



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties Share Public Broadband Survey Results, Next Phase of Program Begins

April 5, 2017 – **Clear Creek County Communications, Colo.** – Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties are sharing the results of their joint Broadband initiative survey results, which began November 2016. From that survey, businesses and residents were asked to take a Broadband survey which included gathering anonymous demographics such as what communications services are available, at what price, at what speeds, and where people lived and/or worked. While much of the nation continues to expand Broadband speeds and infrastructure, both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties' surveys indicated they continue to struggle with varying degrees of speed, access, costs and reliability.

Specifically, 94% of Clear Creek County residents and 87.5% of Gilpin County residents had speed tests recorded that were below the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) minimum broadband threshold (25 Mbps upload, 3 Mbps download). For Gilpin, 165 residents and 29 businesses responded to the survey, while Clear Creek had 237 residents and 33 businesses respond, respectively.

"While these results weren't surprising to anyone, the data collected by our partner, NEO Connect, will help us identify those trouble spots and potential solutions throughout both counties," said John Bottomley, Clear Creek County IT Director and lead for the joint broadband steering committee.

This initiative, funded primarily with a Department of Local Affairs grant, is studying the current Broadband services available within both counties and ways to improve them. Neo Connect was chosen to lead this effort.

For the next phase, NEO Connect is studying known infrastructure, such as anchor institutions (schools, government buildings, current and planned communications towers, etc.). From that, they will be able to look at the financial implications of fiber design to homes and businesses, and what those costs might be---to include business plans and strategies each county could use to help their specific needs/areas. This will include engaging local/regional communications providers, and looking at resources such as public-private partnerships, Federal and State grants, and other funding options.

For more information on these surveys, go to: <http://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/> .

For more information, call John Bryan, Communications Director, at 303-679-2307, or email: jbryan@co.clear-creek.co.us.

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