



# INTERNET FOR ALL **West Virginia**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Community Meetings a Key Step in Closing the Digital Divide**

**Meetings scheduled in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties to gather input and feedback about internet service and access**

MARTINSBURG, WV (March 14, 2023) – The Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council (Region 9) is kicking off a series of public meetings next week to collect feedback from residents, businesses, and organizations about internet uses and challenges. The information from the listening sessions will help the State of West Virginia develop a comprehensive plan to address the current digital divide.

“Participation in these listening sessions is critical as the feedback received will help the West Virginia Office of Broadband better understand our region’s issues with accessing reliable and affordable high-speed internet,” said Region 9 Executive Director Rachel Snavely. “These public meetings are the first step in tackling the consistent and pervasive issues we face due to connectivity challenges.”

The meetings are all scheduled from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to encourage participation. The public events will culminate with a regional virtual listening session for those who are unable to attend in person. The list of dates and meeting locations includes:

- March 21 – Berkeley Senior Services, 217 N. High St., Martinsburg
- March 22 – Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Morgan County Center, 109 War Memorial Dr., Berkeley Springs
- March 23 – Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Morgan County Center, 109 War Memorial Dr., Berkeley Springs
- March 29 – Jefferson County Commission Meeting Room, Olde Charles Town Library, 200 E. Washington St., Charles Town
- March 30 – Shepherdstown Library, 145 Higbee Lane, Shepherdstown
- April 3 – Shepherd University Martinsburg Center, 261 Aikens Center, Martinsburg
- April 6 – Regional Virtual Listening Session

Meeting information will also be posted on the Region 9 website at [Region9wv.com](https://Region9wv.com). A Google form has been set up to allow residents to let Region 9 know which meeting they’d like to attend. It is not required, but it is encouraged. The attendance form can be found at [forms.gle/AsyRxPQXPKEYbQbh7](https://forms.gle/AsyRxPQXPKEYbQbh7).

“No matter your background or internet experience, we encourage everyone in our region to attend the in-person meetings or virtual session because together, we can help advance the goal of ensuring universal access to affordable, high-quality, high-speed internet,” said Snavely.

For more information, visit  
[Internetforallwv.wv.gov](https://Internetforallwv.wv.gov)  
[broadband.wv.gov](https://broadband.wv.gov)

