



**Washington EMC in central Georgia is partnering with internet service provider Conexon Connect to transform our rural communities with a world-class fiber-to-the-home network and access to Gigabit-speed broadband internet**

## Project Scope

- WHAT:** World-class 3,000-mile fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network
- WHO:** Washington EMC in partnership with internet service provider Conexon Connect
- WHEN:** 3-year build timeline, with first customers connected 1Q 2022
- WHERE:** 12,200 homes and businesses across 10 counties in central Georgia
- HOW:** \$54.5 million total investment

## Fast Facts About Fiber

- The gold standard of communications transmission:
  - Sends and receives data at the speed of light
  - Capable of carrying an extremely high amount of data
  - Connect multiple devices without delays or interruptions
  - More reliable and less susceptible to interference, lightning, weather damage and other natural impacts
- Offers symmetrical gigabit (1,000 Mbps) internet capabilities – download and upload at identical high speeds
- Enables the benefits of smart grid capabilities to the electrical infrastructure, including: improved power outage response times, better load balancing, and more efficient electricity delivery
- Supports crystal-clear voice service, unlimited data, and high-definition media, including video and streaming TV
- Opens up new opportunities for a more connected daily life:
  - Effective remote learning
  - Convenient telemedicine
  - Work-from-home interoffice connectivity
  - Economic development and growth
  - Improved real estate market and home prices

## Project Partners

**Washington EMC** is a member-owned electric membership corporation that provides electricity and related services to more than 15,500 metered-accounts in ten east-central Georgia counties including: Baldwin, Emanuel, Glasscock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson County. Washington EMC has been proudly serving members since 1937.

**Conexon Connect** is the newly formed internet services provider (ISP) arm of rural fiber broadband design and construction management leader Conexon. The subsidiary was formed to operate and manage cooperative and investor-owned fiber-to-the-home networks. Conexon Connect leverages Conexon's decades of co-op operations, fiber-optic design and construction, telecommunications, federal and state lobbying and customer experience management expertise to successfully launch and operate projects. The Connect approach is to work exclusively with electric cooperatives to launch and deploy high-speed fiber-optic networks – the gold standard of communications transmission – enabling them to offer world-class fiber broadband to 100% of their members.

**Conexon** works with Rural Electric Cooperatives to bring fiber to the home in rural communities. The company is composed of professionals who have worked in electric cooperatives and the telecommunications industry, and offer decades of individual experience in business planning, building networks, marketing and selling telecommunications. Conexon offers its electric cooperative clients end-to-end broadband deployment and operations support, from a project's inception all the way through to its long-term sustainability. It works with clients to analyze economic feasibility, secure financing, design the network, manage construction, provide operational support, optimize business performance and determine optimal partnerships. To date, Conexon has assisted nearly 200 electric cooperatives, nearly 50 of which are deploying fiber networks, with more than 200,000 connected fiber-to-the-home subscribers across the U.S. Overall, the company has secured more than \$1.3 billion in federal and state funding for its clients across the country.