



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

In Case You Missed It

If you were not one of the 300 people that participated in the Lake Connections Open House last Wednesday, we wanted to be sure to share some of the highlights from the event.



Over 300 people attended the open house and ribbon cutting for Lake Connections Headquarters.

Commissioner Rich Sve welcomed the public and shared the background for the project. He also highlighted late Lake County Commissioner Paul Bergman's tenacity and drive to bring this project to fruition.

Lake Connections Project Manager, Jeff Roiland, informed the audience about the renovations and remodeling of the headquarters facility over the past 18 months. The headquarters will be the technical and service hub for the project that will provide High Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice services to homes and businesses in Lake County and parts of eastern St. Louis County.



Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve welcomes the public to the ribbon cutting for the Lake Connections Headquarters.

Roiland also discussed how the Lake Connections project is one of the most expansive endeavors in the Midwest with the construction and delivery of over 2,000 miles of state-of-the-art broadband services to a rural area. Some facts about the project include:

- To date, close to \$50 million of the \$66.5 million loan/grant award has been secured with construction contracts to build and complete the fiber network by the end of 2015.
- There are three construction phases taking place simultaneously:
 1. Main line fiber installation – includes fiber splicing and placing pedestals
 2. Fiber drops and installation to homes and businesses
 3. Inside installation of equipment in homes and businesses for service subscriptions
- Digital TV service will be available the first half of 2014.

Roiland noted how the project serves as a catalyst for business and economic development through:

- Direct employment – the locally operated and staffed service headquarters will employ up to 20 technology-savvy individuals.
- Construction employment – The construction crews for both the headquarters facility and the 2,000 miles of fiber being constructed has created close to 30 full time jobs in JUST the second quarter of 2013 alone. Dozens more construction and professional service jobs in many trades have been made possible by this project over the last 18 months.
- Infrastructure investment – the fiber infrastructure supports further business development and investment that ultimately provides the foundation for high-tech careers and industry to expand and locate in Lake County.

Pending any unforeseen circumstances, service will begin being available in parts of Phase I yet this fall. As a reminder, construction timelines are often contingent on several factors, including:

- Pole Attachment and Ownership Agreements
- Environmental Permitting
- Railroad and Road Crossing
- Challenges with boring into Granite and Bedrock
- Weather Conditions
- Preparation of "make-ready" to attach fiber and strand to utility poles
- Network and fiber testing

Roiland also took time to thank the partners and vendors have played a critical role in the project, including:

- Lake Connections Team Members Bob Thompson, Gene South and Patti Rowray
- Compass Consultants
- ARI
- Max Gray Construction and Subcontractors
- Calix
- Egan Associates
- Cyan
- Goldfield Communications
- Brocade
- Cisco
- 7 Sigma
- Power Products Systems
- Dascom
- Innovative Systems
- Rohl Networks
- Lake States Construction
- Corning Glass



Representatives from the United States Congressional delegation read congratulatory remarks. (From Left to Right) Pete Makowski with Senator Al Franken's office, Jerry Fallos with Senator Amy Klobuchar's office, and Mark Privratsky with Congressman Nolan's office.

A special thanks was noted to Lake County for the vision to bring this project homes and businesses.

Representatives from Senator Amy Klobuchar's, Senator Al Franken and Congressman Rick Nolan's offices each read letters from the respective officials commending the project's success to date and the importance of investment in broadband services.

To close the celebration, a ceremonious ribbon cutting took place with the Lake Connections partners. To recognize the unflagging support and dedication of Commissioner Paul Berman, his wife, Jan Bergman, cut the ribbon. Commissioner Sve indicated there will be a future memorial onsite to officially commemorate Commissioner Bergman's commitment to the project.



Special guest Jan Bergman, wife of late Lake County Commissioner, cut the ribbon.



Two Harbors Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors celebrated the ribbon cutting with the Lake Connections leadership.

Win a FREE Year of Internet Service!

Be sure to sign up to be registered to win a FREE year of service through Lake Connections. The drawing will take place October 1st. [Click here to enter!](#)