



A fast-read update on Lake County's county-owned, high-speed fiber optic network

Here's Where We're Headed...

THE ENTIRE FIBER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT will take 36 months. Construction started in June of 2012 and is taking place in three phases. It is difficult to give specific dates for the phases as clearances and permits to hang or bury fiber over the 2,000 miles of network area involves arranging for space to hang fiber on poles owed or shared by electric utilities, telecommunication companies and municipalities. We also need to work with government agencies where lines pass through environmentally sensitive areas. Broadband services will be made available to residents and businesses in each phase as construction is completed.



Over 1000 Miles of fiber ready to be installed at a Lake Connections' staging area.

ALL PHASES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

Phase One:

Two Harbors • Silver Bay

Consists of 75 miles of fiber constructed in the towns of Two Harbors and Silver Bay. Construction began in June of 2012 and completion is expected by second quarter of 2013.

- *Construction in the town of Two Harbors has stopped due to a dispute between the City of Two Harbors and Frontier Communications regarding the ownership of utility poles. Frontier is requesting Lake County remove the fiber we have already attached to poles, and reattach above Frontier's copper cable. This would come at a great expense and put the project further behind schedule.*
- *Thus far over 65% of residents and businesses in Two Harbors have elected to give Lake Connections permission to install a fiber drop on their property.*
- *Over 70% of the residents and businesses in Silver Bay have elected to have a fiber drop installed to their premises.*
- *Within the immediate rural areas of Two Harbors over 65% of residents have granted permission.*
- *In Silver Bay, crews are hanging fiber on utility poles. The construction crew will be active here for the next several months assessing whether residents and businesses would like access to fiber connectivity.*
- *Contracts totaling over \$7 million dollars have been awarded and are awaiting approval from Rural Utilities Service in Washington, DC, for Transport and Access equipment, fiber termination equipment, and Two Harbors administrative headquarters and service center remodel.*

Phase Two:

Duluth Township • Knife River

• Silver Creek Township • Beaver Bay Township

Consists of more than 400 miles of fiber constructed from downtown Duluth all along the shore up to Silver Bay including Duluth, Knife River, Silver Creek and Beaver Bay Township. Construction is anticipated to start second quarter of 2013 and take at least ten months to complete.

- *A \$9.3 Million dollar contract has been awarded to Rohl Networks, a construction company that specializes in fiber optic installations in both urban and rural areas, and is awaiting approval from the Rural Utilities Service in Washington, DC.*
- *A construction crew is currently in Silver Bay hanging fiber on utility poles. The construction crew will be active here for the next several months assessing whether residents and businesses would like access to fiber connectivity.*

Phase Three:

Ely • Aurora • Babbitt • Hoyt Lakes • Basset Township • Colvin Township • Crystal Bay Township • Embarrass Township • Fall Lake Township • Morse Township • Stony River Township • Waasa Township • White Township • And several unorganized townships

Consists of more than 750 miles of fiber that will complete the fiber ring. It will connect the communities and townships from Island Lake through Aurora, Hoyt Lakes, Embarrass, Babbitt, Ely, Isabella, and Finland - then tie back to Silver Bay. Construction is anticipated to start the summer of 2013 and be completed in the summer of 2015.

For weekly project and construction updates see "Gaining Speed" on www.lakeconnections.com