

Building an Al-Ready Connectivity Infrastructure

WICHITA | SEPTEMBER 11, 2025





WE'RE NETWORK NERDS AND WE LOVE THE INTERNET.

We started as a B2B telecom provider in Boston providing connectivity to enterprises and data centers.

- Frustrated by the inefficiencies of networking and internet infrastructure in Massachusetts, we started TOWARDEX in 2012.
- We're a high-performance internet provider catering to sophisticated enterprises that demand low latency and high throughput.
- Most interconnected regional ISP in Boston.
- Personalized service, local guys. We're quite popular among colocation users in data centers across Massachusetts.







WE'RE NEW ENGLAND'S PEERING CENTRAL.

Peering is the exchange of data between internet networks.

- The more uniquely peered you are, the faster your network is, as internet traffic finds quicker routes to targeted destinations.
- Designed for high-performance networking, we're the most heavily peered regional network ASN in Boston.
- We exchange over 90% of our regional internet traffic locally with peering partners within the state, instead of relaying through long-distance cities.

We also run MASS IX: Massachusetts Internet Exchange

- Largest neutral internet exchange in New England, available in over 6 data centers and natively through multiple fiber carriers.
- Internet exchanges allow networks to peer more quickly and economically. We launched MASS IX to make it easier for our partners to peer with us.

BUT WE DIDN'T STOP THERE..

In Massachusetts, we built America's first underground interconnection utility.

CALLED THE HUB EXPRESS SYSTEM (HEX), CARRIERS AND DATA CENTERS INTERCONNECT DARK FIBER IN A MASSIVE UNDERGROUND MEET-ME STREET.





NETWORK GRAVITY UNTETHERED.

Infrastructure meets interconnection.

- Underground conduit network enabling interconnections with no monthly recurring cross connect fees.
- The carrier-neutral facility has gone mobile and is on the road.

Meet the nation's first carrier-neutral Meet-Me Street.



Lightpath









For the first time in American internet history, you can now order carrier circuits to the Meet-Me Street to link with your connecting party and reach your destination.

No recurring cross connect fees, no carrier hotels, no fuss. All you need to tell your carrier is: "Meet-Me in HEX!"



THERE IS NO MAGIC HERE—IT'S A SERIES OF TUBES AFTER ALL. HOWEVER, SPACE IS EXPENSIVE, AND CABLE VOLUMES ARE ONLY GOING UP.





WHEN AI STARTS TALKING TO AI, MASSIVELY SCALING DARK FIBER IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING MOMENTUM. THIS MEANS MORE CABLES IN LIMITED SPACES.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE MUST BE MODERNIZED BEYOND THE OLD THINKING OF JUST "FIBER DENSITY."



Chaotic digital infrastructure is not how we scale for Al.



MANHOLES ARE GATEWAYS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURES, NOT UNDERGROUND GARBAGE DUMPS.

Infrastructure congestion impedes fiber deployments for new providers, creating frictions and driving up costs.

The future of Al networking is coming to Wichita.

STATE-OF-THE-ART, ORGANIZED, AND DIGITALLY MANAGED UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE.





AI-READY DARK FIBER INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRES SCALABLE CABLE VAULTS

- IXP facilities are frequently accessed by crews working for numerous carriers.
- Multi-tenancy and neutral access are the critical foundational principles for both the design and operating practices of an IXP.
- Cable clutter and manhole congestions present significant obstacles to scaling shared utility systems. Inaccessible conduits reduce network capacity.
- Manhole congestion becomes unsolvable as the vault repeatedly fills up with water and pollutants (mud/muck, stormwater, road oils, and other contaminants).

TO MAXIMIZE NETWORK CAPACITY AND MITIGATE CONGESTION, CABLE VAULTS MUST BE MADE WATERTIGHT AND BE MAINTAINABLE.







CLEAN INFRASTRUCTURE IS SAFE INFRASTRUCTURE.

Safety, Operational Reliability, and Digitalization.

- Digitalized register and maintenance log for all cable transit and duct works occurring in every manhole.
- Vision Al-powered field inspections and permit-to-work audits.
- Debris-free, sealed, and dry work environment for line crews.
- Maintainable infrastructure reduces the risk of work accidents in permit-required confined spaces and manholes.

NO MORE FREE-FOR-ALL IN UNDERGROUND VAULTS.

Visible infrastructure, down to every foot.

- Every carrier is assigned designated mounting positions and racking paths for cables, slacks, and splice enclosures.
- Racking and tie-down paths are visualized in CAD or 3ds Max in every job to plan for cable routing and maximize the number of cables passing through the vault.
- Every cable attachment requires detailed technical plan (including cable make/model, diameter, method, etc.) prior to installation.

Bend radius determines the amount of slack that will be supported.

Disorganized workmanship in manholes is prohibited.

Permit-to-work system integration with Approved Contractor
 Program ensures continuous workmanship enforcement:

Permits are automatically rejected for contractors who fail workmanship quality standards more than 2 times in a 3-year period until they complete and pass a field training program.













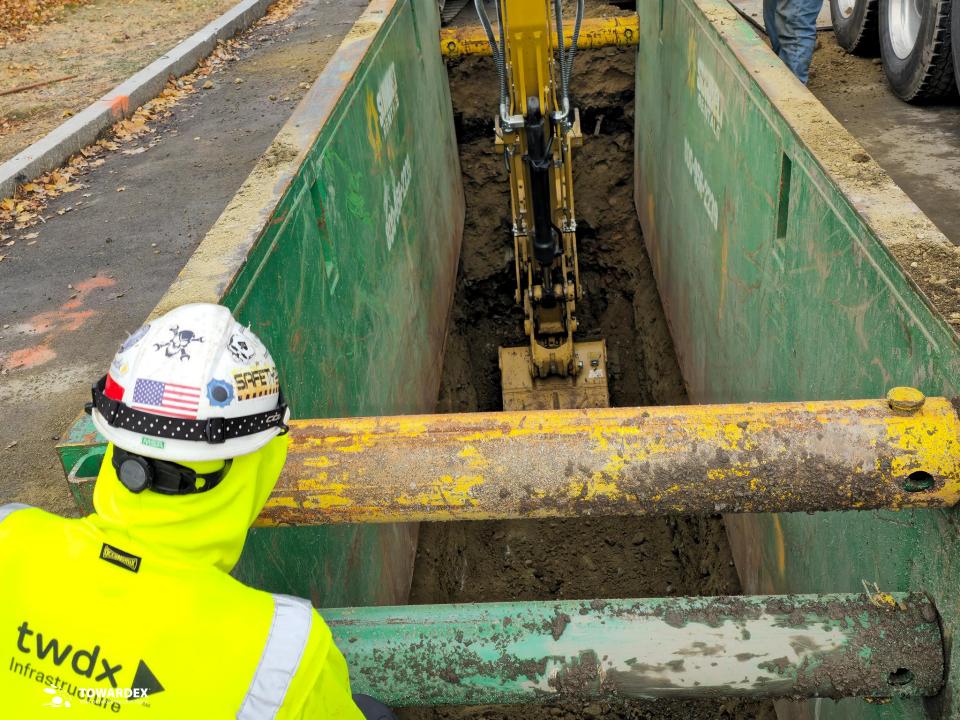




















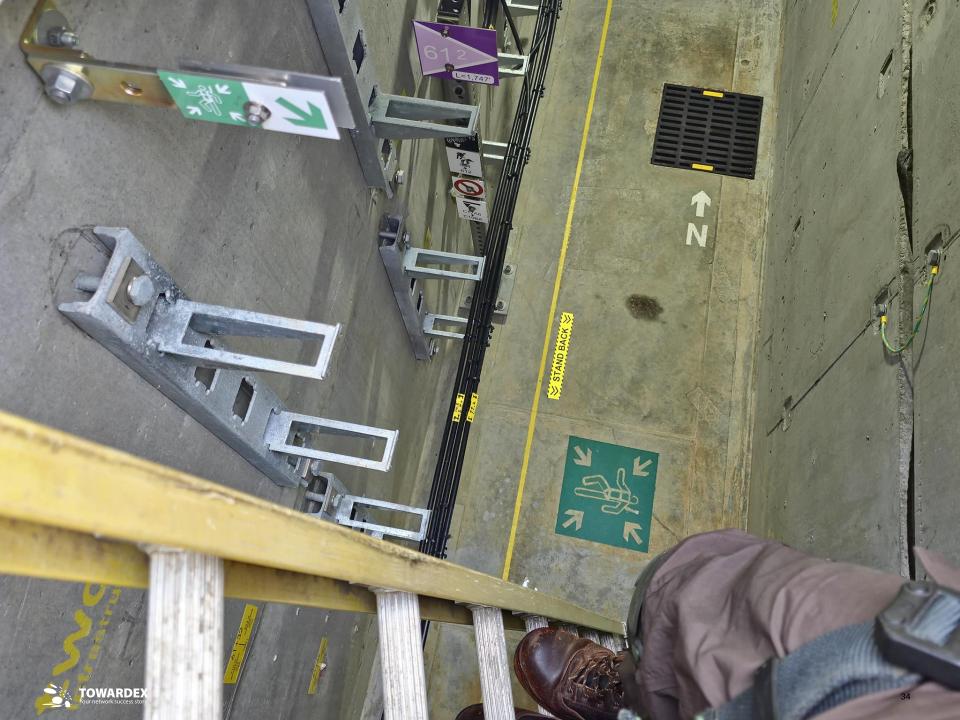


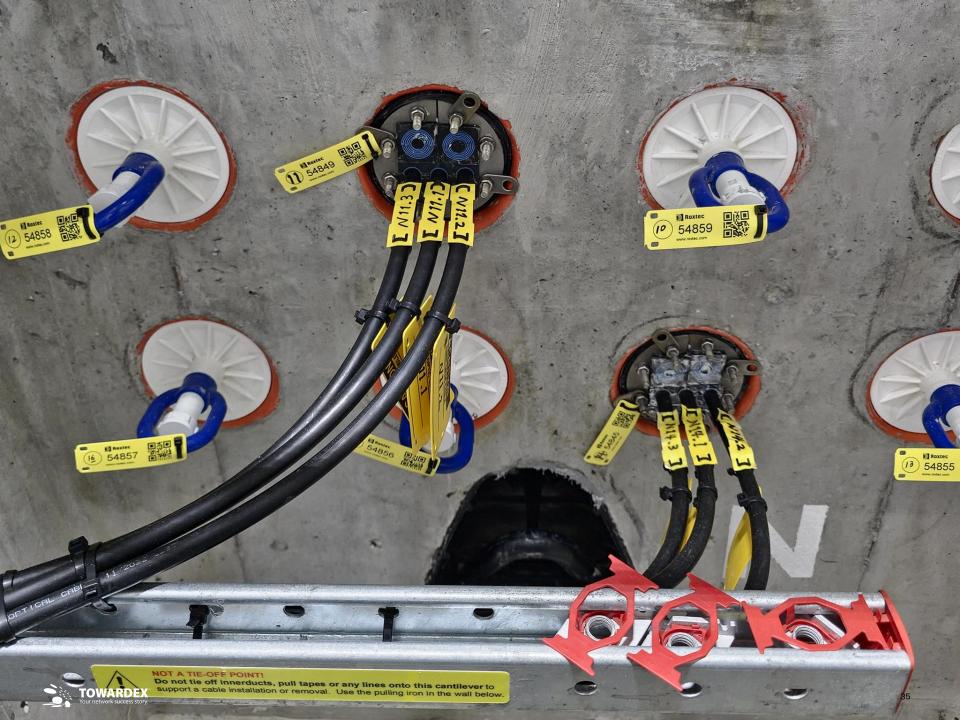




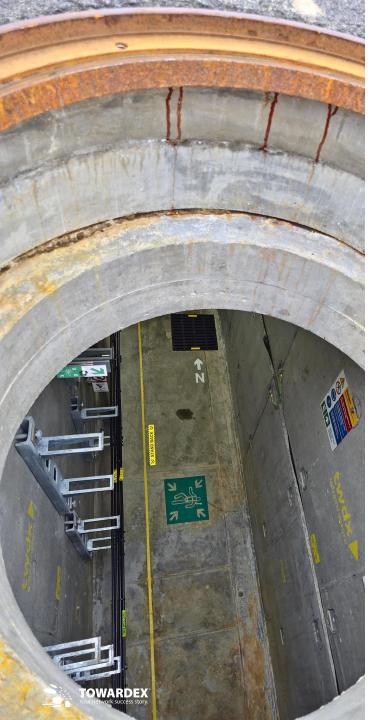












IXP INFRASTRUCTURE IS AN ECONOMIC ENGINE.

When building duct systems for AI, think BIG and WIDE.

- It's all about building an ecosystem and an economic engine!
- Cable count and tenant activities are way more important than fiber count:

Terrestrial fiber infrastructures in the era of Al must focus on maximizing cable transits among different parties, because each cable passing through the system represents immeasurable broadband opportunities and economic possibilities.

WELCOME TO THE ERA OF OPERATOR-EMPOWERED INFRASTRUCTURE.

