

**“Internet for All Benzie County” (IFA-BC)
Cherry Capital Connection, LLC (CCC)
January 2024 - Status**

RDOF Reported 20% timeline objective, USAC verified HUBB data, FCC confirmed and reported.

PPP Continues with no changes.

ARPA / ROBIN Internet for all – Benzie County

- a. Construction efforts for the first half of Benzie County are focused on Benzonia, Crystal Lake, Inland, townships and the City of Frankfort.
 - i. January through April CCC will start the process to obtain Bi-lateral agreements from Homestead, Joyfield, and Almira townships.
 - ii. Based on ROBIN results CCC will monitor Weldon and Colfax townships. The MIHI office accepted the challenge from Acentek. The challenge allocated households in those townships to Acentek. Acentek is obligated to deliver 100 x 20 service.
- b. Fiber North (CCC contractor) is working on construction of mainline fiber along M-115 between US-31 and Frankfort along M-115.
 - i. Miss Dig is called by Fiber North associated with work to be completed over a 2-week period.
 - i. Please do not remove or relocate these utility flags.
- c. Fiber North (CCC contractor) is working on construction of mainline fiber along US-31 from Lake Ann Road to Maple City Rd.
 - i. Miss Dig is called by Fiber North associated with work to be completed over a 2-week period.
 - i. Please do not remove or relocate these utility flags.
- d. Fiber distribution Huts located in Inland and Crystal Lake townships are waiting for Electrical service and final approval.
 - i. Data racks and splicing patch panels will be completed within January 2024 timeline.
- e. Material staging in Benzie County continues.
- f. Open access.
 - i. Contract with COS for Consumer facing interface was signed by end of year.
 - i. Installation of software, integrations, and testing will occur January through April.
- g. The First customers to be connected will be Crystal Lake Township Hall and Inland Township fire hall.
 - i. This will happen shortly after splicing at REACH3MC occurs.
- h. January 9, 2024, 9:00am CCC will present our fiber plan for the City of Frankfort.
- i. Post cards will be sent to Inland township households along the fiber build and locations along M-115.
 - i. Door to Door efforts will start in January and will continue through end of project.
- j. Benzie county Road Commission has requested that permits be filed per road.
 - i. The permit list included: Bendon, Burnt, Brundage, Carmean, Cinder, Fewins, Hulbert, Lake Ann, Reynolds, and Sat Johns Roads
 - ii. January 2024 roads in Benzonia and Crystal Lake Township will be submitted for permitting.
- k. A CCC SIGMA account has been established for the ROBIN support. This has been completed.
- l. FCC has announced December 26, 2024, Urban Rate Survey. The FCC 2023 Urban Rate survey was included within ROBIN. Once evaluated CCC will determine if subscription rates need to be adjusted. If an adjustment is required CCC will publish new subscription rates.
 - i. Public Notice: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-23-1207A1.pdf>
- m. New 911 tower site selection finalized. Final fiber path to be determined either from James or Hall Street.

ROBIN Will be reported under ARPA / ROBIN.

BEADS Evaluation of opportunities for BEADS finding continues.

Other projects outside the funding scope of IFA-BC

Continue to advise the Digital, Equity, and Inclusion stakeholders (through Mitch)
CCC is focusing on how to configure the network to maximize the efficiencies in support of Telehealth.
CCC has signed a contract that will result in providing a visual representation of construction progress for the County to utilize.

Construction update (by Road)

US-31 (inland Township)

- a) Hut installed (waiting on power)
- b) Conduit along US31 between Lake Ann Road and Inland township fire hall complete
- c) Waiting on MDOT permit adjustment for crossing US-31 at pole location to Meet Reach3MC
- d) Waiting on REACH3MC meet point release of construction.

Inland Township - Bendon, Burnt, Brundage, Carmean, Cinder, Fewins, Hulbert, Lake Ann, Reynolds, and Sat Johns Roads

- a) Pre-engineering effort complete
- b) BCRC Permit application submitted for each road.

M-115 (Crystal Lake and Benzonia Townships)

- a) Hut installed (waiting on power)
- b) 10,000 feet of Conduit placed along US31 between US31 and City of Frankfort
- c) Boring activities along the route to start this week.
- d) Waiting on REACH3MC meet point release of construction.

Airport Road

- a) BCRC permit received.

Forest Ave, Parkview Lane, James St, Hall St

- a) City of Frankfort permit received.

Construction will continue throughout the winter.

Post cards will be sent January and February

Door to door to all Small Businesses and households will continue all winter.

Road Commission discussion

The Benzie County Road Commission (BCRC) respectfully considered our request at their December 14, 2024, meeting. At the conclusion of discussion, the Road Commission offered a per road permit that will reduce the cost of permitting and will incorporate efficiencies for all parties involved. We appreciate the BCRC leadership and staff working with Inland township, the county commissioners, and CCC to create a path forward. This will reflect well as the county and others work with the MIHI office in Lansing to bring additional dollars to the Benzie County Community. Additionally, our initial analysis would indicate savings and ability to manage the cost associated with permitting in Benzie County and should simplify for all the management of the permitting process. There are items to be worked out with the per road permit approach. CCC, CCI-Systems and the BCRC staff are working together to address these concerns. One issue not considered was establishing a utility lane.

Evaluating other funding opportunities

Kind Regards - Tim Maylone - CEO and Managing Member, Cherry Capital Connection, LLC