine has been in the process of analyzing broadband assets in the counties, including those offered by telecom service providers, cable companies and government organizations that provide communications services through schools and first responders.

The company has been analyzing the types of broadband services available, broadband use patterns and gaps coverage. A key part of the Design Nine data collection process has been through a public survey from both businesses and residents regarding their broadband connections.

Each of the four counties will receive strategies to address rural high-speed internet deficiencies. "Rural broadband, although discussed as a major issue within the region, has not been acted upon because of the lack of information about the tasks, activities and costs of developing, testing and maintaining high-speed broadband infrastructure," Scott Kramer, SEDA-COG Information Technologies Group, said. "Lack of adequate broadband access is a predominant concern for agriculture, education, tourism, and manufacturing as well as emerging industries such as life sciences, technology and health services." – *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*

A mapping program is finding that rural broadband access in Georgia is worse than federal officials first thought. Lawmakers are trying to find

ways of bringing more broadband service to rural areas — and they need to know the extent of the problem. However, lawmakers have only had inaccurate maps from the Federal Communications Commission, WABE Radio [reported](#).

Deana Perry, who runs the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' rural broadband program, told lawmakers that the FCC maps used census blocks. If one person had broadband in a block, the whole block was classified as served. "The FCC maps vastly understate the unserved areas by comparison to our mapping. One of the reasons for that is their methodology," Perry recently told the House Rural Development Council.

Now, a new state mapping program using different methodology is finding that there are vastly more under-served areas in Georgia than the federal maps showed. The state new mapping program involves counting down to each customer using data from individual broadband providers.

Perry recently shared results from the three counties in the state's pilot program — Elbert, Lumpkin and Tift. "This is one of a kind mapping. This has not been done by any other state. Hasn't been done at the federal level," Perry said.

"But what we do know is there is a big push because everyone knows that the FCC maps are inaccurate," she added. "And where that is problematic is those maps are used for funding purposes. So if you are considered served, but when you, in fact, aren't, you won't be eligible for those funds at the federal level." The effort also involves the Georgia Technology Authority and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Georgia's new statewide map is expected to be done by the summer of 2020. — **Associated Press**

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper wants Disney-owned ESPN and TV providers to "push harder" and reach agreements to carry the Atlantic Coast Conference's new channel. Cooper's office released a copy of a letter Friday addressed to ESPN and Disney officials along with league Commissioner John Swofford. The letter asks for increased efforts to reach deals to carry the ACC Network more broadly in North Carolina and "not leave the everyday fan behind."

The ACC Network launched in August and has deals with providers such as Spectrum, DirecTV and Dish. There are also direct-to-consumer options popular with cord-cutters and available nationwide, such as PlayStation Vue, YouTube TV, Hulu Live TV and Sling. Still, key providers such as Comcast and AT&T U-verse within the league's footprint haven't reached an agreement. — **Associated Press**

