

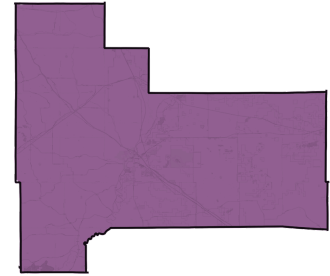
EXPAND BROADBAND UPDATE

Vol 1 | 6 August, 2024

New issues released the 1st Tuesday of the month



Jackson
County



Wireless Live; Funding Work Continues

Progress on fiber and fixed wireless projects throughout Wisconsin has increased in the second quarter of 2024 due to warmer weather and thawed ground conditions. While challenges such as inclement weather, permitting or regulatory restrictions, site connection delays, and other factors have caused some delays as anticipated, fixed wireless and fiber areas are lighting up across the state.

Increasing rains this spring and early summer have slowed construction, causing delays in conduit and fiber deployment, restoration, and other work. In addition, work has paused in some areas across the state to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species. In the face of these challenges, crews continue installing fiber and fixed wireless infrastructure. Progress can be seen in Bug Tussel's latest Community Reports, available at btussel.com/reports.

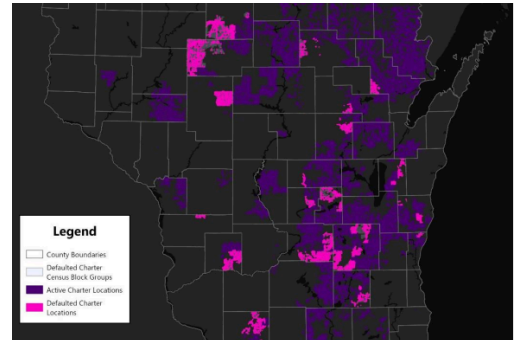
Fixed wireless internet service is live throughout the county. While the eastern segment of the fiber route is being connected to power, utilities, and key points, progress has paused due to third-party delays. Work has turned towards resolving these delays. Jackson County residents can inquire to see if they qualify for fixed wireless internet service by contacting Bug Tussel at [877-227-0924](tel:877-227-0924) or btussel.com.

**Bug Tussel's report mapping system segments the fiber route into separate optical line terminals (OLTs). In some cases, various segments of a single optical line terminal might be in distinct stages of progress, however, within Bug Tussel's report mapping system, status changes can only be updated for an entire optical line terminal segment. In these cases, status updates for a smaller section of an optical line terminal may not yet be pictured in the latest Community Report due to these mapping limitations.*

***Recent changes or additions to route design may not yet be depicted in Bug Tussel's report mapping system.*

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Defaults Impact Wisconsin

Charter will not fulfill their Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) obligation for 57 Census Block Groups (CBGs) in Wisconsin, impacting 11,101 locations, according to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's [May 2024 newsletter](#). A table and map of impacted locations can be viewed at psc.wi.gov.



Did You Know?

Fiber Lines Are Made of Glass

Fiber-optic cables, as thin as human hair, are over five times stronger than copper wires.

Fiber Lines Are Sustainable

Fiber lines, made from abundant earth elements like glass or silica, aren't prone to shortages like manufactured materials.

Source: Pathwayz Communications (tinyurl.com/yc2makvh)

Fiber Lines Use No Electricity

Fiber-optic lines use light instead of electricity, preventing heat generation, fire risks, and interference with electrical conductors.

Fiber Withstands Weather

Fiber-optic strands are extremely durable, unaffected by weather or temperature, unlike copper wires which deteriorate faster.

NTIA: 13M More Internet Users in 2023 vs. 2021



The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Internet Use Survey reveals significant progress toward "Internet for All," with 13 million more U.S. internet users in 2023 compared to 2021, according to [Inside Towers](#). The survey, highlighting digital equity, shows that 83% of Americans aged 3+ used the internet in 2023. Gains were notable among historically underserved groups, such as American Indians and lower-income households. Internet adoption increased in households making less than \$25,000 per year from 69% in 2021 to 73% in 2023. Despite progress, disparities persist, with lower-income households

and minorities less likely to have both fixed and mobile connections or access to devices beyond smartphones. NTIA's initiatives aim to address these gaps and ensure affordable, high-quality internet access for all.



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