



WILDWOOD®

February 25, 2019

The Honorable City Council
City of Wildwood, Missouri
16860 Main Street
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Re: Update on the City's Rural Internet Project

Council Members:

The Department continues to work on several different initiatives relating to the extension of high-speed internet service to the underserved and non-served areas of Wildwood. Many of these initiatives have been presented to the City Council over the past year, via these regular updates from the Department, with the major current activities summarized below for the purposes of this report. These summaries are as follows:

⇒ **Consultant Update on Assigned Tasks of Internet Study**

The Department contacted the consultant this past week to assess if any additional items are needed from the City for its analysis. The contact was made via e-mail and, to date, it appears the consultant is underway with the needed preparations, planning steps, and scheduling efforts and then advised they would be in contact shortly regarding future work products.

⇒ **New Pole Installations for Bays ET and Wisper ISP**

The work on two (2) of the poles is now completed, with service either being offered at this time, or expected shortly. Weather did slow the testing of the equipment on the City-owned poles by Bays ET. These two (2) locations are Rocky Ridge Road and Old Wild Horse Creek Road. The other pole location is still not active yet, but Wisper ISP is coordinating that work within the Babler Forest Subdivision.

⇒ **Previously Installed Poles – Orrville Road, by the Meridien Subdivision**

The Department has engaged Mercury Communications and Construction, Inc. to complete the painting and lighting of the pole located on Orrville Road. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requiring this work and only includes the portion of the pole that is above the surrounding tree line in its vicinity. This work was to be completed in 2018, but has been delayed by other efforts to address residents lacking high-speed internet access at this time.

⇒ **Other Efforts – Meeting Results, Budget, etc.**

A request was made for the Ward Six Meeting to provide a summary of the service rollouts or associated efforts on the same by the City to provide high-speed internet access to the rural, underserved or unserved areas of Wildwood. Accordingly, the Department provided the following information regarding this matter

and noted that, since the inception of the Rural Internet Access Committee in December 2007, four (4) major initiatives have been undertaken by its members and City Council. These initiatives can be summarized as follows:

1. **Pulse Broadband Proposal** -
 - a. Fiber to the Home.
 - b. Failed due to company's lack of funding resources.
2. **Charter Communications** -
 - a. Cable.
 - b. Failed due to company not agreeing to allow the City to receive a fee on monthly billings or own part of the infrastructure, which had to be accommodated to meet State Statute regarding public monies for private funding.
3. **Bays ET and Wisper ISP** -
 - a. Wireless (line of sight)
 - b. Represents an ongoing effort.
4. **CTC Technology and Science** -
 - a. Fiber to the Home.
 - b. Consultant to assist in the development of this plan.
 - c. Is currently underway.

As of the end of 2018, almost five hundred (500) households in the rural areas of the City are served by wireless high speed internet.

October 2014 to December 2015 (15 month period due to start-up) - **Bays ET - 149** **Wisper ISP - 112**

January 2016 to December 2016 - **Bays ET - 236** **Wisper ISP - 108**

January 2017 to December 2017 - **Bays ET - 271** **Wisper ISP - 101**

January 2017 to December 2018 - **Bays ET - 384** **Wisper ISP - 102**

Note: 2018 totals provided by providers, with 2014 through 2017 totals extrapolated by the Department of Planning. Totals do not include two (2) new poles installed in 2019, which are anticipated to add 60 to 80 additional households to the Bays ET network.

The Department also continues to assist individual subdivisions and residents with service requests with either Bays ET or Wisper ISP, along with providing information and guidance on extending Charter Communications (a.k.a. Spectrum) to underserved or unserved areas of Wildwood.

If any of the City Council members should have questions or comments in this regard, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your continued support of this project and the efforts to address the needs of rural Wildwood residents.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF WILDWOOD



Joe Vujnich, Director
Department of Planning

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Steve Cross, Co-Interim City Administrator
Rural Internet Access Committee Members
John A. Young, City Attorney
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Chris Bay, David Crabtree, and Nathan Stooke, Service Providers – Bays ET and Wisper ISP