

# Cisco & Ventev Partner to Deliver High-Quality Network Access to Underserved Communities

Ventev recently partnered with Cisco and a systems integrator to deliver community wireless to several neighborhoods in Texas. The goal was to provide the communities with high-quality wireless to meet all their remote access technology needs. The necessity was compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring children in the neighborhood could access the internet for schoolwork was a major priority.

The customer had already determined they would use Cisco switching, Cisco Meraki Wireless for access to the residents, and Cisco Ultra-Reliable Wireless Backhaul (formerly Fluidmesh) for the high-speed data backhaul.

## Challenges

### COMPLEX DEPLOYMENT SCENARIO

- Five devices would need to be installed on the 25-foot utility poles in over 400 locations.
- Each deployment included, at minimum, a Cisco IE3300, a Fluidmesh FM1200 VOLO, and a Meraki MR86 access point for Wi-Fi access.
- A large number also included a Fluidmesh FM3500 ENDO along with its FM22 antenna and an additional FM1200 VOLO.

### LIMITED SPACE

- Space availability on the utility poles was extremely limited.
- The deployment footprint needed to be as small as possible.

### LIMITED BUDGET & TIME

- Funding was provided through the CARES Act and other federal, state, and local funds. However, the customer was still on a tight budget.
- With communities lacking effective connectivity, the need to deliver essential network and internet access to the neighborhoods was urgent.
- Initial estimates to install all the components to the poles exceeded three hours per pole, which impacted timeline and budget.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- The solution needed to be able to stand up to environmental impacts both natural and manmade.

## Solutions

Ventev's solution was a fully-integrated enclosure that was delivered ready to deploy. This significantly reduced the complexity of the deployment, saved time, and eliminated installation errors in the field.



Ventev also engineered a unique mounting solution for the project that reduced the footprint required on the pole. The mount allowed all components of the deployment to be assembled at ground level, reducing installation time at the top of the pole from hours to minutes.

