

Methownet/OCEC Public Statement on Broadband Feasibility Study

3/4/2022

- OCEC released a survey to its electric members asking for responses to questions related to the potential for a buildout of a new fiber broadband network in OCEC's service territory in December 2021
 - Received over 1,000 responses to the survey
- As a result of the positive responses from the membership in the survey showing strong interest in the buildout of a fiber broadband network, OCEC will continue its study of the potential project and thanks its members for their feedback and responses to the survey
 - **OCEC quote** "We want to thank our members for such a great response to the survey and providing us with direct feedback on the potential project. Member engagement will be critical for the success of any project like the one being studied, and we are happy to get positive responses urging us to continue our due diligence."
- The next step for this project will be to complete a feasibility study and OCEC has engaged a national consulting firm specializing in fiber broadband studies for electric cooperatives
- Continuing the long history of collaboration on projects in the Methow Valley, OCEC will be partnering with Methownet to complete the feasibility study
- The partnership will result in a holistic feasibility study that is informed with both the expertise of OCEC and Methownet, creating a better understanding of what it will take for the project to be successful in our community
 - **Methownet quote** "This partnership between Methownet and OCEC is a natural fit. Dedicated to providing service to our community, our organizations have a history of working well together. We at Methownet look forward to collaborating with OCEC as we explore options to improve Internet service for our friends and neighbors."
- After completing the feasibility study the project will be in a better position to evaluate and access any future grant funding opportunities, whether they be federal or state programs