



## Sabine County Welcomes Comprehensive Technology Plan

**Media Contact:** Jeremy Thacker  
[jthacker@connectednation.org](mailto:jthacker@connectednation.org)  
(615) 521-5905

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### ***Sabine County proclaims commitment to economic development and quality of life with Connected community technology plan***

**Hemphill, TX** – Sabine County, Texas now has an action plan to make way for greater technology use across the community and pave the way for a brighter economic future. The [Technology Action Plan](#) was unveiled as part of Sabine County's participation in the [Connected Community Engagement Program](#) through the Connected Texas initiative. Fifteen Texas communities are currently involved in some stage of the Connected program.

The occasion was marked in June with a public event at the Sabine County Courthouse in Hemphill. Sabine County community champion and Deep East Texas Council of Governments representative Veronica Thomas expressed excitement with the plan's detailed actions for the future.

"Receiving this Connected Technology Action Plan is the first step in the right direction for the future of Sabine County," said Thomas. "This plan provides us with clear options and specific steps to take our community into the technology age. The Internet is incredibly valuable for every subject you can imagine and it is open 24 hours a day. Almost every college, government organization, library, association, and many businesses are on the World Wide Web. The residents and businesses of Sabine County should have equal access to the global economy, education, and all the other countless benefits that quality high-speed Internet allows. Hopefully now, we are on our way."

Participating in the Connected program means Sabine County has gone through an extensive assessment of its overall broadband and technology innovation. The Technology Action Plan sets general community-wide broadband connectivity requirements to be worked towards that will support economic development and residential quality of life. Sabine County's top five goals

from the new plan are to apply to USDA for broadband expansion in the community, identify and expand wireless hotspots in the community, perform an analysis of local policies and ordinances, distribute digital literacy content to residents and business owners, and facilitate a technology summit for the region.

“This Connected Technology Action Plan is an outline for the future success and prosperity of Sabine County,” said Connected Texas Executive Director Don Shirley. “County leaders are working to ensure Sabine County is ready to benefit from all the economic and lifestyle opportunities that the digital age provides. It’s all part of Texas’ solid plans for future growth.”

The Connected program is part of the Connected Texas initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce NTIA State Broadband Initiative (SBI) program. Connected Texas is working to facilitate the access, adoption, and use of technology throughout the state to create a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, more efficient government, enhanced education, and improved quality of life. Residents are encouraged to get involved by joining their local Connected technology team and using the free [Every Community Online](#) program offered by Connected Texas to get training in computer and Internet skills which makes them eligible for discounted computers and home Internet service.

***Photo Caption: Bart Winegar (left) and LaTanya Tatum (middle left) of Connected Texas join Texas Department of Agriculture’s Rachel Louviere (right) in presenting the Sabine County Technology Action Plan to Community Champion Veronica Thomas (middle right)***

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**About Connected Texas:** Connected Texas is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit in the state of Texas. The Texas Department of Agriculture is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access, adoption, and use across the state. Connected Texas was commissioned by the state to work with all Texas broadband providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and development of a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: <http://www.connectedtx.org>.

Also follow **Connected Texas** on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Connected Nation developed the Connected Community Engagement Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status. Connected Certified Communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband supported technologies. Connected Nation through its partners provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National

Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative. <http://www.connectednation.org/get-connected>