



TESTIMONY OF CATHERINE KLING  
LIBERTY VI INTERIM COUNTRY MANAGER  
BEFORE THE 36<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Mr. Chairman, members of the 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature's Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunications, senators, legislative staff, ladies and gentlemen, I am Catherine Kling, Liberty VI's Interim General Manager. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee to provide information on present infrastructure projects, and updates on other topics.

I take this opportunity to introduce Rayeq Badran, Area Manager RAN Planning & Engineering, Wanda Pérez, Sr. Regulatory and Government Affairs Manager who are online and Isabel Sola, Regulatory Manager all of whom can take your questions later.

Connect VI Update:

As of March 2026, the Connect VI program has reached approximately 20,100 homes passed, reflecting continued progress in expanding broadband infrastructure across the U.S. Virgin Islands. Deployment remains active across both St. Thomas and St. Croix. Fiber distribution has been deployed across multiple areas, including Anna's Retreat, Barren Spot, Lowry Hill, Bovoni, Clifton Hill, Contant, Diamond East, Donoe, East Street, Frydenhoj, Hannah's Rest, Kings Quarter, Lindbergh Bay, Mariendal, Mt. Pleasant, Nazareth, Queens Quarter, Smith Bay, Strawberry Hill, Two Brothers, and Williams Delight. Multiple Multi-Dwelling Unit (MDU) locations have also been connected across the territory leveraging existing ViNGN infrastructure, expanding broadband availability in higher-density areas.

Since mid-2025, following the progression of permitting and coordination efforts, a significant portion of deployment has been executed. Coordination with WAPA has been consistent and effective, supporting sustained deployment progress in compliance with applicable engineering, safety, and regulatory requirements.

Coordination with the Department of Public Works (DPW) has focused on aligning fiber deployment with roadway repaving projects where feasible, reducing additional excavation and minimizing community impact. As part of this approach, a coordinated underground project was completed in the Ruby area of St. Croix toward the end of 2025, demonstrating the viability of this type of joint effort when schedules and approvals align. Restoration activities have also been strengthened and prioritized, including pavement repairs, site clean-up, and ongoing coordination with DPW to address comments and concerns while maintaining compliance with applicable standards.



Additionally, Liberty is working with WAPA to identify and enable potential synergies with underground electrical infrastructure projects, with the objective of aligning excavation efforts and improving deployment efficiency. This includes coordinating opportunities where, as WAPA undertakes the undergrounding of electrical infrastructure, Liberty can deploy fiber concurrently. While these opportunities continue to be evaluated, no joint excavation projects have been executed to date.

Regarding middle-mile connectivity, an IRU (Indefeasible Right of Use) agreement with ViNGN, executed in Q3 of last year, has enabled connectivity to multiple MDU locations across the territory. Liberty continues to evaluate additional ways to leverage ViNGN infrastructure, particularly its underground network, to support future expansion. Coordination efforts remain active and constructive.

Overall, the program continues to make steady progress, advancing deployment across the territory while maintaining alignment with applicable regulatory requirements. Execution will continue to be guided by practical deployment considerations.

Finally, we are proud to inform that our True Fiber internet network won the Ookla's 2025 Speedtest Award as the Fastest Fixed Network in the U.S.V.I.

### Mobile Update

Regarding our mobile network, in 2025 we added capacity to five existing sites. An all-new band was deployed for the first time (600 MHz). These upgrades expanded 5G capacity and increased network speeds by up to 30% for customers in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, recent new site deployments resulted in a 19% increase in the total number of mobile sites across the territory, with all sites equipped with LTE technology. According to the latest Census data, our network now covers 99.3% of the population.

Overall, these improvements have significantly enhanced 5G coverage. While we recognize that not all issues have been fully addressed, we continue to actively optimize the network to resolve remaining gaps.

In the 2025 benchmarking surveys conducted by Global Wireless Solutions, Inc. and Ookla, Liberty Mobile was recognized as the fastest mobile network in the United States Virgin Islands for the second consecutive year.

Looking ahead, we have five new site builds and twenty-five capacity expansion projects planned for 2026, which include the following:

#### (25)- LTE/5G expansion projects

These are to install LTE/5G technology on existing sites. Although all sites are equipped with LTE, we continue to implement capacity enhancements to improve the customer's service speed. These initiatives will deploy an all-new frequency to Liberty's 5G network (AWS-H) that will be translated into better customer experience.



(4) New site builds (monopoles)

We aim to address coverage and capacity issues with four additional new site builds or monopoles. We are in the permitting process for these additional new site builds, one in St. Thomas, two in St. Croix, and one in St. John. Three of these sites are part of the commitment between the USVI government and the FirstNet Authority.

(1) New site build (In-Building)

We aim to address coverage challenges at a specific new indoor location through the deployment of an in-building solution. This new site will enhance both coverage and capacity throughout the facility in the upcoming Hotel at Botany Bay, resulting in improved user experience for residents, guests, and employees.

I reaffirm our commitment as partners to this Legislature, the Government of the Virgin Islands and the community as a whole.

I am also happy to report that in 2025 our philanthropic arm, Liberty foundation, donated \$38,100 in grants, sponsorships and donations to multiple non-profits in the territory. Overall, Liberty and Liberty Foundation have benefited 30 nonprofit organizations in VI with \$454,100 in donations since 2020.

We appreciate the opportunity to continue building a good working relationship with this Commission and its members, DPW, WAPA and other entities as a community partner, promoting the development of telecommunications services and the communities within the Virgin Islands. We all want the same thing, faster progress, fewer bottlenecks and better service to the people we serve and the communities where we live.

Please let me know if I can provide you any additional information or clarification. At this time my team and I would welcome any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

Signed by:  
  
Catherine Kling