

History of Engagement with Fiber Initiatives

Listed chronologically by most recent – start at bottom for full history.

May 2018

Town staff worked for several weeks with Ting Internet to study the feasibility of expanding their network into Apex. Ultimately, Ting determined that Apex was well-served by existing fiber operators, and that their strategic goals at that time were not aligned with expanding into Apex.

May 2015

Here is what we know about the 2 main fiber projects under consideration in the Triangle area:

NCNGN Project

In early April, the North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN) project announced that they would partner with AT&T to provide high-speed fiber to its group of cities. Apex was not a community originally being considered for this project. In late April, AT&T announced that they would add Apex to their fiber service area. AT&T hopes to have connections in Apex as early as next spring. It is now our responsibility to do what we can to help them make it happen.

Related Resources

- [AT&T expands fiber plan to include Apex, Garner, Morrisville](#)
- [Raleigh approves AT&T's fiber internet plan](#)

Google Project

A full explanation of our history with Google fiber is detailed on further tabs. Here's the update: although Google did not ask us to complete the "fiber checklist" that the participating cities were given, we did it anyway. So far, we have not gotten a response from them. But we'll be here waiting when they decide to reach out to Apex.

The Bottom Line

Attracting high-speed internet for our residents and businesses is a high priority for us, and we'll continue to do all we can to make it a reality for Apex.

March 2014

We've been reaching out to Google in every way possible to express Apex's strong interest in being a part of the Google Fiber project. Apex, along with many communities across the Triangle area have been met with the same response from Google:

- They are busy with the 34 cities that were announced.
- They don't have plans to add other cities to the list right now.

You know that's not stopping us, though. Apex is already working to complete the "fiber checklist" that the participating cities have been given. We'll submit it by the given deadline of May 1 and see what happens from there.

The good news is that Apex is a great fit for any high-speed fiber network. Our citizens are highly motivated to help us bring this project to town. Our elected officials and staff see clearly the benefit of high-speed internet, and we won't give up.

February 2014

Start of the Expansion

- When Google announced their nationwide Google Fiber project in 2011, over 1,100 communities across America expressed an interest in participating.
- Google researched each community that applied and narrowed the number dramatically.
- Google sent an extensive follow up questionnaire to what we'll call the semifinalists. Apex was among this group. We completed the questionnaire.
- Several months passed before we were notified we were among the finalists, which was interpreted to be among the top 10 nationwide. Several Apex elected officials and Town staff had a lengthy conference call with the Google representatives responsible for making the final decision.
- In the end, Google selected Kansas City as the city to launch the 1st Google Fiber project where by all accounts it has been successful.

Gig U

Nearly 2 years ago another North Carolina Fiber initiative began. This was called Gig U. This was/is a consortium of municipalities that bordered the Research Triangle Park and University communities in the Triangle area. Participation was by invitation. Apex did not meet the criteria for involvement initially, but we were informed we could possibly join later.

Google 3rd Wave

Now comes the 3rd wave. Google has a desire to create a Google Fiber network in other municipalities across the country. They have selected 9 regions in the US for consideration. Municipalities in Wake, Durham and Orange County are included. The Google press release went as far as to name a number of municipalities in the Triangle region. Apex was not included on the list, but that in and of itself does not exclude us from future service by the Google Fiber project.

The Town of Apex is making every effort to be included. The Town Manager (Bruce Radford) is in contact with a local Google representative, and has expressed our interest in keeping Apex in the mix. We submitted updated information that the rep says will be considered, and she is committed to keeping us updated with the progress.

Our goal is to make Apex the best possible contender for the Google Fiber project. First, the Raleigh-Durham region has to be chosen over the other study areas nationwide. There is a role for the

community at large in making this happen. Google is monitoring with the 'Check Address' feature at the top of [Google's Expansion Page](#) to gauge community interest. So here's our charge to you – visit the page and enter your address.

Visit the link, check your address, and spread the word! In the meantime, know that we're doing all we can to bring Google Fiber to Apex.

January 2015

Google announced at a press conference on January 27, 2015 that the following Triangle cities had been selected as the next Google Fiber cities:

- Carrboro
- Cary
- Chapel Hill
- Durham
- Garner
- Morrisville
- Raleigh

Apex, along with many other Triangle cities, were not included in this announcement.

Even though Apex was not included, Council and staff remain committed to doing everything possible to engage Google and other providers to provide high-speed internet to our town.