



PRESS RELEASE

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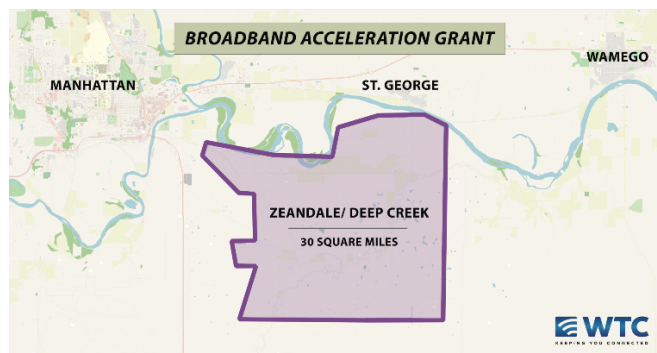
WTC

785-456-1047

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WTC and the State of Kansas Bring Fiber Services to Rural Southeast Riley County, Kansas

Wamego, KS, 09-17-2021 — The broadband ‘acceleration’ has begun for the residents and stakeholders of Southeast Riley County. Although located in the suburban fringe of Manhattan, KS, they have been left on the wrong side of the digital divide, until now. After only six short months following a successful application for a Broadband Acceleration Grant (BAG) through the State of Kansas, WTC has begun connecting fiber technology to the homes and small businesses encompassing 30 square miles in the Zeandale and Deep Creek areas of Southeast Riley County in Kansas.



(Visual of grant coverage area)

“Prior to WTC, we didn’t have a local Internet provider, and many of us had to rely on cell phone hot spots, but then you had to limit your usage or go to the library or somewhere else to gain the access you needed,” stated Calley Hoffman, resident of Zeandale. “With WTC, our experience has been fantastic. We can work, do homework, or attend classes online without slowdowns or buffering. And, we can

browse and stream online videos with a connection that is fast and reliable. We are very pleased with our service from WTC.”

The first state-funded competitive broadband grant opportunity, the Broadband Acceleration Grant Program was developed to fund projects that bring high-quality Internet to Kansans in underserved areas, economically distressed communities, and areas of compelling need, to address the increased needs of telework, telehealth, distance learning and other remote business services. Although a great opportunity to bring better Internet access to areas of the State, the inherent challenge is that the BAG projects, from start to finish, are to be completed within one year. Despite this challenge, the success of the Zeandale/Deep Creek project can already be seen, as 72% of the residents and businesses have pre-signed with WTC for Internet services on the new fiber network.

“WTC is pleased to announce that we are well on our way to meeting the deadline of having our Fiber-to-the-Premise network deployed in the Zeandale and Deep Creek areas of Riley County within one year as required by the grant. Being able to build a complete fiber network in less than one year shows WTC’s dedication to bringing broadband to our rural communities,” stated Jeff Wick, General Manager of WTC. “This is a big win for the residents, as they now have a fiber optic network that will provide the speed and bandwidth necessary to support telehealth, remote schooling and simultaneous connections. This will also help support their economic development efforts as well,” Wick added.

WTC is headquartered in Wamego (KS) and provides a full line of Voice, Internet, and Video services to residential, governmental, educational, and commercial clients. For more information about WTC, please visit www.wtcks.com or call 785-456-1000.