

News Release



Lexington Electric System to Survey Customers about Providing Internet Services

For Immediate Release: November 19, 2021

The Lexington Electric System has announced that it is exploring the opportunity to provide multi-Gigabit high-speed Internet and telephone services to all of its electric service customers under a \$500 Million rural broadband expansion grant program recently announced by the State of Tennessee. To provide these advanced services, Lexington Electric System will build a fiber optic network across its electric service territory during the next few years. Although the grant funding will only be available for building areas without adequate Internet service, LES intends to complete the project to offer this advanced high-speed Internet and telephone services to all its customers.

In order to help determine the interest level of its customers and the financial feasibility of the proposed project, Lexington Electric System will be conducting an online customer survey and Internet speed test on its company website <https://lexingtonelectric.com/survey> beginning this November 19th and lasting until the end of this year. All business and residential customers of Lexington Electric System with access to the Internet are requested and encouraged to go to the LES website and click on the link to take this brief survey and Internet speed test. Customers without access to the Internet may pick up a copy of the survey at the Lexington Electric System office at 92 S. Main Street in Lexington. The survey and test take just a few minutes and will tell LES about the current state of Internet service in the area. Most importantly, the speed test will identify those unserved areas that may qualify LES for the grant funding.

“This \$500 Million Tennessee rural broadband expansion grant project is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get real high-speed Internet to all of the unserved areas of Henderson, Hardin, and Decatur counties, and the other areas that LES serves. Bringing Internet to these unserved customers will also help LES upgrade Internet service for all of its customers,” stated Jeff Graves, General Manager of Lexington Electric System. “This potential project will position our entire area with the most advanced broadband Internet available for the future of our customers and communities. It is supported by City and County Mayors and community leaders where LES has electric customers, and they also encourage their fellow citizens to take this survey and Internet speed test as soon as possible,” added Mr. Graves.

The speed test will be hosted by Ookla, the company behind Speedtest and the global leader in Internet testing and analysis. The online survey will be conducted through Younger Associates, a national market research firm, who will be responsible for compiling the survey results and providing response analysis to LES.

For more information about the survey and speed testing, please contact Joe Baggett with Lexington Electric System at (731) 968-3662 or by email jbaggett@lexingtonelectric.com.

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