

TCC FAQs

What is the TCC?

The Telecommunications Commission (TCC) was established by the Board of Supervisors as an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors. The commission promotes and encourages compliance with the franchise agreements among the cable companies operating within Stafford County, reviews and advises the Board on cable television services, telecommunications, broadband (both wireline and wireless) and local infrastructure issues, and promotes local community programming to keep citizens informed.

What is a Franchise Agreement?

Franchise agreements are legal contracts the County negotiates with providers of cable companies. The agreements are accessible on the links on the right of this page. The agreements cover everything from where service should be provided, what conditions must be met for service, reporting requirements, customer service and more. Stafford currently has agreements with Cox Communications, Verizon and Comcast. The terms are staggered amongst the three, with renewals occurring at different times.

How do TCC meetings work?

As a Board-appointed commission, meetings must be open to the public. Time is reserved at the beginning of each meeting for presentations by the public. Citizens can speak on telecommunications-related issues during this time period. Public Presentations are limited to three minutes per presenter. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers. If a meeting is canceled or location changed, it is posted in the calendar of this website.

What is density and why is it important?

Franchise agreements require for an address to meet a density of 20 homes or more per linear mile. In some instances, providers may deny service to homeowners who actually meet the density required by the franchise agreement. If you think your home meets density, you are asked to submit the required documentation to the TCC at least ten (10) days in advance of a TCC meeting. Please see "[How to calculate your HPLM](#)" for instructions on how to prepare your HPLM documentation. The TCC will consider the case and if they agree with the calculations at the meeting, they will contact the provider in your behalf per the agreement.

What do individual members of the Commission do?

Citizens are also encouraged to contact their district's representative on the committee with service complaints or issues. They have the expertise to walk individuals through the density calculations. As well, they are knowledgeable about alternate forms of internet.

My house does not meet density, what are my options?

The FCC estimates anywhere from 6-8% of Stafford is not covered by broadband internet. Stafford's Board of Supervisors has worked with the TCC to find alternative solutions for residents. KGI Communications partnered with the County via a state grant to provide fixed wireless internet to residents in the Widewater/Marlborough Point/Aquia area. That project is scheduled to be complete in mid-2021. KGI will also be expanding to the western part of the county by co-locating on a tower in that area. That date of the completion of that project is to be determined. AerWireless is another fixed wireless company offering internet to the western part of the county.