

Fiber internet expanding to airport museum

(KAIR)--Citing "the need for reliable and high-speed internet" in the area of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Airport, a plan is in place for the installation of a fiber internet extension.

Enhancing the quality of the available internet is specifically being done in connection with the soon to be completed Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum.

Reed Berger is the Vice-President of the Amelia Earhart Foundation, which is working to make the museum a reality. He told MSC News the organization, in March, entered into an agreement with Everest-based Rainbow Communications to make the expansion happen. "Since we are doing the museum out at the airport, and it's going to be educational, STEM-based, we determined we really needed quality, high-speed internet out there, so we've been working with Rainbow Communications and just entered into a memorandum of understanding to extend the fiber from the industrial park to the airport."

According to a news release issued by the Amelia Earhart Foundation, the organization is contributing \$171,602 toward the construction of the Fiber Service Extension, with the buried fiber optic line to run along 286th Road, from the Shannon Industrial Park, approximately 4 miles east, to the airport.

It will make internet speeds up to 1G possible. "That really was the best option for us to go, to extend it from the industrial park to the airport," Berger said. "That will help facilitate the first class experience that we're going to have at the museum when it's up and going."

Foundation President Karen Seaberg, in the release, said "the buried fiber will not only benefit the museum, but also the airport and residents along 286th Road, bringing fiber that much closer to the city of Atchison."

Rainbow Communications CEO Jason Smith, in the release, noted that "the benefits of a fiber optic network are enormous," adding that it goes hand in hand with economic development and community development.

Construction is set to begin July 1, with a completion date on, or before, October 1.

Once the hangar museum at the airport is complete, the central exhibit will be Muriel, the 1935 Lockheed Electra L-10E, which is a match to the airplane flown by famed Atchison native Amelia Earhart.

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