



# WILDWOOD

April 26, 2021

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

***Re: Update on the City's Rural Internet Access Project***

Council Members:

⇒ **Project Updates – INFORMATION ITEM**

FIBER -TO-THE-PREMISE - #1: City officials have spent the least two (2) weeks discussing the funding of an internet solution for Wildwood. This discussion has taken on greater urgency with the City Council's strategic planning efforts underway at this time and spoken concerns about allocating any funding in the future to other priority areas, when the current internet conditions within the City are obviously less than satisfactory. The City Council has been seeking more streamlined presentations of the final proposals than currently in-hand from the three (3) respondents that had been selected by the Internet Access Committee, which would then allow Members to know the final and true extent of the funding that is needed to resolve this matter. Such proposals were discussed and a workable option was identified by the City's consultants in this regard – CTC Technology and Energy.

This option was being pursued, when an item was identified that needed further conversations with the consultant team. Therefore, the option that was being studied for use was temporarily set aside to allow for a more pressing issue to be addressed regarding funding, regardless of which the providers that might be selected. The City Attorney, the City Administrator, and the Department of Planning discussed this matter and then also included the City's financial advisor in this conversation to better understand different approaches and, more importantly, potential impediments to the current offerings that had been submitted by the three (3) providers. The financial adviser identified the best option for the City in regards to funding, outside a grant or grants from the federal or State governments through many of the current economic development recovery programs. That option was then presented to the consultant team, which was asked to present it to the three (3) respondents. The initial feedback from the first respondent contacted was positive regarding the same. This positive feedback was essential to continuing in this selected direction.

Now with this consideration addressed, the consultant team is back working on the best approach to draw the best proposals from the three (3) respondents, with the most favorable conditions for Wildwood residents relative to speeds, costs, and service considerations. This item will be reviewed in detail by the City Council. Suffice to say, if federal or State grants are not made available to locales like

the City of Wildwood, a plan is now available to consider more traditional sources of funding that are consistent with State law in this regard.

**FIBER-TO-THE-PREMISE - #2:** Bays ET, with better weather and less COVID-19 infections, has completed the main lines within both the Homestead Estates at Wildwood and Shiloh Subdivisions. The aerial installations along Rieger Road and Wild Horse Creek Road are slated to begin the week of April 26<sup>th</sup> and, for a project of this nature, will conservatively require about three (3) to four (4) weeks to complete. The aerial work will be terminated at the new backhaul location the City prepared for this purpose on its property that is located on Old Wild Horse Creek Road and Wild Horse Creek Road. Speeds from this service, which is already available in the Hawks Rest Subdivision, are anticipated to be close to one (1) gigabyte for downloads (very fast!).

**OTHER UPGRADES** – Work is also underway by Bays ET in the Stonesthrow, Whittsett’s Fork, and the Summit View Subdivisions to add a new type of high-speed wireless solution that can offer speeds up to three hundred (300) megabytes for downloads. This system is line-of-sight, but will offer many households already on Bays ET’s fixed wireless network another option, but at much faster speeds. Again, all of this work is being completed by Bays ET, with minimal requested assistance from the City of Wildwood.

⇒ **Current Options - INFORMATION ITEM**

Along with these considerations, the Department continues to define other options for internet service to callers and others who contact the City seeking solutions to their poor internet service, which are identified below:

1. Bays ET – Fixed wireless network service (original)
2. Bays ET – Fiber-to-the-Home (only to certain areas – Hawks Rest, Homestead Estates at Wildwood, and Shiloh Subdivisions)
3. Wisper Internet – Fixed wireless network service (original)
4. Wisper Internet – Fixed wireless network service (new)
5. AT&T Wireless – Mobile communication provider – **Hotspot Use**
6. AT&T – Non-mobile option, where property owner or subdivision compensates provider for extension of fiber optic or T1 Business Line to location(s). Dr Rambaud can provide more background and authored an e-mail in this regard.
7. Verizon – Mobile communication provider – **Hotspot Use**
8. T-Mobile/Sprint – Mobile communication provider – **Hotspot Use**
9. Other Mobile Providers – Mobile communication providers, i.e., Mint Mobile, Metro, Cricket, etc. – **Hotspot Use**
10. Satellite – Different providers
11. Spectrum (Charter Communications)
12. Wildwood Workspaces – 16759 Main Street, Suite 205 (co-working spaces for internet needs)
13. Rockwood School District (offers hotspots for students of the district).

⇒ **Questions and Contact Information - INFORMATION ITEM**

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 all Wildwood residents.

Respectfully submitted,

**CITY OF WILDWOOD**



Joe Vujnich, Director

Department of Planning and Parks

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Rural Internet Access Committee Members  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner