

Bluefield officials urge those that want to see city progress to take online survey

By CHARLES BOOTHE
Bluefield Daily Telegraph

BLUEFIELD — The City of Bluefield's economic development director is urging business owners and those wanting to see the city progress to take an online survey related to an upcoming program.

Called Cool & Connected, the city recently received a grant to look at broadband

service and how it can create growth in the city.

There will be community meetings in March and the city is in the process of gathering information for those meetings.

Spencer said the meetings will be held on March 21 and 22 and a conference call is set for Feb. 15 on the Cool & Connected program.

That's why it's important for more people to take the

survey today and Tuesday, he added, to add input for the conference call.

"You only need to take one survey," he said, adding that a community stakeholder is defined as a resident of the city with a vested interest in the success of the city.

"The survey data will be vital to the success of the project," he said.

Business owners can access the survey at

surveymonkey.com/r/DMDSS6L.

Government, public sector and community stakeholders can access the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/DT6DLN2.

The more people who take the survey, the more data he will have for the program, he said.

According to the online information about the program, Cool & Connected is a planning assistance pro-

gram sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service, EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities, and the Appalachian Regional Commission, and helps small towns use broadband service to revitalize main streets.

Communities can combine broadband service with other local assets such as cultural and recreational amenities to attract invest-

ment and people, including young people, and diversify local economies.

Through Cool & Connected, a team of experts helps community members develop strategies and an action plan for using broadband to create walkable, connected, economically vibrant main streets and small-town neighborhoods that improve human health and the environment.