

GREAT NEWS!!! We are expanding our Fiber to the Home network to your home or business!!!

Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA) is excited to announce we are once again expanding our Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network to approximately 290 homes and businesses in the rural Parnell and Williamsburg area, if you are receiving this letter your home is included in this build area. In the fall of 2023, you should have received a postcard in the mail to fill out an online survey to tell us about your current internet service experiences and to express how interested you would be in getting Fiber Fast Internet Service from WCTA. We would like to thank those who responded to the survey and due to the number of responses received and the information we gathered we continued working on this project so that we can bring our FTTH Internet Services to you!

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 5.5 million dollars, of this amount approximately 3.8 million will be spent building areas that qualified for a recent grant opportunity. WCTA is excited to announce we have recently been awarded a grant of 2.7 million dollars to complete this project. This will cover 70% of the approximately 3.8 million dollars we will be spending to build 122 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 Department of Management (DOM). 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. WCTA will also be building out to 168 customers that are in non-eligible grant areas costing WCTA an estimated 1.7 million dollars.

In mid-January we had a kickoff call with our plant engineers to discuss the products we want to use for this project, and how we want to design this area. At some point soon engineers will be in the area for a couple of weeks to complete on-site staking. During this time, they will gather the needed information to draw up our maps and design the project area. 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.

We are still very early on in this planning process for this project, but our hope is that we will be able to get the fiber optic cable installed in the ground in 2024. 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 of them would be able to work our project in with some others they are doing in 2024. Again, this is our hope, however there are a lot of things to figure out yet and that need to fall into place to make this happen.

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. I can assure you WCTA and our consultants will be doing everything we can to bring fiber-optic broadband service to your home or business as soon as possible.

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

Please visit this link <https://wellmantelephone.com/FTTH/>, 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, so please check back with us again soon!!!

Below is a list of each step in the process that we will be in contact with you via a postcard in the mail or in person. Quick responses to our postcard requests or calls would be appreciated and will help keep this project moving along efficiently.

Step 1 – Expansion Announcement (This Letter & Facebook Posts)

Step 2 – Online Drop Sign-Up (Postcard Mailing & Facebook Posts May)

Step 3 – Online Drop Sign-up Final Reminder (Postcard Mailing & Facebook June)

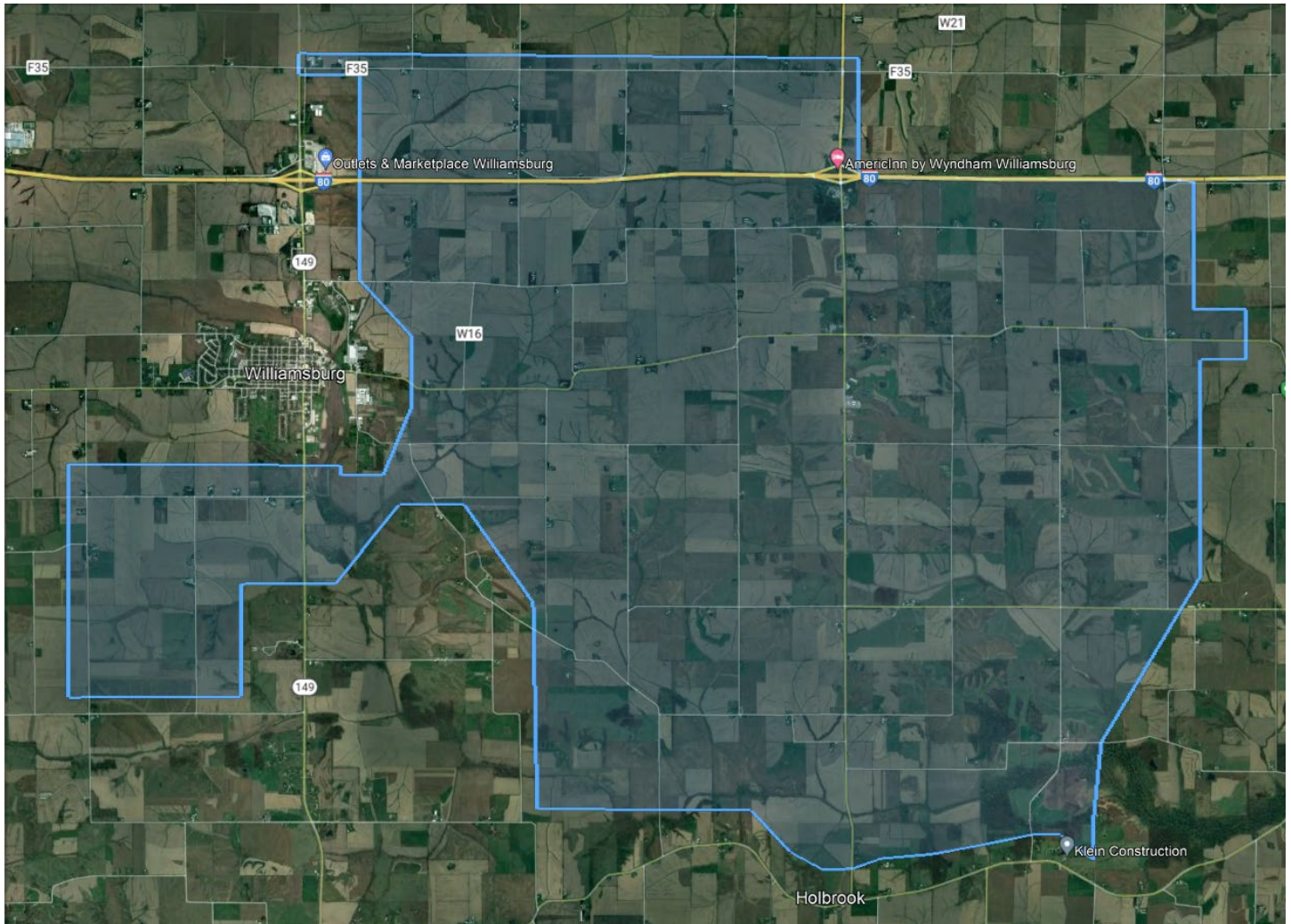
Step 4 – Onsite Walk Through with WCTA Consultant to review your property and obstructions before installing the fiber drop from the road to your home or business. (WCTA will call you via contact information you provided on your drop sign up form to schedule a time to meet with you to complete this walk through. July)

Step 5 – Drop will be installed, fiber spliced and made up at the side of your house. (This will be done as crews are able to get to you and based on the weather conditions they are working through. You will not be notified of the time the drop will be installed. October)

Step 6 – Sign-up for service, start account and schedule installation day and time. (Late 2024 early 2025)

Step 7 – Sit back and enjoy your Fiber Fast Internet Service provided by WCTA!

Below is a map of this project area.



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

Thank you,

WCTA Staff