Fiber Installation Constraints Study
RVA LLC for the Fiber Broadband Association
February 27, 2024

During 2023, RVA conducted interviews with 283 small and mid-sized network operators installing fiber.   As part of the study, these operators were asked in an open-ended question to comment on the current concerns and challenges they faced. Responses were then analyzed and "coded" by the type of concerns indicated. Two types of general concerns were noted: concerns about aspects of federal programs for funding such as BEAD, and concerns about perceived constraints to fiber broadband installation. The following review focuses on those making comments about installation constraints.

The chart below shows the general categorization of FTTH installation constraints. It should be noted that these concerns represent only the most top of mind concern. In other words, as an example, while only 4% noted concerns about getting locates completed, it does not necessarily follow that locates are not a significant concern to most operators – rather this concern didn't rise to the top of the list relative to others. (If a five-point rating scale were used for all these concerns, many of these would have likely been rated as a significant or very significant concern.)

Based on this methodology, the top three concerns for 2023 were workforce shortage, rising costs, and work process constraints such as obtaining permits and approvals from governments or other private companies to complete the installation in each geographic area.

Current Network Operator Concerns About FTTH Installation
Open End Responses 2023

Concern	Percentage
Workforce shortage	30%
Rising costs	23%
Work process constraints - approvals and access	21%
Materials shortages	19%
Work process constraints - locating	4%
Work process constraints - weather	2%
Funding	1%

1

02/27/2024