



To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Dylan Mulfinger, City Administrator  
Subject: Kinetic Fiber/Windstream  
Date: 4/27/2026

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The following was provided by Matt Graham Utility Project Coordinator from Kinetic Fiber/Windstream.

My name is Matt Graham and I am the Utility Project Coordinator for Kinetic Fiber/Windstream in Eastern Iowa. We are in the process of deploying a fiber optic network in the City of Oelwein. We have submitted several permits to the city for the ability to install conduits in the city Rights of Way.

4/23/26

After speaking with Dylan this morning, I wanted to get some additional aerial photos to you to better show our proposed installation. I am also gathering photos of the cabinets and pedestals you can expect to see in the ROW.

We have 14 separate areas planned, labeled 2NDAV, 2NDST, LNCLN, 7THAV, 1STNW, 8THAV, 1STSW, CHRLS, 6THAV, CHARL, 5THST, 3RDAV, 8THST, and FRDRK on the photos. There is one photo that shows the entire city.

As I said on the original email, the red lines indicate buried residential conduit, the blue lines indicate higher capacity lines in the same conduit, and the dark blue lines indicate existing high-capacity buried fiber optic cable. The conduits for both the residential and higher capacity cables will either be in 12.5mm flexible duct or 1.25" HDPE, depending on several installation factors.

All lines will be bored in, no open trench. We will observe any conflicts we find using either hand digging or hydro-excavation equipment. We will call for 811 locates more than 48-hrs in advance and will work with your public works department to be sure we coordinate our schedule with your ability to mark the locates.

I look forward to being able to speak with the council. If there are any questions you are aware of beforehand, please let me know so I can get answers and maximize the time for other questions.

4/22/2026

Kinetic is the fiber optic arm of Windstream Communications. We have been in the area for many years and want to expand our services to more people. We are focused on serving more rural communities and the hubs for those areas and we think Oelwein is one of those hubs. We have designed a network that should be able to serve nearly everyone in the city, if they want, with as little impact as possible. However, there will be some disruption when installing the conduit. I want to be sure that the council is aware of the proposed project when they see crews in the city and citizens are complaining. I want them to know the benefits of our services and what it brings to Oelwein.



We are focused on residential services with this build. Our network will be fiber-to-the-home, with a fiber from the pedestal into the home and connected to the router. Some providers offer a fiber to the ROW and a CAT5 cable or other standard connection to the home. That is better than a cable network or DSL line, but fiber-to-the-home offers vastly superior speeds and reliability. It allows home internet users the ability to work from home, stream TV, operate cell phones, and play online games without lag time.

Fiber optic access is something that people look for in a community when relocating. It used to be that it was a "plus"; now it's a checkbox that is needed. With remote work being as prevalent as it is, a fiber network will allow people to relocate from anywhere. That is the same for industry. Many businesses require a fiber network to operate due to security concerns. The only way they can obtain the security they need is to be able to send encrypted information fast and a "hard-wired" connection is mandatory.

Oelwein has several providers but none offer all the benefits of a fiber-to-the-home network. There is a provider that rivals our available speed but it is not a wired connection, another offers similar download speeds to Kinetic but their upload speeds are not even close. We offer symmetrical service – 1-2Gbps download and 1-2Gbps upload. Even if there were a competitor that offers the same speed and security, competition is a good thing. It forces everyone to keep prices in line and to update their technology to maintain relevance.

The map below shows an approximate extent of our plan. The entire network is proposed to be buried with pedestals between properties to allow for service. We prefer to use the pedestal because the buried vaults cause long-term problems; the seals eventually fail and water gets into the conduit, if the handhole is full of water it can freeze and we can't do service during the winter, and it is difficult to find the access points when a snowplow covers the ROW with 4 feet of snow. The pedestal allows the conduit to come out of the ground preventing water from filling it, pedestals are much easier to access in the winter, and are more reliable long-term.

We have several different service "polygons", as shown on the map. This divides the town into service areas. It allows us to maintain service as routine maintenance and emergency service is being performed. The city will be connected to the main transmission cables from two directions adding redundancy. We already have some higher count fiber running through Oelwein. We will be connecting our residential fiber to these higher-count fiber lines. The below map shows the plan. The dark blue line is the existing fiber running through the City. We are proposing to install the light blue lines as access to the individual polygons and the red lines are proposed residential service lines. From the residential service lines, we will add "drops" to individual houses.

I want to be clear, we are only proposing to work in the ROW and utility easements; we are not going to work in any homeowner's property. We are installing access to the network, any drop line will be up to the homeowner.

In any ROW or easement work, Kinetic is responsible for any damage we cause. I never say "if" there is a problem because working underground will always find things that we didn't know were there. So when there is a problem, Kinetic will fix the issue. That is one of the reasons we always bore under roads at 48" when we install elsewhere at 24"-36", we don't want to disturb the prepared roadbed. It is usually easy to see when we cause damage to a water main, or worse, gas and electric lines. That brings work to a



complete stop until the problem is solved. Not as evident are sewer laterals or when we nick a sewer line that eventually collapses. If we installed at that point, we are obligated to fix the damage. I am currently dealing with culverts that were drilled through years ago that nobody realized were damaged until the county wanted to line the inlet/outlet. We are responsible for the repair costs. It is a cost of doing business and we accept that risk.

I look forward to speaking to you at your council meeting on 4/27. I prefer a dialog as opposed to a presentation, so please come with questions and I will try to answer them. If I can't answer I will contact someone who does and get you the answer.