

SMYTH COUNTY TO CONDUCT COUNTY-WIDE BROADBAND SURVEY

January 13, 2020 (Smyth, VA) – Smyth County has partnered with the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) to conduct a county-wide broadband survey. The survey will collect information from citizens and businesses regarding broadband usage, current service, and needs. Information gathered from the survey will be used to create the County’s strategic broadband plan and help the County pursue effective, goal-driven partnerships.

The County seeks to ensure that citizens and businesses have the level of broadband service they need today - and are prepared for tomorrow. The survey will help provide a better understanding of the County’s current broadband environment, highlight needs, and identify coverage gaps.

“The survey is an essential first step in the process,” said Chuck Kirby, CIT’s Vice President of Broadband, “it enables a more comprehensive understanding of the County’s unique broadband needs.”

The survey, which is set to run from January 10, 2020 through mid-February, will be available at <https://www.commonwealthconnect.virginia.gov/form/locality-survey>. Paper copies of the survey are available at the following locations:

1. Smyth County Administrator’s Office, 121 Bagley Circle Suite 100, Marion, VA 24354
2. Laurel Springs Farm Store Front, 118 E. Main Street, Marion, VA 24354
3. The Farmhouse Market, 5244 Sugar Grove Hwy, Sugar Grove, VA 24354
4. Valley Country Store, 1955 BF Buchanan Hwy, Saltville, VA 24370
5. Papa’s Café 826 E. Lee Hwy, Chilhowie, VA 24319

“Fast, affordable broadband internet access is essential for 21st century economic and community development in Smyth County,” said John McLean, Chairman of the Smyth County Economic Development Authority, “Broadband is needed to attract new and expanding employers, but just as importantly to support education, training, and workforce development in the county and region. Expanding broadband availability to more remote areas of the county will help those employees and citizens stay connected to the information, transactions and communications they need.”

About the Center for Innovative Technology, www.cit.org

Since 1985, CIT, a nonprofit corporation, has been Virginia’s primary driver of innovation and entrepreneurship. CIT accelerates the next generation of technology and technology companies through commercialization, capital formation, market development and revenue generation services. To facilitate national innovation leadership and accelerate the rate of technology adoption, CIT creates partnerships between innovative technology start-up companies and advanced technology consumers. CIT’s CAGE Code is 1UP71. To learn more, please visit www.cit.org. Follow CIT on Twitter [@CITorg](https://twitter.com/CITorg) and add the Center for Innovative Technology on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cit-org) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cit.org).