**Vanderburgh County, AT&T to deliver fiber**

**to 20,000 county homes, businesses**

*Agreement to bring 1 GIG service to rural areas within two years*

**EVANSVILLE, IND.** (November 9, 2021) – Vanderburgh County, at the heart of the Evansville Region, secures an opportunity for its residents and businesses to access high-speed internet to unincorporated parts of the county within two years. Through a $39.6 million contract between AT&T and Vanderburgh County, fiber service will be available in portions of the county as early as the third quarter of next year.

“High-speed internet is foundational to creating economic and educational success in rural Vanderburgh County,” said Vanderburgh County Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave. “This agreement with AT&T to build an all-fiber network is the keystone to connecting more than 20,000 of our citizens and businesses to future opportunities.”

Delivering speeds up to 1 Gbps on both upload and download will make our region a location of choice for businesses, provide convenience for professionals working remotely and offer children deserving options for their education. The faster speeds and capacity mean customers can connect multiple devices, stream multiple sources and easily upload content – all at the same time.

“Vanderburgh County’s partnership with AT&T and the strategic use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds is a great example of a public-private partnership that will produce a giant leap forward in quality of life for our region,” said Tara Barney, CEO of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership.

AT&T will provide regular updates to county officials and its future customers. To keep residents up to date when service will be available at their address, AT&T is planning to conduct a local awareness campaign.

**Vanderburgh County’s Commitment to Broadband**

This project is a direct result of the 2018 Broadband Ready Ordinance, which received unanimous support. Vanderburgh County was one of the first in the state to achieve this designation. The ordinance removed barriers by creating a 10-day permitting process and creating tax exemption for new broadband investment.

This fiber project follows earlier broadband actions taken by the Vanderburgh County Commission, including active pursuit of state grants and devoting local Tax Increment Finance District dollars to improve access in a northwestern portion of the county.

**About AT&T Fiber**

From 2018-2020, AT&T invested more than $1 billion in its wireless and wireline networks in [Indiana](https://about.att.com/ecms/dam/snrdocs/CAPEX2021/Indiana%20CapEx%20State%20Release%20FINAL.pdf) to expand coverage and improve connectivity in more communities.

That investment has increased reliability, coverage and overall performance for residents and businesses. It’s also improved critical communications services for Indiana’s first responders using the [FirstNet](http://www.firstnet.com/) network.