



**Broadband Planning in
York County
December 7, 2023**



YoCo STRONG **RECOVERY
TASK FORCE**



**York County
Economic
Alliance**

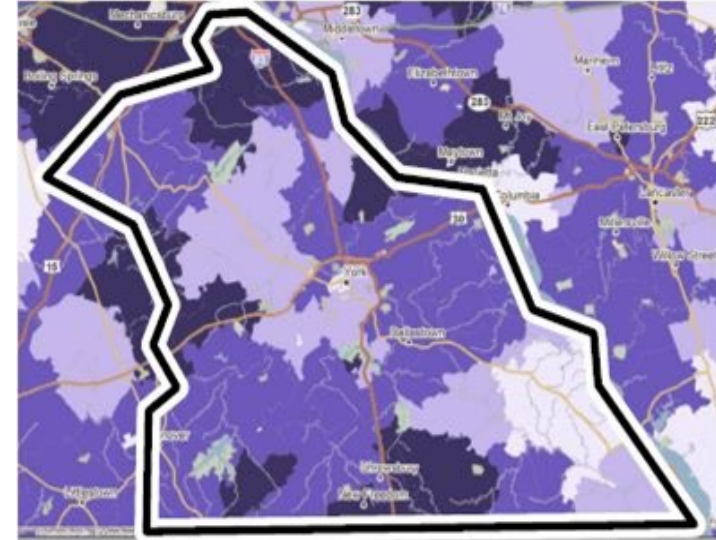
The Internet Need in YoCo

- **York County Quick Rundown**

- Population: 460K+
- Workforce Breakdown:
 - 18% in Manufacturing
 - 16% in Healthcare
 - 13% in Retail

- **Access Disparities**

- By Location, Affordability, & Digital Literacy
- Creating Challenges in Education, Workforce, & Quality of Life



“In York County specifically, the southern municipalities struggle more than the others because of geography and low population. *If you’ve spent time down there, it’s hard in many places to get a cellphone signal, let alone a high-speed signal.*”

- **State Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill, Via York Dispatch (April 23, 2019)**



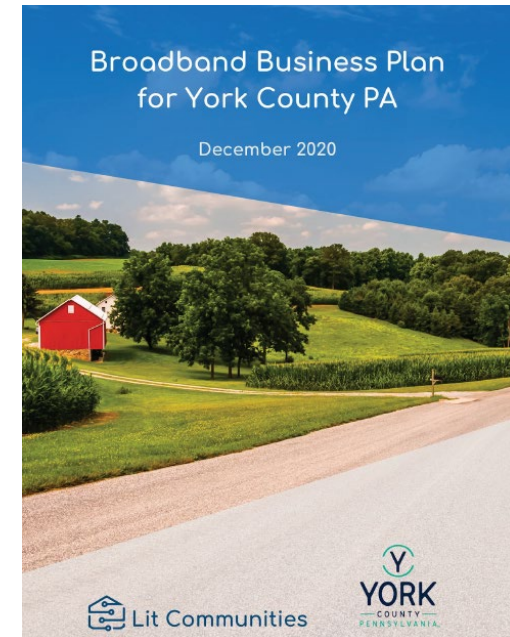
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YoCo Fiber Context

- In mid 2020, the York County Commissioners embarked on a creating a countywide broadband plan, an outcome of the YoCo Strong Recovery Task Force and a major goal of the York County Economic Action Plan.
- Outcome: this plan leads us to a multi-month pilot project to construct a fiber line that would be operable by the end of the year – I'll get to it.
- In January 2021, the Commissioners created a broadband task force to advise the County on implementation of the strategy and development projects; YCEA was tapped to facilitate the task force.

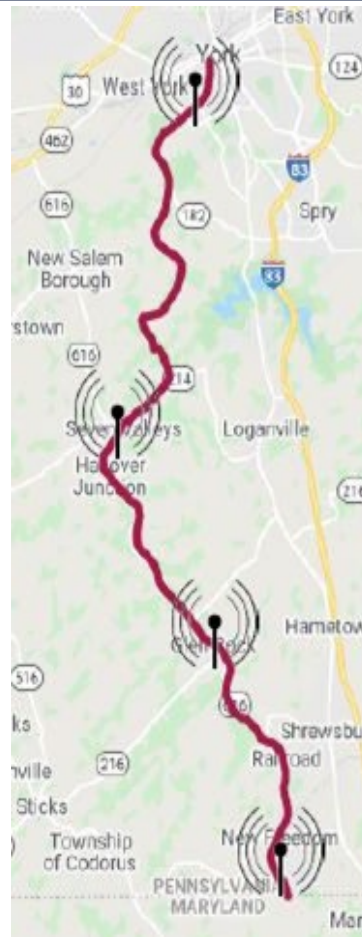


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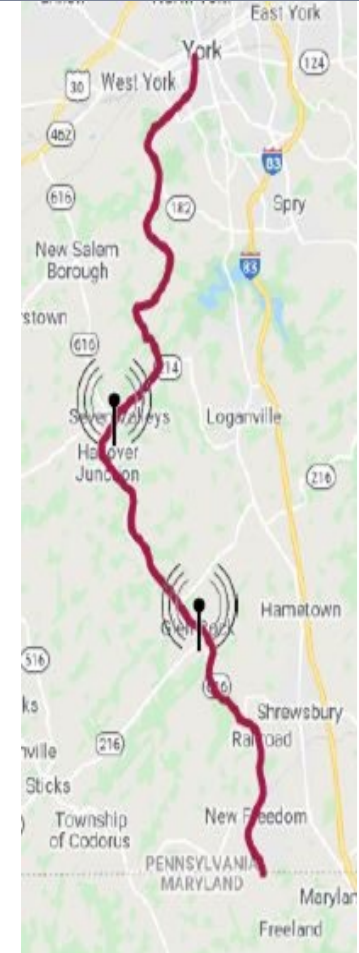


The Process

- **Our Homework**
 - Background on YCEA
 - YoCo Strong Restart Task Force
 - Understanding CARES Act Uses
 - Timeline
- **Developing Concept**
 - Urban Wireless Network
 - Backbone Fiber Line
 - Budget
- **The Project**
 - Seek Proposals
 - Pilot Project
 - Community Assessment
 - Financial Modeling



Proposed



Final



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The Difference Makers

- YoCo Restart Task Force Recommendations
- Political Will, Community Buy-in
- Existing Conduit Underneath 21-Mile Long Heritage Rail Trail



1979



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Pilot Project Construction & Awareness

- Notices on the Trail
- Dedicated Landing Page, Timely Updates
- Coordinated/Unified Messaging Among Public Entities and Partners



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Where We Ended Up & Where We Are Today

- Completed Pilot Project
- Completed Community Assessment
- Know Next Steps Are Needed
- What's Next?



Fiber Line "Lit" Day →



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Urban Wireless in York and Hanover Metros

- As part of YoCo Fiber, the County intended to deploy public wireless networks in York and Hanover metros to address the digital divide in our urban neighborhoods
- Design: \$438k; Build: \$4.5M; O&M: \$630K
- 17 feeder sites will provide CBRN/LTE coverage to 1,121 pole locations
- Design completed in summer 2022
- Finalizing O&M funding with phased installation beginning Q1 2024



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Urban Wireless in York and Hanover Metros

Funding partners

- Design: \$438k (committed by County)
- Construction: \$4.5M (committed by County)
- Operations and Maintenance: \$630K/year
 - City of York: \$690,000 (over 3 years)
 - Private Foundation: \$441,000 (over 3 years)
 - Private Foundation: \$300,000 (over 3 years)
 - Total Needed: \$1,890,000
 - Total Secured: \$1,431,000
 - Total Remaining: \$459,000



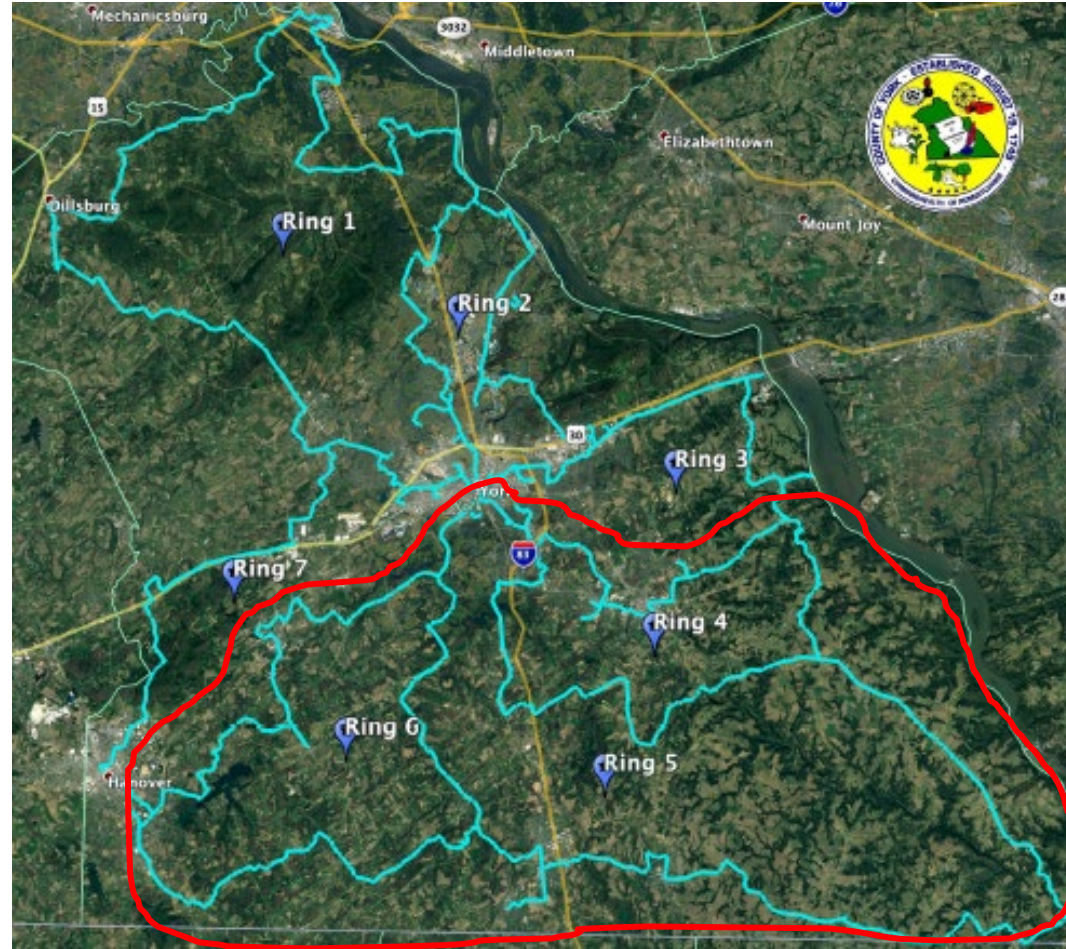
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Middle Mile Network in Southern York County

- YoCo Fiber is a 333-mile, 7-ring dark fiber middle mile network
- Phase 1: 144 miles, \$20M; starts in 2024
- Construction to be followed by an RFI for last mile providers—contingent on successful PPP established with pilot projects
- Agreement with an entity for design, engineering, and project management in final negotiations

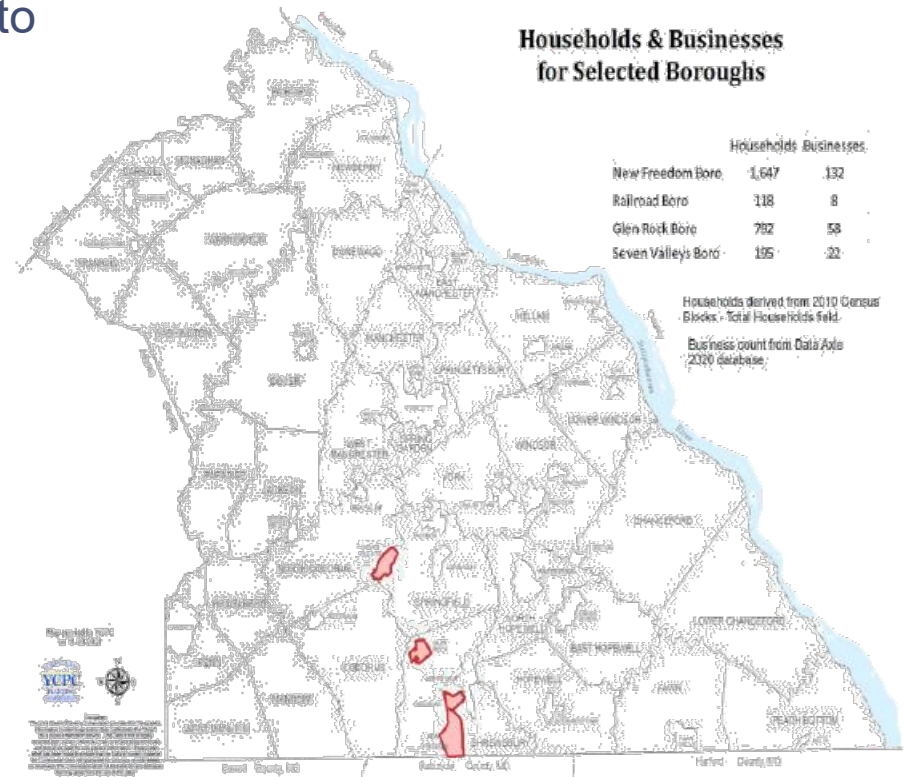


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Last Mile Pilot Project in Four Communities

- Public-private partnership with an entity to connect to homes and business from county-owned middle mile
- If successful, this PPP model will be deployed across the county to leverage the middle mile
- Proposed four communities to leverage original pilot project completed in 2021



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Questions?



Thank You!

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