



Etex Partners with Harrison County to upgrade Rural High-Speed Broadband Access

Community of Harleton, 11/18/2024 — Etex, a leader in rural telecommunications, is excited to announce a new public-private partnership with Harrison County aimed at expanding high-speed broadband access to underserved areas near the community of Harleton. The partnership will assist Etex Telephone Cooperative in upgrading their existing DSL network to a state-of-the-art buried Fiber network. This will bring reliable, affordable Fiber Internet service to hundreds of homes and businesses within the region that currently have limited broadband connectivity.

The project will involve the construction of over 30 miles of buried fiber-optic infrastructure, significantly improving Internet access for the rural community. This state-of-the-art fiber network will enable high-speed Internet in areas where high-speed service options have historically been unavailable.

Totalling more than \$4 million in investment, the project will be jointly funded by Etex and Harrison County, with the county contributing \$1.5 million. The partnership solidifies that rural communities benefit when county officials and private investment works together. It is a known fact that investing in infrastructure in rural low-density areas is a failing standalone business model. Public policies and partnerships like this are what make it possible.

Charlie Cano, CEO of Etex, expressed his enthusiasm for the project: "We are honored to work with our local officials to improve rural Internet access and make Harrison County a model partnership for the region. This investment will not only enhance connectivity but also open doors to new opportunities for education, healthcare, and business growth within our cooperative. "

The project is scheduled for completion in early 2025, and once finished, it will transform broadband access in and around Harleton, making it a key player in regional economic development.

Etex has a long history of providing high-quality Internet service to rural communities, and this collaboration with Harrison County marks another significant step in its commitment to closing the digital divide.

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