



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

Community Information Meetings

Lake Connections hosted community information meetings in Duluth Township, Silver Creek Township and Knife River on March 5, 7 and 14. The halls were near capacity and filled with residents and business owners who came to hear an update from Project Manager, Jeff Roiland, on the Lake Connections fiber optic network project.

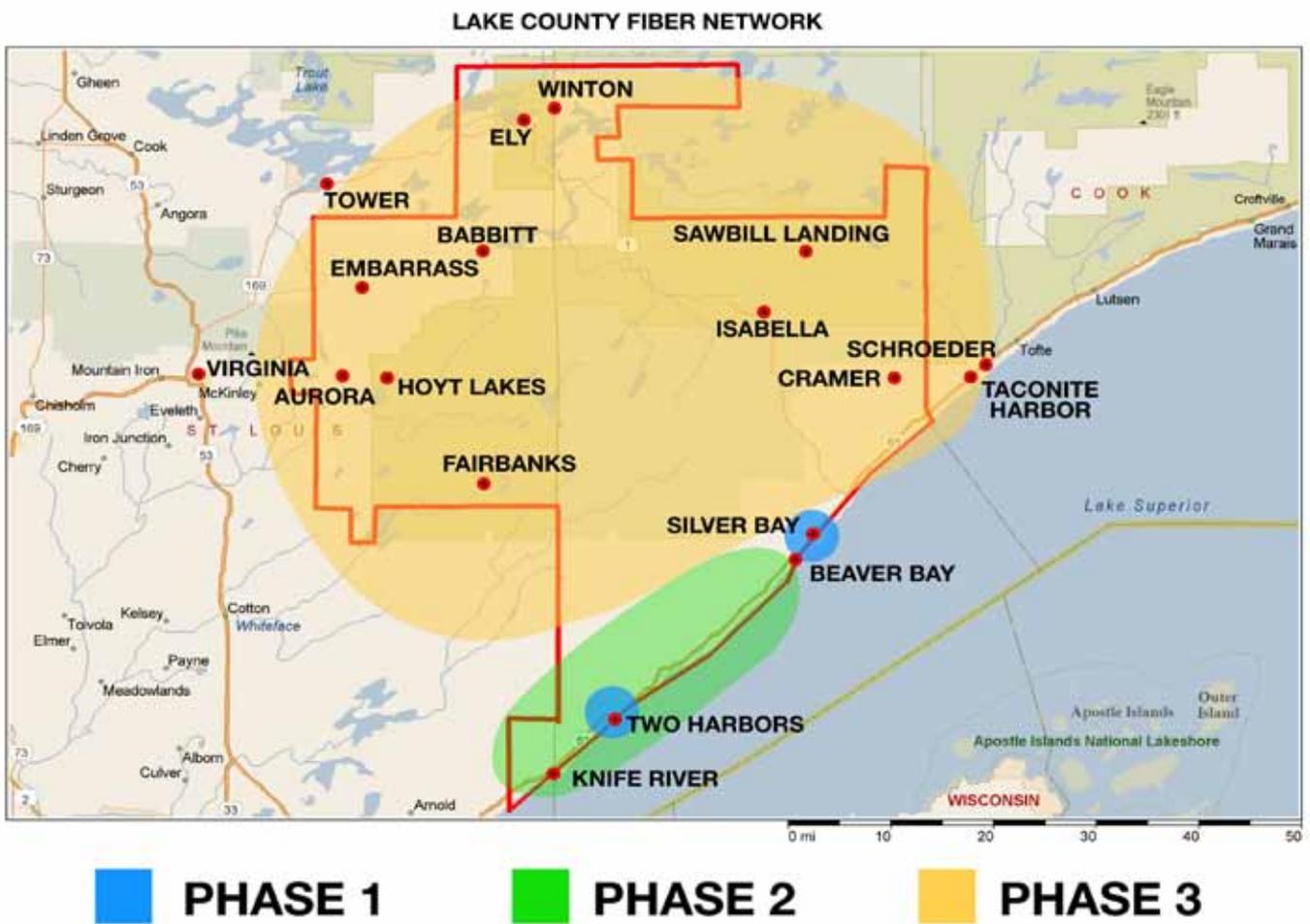
For more information on the meetings, see the press release issued by [Lake Connections](#).



Interest in the Lake Connections broadband project drew near or full houses at March community information meetings. Seventy-nine people attended the meeting in Duluth township, 58 at Silver Creek, and 78 at Knife River.

Construction Update

To date, there has been a total of more than \$23 million in contracts awarded to vendors from engineering, electronics and construction. That's a good sign that many contracts are coming in on or under budget.



ALL PHASES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

Phase One:

Two Harbors • Silver Bay

While the snow has slowed the project down some, construction crews are busy hanging strand and fiber in Silver Bay. Of the 16.5 miles of fiber to be hung in Silver Bay, a total of approximately 4 miles are complete, representing 24% of this phase.

With a 75% acceptance or “take rate” – residents and businesses that have accepted fiber to their location – it is anticipated that crews will be busy connecting folks through spring.

Phase Two:

Duluth Township • Knife River • Silver Creek Township • Beaver Bay Township

The construction contracts for Phase 2 were approved by Rural Utilities Service (RUS) in Washington, DC. The crews are preparing the necessary “make-ready” work on utility poles to accommodate the fiber for the project. To speed the construction, the make-ready work must be prepared prior to when the construction crews begin hanging the fiber on location.

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

Construction bids opened the week of March 11 with intention of starting the 750+ miles of construction this summer with completion in the next two years.

A remodeling project will complete the transformation of the Lake Connections headquarters building that should be completed by July of 2013. When the Lake Connections project is completed, between 20 and 30 employees will office out of the building.



For project and construction updates see “Gaining Speed” on www.lakeconnections.com

