



Idaho County/DIGB2 Broadband Fiber Project

Bringing High Speed Broadband Fiber Network to North Central Idaho

Idaho County/DIGB2 Broadband Fiber Project



Historical Overview

- 2004 – CEDA applies for but is denied a grant for building a fiber middle mile backbone in Idaho District 2.
- 2014 – District 2 Interoperability Governance Board DIGB2 begins researching the need for better network connectivity to interconnect Emergency Communications Systems.
- 2018 – DIGB2 requests funding from the 5 counties (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, & Nez Perce) to determine current and potential future broadband fiber routes in North Central Idaho.
- 2019 – DIGB2 report provided by Advanced Technical Partners (ATP) completed. Report becomes the basis for the Governor’s and Idaho State broadband plans.

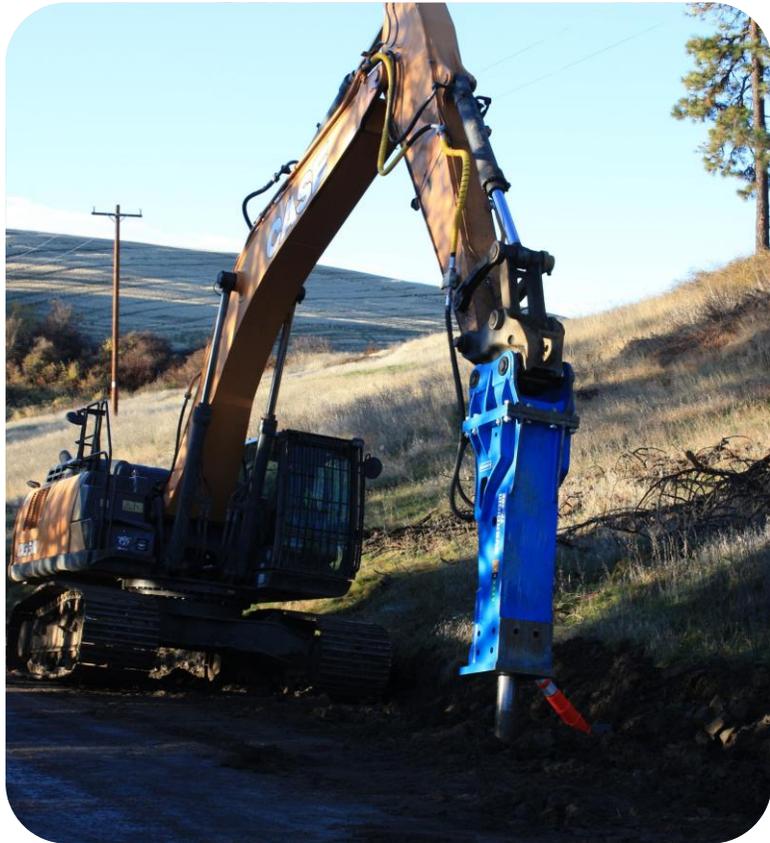
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Historical Overview - Continued

- 2019 to 2021 – COVID pandemic results in Local, State, and Federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act with significant funding available to improve the broadband network capabilities nationwide.
- 2022 – State of Idaho forms the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) through which grant opportunities for broadband fiber projects become available via the Department of Commerce’s Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB).
- 2023 – Idaho County represents DIGB2 as a Capital Project Fund (CPF) applicant for the current project.
- 2024 – Idaho County/DIGB2 awarded \$11.6M with District 2 Counties and Cities providing \$2.8M in cash match for a total project budget of \$14.4M.

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Current Project Timeline

- 01/04/2024 – Contract Signed with Idaho Department of Commerce.
- 01/05/2024 – Project Management and Grant Administrative Team hired (ECS, CEDA, Idaho County Staff).
- 03/25/2024 - Engineering and Design Firm Selected via RFP – J.U.B primary and Axiom Engineering Group (AEG) design sub- contractor. Design, Engineering, Environmental and Cultural Studies as well as permitting applications, and GIS integration begin.
- 09/15/2025 – Phase 1 Construction, middle mile from Nezperce to Orofino begins. Aecon awarded contract through RFP process.
- 12/1/2025 – Phase 2 construction begins, middle mile from Grangeville to Nezperce. NorthSky Construction awarded contract through RFP process.

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- Groundbreaking Ceremony held at the City of Nezperce City Hall on 11/20/2025
- In attendance were officials from Idaho County, Lewis County, Latah County, the City of Nezperce, the City of Grangeville, as well as officials from Aeconn and NorthSky, JUB, AirBridge, FirstStep Internet, IRON, the Port of Lewiston, and DIGB2.



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Laying Conduit on Gilbert Grade

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- <https://gatewaymapping.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=f45a65db041f4e3eb0efc09f7220d410>
- Phase 3 – Fiber to the Premise or Home (FTTP/FTTH)
- City of Nezperce Design nearly completed
- City of Grangeville currently in design
- RFP for FTTP/FTTH slated for March 2026
- Construction for FTTP/FTTH anticipated start April 2026
- Ownership:
 - Determination by Idaho County to retain ownership of Fiber plant on 11/18/2025
 - RFP for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) currently in draft phase
 - RFP for O&M targeted for release in mid-January 2026



THANK YOU

Funding & Oversight

**Idaho Department of Commerce – Office of Broadband
Idaho Broadband Advisory Board**

Match Contributors

Clearwater County

Idaho County

Latah County

Lewis County

Nez Perce County

City of Nezperce

City of Grangeville

Valued Partners

Port of Lewiston

IRON

Airbridge

FirstStep Internet

Inland Cellular

CEDA DIGB2

Idaho County Broadband Coalition

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