CONTACT:
Nadia Hakim
Communications Director
Fort Bend County, Precinct 4
281-725-3246 | Nadia.Hakim@fortbendcountytx.gov

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## Commissioner McCoy and Fort Bend County Take Next Step in Broadband Expansion for Underserved Communities

\$5 million originally dedicated to broadband access remains a priority

FORT BEND COUNTY, TX – Precinct 4 Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy and his colleagues on Commissioners Court approved the next step in expanding broadband access to unserved and underserved communities in Fort Bend County. The county approved negotiation with a vendor with the goal of approving an agreement that would allow infrastructure work to begin this summer. Originally, Commissioner's Court allocated over \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to establish stable broadband access in suburban and rural areas of Fort Bend County. The county was able to identify unserved and underserved communities through a year-long study in 2021.

"This continues to be one of my top priorities," said Commissioner McCoy, who has been a leader for expanding broadband for Fort Bend County since his days as Chief of Staff in the county judge's office. "We know that access to high-speed internet is essential for residents. This necessary utility is the key to stable employment, educating our children, building community, emergency services, and driving economic development. The investments we are about to make will ensure access to opportunity for all our residents."

While Fort Bend County continues its investment in broadband expansion, Commissioner McCoy and his colleagues are tracking funding opportunities on the state and federal level to stretch local dollars even further for this initiative.

Fort Bend County is home to nearly 900,000 people and is one of the fastest growing counties and most ethnically diverse counties in the United States. Commissioner McCoy took office in 2023 to serve Fort Bend Precinct 4's nearly 250,000 residents. For more information on what's happening in Commissioner Precinct 4 visit our website (FBCTX.gov/Precinct4) or follow our socials @FBCprecinct4.

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