



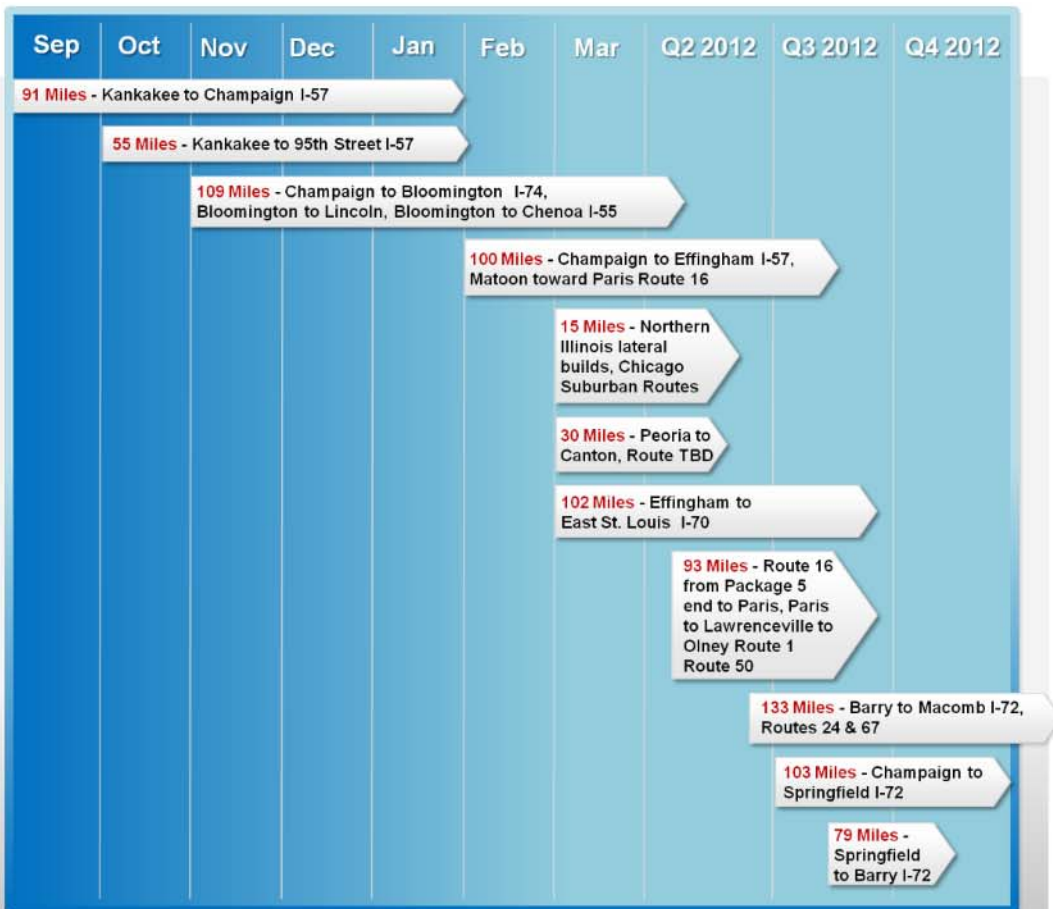
IBOP-EC Update



As of July 1st, 46% of the detailed design for the network backbone has been completed. A number of permit applications have been submitted to permitting entities (IDOT, County Highway Departments, Municipalities, etc.) for areas represented in the first couple of fiber construction packages.

Master contracts are being finalized with five construction contractors. Following is an estimated schedule for the rollout of fiber construction.

Fiber Construction Schedule



Key Dates

August 2011
Collinsville to Springfield Segment Operational

August 2, 2011
Broadband Deployment Council 1:00 p.m.

Springfield Location:
Capitol Building
Room 115

Chicago Location:
James R. Thompson Center
Room JRTC 9-036

October 17, 2011
Illinois Century Network Policy Committee Meeting 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Springfield Location:
Illinois Community College Board

Chicago Location:
James R. Thompson Center
Room JRTC 9-035

December 2011
Collinsville to Chicago Segment Operational

Funding Allocation Model Update



ICN staff presented a new allocation model for libraries to the ICN Policy Committee at their July 18 meeting. The proposed model, based on feedback from our library constituents and direction provided by the ICN Advanced Engineering Taskforce, allocates credits to library organizations based on the size of the population they serve.

Within the current model, all libraries regardless of size or population served receive the same baseline bandwidth. Although this has been adequate for most libraries, especially those with single or multiple T1 lines, it has not met the bandwidth demand of our larger libraries and those which have migrated to Metro Ethernet connectivity. The new model would provide allocation credits to libraries based on population served; thereby allowing larger libraries to access higher bandwidth levels. These changes will be implemented as the new fiber network is operational and new rates are introduced.



Lighting Collinsville to Chicago

Work to finalize the interconnection of I-55 fiber to the Collinsville POP site is scheduled to begin by the first week in August. A portion of the Level3 fiber splices has been completed, with the remainder scheduled to occur in the next couple of weeks.

ICN staff is preparing to place all of the necessary DWDM equipment at sites along the Collinsville to Springfield fiber path. We are on target to have the Collinsville to Springfield fiber path turned up by the end of August.



Connectivity Planned For Equinix Chicago Facility

ICN plans to connect fiber directly to the Equinix facility in Chicago. Equinix is a large data center where different networks can interconnect and exchange data directly with each other. Over 600 independent networks have a presence at Equinix including the ICN. This will be an important end point for our business and wholesale customers using the ICN for transport to reach low cost egress and other commercial networks.

An example of an independent network would be an Internet Service Provider in central Illinois serving their community with Internet and data services. This provider currently has difficulty accessing adequate bandwidth to support the applications of its customers. However, through the IBOP-EC project this provider would be able to reach Equinix for low cost Internet and Internet based content, expand their broadband offering and add additional data services for their customers.

ICN Annual Regional Meetings To Take A New Format



Each fall, the ICN Regional staff leads meetings in several locations throughout the state. The meetings are held to provide an opportunity at least once annually to share information with our varied customer set, as well as, to understand their particular application needs and service requirements. In keeping with our efforts to make more “green decisions” and to allow a broader audience to attend this year, we intend to hold these meetings via a webinar. Please look for date, time and agenda details as they become available later this summer.