



## PRESS RELEASE

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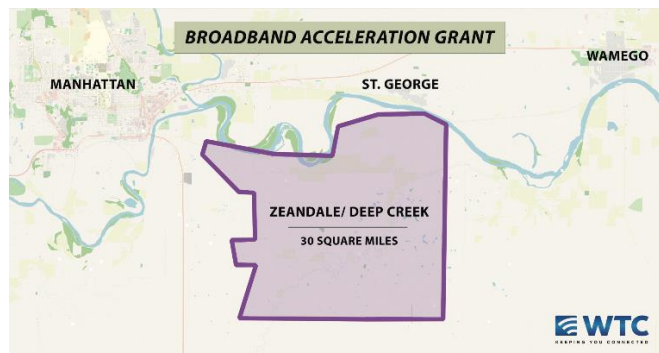
WTC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**Wamego, KS, 03-11-2021** — Broadband ‘acceleration’ will soon take on a whole new meaning 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. Following a successful application for a Broadband Acceleration Grant through the State of Kansas, WTC has announced plans to bring Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) technology to 172 homes and small businesses extending 30 square miles in the Zeandale and Deep Creek areas of Southeast Riley County in Kansas.



(Visual of grant coverage area)

“In today’s environment, the importance of a reliable Internet connection, with the speed to support remote work, has become more critical than ever,” stated Brendon Parsons, a Deep Creek resident and business owner. “Although we have experienced poor connectivity for years, this last year has shown us how far behind we actually are. Having school-aged children, the difficulties we faced with remote learning placed an extreme amount of stress on our family,” Parsons added.

“The struggles of running a small business with a poor internet connection are challenging,” stated Chris Wilson, the owner of a local event venue in the area. “Even simple tasks such as uploading a promotional video or taking customer payments become much more complex. And, I can only imagine the additional business I could do if only we had adequate Internet available,” Wilson added.

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 that have not had that luxury in the past, the best news for the area residents involved is that the project will be completed in only one year.

“As we worked through the grant application process, the support we received from the community members was tremendous. From letters of support from area residents to the community members going door-to-door to gather information, everyone was onboard from the start. To see their reaction to this opportunity shows an incredible amount of community commitment,” stated Jeff Wick, General Manager of WTC. “WTC understands the challenges of delivering advanced communication services in today's connected environment, so having the opportunity to bring fiber to Southeast Riley County is extremely exciting and rewarding for us,” 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](http://www.wtcks.com) or call 785-456-1000.