

News Release

Brightspeed Brings Ultra-Fast Fiber Connectivity to Hickory

Company's multi-million-dollar investment will provide high-speed internet to more locations in home state of North Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — April 3, 2024 — Brightspeed, the nation's fourth largest fiber broadband builder focused on empowering more homes with ultrafast, reliable internet, is connecting even more homes and businesses in Hickory, N.C. and surrounding areas of Catawba County.

Right now, surveying is underway to connect almost 35,000 local homes and businesses to Brightspeed Fiber Internet. Residents will soon see construction crews in the neighborhood working to provide them with a new, high-speed connectivity choice for many who have lacked quality internet service.

What to Expect During Construction

Brightspeed trucks will be in local neighborhoods as our crews work to bring families and local businesses online. Brightspeed's highest priority is working quickly and efficiently within local communities, keeping safety at the forefront. Customers can check for fiber availability in their area by visiting www.brightspeed.com/brightspeed-fiber-internet/ and sign up to receive alerts when service is available at their location.

Catawba County is Getting the Best in Broadband

The Brightspeed Fiber Internet network leverages the latest XGS-PON (10-Gigabit Symmetric Passive Optical Network) technology to bring boosted gig-speed capabilities and consistent responsiveness enabling multi-device households to connect, work, study, stream, communicate, and game efficiently and reliably across Catawba County.

Brightspeed Fiber is More Than Just Internet

Put simply, high-speed internet equals opportunity for households and businesses alike, and access to fast, reliable and affordable internet and Wi-Fi will help close the rural-urban digital divide. That's why Brightspeed is building its smart, fiber optics-based network in communities like Hickory and St. Stephens — so residents and business owners have the reliable connectivity they need to work, learn, play and thrive.

Brightspeed is already investing \$2 billion in deploying next-generation fiber-optic technology to build a more reliable, super-fast broadband internet network that will reach more than three million homes and businesses across 20 states. Additionally, Brightspeed is pursuing state and federal funding to augment its current fiber network build plan in North Carolina to help close the digital divide across the state's counties.

About Brightspeed

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C. and with assets and associated operations in 20 states, Brightspeed provides broadband and telecommunications services through a network platform capable of serving more than 6.5 million homes and businesses. Our more than 4,000 employees are committed to building a future where more communities benefit from a more connected life, deploying a state-of-the-art fiber network and a customer experience that makes being connected as simple as it should be. For more information, please visit www.brightspeed.com.

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