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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Captions: The fiber route for Phase 1-A is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, and Phase 1-B will be finished in 2021.


Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative deploying fiber in portions of Waukon

AC Skyways, a division of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, is pleased to announce it is the recipient of an Empower Rural Iowa Emergency Broadband Expansion grant to expand on an already planned fiber-to-the-home project on the west side of Waukon, with the construction of the first phase to start later this month.

At the onset of the pandemic, it became evident how vital reliable, high-speed internet is for telelearning, telehealth, and teleworking. “We received overwhelming inquiries from people desperate to find a reliable internet service for their children to learn remotely and for them to telework,” said Hollee McCormick, general manager. “Our Skyways staff, who have been offering wireless broadband internet to rural Allamakee and Fayette counties since 2014, responded quickly to navigate the unexpected challenge,” commented McCormick. “Many people discovered that the internet service in their home did not have the speed and reliability required to keep up, so our Skyways staff worked long hours to install internet service and the technicians continued throughout the summer expanding the infrastructure to increase bandwidth, allowing more customers to access uninterrupted internet.”

In addition to satellite and wireless internet, the Cooperative will soon be dipping its toes into fiber internet, with a fiber-to-the-home project in west Waukon. “The Cooperative had plans to build a fiber-optic connection between a vault along Iron Mine Drive to our Ludlow substation, southwest of Waukon, and the fiber route went right through northwest Waukon,” explained McCormick. “We didn’t want to pass up an opportunity to utilize that fiber and offer fiber-optic service to 95 homes and businesses along the fiber route,” continued McCormick. “Allamakee-Clayton has worked closely with the City of Waukon since 2016 as they’ve explored ways to bring reliable, high-speed internet to the town, and this particular fiber project is the first step to an answer to their call.”

When Governor Kim Reynolds announced in July that Iowa would make \$50 million in federal CARES Act funding available for broadband internet expansion, the Cooperative made application to expand on the already planned fiber project. Internet service providers were given a short window of time to apply for funding to expand broadband service to underserved parts of the state. “Rachelle Howe and staff at

Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission were instrumental in writing two grants on behalf of Allamakee-Clayton,” commented McCormick. “The Cooperative was ultimately notified by the Broadband Grants Program-Empower Rural Iowa Emergency Broadband Expansion Program that it was awarded nearly \$535,000 to expand the planned fiber-to-the-home project, which will be split into two phases due to the availability of supplies and contractors’ schedules.” 

“Although a second application via the Economic Development Authority for a proposed project involving the installation of fiber optic cable to downtown Waukon was not selected for funding, we are hopeful we can reapply with the assistance again from Upper Explorerland staff with a more favorable application that is selected for funding.”

“Connected communities become thriving, future-ready communities, and deploying technology is necessary for growth and success, and now, more than ever, homes and businesses need high-speed, reliable internet.” Homes and businesses along the planned fiber route for both phases recently received a letter explaining the construction and service activation timeliness.

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Spirit Rd

Mt Olivet Rd

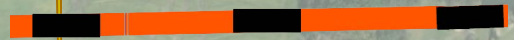
State Hwy 76

Iron Mine Drive

PHASE 1-A

WAUKON

FIBER CONSTRUCTION BEGINS IN NOVEMBER



The orange and black line
INDICATES THE FIBER ROUTE.
Your home or business must be directly
on this route in order to have access to
the Cooperative's fiber internet.

Prairie Dr

Prairie Dr

Union Prairie
4L

6th Hwy

25

Prairie Ave

Makee
5L

Northgate Ave
8th Ave

5th Ave

Court St

13th St

3rd Ave

12th St

11th St

10th St

Main St

Old Highway 9

Bluebird Rd

36



SKYWAYS

INTERNET SOLUTIONS

BY: **ALLAMAKEE** ■ **CLAYTON**
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Main St.
(This section on Main Street is Phase 1-A that will connect to Phase 1-B)



9th St.

PHASE 1-B WAUKON

FIBER CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SPRING 2021

Donald Lane

Country Side Estates

Union Prairie
4L

The orange and black line
INDICATES THE FIBER ROUTE.
Your home or business must be directly
on this route in order to have access to
the Cooperative's fiber internet.

9th St.

Park Place Court

11th Ave.

Logan St.

Ludlow
4K



SKYWAYS

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