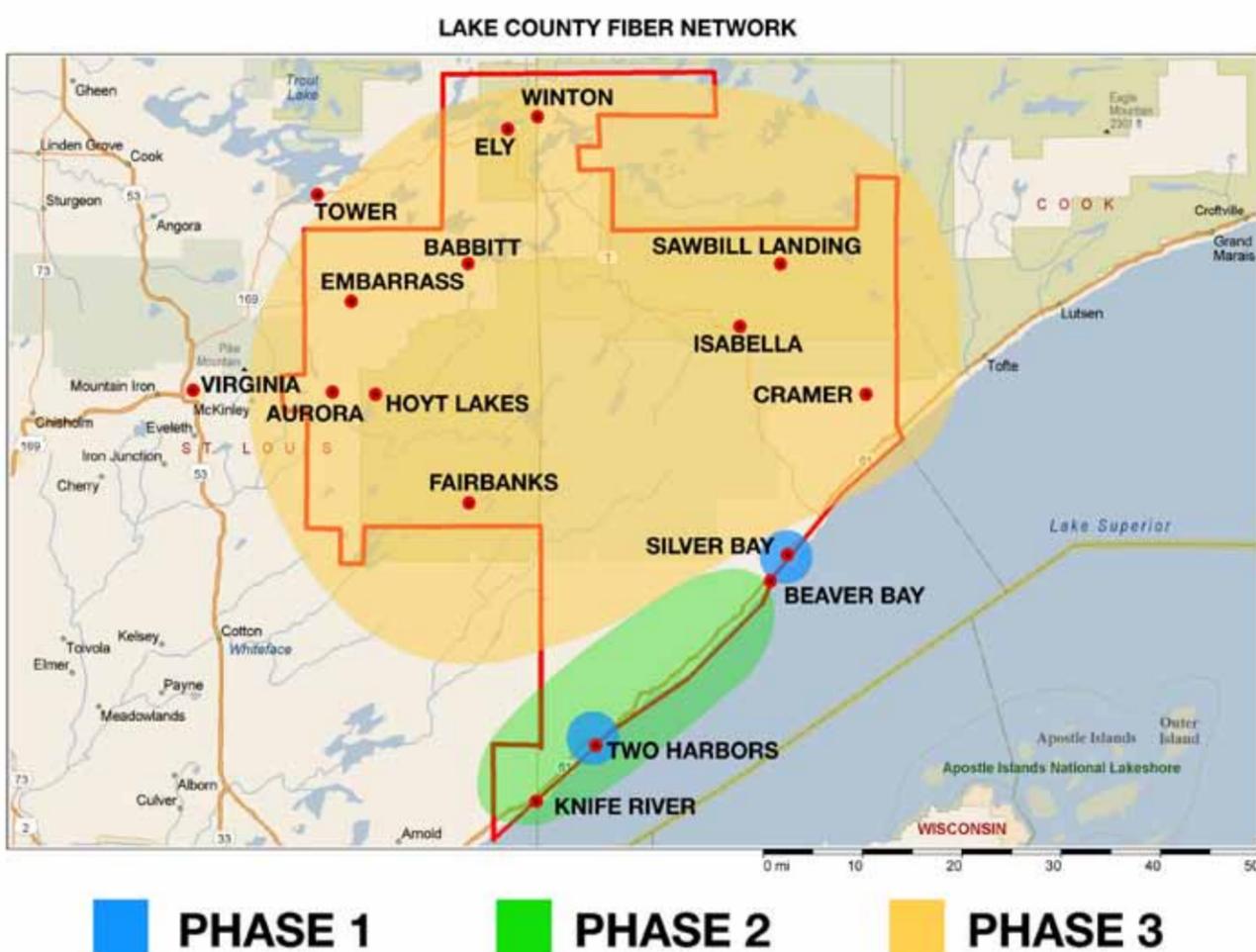




A fast-read update on Lake County's county-owned, high-speed fiber optic network

## Lake Connections Grand Opening

“We look forward to showcasing our newly remodeled building, introducing our staff and showing the public what the Lake Connections project is all about,” stated Jeff Roiland, Lake Connections Project Manager. The purchase of their 10,000 square foot building was made possible by federal funding.



**PHASE 1**      **PHASE 2**      **PHASE 3**

Summer has finally arrived, and with it, comes construction progress! See the map above to see which phase of construction applies to your home or business.

## Construction Update

As the summer approaches its end, Lake Connections' crews continue to develop the network that will connect you. Main line and drop line crews are working simultaneously to get everyone connected. The month of July saw considerable progress, but with a project of this size there are always obstacles. Pole Attachment and Ownership Discrepancy obstacles delaying certain segments of construction may include:

- *Permitting*
- *Railroad and road crossings*
- *Challenges with boring into granite and bedrock*
- *Weather – especially snow and rain*
- *Preparation of “make-ready” on power poles for fiber and strand attachment*
- *Central office infrastructure and network equipment must all be in place before service begins*
- *Network and fiber testing*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you are interested in having fiber to your home or business and you see crews drive by or working in your area without stopping, do not worry, that is the main line crew. Pre sales will start this Fall and the drop crew will be along eventually to get you connected if you have requested them to do so.

ALL PHASES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

### Phase One:

**Two Harbors • Silver Bay • Silver Bay Township**

The crews in Silver Bay continue to make headway burying fiber that will connect the network from the Service Center building to the point of presence location in Silver Bay. Pole ownership disputes continue to delay advancement in Two Harbors.

### Phase Two:

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

Approximately 45,000 feet of fiber was hung this past month and much of it was along the route from Silver Bay to Duluth Township. Much of this fiber will hold the responsibility of being part of the redundant network loop that will ensure service continues if there is an outage on one route of the loop.

### 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**

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is currently reviewing the \$20.3 million construction contract. Construction on the 750 miles of this phase should begin by the end of the month.



*fiber distribution frames terminating close to 6000 fibers*



*Customer Service Area*

## Administration/Service Center

The Lake Connections Administration and Customer Service Center is almost completed and will be ready for the Grand Opening celebration on Wednesday, August 28th!

## Employment Opportunities

Continue to check our website, [www.lakeconnections.com/careers](http://www.lakeconnections.com/careers), for employment opportunities.

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

