



Town of Christiansburg  
Planning Commission  
Monday, August 28, 2017  
Agenda

**Planning Commission**

Chairperson

Craig Moore

Vice-Chairperson

Jennifer D. Sowers

Non-Voting Secretary/

Planning Director

Andrew Warren

Other Members

Matthew J. Beasley

Harry Collins

Mark Curtis

Catherine Garner

Hil Johnson

Jeananne Knies

Ann Sandbrook

**Interim Town Manager**

Randy Wingfield

**Town Attorney**

Guynn &

Waddell, P.C.

***REGULAR MEETING***

Planning Commission will meet in the Christiansburg Town Hall located at 100 E. Main Street on **Monday, August 28, 2017 at 7:00 PM** for the purpose of allowing the full Commission to review the following:

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- 1) Public comments – 5 minute limit per citizen.
- 2) Approval of Planning Commission Minutes for August 14, 2017 meeting.
- 3) Public Hearing for a Conditional Use Permit request by J. Stuart and Jill Arbuckle for an electronic messaging sign in the B-2 Central Business District for the Pizza Inn restaurant located at 190 North Franklin Street (tax parcel 526-(A)-259).
- 4) Christiansburg Broadband Consumer Survey Results -- Presentation by Christy Straight, New River Regional Commission.
- 5) Other Business.

For a description of the preceding items or to view the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map, please contact the Planning Department in the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main Street during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent to the address below; please allow adequate mailing time. For any further assistance, please contact Andrew Warren, Planning Director at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org).

***Planning  
Commission's***

***Next Meeting:***

*Monday, September  
18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.*

**Christiansburg Planning Commission  
Minutes of August 14, 2017**

Present: Harry Collins  
Mark Curtis  
David Franusich  
Catherine Garner  
Hil Johnson  
Jeananne Knies  
Craig Moore, Chairperson  
Ann Sandbrook  
Jennifer D. Sowers, Vice-Chairperson  
Andrew Warren, Secretary <sup>Non-Voting</sup>

Absent: Matt Beasley

Staff/Visitors: Will Drake, staff  
Jared Crews, staff  
Brian Hamilton, Montgomery County Economic Development Authority  
John Zeckoski, 370 Tanglewood Drive, SE  
Marilyn Zeckoski, 370 Tanglewood Drive, SE  
Lisa Holland, 325 Tanglewood Drive, SE  
Lorraine Spaulding, 315 Tanglewood Drive, SE  
Chip Dicks, Lamar Advertising Company  
Steve Huppert, Town Council

Chairperson Moore called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Christiansburg Town Hall at 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

Public Comment

Chairperson Moore opened the floor for public comment. With no comments, Chairperson Moore closed the floor for public comment.

Approval of Planning Commission Minutes for July 31, 2017 Meeting

Chairperson Moore introduced the discussion. Vice-Chairperson Sowers made a motion to approve the July 31, 2017 Planning Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which passed 8-0. Commissioner Franusich abstained, as he was not present for the previous meeting.

Public Hearing for a rezoning request by the Montgomery County Economic Development Authority, agent for Cox Family Farms LLC, for an approximately 64.114 acre property, Tax Map No. 558-A 24. The request is to rezone the property from the A Agricultural District to the I-2 General Industrial District.

Chairperson Moore introduced the public hearing. Commissioner Garner recused herself from the public hearing and subsequent discussion. Brian Hamilton, Montgomery County Economic Development Authority, (EDA) stated GIS information used in the initial public hearing for the rezoning request on July 5, 2017 was incorrect and an additional parcel adjoining Tanglewood Drive (referred to as Lot C), does not exist and is part of the subject property.

Mr. Hamilton stated the EDA plans to develop a 36-acre site and a 20-acre site due to Falling Branch Corporate Park's market demand for a parcel over 25 acres in size. Mr. Hamilton stated Parkway Drive will be extended and no other roads would be utilized for the development, which would retain an approximately 500-foot buffer zone between the development and road.

John Zeckoski, 370 Tanglewood Drive, stated he desired clear language be used to ensure Tanglewood Drive would never be used for access to the industrial park. Mr. Zeckoski asked for a clear description of the buffer area and suggested trees be used to protect residents of Tanglewood Drive from sights and sounds produced by the industrial park.

Lisa Holland, 325 Tanglewood Drive, asked the Planning Commission to consider the slope of the land and the erosion that could occur as a result of development.

Lorraine Spaulding, 315 Tanglewood Drive, stated she and other residents of Tanglewood Drive were concerned with the road being used as an access point to the industrial park.

With no further comment, Chairperson Moore closed the public hearing.

Discussion/Action for a rezoning request by the Montgomery County Economic Development Authority, agent for Cox Family Farms LLC, for an approximately 64.114 acre property, Tax Map No. 558-A 24. The request is to rezone the property from the A Agricultural District to the I-2 General Industrial District.

Chairperson Moore introduced the discussion. Chairperson Moore noted the Planning Commission could not place conditions on the rezoning but the use of proffers was possible, if offered by the applicant. Vice-Chairperson Sowers asked whether any action could be taken to limit construction from occurring within a certain distance of the adjoining residential property. Mr. Hamilton stated Tanglewood Drive and Jones Street would not be used for access to the industrial park and noted industrial traffic on these roads would be nearly impossible.

Discussion/Action for a rezoning request by the Montgomery County Economic Development Authority, agent for Cox Family Farms LLC, for an approximately 64.114 acre property, Tax Map No. 558-A 24. The request is to rezone the property from the A Agricultural District to the I-2 General Industrial District – (continued).

Commissioner Curtis asked whether construction would occur within the view of residents of Tanglewood Drive and Jones Street. Mr. Hamilton stated the residents adjoining the property in question would only be able to see the construction from the Cox Family Farm property adjoining their own.

Vice-Chairperson Sowers asked whether Tanglewood Drive and Jones Street could be permanently closed off from further extension. Mr. Warren explained it was impractical for those roads to be extended but he was unsure what action could be taken to formally prevent extension outside of vacating right-of-way.

Mr. Hamilton noted Cox Family Farms would retain ownership of the Lot C area of the development adjoining Tanglewood Drive and stated it would likely be sold for residential use in the future. Chairperson Moore noted this issue was not being considered as a part of the present rezoning request.

Chairperson Moore asked if the EDA would be willing to proffer a certain portion of the development as guaranteed buffer area. Mr. Hamilton stated 200 feet of land was all he felt comfortable agreeing to proffer as buffer without his engineers present.

Chairperson Moore asked the applicant to consider an additional proffer ensuring the industrial park would prohibit industrial traffic from using residential roads if a connection between Tanglewood Drive or Jones Street and Parkway Drive was established in the future. Mr. Hamilton stated he did not anticipate a connection ever being established and restated Cox Family Farms will retain ownership of the area formerly known as lot C adjoining Tanglewood Drive. Chairperson Moore suggested the language restricting industrial-related traffic would allow for residential traffic.

Commissioner Curtis asked where the planned Parkway Drive extension would connect to South Franklin Street. Chairperson Moore stated an extension was proposed by the Town as a Smart Scale project that would extend Parkway Drive through the Cox Family Farms property and the undeveloped parcel at Tax Map: 558-((A))-1, owned by Dale and Freda Teel and connect to South Franklin Street below the Christiansburg Church of Christ.

Mr. Warren noted this project was currently unfunded but was intended to provide relief to residential streets in the area by providing a connection to I-81. Chairperson Moore stated the Smart Scale project may be more positively received if the development of the property occurs, based on his understanding of the scoring criteria for project consideration.

Discussion/Action for a rezoning request by the Montgomery County Economic Development Authority, agent for Cox Family Farms LLC, for an approximately 64.114 acre property, Tax Map No. 558-A 24. The request is to rezone the property from the A Agricultural District to the I-2 General Industrial District – (continued).

Chairperson Moore stated erosion and stormwater requirements were not typically addressed by the Planning Commission and erosion concerns could be handled through the Town ordinance and regulations passed down by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Commissioner Curtis asked whether the development would increase traffic near Falling Branch Elementary School. Chairperson Moore stated any development in the industrial park would likely result in increased traffic.

Mr. Hamilton committed to pursuing a proffer statement with the two proffers discussed earlier and to have it available for Town Council's consideration.

Commissioner Franusich made a motion to recommend Town Council approve the rezoning with consideration of the two forthcoming proffers related to establishing a buffer zone and barring industrial traffic from Jones Street and Tanglewood Drive. Vice-Chairperson Sowers seconded the motion, which passed 8-0. Commissioner Garner abstained.

With no further comment, Chairperson Moore closed the discussion.

Discussion/Action for a proposed sign ordinance amending Chapter 42 – Zoning of the Town Code for the purpose of regulating the time, place, and manner of displaying signs in the Town of Christiansburg.

Chairperson Moore introduced the discussion and explained the current draft ordinance does not include the language proposed by Lamar Advertising Company and that a motion would be required for that language, or any other changes, to be added. The language proposed addressed the nonconforming billboards on Peppers Ferry Road, N.W. that are partially screened by the Renva W. Knowles Bridge.

Commissioner Knies stated she believed no additional language should be added and the draft ordinance should be voted on as-is, based on the Planning Commission's desire for nonconforming signs to come into conformance. Mr. Warren stated the current draft of the ordinance is dated July 28, 2017.

Commissioner Knies noted Lamar Advertising Company was permitted to take down the two existing nonconforming signs and replace them with one conforming sign tall enough to be viewable above the bridge. Mr. Warren stated a new sign under the draft ordinance could be 35 feet tall and 75 square feet in area.

Discussion/Action for a proposed sign ordinance amending Chapter 42 – Zoning of the Town Code for the purpose of regulating the time, place, and manner of displaying signs in the Town of Christiansburg – (continued).

Commissioner Franusich asked whether two billboards on one signpost would be considered one sign or two. Mr. Warren stated he would need to examine the language of the draft ordinance but typically the same copy would be on both sides of a sign and considered one sign.

Commissioner Collins asked if there was interest in creating a conditional use permit for nonconforming signs. Chairperson Moore explained the usage of conditional use permits would lead to the continued use of nonconforming signs.

Commissioner Johnson stated Lamar Advertising Company's situation was unique but that legal action should have been pursued before the statute of limitations ran out.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to recommend Town Council approve the sign ordinance as drafted on July 28, 2017 with no additional language. Commissioner Knies seconded the motion, which passed 9-0.

Mr. Warren stated Town Council will hold discussion and is scheduled to take action on the ordinance on Tuesday, August 22, 2017.

Other business.

Commissioner Collins announced Commissioner Franusich would be leaving the Planning Commission to pursue a graduate degree. The Planning Commission congratulated Commissioner Franusich and thanked him for his service.

Commissioner Johnson asked Commissioner Collins to elaborate on Town Council's decision not to approve Shentel's request for a conditional use permit to replace a monopole on High Street. Commissioner Collins stated the community members had complained about the new tower and come forward with fears and concerns about the impacts to their residential properties and neighborhood overall.

Commissioner Johnson stated the new tower would have likely been safer than the existing monopole. Mr. Warren stated the request was rejected by a vote of 3-2 and the residential impacts of the decision were based on the reaction of community members to Shentel's requested waivers.

Chairperson Moore discussed the importance of keeping deliberations regarding on-going Planning Commission business to meetings and work sessions only.

Other business – (continued).

Mr. Warren stated there would be a public hearing for a conditional use permit for an electronic reader board for Pizza Inn at 190 North Franklin Street on August 28, 2017.

Mr. Warren presented a Town of Christiansburg budget summary booklet prepared by Anaika Miller of the Public Relations Department.

Mr. Warren stated the Lidl site would soon stop construction. Mr. Warren stated the development encountered excessive rock and may consider an alternative store design within the next 4-8 months. Mr. Warren stated the Aldi and Hobby Lobby projects are aiming to be done by next summer.

Mr. Warren stated a trail plan and a broadband study would be brought before the Planning Commission in the near future.

There being no more business, Chairperson Moore adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

---

Craig Moore, Chairperson

---

Andrew Warren, Secretary Non-Voting



ESTABLISHED  
NOVEMBER 10, 1792

INCORPORATED  
JANUARY 7, 1833  
MAYOR

D. MICHAEL BARBER  
COUNCIL MEMBERS  
SAMUEL M. BISHOP  
HARRY COLLINS  
R. CORD HALL  
STEVE HUPPERT  
HENRY SHOWALTER  
BRADFORD J. "BRAD" STIPES

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER  
RANDY WINGFIELD

ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN  
MANAGER  
ADAM CARPENETTI

DIRECTOR OF  
FINANCE/TOWN TREASURER  
VALERIE L. TWEEDIE,  
CPA, CFE, CGFM

CHIEF OF POLICE  
MARK SISSON

CLERK OF COUNCIL  
MICHELE M. STIPES

TOWN ATTORNEY  
GUYNN & WADDELL, P.C.

# Town of Christiansburg, Virginia 24073

100 East Main Street ~ Telephone 540-382-6128 ~ Fax 540-382-7338

## Town of Christiansburg Planning Staff Report

Planning Commission Public Hearing Date: Monday, August 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Application Type: Conditional Use Permit

Applicant: J. Stuart and Jill Arbuckle

Location: 190 North Franklin Street

Application #: CUP-2017-07

The Town of Christiansburg has received a conditional use permit request by J. Stuart and Jill Arbuckle for an electronic messaging sign in the B-2 Central Business District for the Pizza Inn restaurant located at 190 North Franklin Street (tax parcel 526-(A)-259). A conditional use permit is required for an electronic messaging sign in the B-2 Central Business District per Sec. 4-118 (b) of the *Christiansburg Town Code*. The applicant has an existing 24 sq. ft. changeable copy sign and would like to install an electronic messaging sign in its place, on the existing sign structure. In the B-2 District, changeable copy signs (including electronic messaging signs) cannot exceed 18 sq. ft.

The property is located within the 100-Year Flood Hazard Area, however, this change would not have an impact on this designation. The property is located within the Downtown Urban Development Area but is not located within the Downtown Historic District. The adjoining properties are zoned B-2 Central Business and B-3 General Business and contain undeveloped land and business uses.



### List of attachments included with staff report

1. Conditional Use Permit Application
2. Aerial map
3. Zoning map
4. Adjoining properties



# TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

100 East Main Street

Christiansburg, VA 24073

Phone (540) 382-6120 Fax (540) 381-7238

## Conditional Use Permit Application

CUP Form 03/18/2014



Landowner: J. Stuart and Jill Arbuckle Agent: Stuart Arbuckle  
Address: 190 N Franklin St Address: 195 Belmont Dr  
Christiansburg VA 24073 Christiansburg VA 24073  
Phone: 3824989 Phone: (540) 230 5951

I am requesting a Conditional Use Permit to allow electronic Billboard to  
replace existing reader board.  
on my property that is zoning classification B2-central Business under Chapter 42: Zoning of the  
Christiansburg Town Code.

My property is located at 190 N Franklin St - 4A Pizza Inn  
Tax Parcel(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$750.00

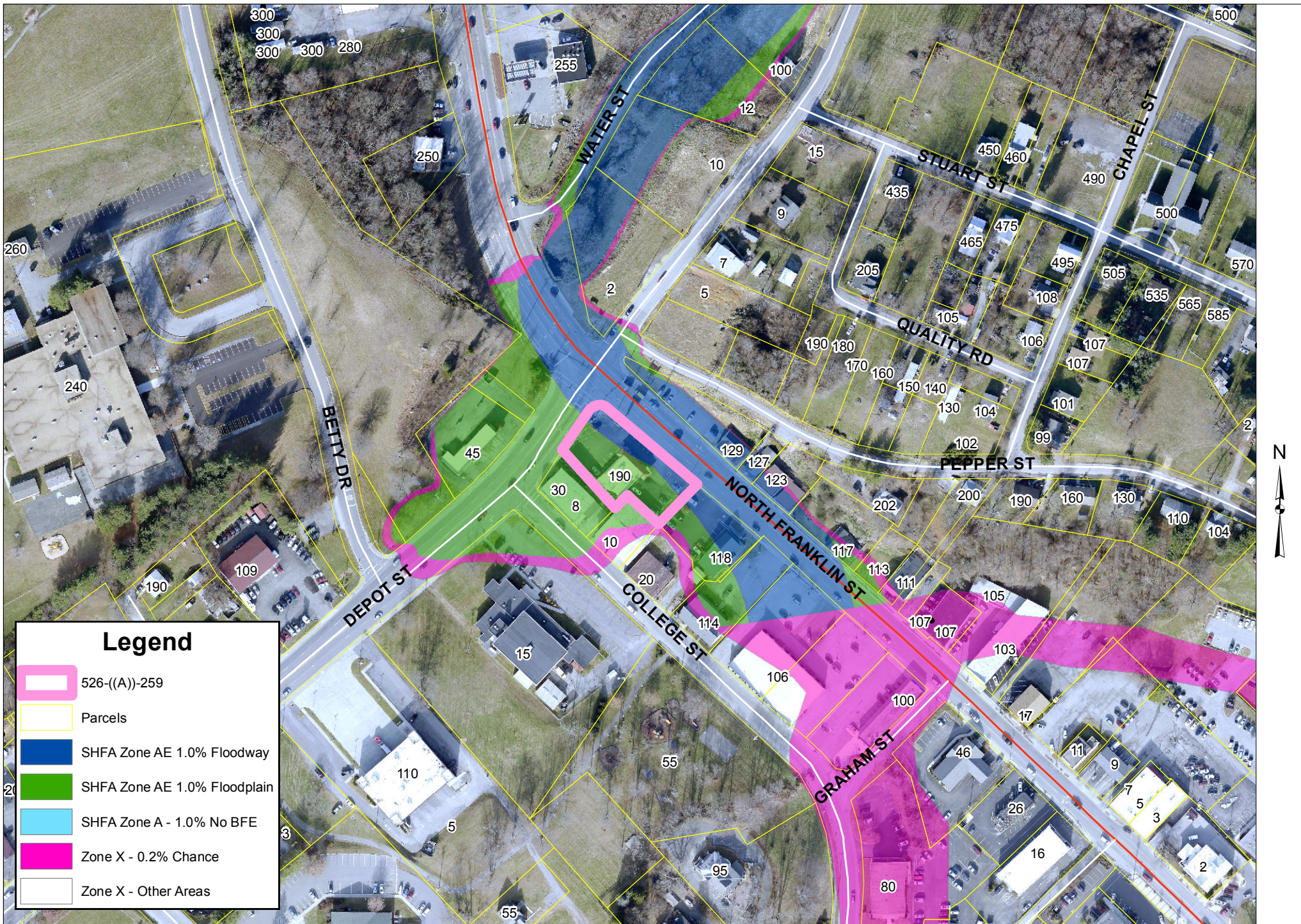
I certify that the information supplied on this application and any attachments is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that Conditions may be placed on my property in regards to the above mentioned use/activity. I also understand that the Conditional Use Permit may be revoked and/or additional Conditional Use Permits required should questions regarding conformity arise.

Signature of Landowner(s): [Signature] Date: 7/26/17  
[Signature] Date: 7/26/17  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This request was approved / disapproved by a vote of the Christiansburg Town Council on \_\_\_\_\_ Any Conditions attached shall be considered requirements of the above request.

Town Manager \_\_\_\_\_

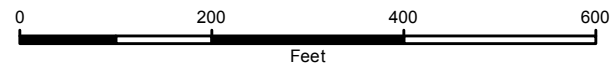
Date \_\_\_\_\_

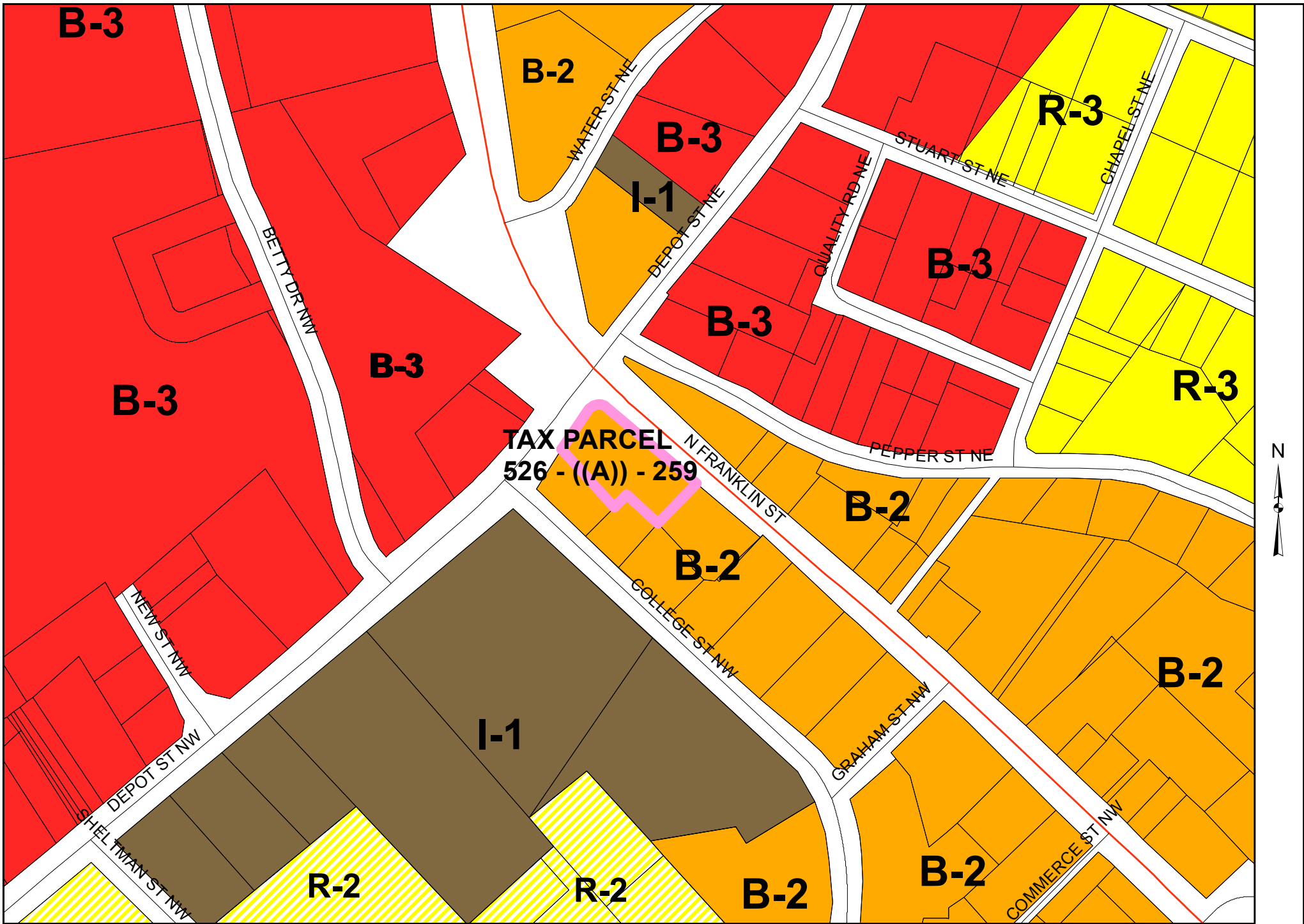


CUP REQUEST: 190 N FRANKLIN ST

PC: AUGUST 28, 2017

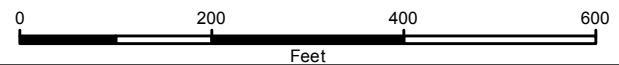
TC: SEPTEMBER 26, 2017





CUP REQUEST: 190 N FRANKLIN STREET

PC: AUGUST 28, 2017  
TC: SEPTEMBER 26, 2017



**CUP: 190 N FRANKLIN ST****Adjoining Property Owners**

<b><u>Tax Map #</u></b>	<b><u>Owner(s)</u></b>		<b><u>Mailing Address</u></b>	<b><u>City, State, Zip</u></b>
526- A256	ARBUCKLE J STUART	ARBUCKLE JILL ANN	195 BELMONT DR	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- A259	ARBUCKLE J STUART	ARBUCKLE JILL ANN	195 BELMONT DR	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- A255	ARBUCKLE J STUART	ARBUCKLE JILL ANN	195 BELMONT DR	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- 2 60	LAURENCE LANE LLC		3125 N FRANKLIN ST	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- A263	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	SCHOOL BOARD	750 IMPERIAL ST	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- A258	NORTH FORK DEPOT STREET LLC		PO BOX 1067	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24068
526- A270	RT4 USA LLC		P O BOX 6515	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24068
526- A271	RWW29 LLC		144 OAK TREE BLVD	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- A262	TIMROCK LLC		2865 WILD TURKEY RUN	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- A260	TIMROCK LLC		2865 WILD TURKEY RUN	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- A257	WIDNER RICKY T	C/O NEW RIVER GLASS	10 N COLLEGE ST	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
526- A265	YOUNG RANDALL M	YOUNG KAREN N	P O BOX 358	CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24068

# BROADBAND NRV

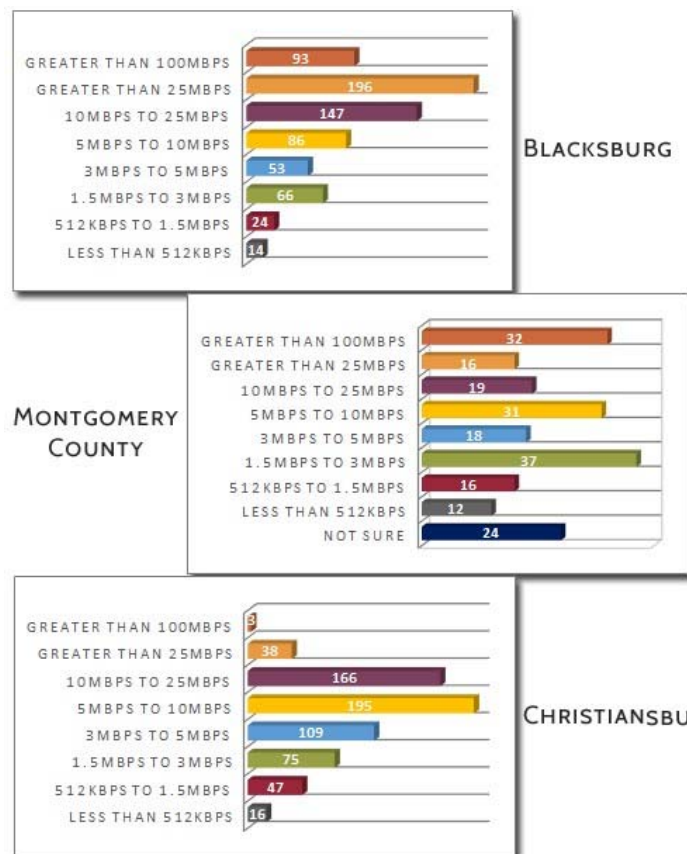
## COMMUNITY RESPONDS ON BROADBAND SERVICE, NEEDS

Results are in on what residents and businesses in Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Montgomery County think of their current internet service and what improvements would benefit the community. Local businesses and residents have been seeking access to high-speed broadband in the area with mixed success.

The data from this survey will inform the ways the towns and county may proceed to encourage internet service providers to offer services residents and businesses need.

Thank you for your participation! Over 1800 surveys were completed.

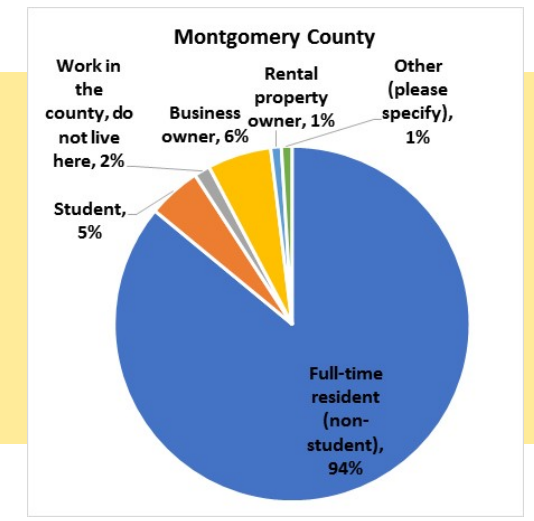
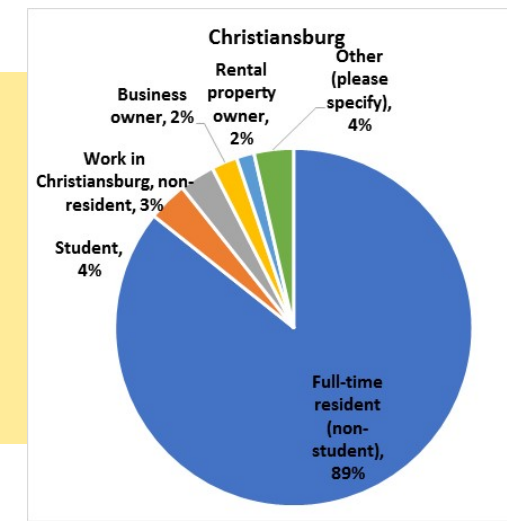
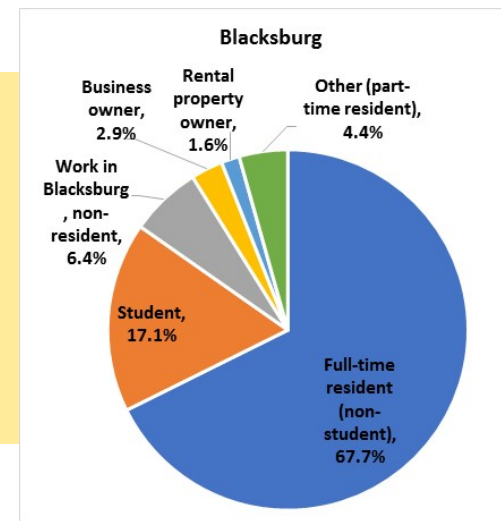
## Current Speeds



## Respondents

Survey respondents overwhelming find internet access important—over 95% in every locality.

65% use the internet for school and job training



## Connecting to the Internet

### Popular Connection Types and Providers

Blacksburg	Cable Modem 63%	DSL 16%	Wireless 12%
Christiansburg	Cable Modem 50%	Wireless 20%	DSL 18%
Montgomery County	DSL 27%	Wireless 26%	Cable Modem 22%

Top provider in...

Blacksburg: Comcast - 68%

Christiansburg: Shentel - 59%

Montgomery County: Verizon - 41%

### PROVIDER SATISFACTION/DISSATISFACTION

Customer satisfaction varies on speed, reliability, and service and support. When given a chance to identify specific reasons for overall dissatisfaction...

	Montgomery County	Blacksburg	Christiansburg
Connection too slow/not enough bandwidth	47.7%	29.7%	36.1%
Price too high	20.1%	21.8%	30.1%
Service is unreliable	16.7%	20.8%	22.2%
Poor customer service	7.5%	15.8%	6.7%
Lack of technical support	5.2%	6.6%	2.1%
Problems with Email	2.9%	3.7%	1.9%
Not dissatisfied	0.0%	1.5%	1.0%

## Current and Emerging Uses of Internet Connectivity

Current	Blacksburg	Christiansburg	Montgomery County
E-mail	427	402	96
Shopping	409	393	94
News	409	388	92
Accounting/Banking	394	379	84
Video/music streaming	372	363	74
Social media	367	374	79
Education	358	310	76
Transferring data files	338	297	65
Research	319	295	57
Work at home	317	272	64

Emerging	Blacksburg	Christiansburg	Montgomery County
Hosting your web site	78	82	11
Video-conferencing	65	89	21
Voice over Internet (VOIP)	78	65	28
VPN connections	50	67	16
Telemedicine	66	53	14
Training	56	56	18

For more information contact:  
Kevin Byrd (kbyrd@nrvc.org)  
Christy Straight (cstraight@nrvc.org)  
540-639-9313

Survey data current as of December 2016



THE **BLACKSBURG** PARTNERSHIP

# Christiansburg Broadband Consumer Survey Results

February 28, 2017

# Survey Goals

- Understand broadband needs as identified by residents and businesses.
- Collect data on internet users' behaviors, challenges, wants and needs for broadband access and speeds



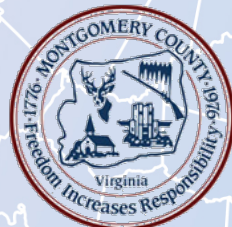
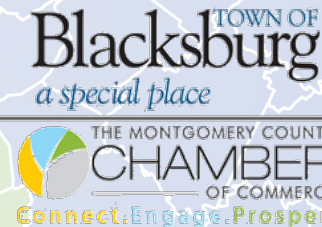
THE BLACKSBURG PARTNERSHIP



# Participation Across the Localities



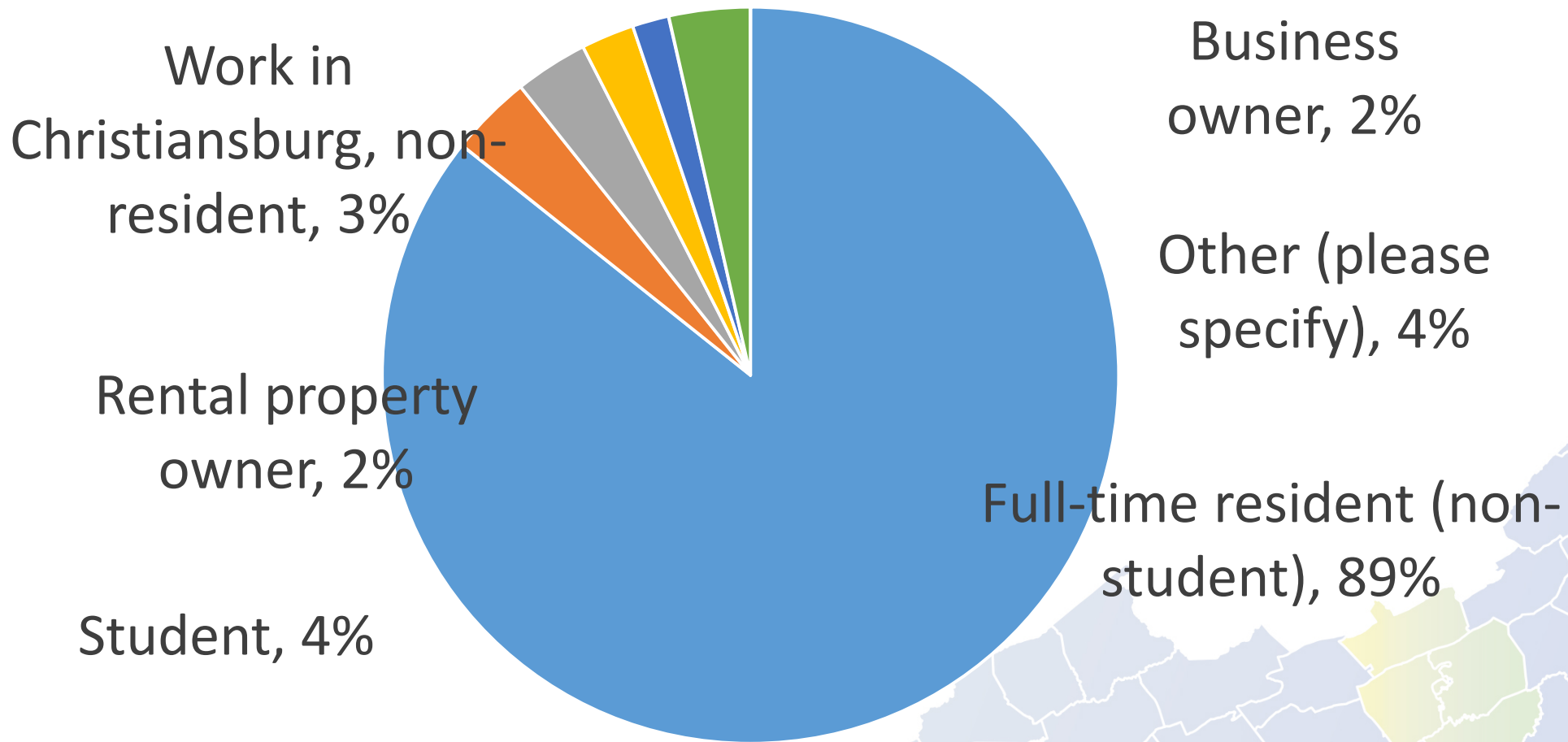
- Survey responses
  - Blacksburg n=755
  - Christiansburg n=852
  - Montgomery County n=207
- Survey opened on October 21, 2016
  - Press coverage that same day in the Roanoke Times
- Closed survey December 30, 2016
- Publicized through stakeholders' social media and communication outlets



THE BLACKSBURG PARTNERSHIP

# Respondent Profile

## Christiansburg



# Respondent Profile



Respondent		
Full-time resident (non-student)	89%	520
Student	4%	27
Work in Blacksburg, non-resident	3%	19
Business owner	2%	15
Rental property owner	2%	13
Other	4%	19

# Respondent Profile

- How important is internet access?
  - Very important – 84.0%
  - Somewhat important – 14.6%
- 48% have children under 18 in the home
- 59% use internet for school and job training

# Top 10 Uses of an Internet Connection

## Christiansburg - Current

E-mail	402
Shopping	393
News	388
Accounting/Banking	379
Social media	374
Video/music streaming	363
Education	310
Transferring data files	297
Research	295
Work at home	272

## Christiansburg - Emerging

Video-conferencing	89
Hosting your web site	82
VPN connections	67
Online collaboration	67
Voice over Internet (VOIP)	65
Providing on-line sales	58
Training	56
Telemedicine	53
Work at home	53
Education	44



# Top 10 Uses of an Internet Connection



	Blacksburg	Christiansburg	Montgomery County
E-mail	427	402	96
Shopping	409	393	94
News	409	388	92
Accounting/Banking	394	379	84
Video/music streaming	372	363	74
Social media	367	374	79
Education	358	310	76
Transferring data files	338	297	65
Research	319	295	57
Work at home	317	272	64

# How many devices? Internet at what cost?

No. of Devices	Blacksburg	Christiansburg	Montgomery County
6 – 9	35%	44%	38%
1 – 5	29%	28%	31%
10 – 15	27%	20%	19%

- Respondents are paying between \$30 and \$99 a month for access.
- 34% at the \$50-69 range

# Access, Providers

Blacksburg	Cable Modem 63%	DSL 16%	Wireless 12%
Christiansburg	Cable Modem 50%	Wireless 20%	DSL 18%
Montgomery County	DSL 27%	Wireless 26%	Cable Modem 22%

- Blacksburg  
n=658

- Comcast – 68%
- Verizon – 18%

- Christiansburg  
n=774

- Shentel - 59%
- Verizon - 19%
- All Points - 15%

- Montgomery  
County n=186

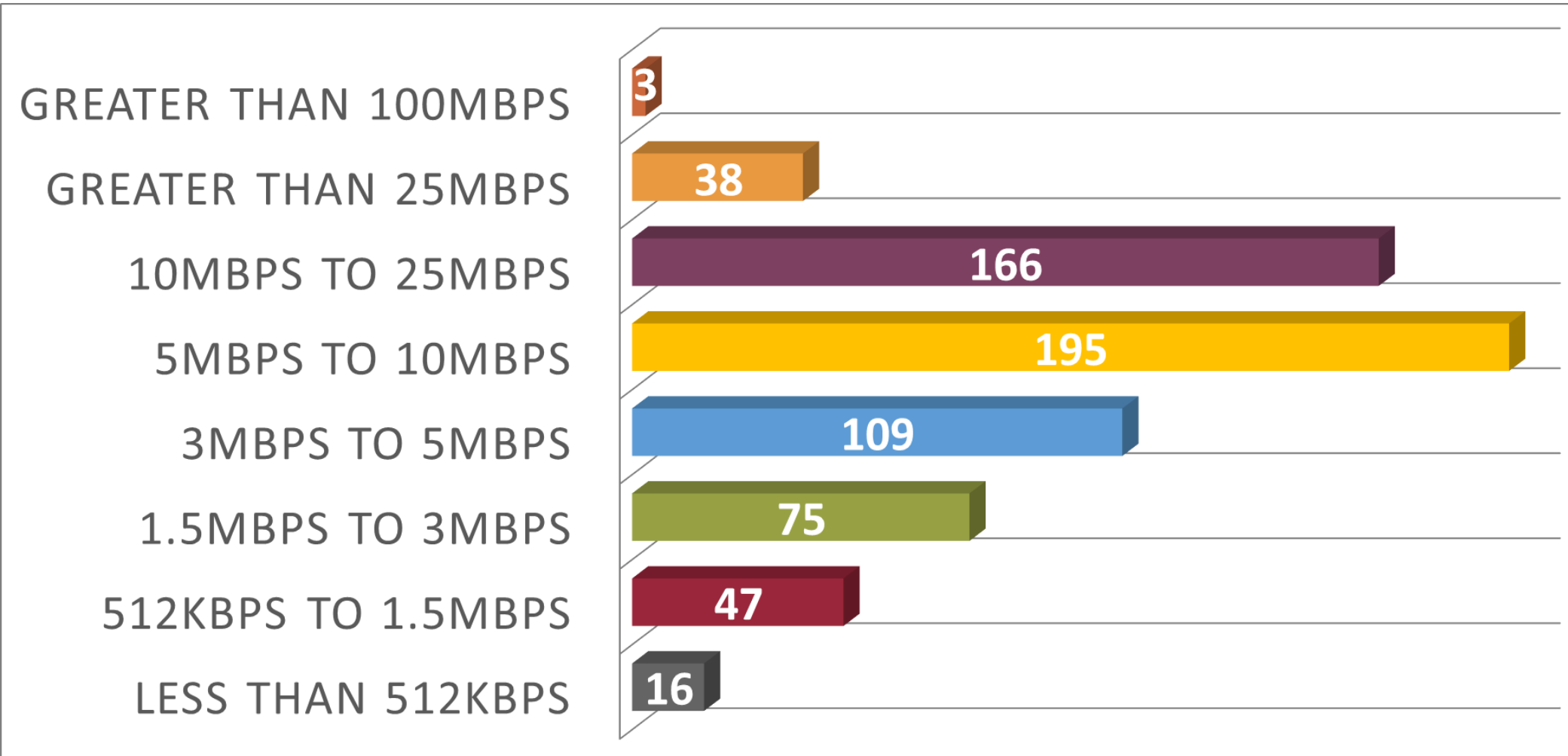
- Verizon - 41%
- Comcast - 16%
- Shentel - 14%
- All Points - 14%

# Provider satisfaction/dissatisfaction

- Majority of customers are somewhat to very satisfied with service and support and reliability, but not with speed
- However, 59.6% of customers are overall dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied customers identify specific reasons for dissatisfaction...

Connection too slow/not enough bandwidth	36.1%
Price too high	30.1%
Service is unreliable	22.2%
Poor customer service	6.7%
Lack of technical support	2.1%
Problems with Email	1.9%
Not dissatisfied	1.0%

# How fast are we going?



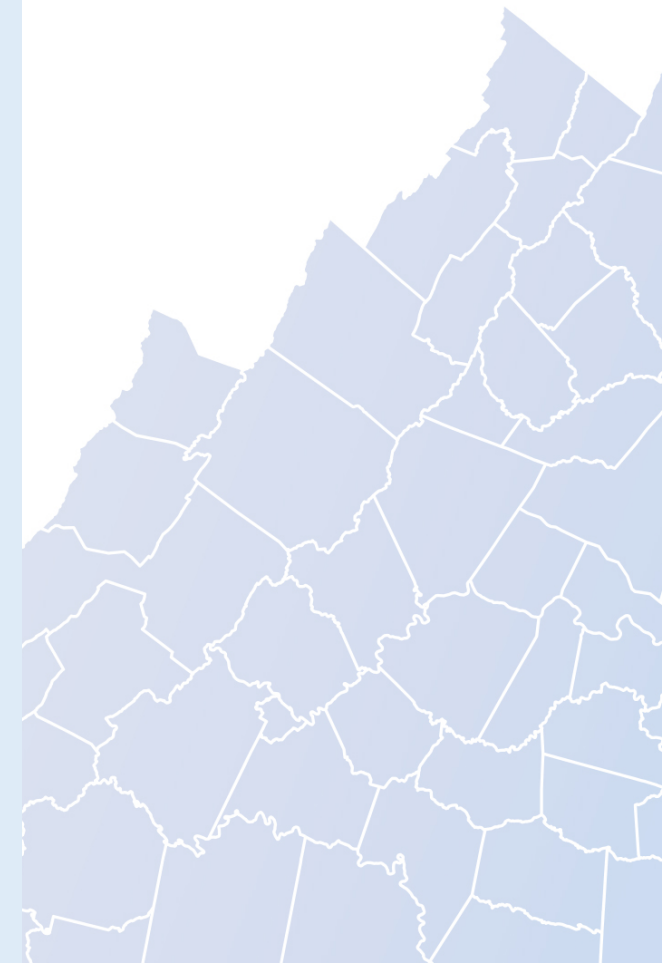
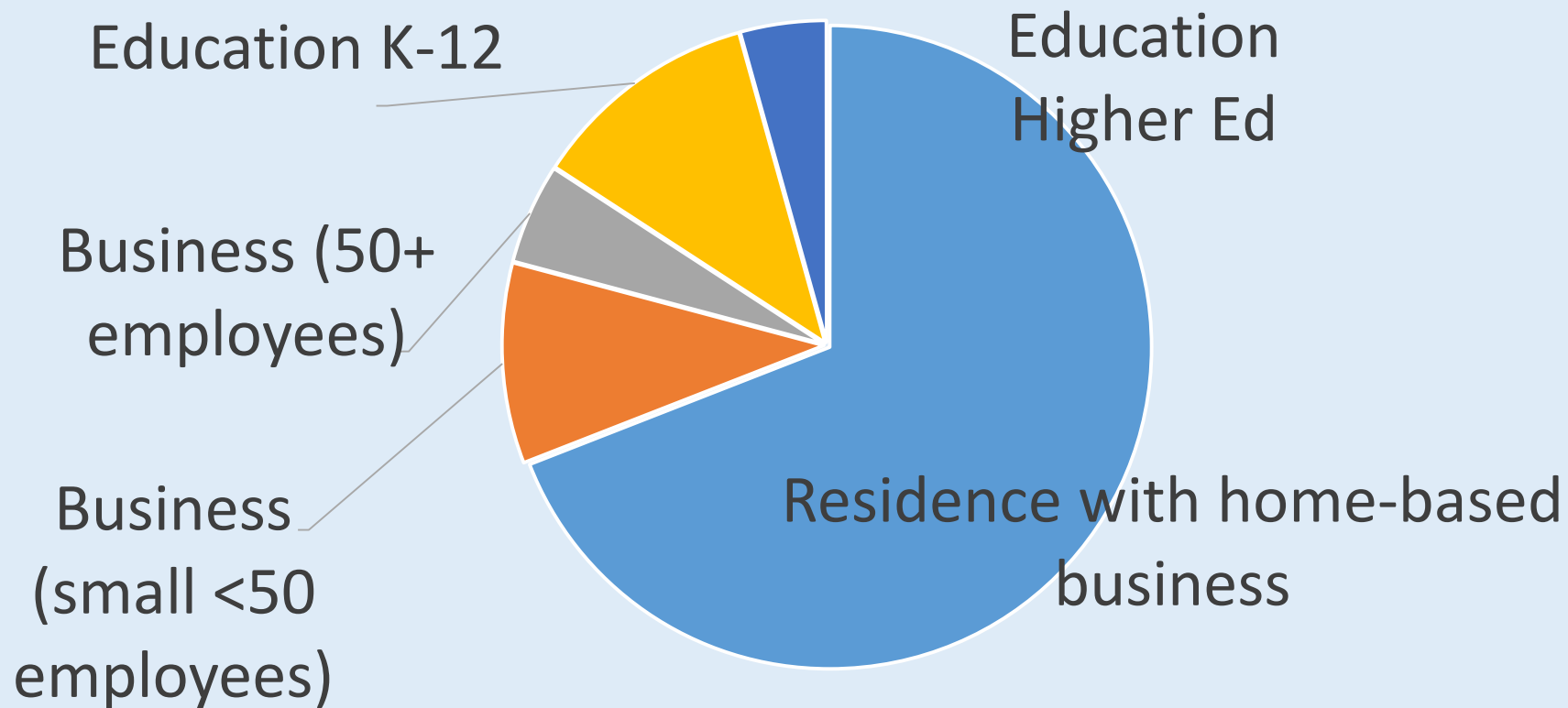
# Not going faster than 3 MBps? Why?



- Top 3 Reasons
  - Too expensive – 47.8%
  - Not available in my area – 42.6%
  - Not reliable/secure – 10.4%
- In Christiansburg, 115 people (10%) answered this question.

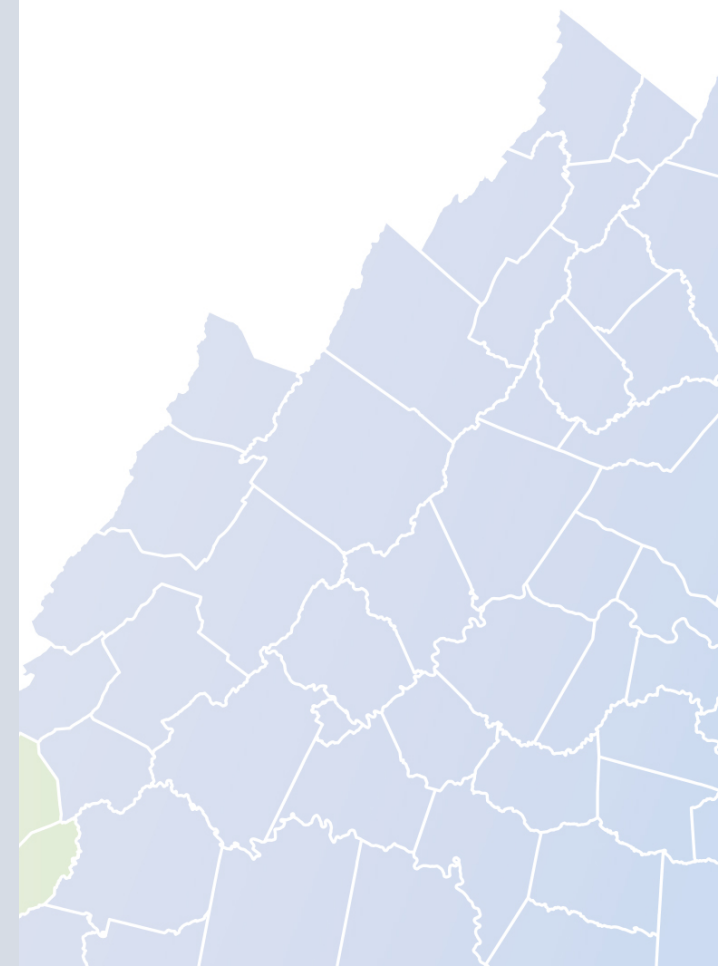
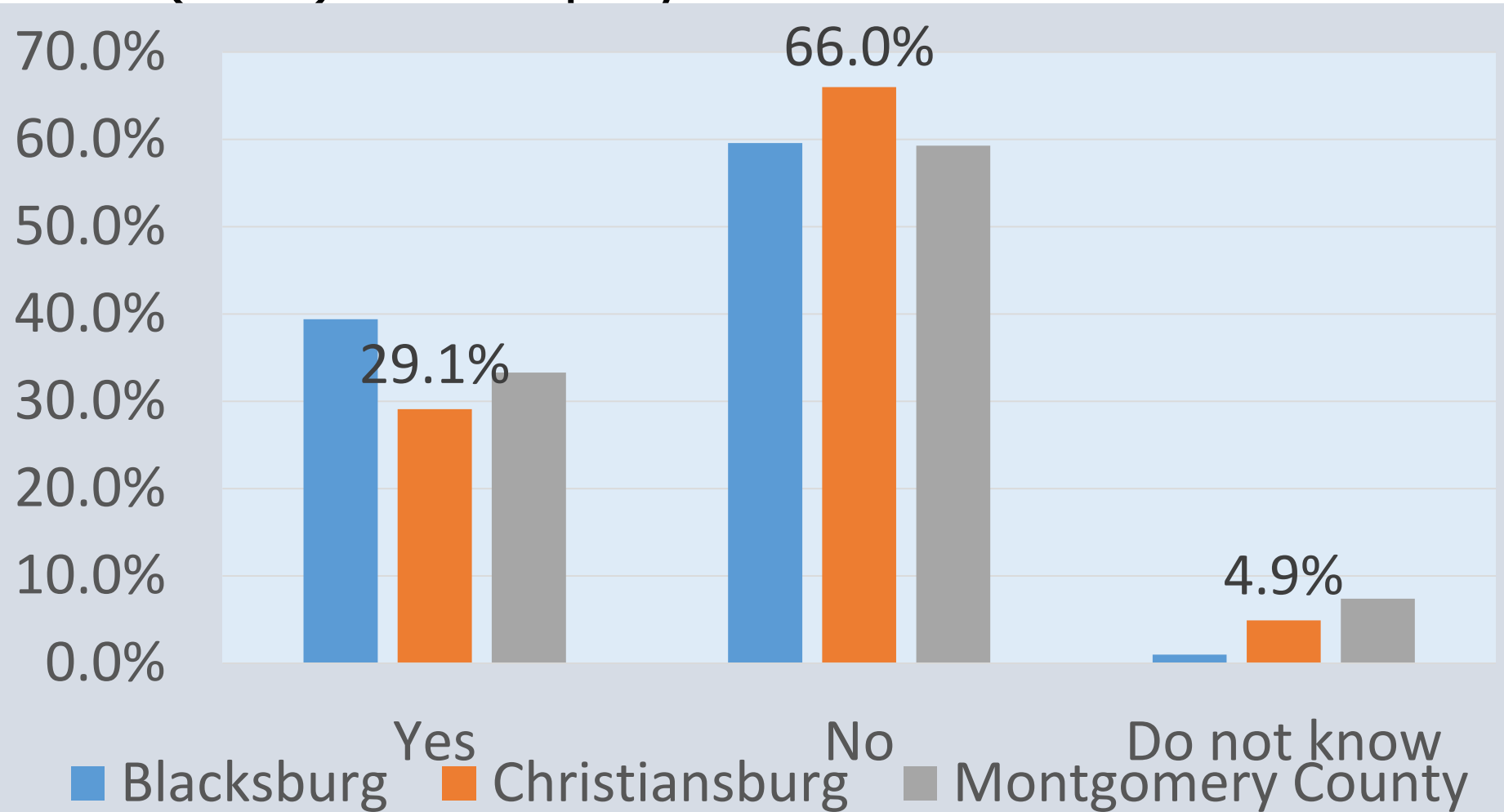
# Business responses

n=119, 82 are residence-based  
Typically employing 1-4 people



# Business responses

Do you utilize a Virtual Private Network (VPN) for employees to work from home?



# What role for the Town?

## What changes are needed?

- Question allowed open-ended responses
- Most common themes

312 Encourage more competition and choice for high-speed broadband among providers

27 Don't know/no opinion

25 Be competition for current providers/public utility/public-private partnerships

# What role for localities?

## What changes are needed?

- Question allowed open-ended responses
- Most common themes

658	Encourage more competition and choice for high-speed broadband among providers
76	Be competition for current providers/public utility/public-private partnerships
67	Don't know/no opinion (3 <sup>rd</sup> place in towns)
14	Service to unserved areas (3 <sup>rd</sup> place in Montgomery County)

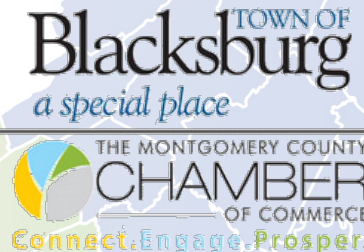
# Goals Moving Forward

- Improve broadband coverage in the county
  - Upgrade speeds and reliability at customer locations
  - Expand service to underserved/unserved areas
  - Business and residential
- Develop public-private partnerships
  - What localities can do to help
  - One-on-one discussions with providers

# Fostering better broadband



- Provider engagement to promote corridors for higher bandwidth
- Creating a website to host information collected
- Expedite permitting, plan review, and inspections
- Develop make-ready policies to facilitate deployment and installation of fiber infrastructure
- Right-of-way management and data availability (parcels, etc.)
- Evaluate viability of a conduit program



THE BLACKSBURG PARTNERSHIP

# Fostering better broadband



- Town Role
  - Public fiber lease program
  - Monitor and capture demand within the town
  - Communicate needs to providers
- Internet Service Provider Role
  - Advising the Town on needs for and barriers to expansion and upgraded service
  - Service delivery to business and residential customers



TOWN OF  
**Blacksburg**  
*a special place*



THE **BLACKSBURG** PARTNERSHIP



# Accessing the Survey



- Christiansburg's survey available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChristiansburgBroadband>



**Blacksburg** TOWN OF  
*a special place*



THE **BLACKSBURG** PARTNERSHIP



# Discussion

