

Williamsburg Area FTTH Project Update 2024.07.01

Sign up NOW! Fiber Construction Starting in your area soon! Visit this link to sign up for a fiber drop to your home www.wellmantelephone.com/ftth

It is amazing how quickly the months pass by these days, but after a quiet spell and not much to report for our fiber project we do have a few updates that we would like to share with you. Our engineering firm has been in the area to complete the on-site staking and they are now hard at work drawing up the final plans for the construction of this project. They are also working on the permits we are required to obtain to complete this work.

The bigger news is we have received an update from our general contractor, Central Cable, on their availability and timing. As we all know we have had a wet spring which was much needed, but it has slowed down the projects that Central Cable is currently working on which was putting our project in jeopardy of not being completed this year. Due to some unforeseen issues with their other projects, Central Cable has been able to shift and move things around to a point that they are fairly certain they will be able to get to and hopefully complete our fiber installation yet this year. They have provided us with tentative dates of late September – early October to start installing mainline fiber, drops, and complete splicing to homes and businesses. Like we always say this is weather pending and there are a lot of things that need to come together to make all of this happen so this time frame is still subject to change.

With this latest update from our contractor, we are officially closing the door on the initial steps of our project and moving into steps 2-4. These will all be taking place over the next few months before the construction starts in late September.

Step 1 – Expansion Announcement (This Letter & Facebook Posts) – Completed March 2024

Step 2 – Online Drop Sign-Up (Postcard Mailing & Facebook Posts – July 2024)

Step 3 – Online Drop Sign-up Final Reminder (Postcard Mailing & Facebook - August 2024)

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. August – September 2024)

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-November 2024)

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

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

All customers in the fiber project area detailed below will receive a post card in the mail at the beginning of July asking you to sign-up for a fiber drop to your property. If you are receiving this flier, you are in our build-out area. Whether you plan to take services with us right away or think you may want services from us in the future, NOW is the only time you will be able to sign up to have us bring a fiber drop to your home or business at no cost to you.

Important details about the fiber drop sign-up:

- **While we are in the construction phase of our project, NOW is the only time you will be able to sign up to have us bring a fiber drop to your home or business at no cost to you.**
- If you do not sign up now while our contractors are working in the area and request a drop in the future, there will be a charge for us to bring a fiber drop to your home at a later date.
- Signing up to install a fiber drop does not lock you into any commitment to take our service but it will make it cheaper for you and easier for us to quickly provide services to your home in the future.

Take advantage of this opportunity now and go to www.wellmantelephone.com/ftth to sign up to have a fiber drop installed to your home or business today. If you have questions, please contact us at 319.646.6075.

Beginning in late July, WCTA will have fiber technicians from Clanton Creek Connections coming around door to door to have you sign a permission slip and to discuss where you would like the drop to be placed on the side of your house or business. At the same time, they will also discuss any obstructions you may have in your yard like septic systems, private power lines, private gas lines, underground dog fences, drainage tiles, etc. to ensure nothing gets damaged while installing your drop. Once they have discussed all of these items with you and everyone agrees on the location, they will go ahead and mount a fiber enclosure to the side of your home identifying to the drop crews where the fiber drop needs to be installed to when they roll into town.

We encourage you to complete your Drop Sign-up request ASAP and ask that when you receive communications from our consultants or staff to meet with you, please help us by responding back in a timely matter. We need everyone's cooperation to get through these processes quickly to keep the project moving along efficiently and on-time.

We are still projecting it will be springtime of 2025 before we will be able to start installing services in your area. Hang in there, we are working to be able to provide you with the service you deserve as soon as we can!

Please visit this link wellmantelephone.com/ftth, like and follow us on [Facebook](#), or call [319.646.6075](tel:319.646.6075) for additional and future updates about this project.

Looking forward to serving you soon,

WCTA Staff

WCTA is proud to be partnering with:



Williamsburg Area FTTH Project Update 2024.03.11

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 is 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)

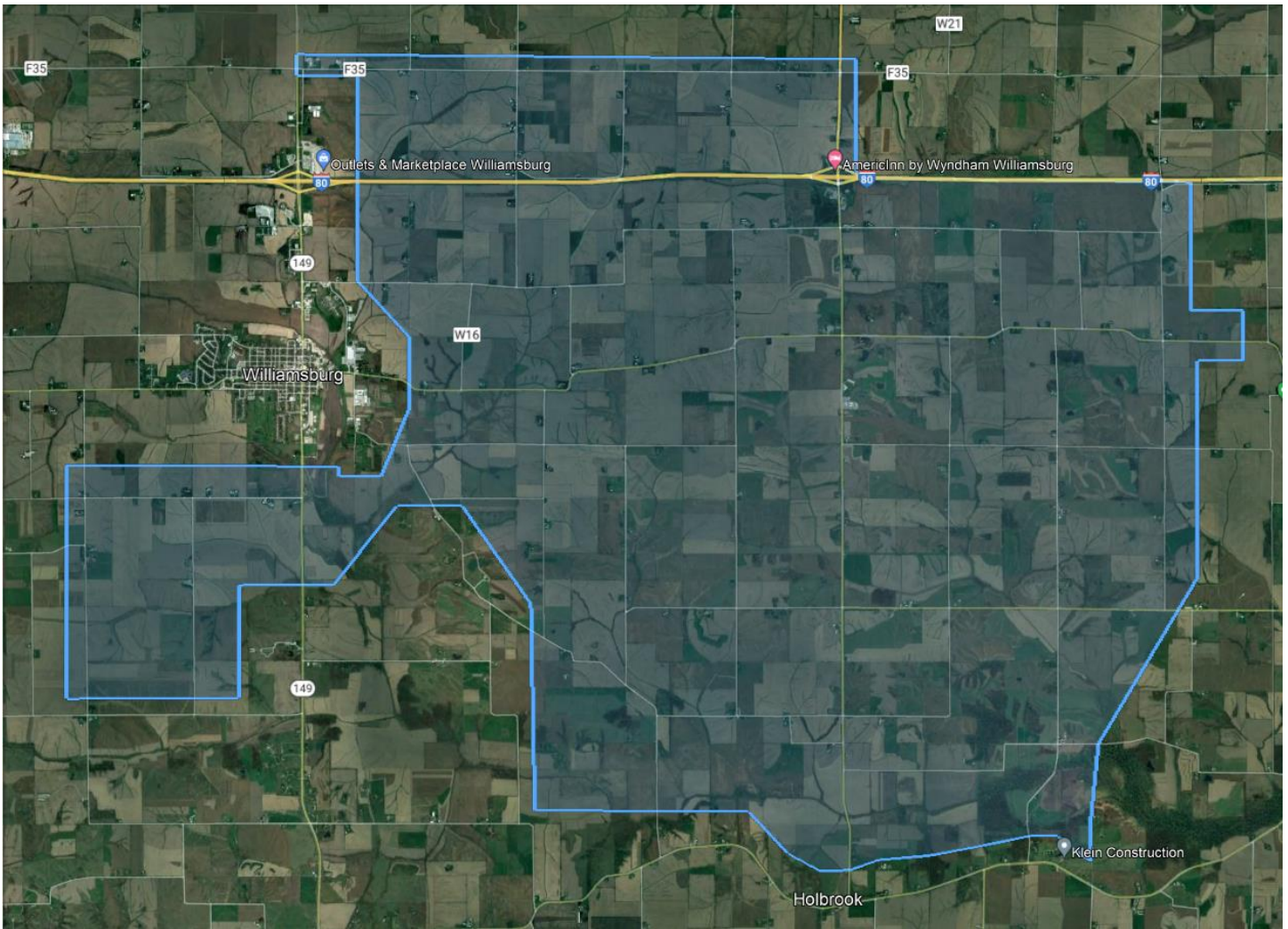
Step 4 – Onsite Walk Through with WCTA Consultant to review your property and obstructions before installing the fiber drop from the road to your home or business. (WCTA will call you via contact information you provided on your drop sign up form to schedule a time to meet with you to complete this walk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

Thank you,
WCTA Staff