

# **FOREST COUNTY**

## **Project Status Report**

**June 25, 2025**

### **Fixed Wireless**

Five new wireless towers near Argonne, Cavour, Nelma, Newald, and Richardson Lake (Harter) are now live, giving residents in nearly 1,000 homes and businesses the opportunity to connect. The new fixed wireless sites require line-of-sight connectivity and provide speeds of up to 50 megabits per second to residents in the communities of Cavour, Nelma, Newald, and Wabeno. Speeds at the Richardson Lake tower reach up to 25 megabits per second.

These five fixed wireless sites represent Bug Tussel's ongoing infrastructure expansion project with Forest County. The project has installed 17 fixed wireless sites across the county and approximately 30 miles of fiber infrastructure surrounding Metonga Lake. Nearly 7,100 homes can access high-speed internet with live fiber and fixed wireless service. Work is currently underway to install an additional 80 miles of fiber, with further fiber expansion work expected in 2026 and beyond.

### **Fiber**

Construction permits were submitted to the US Forest Service for fiber route segments Hiles and Laona. Unfortunately, the anticipated approval date from the Forest Service is October. Depending on the weather and ground conditions in October, the permitting delay will likely push back the majority of construction in those sections until spring.

We experienced permitting delays in relation to Highway 8 for fiber route segment Crandon Addition. We met with the WI Department of Transportation on this and have received an anticipated date of permit approval for late Q3 of this year. Again, pending weather and ground conditions, this may push back construction in this area until the spring. This segment is the network starting point for several other fiber route segments, which means the Hiles and Laona, segments won't be able to go live until this specific leg of the Crandon Addition segment goes live.

Still, there are a couple of fiber segment legs that may go live this year. Our fiber team believes they may be able to turn up a leg of the Crandon Addition before the end of the year, which would allow us to turn up Nashville N segment as well. They are also hopeful that the southern leg of the Hiles might go live this year as well.

### **Municipal Connections**

According to our billing records, the following townships are connected and receiving service: Armstrong Creek Town Hall, Hiles Town Garage, Town of Crandon, Nashville South Community Center.

With the recent activation of the five additional fixed wireless sites, our field technicians are verifying the addresses of the other town halls to facilitate service connection. They are: Alvin, Argonne, Blackwell, Caswell, Freedom, Laona, Lincoln, Popple River, Ross, Wabeno, City of Crandon, Forest County.

# Project Update

Q1 2025

bugtussel

## FOREST COUNTY

Updated 4/3/25

