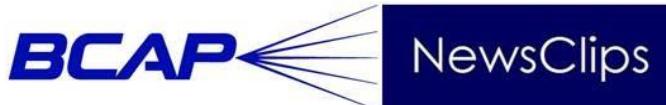


We know Communications

For more than 50 years, we have helped clients in virtually every area of communications law. We invite you to learn more about how we can help you anticipate federal and state regulatory problems and work with you to capitalize on the business opportunities that arise with regulatory changes.



Anchorage | Bellevue | Los Angeles | New York
Portland | San Francisco | Seattle | Washington, D.C.



January 31, 2020

Forbes
[Feds Order Massive Number Of Tech Giants To Help Hunt Down One](#)
[WhatsApp Meth Dealer](#)

CNN Newswire
[Playstation's streaming service Vue shuts down](#)

Cord Cutters News
[Verizon Fios Lost 51,000 TV Customers in The 4th Quarter of 2019](#)

VentureBeat
[Facebook Gaming launches tools for streamers to deal with trolls](#)

The Verge

Rep. Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny), Speaker of the Pennsylvania House, visited Tioga County and heard presentations on several topics and projects in the area, including a \$77 million rural broadband project spearheaded by Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative.

Turzai met with Craig Eccher, CEO of Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, and Bill Gerski, senior vice president of business development for Tri-Co Connections, as well as other leaders of the broadband project, and politicians, including Rep. Clint Owlett, who hosted Turzai's visit, and Tioga County commissioner Erick Coolidge.

Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, through its high-speed internet subsidiary, Tri-Co Connections, is working to bring access to high-speed internet to the entire Tri-County service territory. The project is estimated to take six years and deploy 2,800 miles of fiber line.

Tri-County serves primarily Potter, Tioga, Bradford and Lycoming counties, but extends into Cameron, Clinton and McKean counties. Tri-County is the first cooperative in the state to deploy fiber, Rachel Hauser said. Hauser is the director of regulatory affairs and economic development for Tri-Co Connections.

Construction began in late 2019 and at the time of the meeting, 35 miles of fiber have been put on the poles, Aaron Young, chief technical officer for Tri-Co Connections, said. The first hookups will begin this year, possibly around March.

[Google searches for coronavirus will now show you safety tips](#)

[Buzzfeed News](#)
[Facebook Won't Remove This Woman's Butthole As A Business Page](#)

[Ars Technica](#)
[CBS makes Star Trek: Picard pilot free on YouTube for a limited time](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
[Daylin Leach's reelection prospects just got a boost as Montco Democrats failed to pick an opponent](#)

[Pennlive Certified public manager to run for Pa. House seat representing part of Dauphin County](#)

The original idea to deploy high-speed internet came a few years ago when the company was hearing from its customers that they didn't have access to high-speed internet.

"The FCC data may tell you that there is some access, but the reality is, it was even worse than what the official data was telling us," Hauser said.

The Federal Communications Commission data is based on census tracts. The census tract may say that there's one customer in that census tract, so the FCC sees it as the area is completely covered, even though there may only be one customer, Gerski said.

So, Tri-County looked at its resources and did a feasibility study. It was going to be an expensive project — at least \$25 million to scratch the surface — and would require funding.

The company already owned the poles, and is able to build out fiber on the existing poles, Hauser said.

"So that, even though, financially, it's a large project, that does assist in taking a lot of that costs off of people. So that whole ownership was a huge piece of the puzzle for us," Hauser said.

Tri-Co received \$1.5 million from the Redevelopment Assistance Capitol Program to help fund the first 110 miles of fiber.

Another \$32 million came from the FCC Connect America Fund Phase II auction. In 2018, the FCC conducted an auction to support eligible areas. One hundred and three bidders won \$1.49 billion over 10 years to provide fixed broadband and voice services to over 700,000 locations in 45 states, according to its website.

Then, \$17 million in funding was awarded through the Pennsylvania Broadband Initiatives Program, plus \$2.5 million from the Appalachian Regional Commission for Tri-County to build out its entire system — approximately 5,000 square miles.

Beyond high-speed internet, Tri-Co will also offer home security and smart home, phone services and YouTube TV.

It's not that other internet providers don't exist in the area, but the coverage area isn't as large as what Tri-Co will be able to offer, Eccher said.

"When we talk about the lack of rural broadband in America, in Pennsylvania, that's really a misnomer because there are pockets of decent broadband in the small towns. So if you have a town with a population of 2,500 or more, you're probably going to get some pretty decent broadband options," Eccher said. Hauser said there are really good providers here, but the services aren't provided much outside of the towns.

One program that is unique to Tri-Co is its Senior2Senior program. It's currently kicking off in Potter County, but Tri-Co plans to bring it to Tioga County. It is an eight-week tech course held at senior centers throughout the county. The one-hour class is held once a week and teaches basic technology literacy skills, computer skills, cyber security

and other topics to senior citizens. Laptops and iPads are provided, or they can bring in their own devices. With the help of high school students, senior citizens will learn how to use a computer to take advantage of the broadband access. – **Wellsboro Gazette**



**Broadband
Cable Association
of Pennsylvania**

127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-214-2000 (f) 717-214-2020
bcapa.com

First in Broadband.
The Future of Broadband.®