

Columbia County Community Broadband Utility (C³BU) owns and operates a fiber network that consists of a point-of-presence (POP) facility, 7 communication tower facilities and over 210 route miles of underground fiber optic open-access network in Columbia County Georgia.

The C³BU network currently offers 20 Gigabits bandwidth and is scalable to several hundred Gigabits. The Dense Wave Division Multiplex (DWDM) platform is Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) 2.0 certified to provide true carrier-class performance to our customers. The C³BU Software Defined Network (SDN) also provides carrier-class packet optical transport services to other service providers.

C³BU directly serves Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) which consists of government, education, public safety, and non-profit facilities. C³BU currently partners with five service providers to provide service to commercial and residential customers. C³BU currently has over 180 facilities connected to the network excluding residential customers, and 5 service providers collocated in the point of presence facility.

One of our partners (WCTEL), currently provides Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Gigabit Internet service to Columbia County residents in the under and unserved areas of the County. WCTEL is currently serving five sub divisions and the Clary Cut Road area that is very rural. In 2017, WCTEL plans to expand into other areas of the County to improve residential and commercial broadband services.

C³BU recently entered into an agreement with Uniti Fiber (Formerly Tower Cloud) to facilitate network expansion into Augusta-Richmond County and to provide high speed access to 55 Marietta in Atlanta Georgia. 55 Marietta is one of the largest telecom collocation facilities in the Southeast and enables communications providers to interconnect directly with one another.

The Augusta-Richmond County network expansion will also provide an additional 47.8 miles of underground fiber infrastructure that can provide transport and/or internet access for key communication and data center facilities in downtown Augusta. The construction for the network expansion will be completed by the end of August 2017.

Current Service Provider Partners

- Advanced Technology Group
- Georgia Business Net
- Spirit Communications
- Uniti Fiber (formerly Tower Cloud)
- WCTEL

Public Safety Strengthen Infrastructure for Commercial and Residential Use

- 100% of network is underground construction
- Fiber protected with armored sheath placed inside conduit
- Backbone node facilities are secured and monitored 24 x 7 with diverse routes
- Fully redundant power systems with on-site emergency generators
- Seven (7) open-access communication towers

Customer Services Available

- Carrier Ethernet E-Line, E-LAN, EVPL, and EVLAN
- Ethernet 5Mb - 10 Gb Optical
- Ethernet 5Mb – 1Gb Electrical
- Collocation Space in Point of Presence and Tower Facilities
- Dedicated Internet Access

Vision: Lighting the way...linking our community to the world.

Mission: To provide a cost-efficient, self-sustaining middle-mile fiber network for the community.

- Stimulate demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation by expanding the availability of affordable broadband Internet access for all people, businesses and community organizations
- Promote the use of broadband to improve the quality and availability of health care, education and government services
- Intelligent traffic system to increase traffic management efficiency thus reducing carbon emission impact
- Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) migration from radio-based transport to Ethernet
- Providing bandwidth to next generation applications such as software as a service, Public Safety cameras, E-Health records, disaster recovery, automatic utility meter readings and distance learning.
- Public Safety agency radio interoperability facilitated by new tower build out
- Develop the C3BU into a hub access point for the region