SETRPC

SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

March 10, 2022

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: BOB DICKINSON, DIRECTOR
            TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (T&ER)

SUBJECT: KICK-OFF OF BROADBAND PROJECT IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, the South East Texas Economic Development District, (SETEDD) the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) and Connected Nation Texas (CN Texas) hosted a broadband survey kick-off event to launch a three county wide survey to better understand expanding and improving broadband access, adoption, and use throughout Hardin, Jefferson and Orange counties. Attendees learned more about broadband access in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange counties, as well as the Connected Program at Connected Nation Texas (CN Texas), in addition to the project timeline.

Over the next two months, CN Texas will be accepting surveys throughout Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange counties to get a better understanding of broadband in the area. Current maps provided by the FCC regarding the number of residents and businesses that have adequate broadband service, are majorly overestimated. The goal of the survey is to clearly identify unique challenges and opportunities regarding the expansion of high-speed internet in Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange counties so that every family, business, and community organizations can access the critical resources needed to be connected. SETRPC will work with CN Texas to help close the Digital Divide within the community.

Here are the survey links for each county:

Hardin: https://www.myconnectedcommunity.org/hardin-county/
Jefferson: https://www.myconnectedcommunity.org/jefferson-county/
Orange: https://www.myconnectedcommunity.org/orange-county/

BD:lm

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3rd VP – Johnny Trahan, Orange County I 4th VP – Mark Allen, Jasper County | 5th VP – John Durkay, Taylor Landing
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South East Texas Regional Planning Commission Broadband Initiative

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A CONNECTED NATION Initiative

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Who Is Involved?

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) is partnering with local community leaders with a common mission of enhancing and expanding broadband access, adoption and use throughout the county. This broadband initiative will be for the benefit of local residents and businesses. The SETRPC will work with Connected Nation Texas and their "Connected" program to assess the present state of broadband in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange counties, as well as establish a broadband planning process and plan to address current and future broadband needs.

What Is Being Done?

An assessment of your county's current broadband environment will take place. The broadband committee will be conducting surveys of residents, businesses, and other organizations across your county. Responses to these surveys will help us better understand the existing resources and capabilities we now have to support our access, adoption and use of broadband technology in our homes and businesses. After a structured evaluation of this assessment, we'll then develop appropriate action plans and projects to improve our broadband environment most effectively.

When Will This Take Place?

Our community broadband assessment and related surveys will be launched in February and will run through April. Results from this work will be shared with the public and will be followed by additional work to develop a Technology Action Plan to address identified areas of need.

How Can You Help?

Your participation in the appropriate broadband survey and overall support of our efforts are very important in developing an accurate assessment of broadband availability and related needs in your county. To take the survey as a resident, a business owner or designated representative of another organization, please go to the appropriate county link:

Hardin County
myconnectedcommunity.org/hardin-county

Jefferson County
myconnectedcommunity.org/jefferson-county

Orange County
myconnectedcommunity.org/orange-county

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