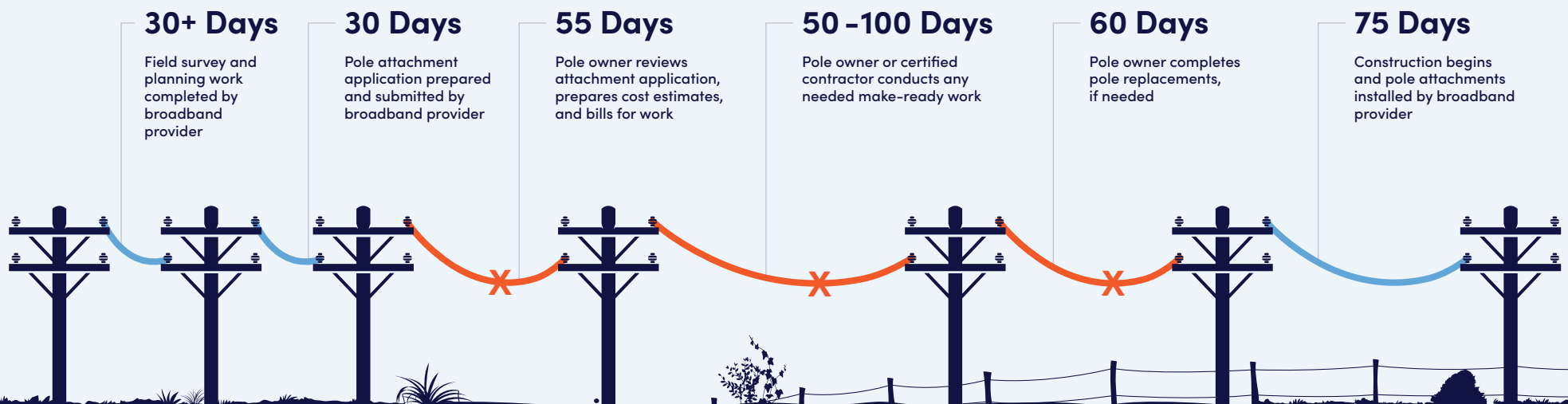


## WAITING FOR BROADBAND ACCESS

Like electricity or telephone service, wired high-speed internet connectivity is carried over utility poles. Closing the digital divide will require attachments to millions of poles across rural areas, where as many as one in 12 poles need to be replaced. Pole access and replacement delays pile up fast and can add months or years to a project.

In a best-case scenario, it takes an entire year to get utility poles ready, and that's before any delays by pole owners:



**Additional delays can further slow (or stop) efforts to bring broadband to those who need it most.**

### Delays can be caused by:

- X Permitting delays
- X Disputes over inflated cost estimates
- X Arbitrary caps on applications
- X Weather events, labor shortages, tree trimming, & seasonal construction restrictions

### Worst-case scenario?

- X Project canceled due to unpredictable timelines and economically infeasible costs