**NFF**

## CASE STUDY

# Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation Leverages NFF's Network and Security Expertise for Smart Community Testbed

The Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation (VIPC) has launched the Virginia Smart Community Testbed (Testbed) in Stafford County, the first Smart Community testbed deploying innovative infrastructure to support an Internet of Things (IoT) platform fully integrated with 5G, Wi-Fi 6, and other new and emerging technology solutions. The Testbed validates solutions that help bridge the digital divide, foster economic growth, conserve energy, save taxpayer dollars, accelerate public broadband Internet access, and modernize government services.

Stafford County and VIPC opened the Testbed in May 2021 as a public-private partnership involving multiple industry partners focused on relevant and practical use cases that produce innovative solutions using emerging and smart technologies.



## Challenge

Build a team of industry-leading partners with innovative technology solutions to produce replicable best practices for the deployment of broadband Internet and IoT solutions that can be easily implemented in the most challenging environments across cities and rural communities.

## Solution

Starting in September 2021, Networking For Future (NFF) pulled together a broad team of technology companies including Signify, Cisco, TRAXyL, Express-Tek, Helicore, and Uniiband for the Testbed pilot project.

The testbed project demonstrated how to efficiently and securely deploy a Smart connectivity grid, that includes innovative broadband fiber and wireless technologies, and Smart lighting that expands public access to the Internet and improves public services and safety. This infrastructure grid further enables IoT applications like sensors, meters, cameras, and building access control systems.

# Success Through Partnership

As a trusted technology partner, NFF provided architecture, engineering, and overall platform integration support, network and security installation, and is providing ongoing performance management and maintenance for the grid.

Signify / CISCO / TRAXyL Here to anywhere. / eXpress-tek EXPERTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS / HELICORE / UNIIband

## NFF's industry-leading partners provided the following:

> **Signify** – Broadband luminaires, IoT Smart Pole, and Interact software
> **Cisco/Meraki** – Network and security appliances, WiFi access points and cameras
> **TRAXyL** – FiberTRAX "painted" fiber
> **Express-Tek** – Outside plant engineering and deployment
> **Helicore** – Smart Pole foundation and structural package
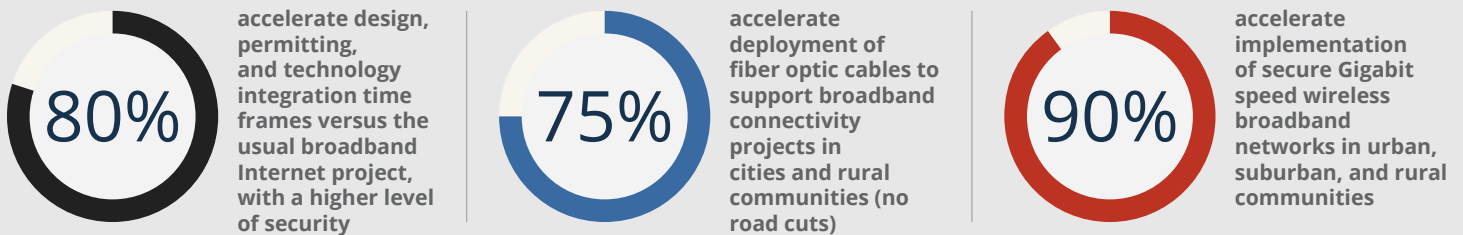> **Uniiband** – Battery back-up/power converter system

## NFF will continue to provide ongoing support to the Testbed including:

> Network and security upgrades and optimization
> Smart lighting, network, and security systems monitoring

# Results

The Testbed partners produced replicable best practices for the deployment of broadband Internet and IoT solutions that can be adopted and implemented by all levels of government and education as part of their Smart solutions planning and projects.

**Testbed project results** >

**80%** accelerate design, permitting, and technology integration time frames versus the usual broadband Internet project, with a higher level of security

**75%** accelerate deployment of fiber optic cables to support broadband connectivity projects in cities and rural communities (no road cuts)

**90%** accelerate implementation of secure Gigabit speed wireless broadband networks in urban, suburban, and rural communities

**Reduced Energy** and increased cost savings for municipalities via intelligent lighting

**Innovative** power solutions that ensure project success even in the most challenging environments

# Lessons Learned

The partners also shared product capabilities and best practices with one another and the Testbed team, providing deeper insight into how these innovative solutions solve broadband Internet and IoT challenges for communities and campuses.

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## ABOUT NETWORKING FOR FUTURE INC.

Networking For Future Inc. (NFF) is a Washington, DC-based company offering a performance-focused approach to delivering transformational IT business solutions.

NFF, an ISO 9001:2015 certified company, is a Cisco Gold Integrator Partner, Riverbed Premier Partner, NetApp Gold Partner, VMware Enterprise Partner, Splunk Partner, Microsoft Partner, Gigamon Partner, Riverbed Premier Partner, Aternity Partner, Citrix Silver Solution Advisor Partner, and holds GSA Schedule 47QTCA21D0047 and numerous other contract vehicles.