



# WILDWOOD

May 28, 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 consultant was in Wildwood on May 22, 2019 and met with the Rural Internet Access Committee (RIAC) that evening. The consultant provided a presentation to the members and a large contingent of the public. The presentation is provided as an attachment to this report.

In this presentation, and the discussion that followed at the aforementioned meeting, Tom Asp, with CTC Technology & Energy, noted that eight (8) approaches had been identified and exist for consideration by the City Council and its residents on providing, first and foremost, internet service to areas lacking it in Wildwood, while also offering competition in locations that have options at this time. Of these approaches, four (4) of them would require the City to expand in the vicinity of fifty to sixty million dollars (\$50,000,000.00 to \$60,000,000.00) to accommodate them. Two (2) of the other remaining options reflect the approach the City of Wildwood launched in October 2013 and continues today, which is the installation of poles for certain providers to install equipment onto and then provide wireless internet service, with the other being a variant of the same. Therefore, two (2) approaches appear to provide the options for consideration and can be explained in greater detail by reviewing the aforementioned, and attached, presentation.

The presentation was provided to the Committee Members and the public. Responses to the presentation were mixed, reflecting the costs of the solutions and the dependence on other sources that have been contacted previously to address the current status of the problem of internet access for rural residents of Wildwood. Specifically, the major themes of questions and comments can be summarized as follows:

- a. The need for scalable internet solutions for the rural areas of Wildwood is greater than ever. Solutions are needed now that are future-proof, as much as practically possible.
- b. The use of dark fiber already installed within the City of Wildwood needs to be further explored.

- c. The desire to work with current providers, if at all possible, to expand the fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) option, while also utilizing other approaches, should be a priority, so as to bring good internet to the greatest number of households needing it at this time.

⇒ **New Pole or Infrastructure Installations**

While waiting on the consultant's report and associated recommendations, the City has continued to work with individual property owners and the two (2) wireless providers to determine future solutions to their current internet issues. These efforts have not led to any connections, but does again identify areas of need for the consultants to use in their report and associated recommendations. Again, the Department has been somewhat on hold on any major initiative, until the findings of the consultant are published for the community's review and comment

⇒ **Fiber Installation by Bays ET – Hawks Rest Subdivision**

Bays ET continues to make progress on the fiber installation in the Hawks Rest Subdivision. Chris Bay, the owner of Bays ET, provided a thorough update of the progress to date and information about potential costs, if this template were to be used elsewhere in Wildwood. In Mr. Bay's report, he notes that installation, particularly boring, has been complicated by wet weather and rocky soil conditions. The internet speeds that have been provided to certain households, the first to receive service in this residential subdivision, are above seven hundred fifty (750) Mbps, which is considered fast internet. The e-mail provided by Chris Bay is attached to this report.

The cost estimate is from a contractor and would be applicable to the City or another entity if it sought to install fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) internet service to individual subdivisions, in a one-by-one approach, incrementally, and preferably, they being contiguous to each other. This approach may be more workable than others and, if Mr. Bays cost estimate is accurate, less expensive than many other options to install the needed fiber/conduit.

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

The Department contacted Mercury Communications this past week and requested the work on the Orrville Road pole be addressed with its painting and lighting, per the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) request. This matter was addressed by the City Council at its meeting on March 25, 2019. The City Council sought to have this matter finally resolved by the City, which is the intent of the Department's contact in this regard.

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

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



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# Wildwood Fiber Strategy

Rural Internet Access Committee

May 22, 2019