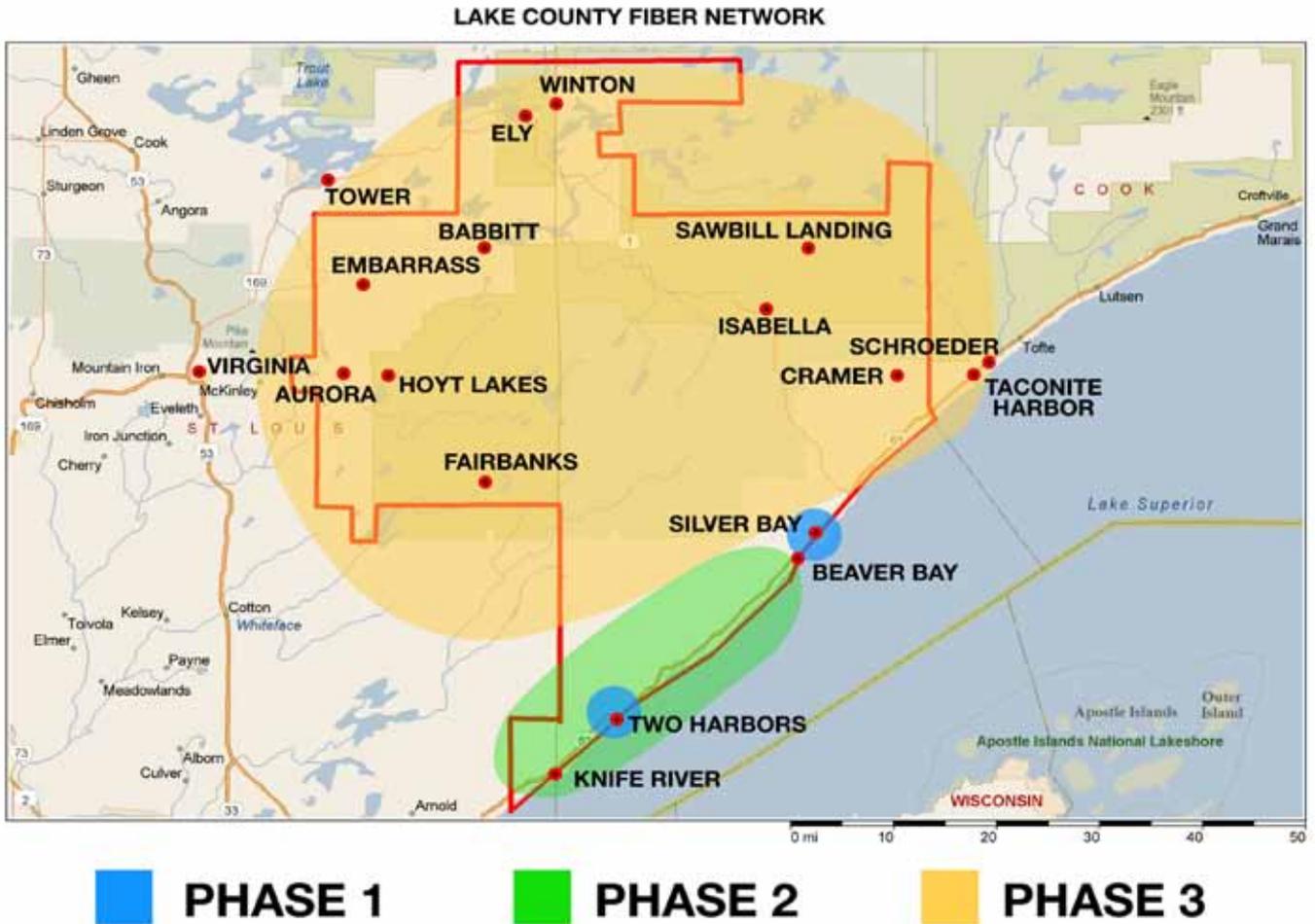




A fast-read update on Lake County's county-owned, high-speed fiber optic network

## Construction Update

To date that there has been a total of more than \$43 million dollars in contracts awarded to vendors providing engineering, electronics and construction services. The project continues to move forward on or under budget in each of the phases rolled out thus far.



ALL PHASES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

### Phase One:

#### **Two Harbors • Silver Bay**

During the first week in April more than 3,200 feet of strand and 4,600 feet of fiber were placed on poles. That brings to a total of about 26,000 feet of fiber installed in Silver Bay. Crews continue to bring fiber directly to residential and business properties that have granted permission for the service, which is close to 75%. About 20% of these fiber drops are now complete.

Minnesota Power reported it has completed the make-ready on the poles it owns in Silver Bay. With that good news, and anticipated warmer weather, Phase 1 in Silver Bay should progress nicely.

### Phase Two:

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

A pre-construction meeting was held during the first week of April for the Phase 2 build. Crews continue to prepare the necessary "make-ready" work on utility poles to accommodate the fiber when the project gets the green light which is expected by May 6.

### 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 were opened the week of March 11, 2013. The 750+ miles of construction will begin this summer and be completed within the next two years.

## Administration/Service Center

The former First Solutions administrative building in Two Harbors is under extensive remodeling and is on schedule to be completed by the end of July 2013.

## Employment Opportunities

Lake Connections will soon be hiring! Please see the [Lake Connections website](http://www.lakeconnections.com) for positions as they become available.

For project and construction updates see "Gaining Speed" on [www.lakeconnections.com](http://www.lakeconnections.com)