



# Light Up Livingston

## Rural Broadband in Livingston County

Together with the Livingston County Board of Supervisors, Ian Coyle, County Administrator is dedicated to improving the high-speed broadband network to enrich the quality of life for residents and ensure economic development opportunities for agriculture and businesses.

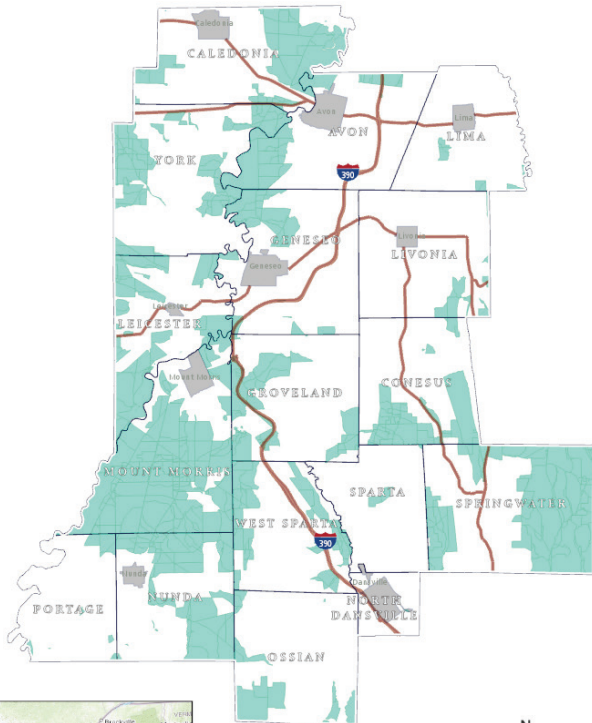
This commitment is centered around high-speed internet service to homes, community facilities, businesses, farms and other production sites to ensure connectivity in Livingston County.

## Demonstration of Need

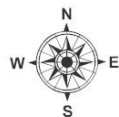
Livingston County recognizes the vital importance of broadband and seeks to encourage the development of high-speed internet access. There are several technical studies identifying the need for improved access to broadband internet, including the County's anti-poverty initiative, known as THRIVE Livingston, and the Livingston County Economic Development Strategic Plan. In addition, the Livingston County Broadband Committee commissioned a county-wide asset inventory, an engineering report, and a public survey to analyze the need and shape future strategies for rural broadband development.

The survey was distributed in the winter of 2019 to all Livingston County residents, businesses, and farm operators. It was designed to collect data on current broadband services and future needs by location. The quantitative survey results reinforce qualitative data collected on the need for high-speed, reliable internet access.

- 41% lack sufficient internet access in Livingston County today
- 90% of respondents consider broadband internet to be vital public infrastructure
- 79 % stated that government should play a role in financing high-speed internet development



Legend  
USDA ELIGIBLE



## USDA ReConnect Project Partnership

Livingston County and Empire Access are developing a public-private partnership in anticipation of submitting a ReConnect grant application to the USDA in March 2020. This partnership will generate additional private sector investment to deploy broadband infrastructure in Livingston County.

As part of this public-private partnership, Empire Access will own and operate the infrastructure to complete **over 400 miles of all fiber optic network** bringing fiber in the County's most rural underserved areas. Empire Access is a **local telecommunication company focused on high quality service**. Upon completion in three years, **over 5,500 households, farms, and businesses in Livingston County that are currently under-served or are un-served today will receive 1 Gigabit-level internet service.**

The total project cost is estimated at just over 17 million dollars. The public private partnership will seek approximately 13 million dollars in grant funding from the USDA ReConnect. Livingston County will provide the local match requirement and Empire Access will reimburse the County, which will result in a net-zero financial investment by the County.



# Light Up Livingston

**1,966  
Results**

## Survey Results

1. Which one of the following would you qualify as? Please check one.

Resident	1794	91.25%
Business	65	3.31%
Farm	78	3.97%
Other	29	1.48%

**0.1%** of residents have access to FTTH

2. Do you currently subscribe to an Internet service?

Yes	1784	90.74%
No	182	9.26%

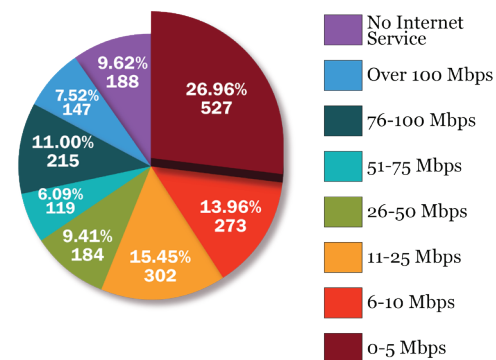
3. If you answered yes to the previous question, who is your Internet service provider?

Spectrum	765	38.95%
Frontier	776	39.51%
Empire Access	2	0.10%
HughesNet	81	4.12%
No Internet Service	154	7.84%
Verizon	84	4.28%
AT&T	24	1.22%
Other	78	3.97%

4. Approximately, how much do you pay per month for your Internet services?

\$0-50	507	25.80%
\$50-100	1011	51.45%
\$101-150	179	9.11%
\$151-200	54	2.75%
Over \$200	47	2.39%
No Internet Service	167	8.50%

5. What Internet service speed do you currently receive from your provider, if any? Please use the internet speed test link here to test the actual speed of your Internet.



**58%** of residents have less than 25 Mbps Download

6. What services do you need from an Internet service provider? Check all that apply.

Internet	1916	99.07%
Telephone	504	26.06%
Cable Television	718	37.13%

**90%** believe broadband is an essential utility

7. Do you consider high speed Internet essential public infrastructure for our community much like water, sewer or electricity?

Yes	1732	89.46%
No	204	10.54%

8. Do you think the County government should play a financial role to extend high speed Internet service?

Yes	1535	79.25%
No	402	20.75%

**80%** believe Livingston County should take an active financial roll in broadband development

9. How much would you be willing to pay each month for Internet service?

\$50-100	1609	83.24%
\$101-150	179	9.26%
\$151-200	33	1.71%
Over \$200	14	0.72%
Not Interested	98	5.07%

10. Comments on broadband Internet in Livingston County.

**64.79% of the respondents left a comment.**

11. Please provide your contact information below so we can track Internet availability and need throughout Livingston County.

**Over 95% of the respondents shared their address/phone number and over 84% shared their email address.**

