

IBOP-EC Update



IBOP-EC is ready to break ground on the route between Kankakee and Champaign. J.F. Electric has been selected as the contractor for this segment and all pre-construction requirements are complete. Work will begin in the next few weeks and scheduled to be complete within 6 months. Construction will immediately focus on boring and placement of fiber hand holes followed by installation of the fiber. Fiber installation will involve both “plowing” and running fiber through the conduit sections. Plowing uses a method of installing fiber by pulling a blade behind a tractor and feeding the cable into the ground behind the blade. Hand holes are placed every few miles along the path and provide future access points along the path. Watch for this work taking place as you travel this section of I-57.

Requests for quotes for the section between Kankakee and 95th Street in Chicago have been sent out with a return date of November 3rd. From 95th Street we will connect with Chicago Transit Authority fiber to reach downtown Chicago. The full path between Champaign and Chicago is expected to be complete by June 2012. Champaign to Bloomington will be the next construction project focus.

Connecting Anchor Institutions



CMS has selected Ledor as the contractor to build fiber from the I-55 corridor to Litchfield High School. The contract and order are being finalized and preconstruction meetings will begin in November with construction to follow soon after. Directly connected fiber sites like Litchfield High School, may serve as access points for other fiber builds and connections thereby expanding access further into a community. This model can be replicated throughout the project where fiber is delivered to an anchor institution and other sites or networks interconnect.

Collinsville to Chicago

The fiber link between Collinsville and Springfield was completed in September and now equipment has been installed, link fully tested, and running production traffic.


The fiber link between Springfield and Chicago is expected to be complete by the end of this calendar year. This path represents a major portion of the ICN core backbone.

Procurement Opportunities

- Fiber Locating Services – Open
- Fiber Maintenance Services – Posting Soon

All procurement opportunities will be posted on the State of Illinois procurement bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us under Central Management Services.

Using the Registration link on the upper left corner of the website, new vendors can register by following the instructions on www.sell2.illinois.gov.

Partner Project Update

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) Cook County have been awarded 16 million in funding through a joint partnership of the State of Illinois and Cook County to build a fiber infrastructure and expand broadband access for the area.

The Northeast Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership will connect to the ICN as we complete our fiber installation between Kankakee and Chicago, further expanding the multiple intersecting high speed networks being built in Illinois.