

## Summary for 04-03-20 ITSSC Infrastructure Subcommittee meeting

### Topics discussed included:

1. All the members who weren't in TLOS (5 out of 8) were highly complimentary of TLOS' effort to take classes to an online status under duress. And although done in a hurried fashion, trouble tickets and infrastructure related hiccups were fewer than anticipated.
  - a. The caveat to this is the remote, residential connections that many students have outside the Blacksburg area. This is also impacting telework for faculty and staff.
  - b. Neal Vines kindly shared a map of places in the state where access might be better, near ARECs and 4H Centers. Go here for that → <https://ext.vt.edu/offices.html>
  - c. NI&S has also published a map to outdoor wifi hotspots on campus that are open to the community. Go here for that → <https://vtnews.vt.edu/notices/it-nis-driveupwifi.html>
2. Dr. Midkiff especially wanted to get an update on the network infrastructure in Roanoke and the greater D.C. Metro area.
  - a. Subcommittee member Justin Davenport related the issue from last week when area carrier COGENT had issues that took internet services offline for a time in that region. Otherwise, things have been stable.
    - i. Justin did also mention, however, that even though he is in a large, metro region, they too have issues with home internet access and bandwidth.
  - b. Subcommittee member Jed Krusch said they did not notice the Cogent issue in Roanoke and that things have been stable there.
  - c. NI&S is still seeking funding to create a full ring topology for the Roanoke and Washington D.C. metro area. This would allow each area to have fully independent, hi-speed connections to the research and commodity networks, while also providing for rerouting traffic should one of the legs fail.
  - d. All members hope that a lesson learned from this event, among other health related ones, is that the residential internet is extremely important and should be upgraded.
3. Chair let everyone know that infrastructure upgrade projects were continuing and in many cases moving ahead of schedule. Crews are still working in Roanoke, on Riverside 4, as well as the rest of the VT central campus in Blacksburg.

- a. This work could be suspended soon, however, as Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer) is still scarce. NI&S has placed orders for all needed items and is hopeful, but we have yet to hit the peak of cases in Virginia.
- 4. Discussion shifted to the overall committee, The IT Services and Systems Committee, which this is a subcommittee for. Membership is being reviewed for next year, and while Jama Coartney is willing and able to continue as a Graduate Student rep, Neal Vines will be retiring this summer so will not be available. :(
  - a. We all wish Neal and healthy and happy retirement!