

Parnell Area FTTH Project Update 2022.05.02

Since our last update we have been working to secure financing for this project. This seems to be going as expected and we are hopeful to have this in place in the next week or two. Once we have this established, we will begin ordering as many of the supplies as possible. As we mentioned in our first update, we are seeing supply chain issues in our industry also, for this reason we will be ordering as much as possible, as soon as possible to ensure we have what we need when we get to that part of the project.

We have received a verbal commitment from the contractor that we have been working with that they are committed to completing our project. We were informed that "If we are unable to get the fiber installed for this project this year that we would be first on the list in 2023". This contractor also confirmed they have the material needed for this project on hand. Which from our standpoint is a good thing as we would have a difficult time getting this material as quickly as it may be needed.

Our goal for the month of May is to put together details about the sign-up process and to get this process going for the month of June and July in preparation for a contractor to possibly be in the area by late summer.

Please visit this link <https://wellmantelephone.com/parnell/>, like and follow us on **Facebook**, or call **319.646.6075** for additional and future updates about this project.

Parnell Area FTTH Project Update 2022.03.22

GREAT NEWS!!! Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA) is excited to announce we are expanding our Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network to approximately 233 homes in the City of Parnell and surrounding area. In 2021, WCTA sent out surveys to potential customers in Parnell and the surrounding area and received strong interest to bring fiber-optic broadband services to your area.

Since then, WCTA has been working hard with engineers and consultants to get cost estimates and to find ways to help fund this project. The overall cost of our entire project is estimated to be 1.9 million dollars of this amount, approximately 1.2 million will be spent building out areas that qualified for a recent grant opportunity. WCTA is excited to announce we have recently been awarded a grant for \$726,870.00. This will cover 60% of the approximately 1.2 million dollars we will be spending to build out 62 locations that are in grant eligible service areas. The grant WCTA was awarded was supported by federal funds made available through the American Rescue Plan Act and the State of Iowa, acting by and through the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Points of view expressed herein are those of the author or speaker and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the United States Government or State of Iowa or endorsement of the project.

To make this project possible WCTA needs to have a place to set a new cabinet for our electronic equipment and a fiber distribution cabinet. We have been working with the City of Parnell and have a verbal agreement to purchase a small piece of property from the city on the east side of Parnell where we plan to place our equipment.

In mid-January we had a meeting with our plant engineers to discuss the products we want to use for this project, and how we want to design this area. After this meeting the engineers stayed in the area for a week or so to complete on-site staking. They have been working on staking out our project and hope to have this complete by the end of April. Once the staking is completed and a final review of the project has been completed and approved, our project will be sent out to contractors for bid.

When WCTA first talked with potential customers in the Parnell area, we mentioned we hoped we would see some fiber getting install before the end of 2022. We still have that same hope, but unfortunately there is no way for us to guarantee this will happen. WCTA has been in contact with a few contractors working on other projects in our area, to make sure they are aware of our project and to see if any would be able to work our project in, along with some others they are doing in 2022. One of those contractors has reached back out to us and is looking hard at this but we will not get a firm answer until we are able to get bids back from contractors.

Like many other industries, ours is no different. With all the broadband funding currently available along with material shortages, it's making contractors and the supplies we need to complete this project hard to come by. Many things we need to complete this project have a 6-to-12-month lead-time to get. We are already working through getting the cabinets and electronics ordered for this project as we have been informed it would be at least 32 weeks before we would receive them. With this being said, I will ensure

you WCTA and our consultants will be doing everything we can to bring fiber-optic broadband service to the Parnell Area as soon as possible.

We are working to put together details on the sign-up process and hope to be able to provide detailed information about this soon.

Please visit this link <https://wellmantelephone.com/parnell/>, like and follow us on **Facebook**, or call **319.646.6075** for additional and future updates about this project. We will provide information as it becomes available and will post updates at the beginning of each month starting in May, so please check back with us again soon!!!

We look forward to serving and providing you fast and reliable internet service soon.