

Monongalia County



NETWORK LOCATION
Monongalia County, WV

SIZE (LAST MILE)
1,268 miles

BUDGETED COST
\$149,719,385

SCOPE
Community Assessment,
Municipal Middle Mile
Network, Last Mile
Pilot Project, Wireless
Assessment

DATE
June 2021 – present

ANTICIPATED COMPLETION
48 months

NETWORK TYPE
Aerial and Underground

Assessing and Connecting

- Lit Communities in partnership with Ice Miller and DLZ performed a broadband feasibility study to help the Monongalia County Commission determine next steps to take in order to resolve connectivity issues throughout Monongalia County. During the study, the western part of the County was identified as a priority area with 65% of survey respondents reporting service at less than 25/3.
- The Monongalia County Commission has begun work on a 15-ring municipal middle mile network that will run throughout the County and be available for last mile providers. This will enable more ISPs (hopefully) to expand their networks to connect more residents
- The County will also be connecting 132 anchor institutions and potentially working with 5 to 10 utility and energy companies established in Monongalia County on this project. These companies are offering ROWs and Easements to assist with a more rapid and cost-effective build out of the middle mile network.

Press

With a strategic plan in hand,
Mon County looks to expand
broadband

Current Status

- The County is working with Lit Communities on Phase 2, which includes detailed design and engineering for one or two rings, a last mile pilot project off of one ring, and a wireless assessment for the western part of Monongalia County.



Community Action Plan

Lit Communities partnered with Monongalia County, West Virginia, to conduct a community-wide survey. The results enabled local decision-makers to hear from residents and identify needs and priorities before moving forward.

The following statistics and quotes are from our survey results unless noted otherwise.

1,860

Number of residents who took the survey



17%

Respondents without cable, fiber or DSL



81%

The percentage of respondents who replied it was "Extremely Important" that Mon County work to bring better broadband to the community



73%

Respondents who indicated that current internet options are too expensive



28%

Speed tests that failed to pass the FCC's broadband definition speed of 25/3 Mbps

100%



Speed test results that fell below 1GB for download speed

56%

Speed test results that fell below 100 Mbps for download speed



86%

Respondents who indicated a likelihood to sign up for enhanced broadband services if made available



98%

Respondents whose speed test results fell below 100 Mbps for upload speed

"We have been plagued with slow internet for decades, stuck with old copper wire at speeds barely able to stream with service interruptions from an outdated system. Fiber at this time is the way to go, the only way to go and is really, extremely needed in this county and in fact the whole state."

"Ensuring people that this would be by and for the people of Mon County and not corporate suits in Philadelphia. Transparency, accountability, and respect as principles."

"I work Help Desk Support for the Department of Energy and my husband is a VMWare administrator for WVU. We are tele-work and suffer greatly because of it. My LM team had to devise a special setup with Citrix that allows me to work. When it begins to rain, I let my team know that I will be kicked off and be back as soon as I can. That's me and my household."

"Internet alone should not cost the same as an electric bill. Bringing the internet to places that do not have it and then pricing higher is not giving people options."

"Our service out here is expensive and hardly ever works."

