

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

September 16, 2020

6:00 p.m.

SPRING LAKE PARK CITY OFFICES

1301 81ST Avenue NE

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Consent Agenda [pp. 1-16](#)
 - a. Minutes of regular meeting of June 17, 2020
 - b. June, July, and August financial reports and bill lists
 - c. Minutes of Operations Committee meeting of September 1, 2020
 - d. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of September 2, 2020
5. Executive Director Report
 - a. Monthly Report [pp. 17-24](#)
 - b. CARES Act Grant Request [pp. 25-34](#)
6. Legal Counsel Report
 - a. Franchise and PEG Fee Review Update
 - b. Franchise Renewal Update
 - c. Miscellaneous Items
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Recommended Reading [pp. 35-52](#)
10. Community Calendar
 - A. Next Meeting Dates:
 - a. Operations Committee – October 6, 2020
 - b. Executive Committee – October 7, 2020
 - c. Cable Commission – October 21, 2020
11. Adjournment

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Commission Meeting – June 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chair D. Stoesz called the regular meeting of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Matt Montain; Centerville, Brandon Winge; Lexington, Steve McChesney; Circle Pines; Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes

Directors Absent: Bob Nelson; Spring Lake Park, Brian Kirkham; Ham Lake

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director, Mike Bradley; Legal Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The June 17, 2020 North Metro Telecommunications Committee meeting agenda was approved as presented. **Motion for approval made by M. Montain. Second, D. Swanson. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Minutes, Bill List, Financial Reports**

The May 20th, 2020 NMTC meeting minutes, the June 3, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes, the June 2, 2020 Operations Committee meeting minutes, and the May bill list and financial reports were approved as presented. **Motion for approval made by S. Swanson. Second, S. McChesney. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

H. Arnson reported on the following items:

- North Metro TV has reopened to the public. Staff is returning to the office in staggered shifts and also some continued work from home. The public is also returning. One area that has seen a quick rebound is home movie transfers. Appointments for that have been steady. People are coming in to do their own, and there have been a lot of curbside drop-offs.
- Staff wrapped up work on some big production projects. The Blaine and Centennial High School virtual graduation ceremonies were completed. Two projects with the Blaine Police Department were also completed. A series of PSAs was produced, along with a congratulatory video for 2020 graduates.
- In person group classes are still not being scheduled. However, the virtual lecture series remains popular. Two new workshops have been created regarding game shows from the 50s through the 80s.
- Staff presented the recommended 2021 NMTC budget. It was noted that estimating income was difficult because of the FCC Order and the COVID 19 pandemic. As such, income was estimated very conservatively. The total budget was \$42,306 less than the 2020 budget. An up to 3% COLA increase was included, but that amount will be reexamined after the third quarter, when income for 2021 is more concrete. Money was included in the budget for a consultant to help assess services and staffing to make sure the needs of cities continue to be met. NMTV will begin providing freelancers to record all city meetings beginning in January 2021. This will save cities money as staff will no longer be paid from city budgets to record meetings. Franchise fees being returned to cities remains at the 2020 level. However, as franchise fees decrease, the percentage of franchise fees returned to cities has increased.

MOTION: To approve the 2021 NMTC budget as presented. **Motion for approval made by M. Montain. Second, B. Winge. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

M. Bradley reported on the following items:

- M. Bradley has filed a brief in the appeal of the FCC's Third Order and Report, at the 6th District Court of Appeals. On May 29th intervenor briefs, in support of the appeal, were filed. The FCC will file its brief, in opposition to the appeal, on July 31st.

- Comcast has submitted a proposal for settling the Franchise and PEG Fee Audit, covering the period from January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2018. The Executive Directors, from the participating LFAs, and Legal Counsel will meet in June to consider the proposal. It is hoped that a settlement proposal can be presented to Commissions in September.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- It was recommended that the July and August Executive Committee and full Commission meetings be canceled. A meeting can be rescheduled if necessary.

Motion for approval made by D. Stoesz. Second, M. Montain. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Upcoming meetings include:

1. The Operations Committee on September 1, 2020
2. The Executive Committee on September 2, 2020
3. The Cable Commission on September 16, 2020

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m. **Motion for approval made by S. McChesney. Second, M. Montain. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.**

The next meeting of the NMTC will be held on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** at the city offices of Spring Lake Park.

Matt Montain; Secretary, NMTC

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

JUNE 2020

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount	
JUNE	COMBINED	PAYROLL	39,059.65	WAGES
JUNE	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	12,986.01	WAGES
JUNE	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,237.32	WAGES
JUNE	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,271.38	WAGES
JUNE	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	45.90	MONTHLY SERVICE
JUNE	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	1,062.50	HEALTH SAVINGS EMPLOYEE
JUNE	COMBINED	UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	150.99	UNEMPLOYMENT/COVID
13709	6/2/20	Richard D. Larson	395.00	JANITORIAL/MAINTENANCE
13710	6/5/20	B Harris, Inc.	225.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
13711	6/6/20	Metro Sales, Inc.	736.00	QUARTERLY CONTRACT
13712	6/9/20	Harrington Langer & Associates	3,350.00	2019 AUDIT FINAL
13713	6/26/20	Dale K. Stoesz	135.00	PER DIEM
13714	6/26/20	Matt Montain	135.00	PER DIEM
13715	6/26/20	Steve McChesney	135.00	PER DIEM
13716	6/26/20	Brian Kirkham	135.00	PER DIEM
13717	6/26/20	Brandon Winge	135.00	PER DIEM
13718	6/26/20	Robert Nelson	135.00	PER DIEM
13719	6/28/20	Bradley Law, LLC	4,355.00	LEGAL-GENERA
EFILE	6/1/20	Authorize.Net	35.47	MONTHLY SERVICE
EFILE	6/1/20	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
EFILE	6/3/20	Chase Visa Card Services	11,476.71	OS/SFTWR/TECH/STUDIO/MEDIA/VIDEO
EPAY-01	6/1/20	Principal Financial Group	487.85	STD/LTD/LIFE/ADD
EPAY-02	6/2/20	POPP TELECOM	211.11	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-03	6/3/20	Comcast	289.67	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-04	6/3/20	T-Mobile	102.16	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-05	6/4/20	Speedway	96.91	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-07	6/12/20	AT&T Wireless	427.47	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-08	6/14/20	Republic Services	206.16	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-09	6/15/20	CenterPoint Energy	104.41	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-10	6/15/20	Comcast Business 200M/200M	1,074.66	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-11	6/15/20	U.S. Bank Card Service	169.91	ZOOM/STAMPS/TECH SUPPLIES
EPAY-12	6/22/20	HealthPartners	12,136.76	HEALTH/DENTAL
EPAY-13	6/26/20	City of Blaine-utilities	68.66	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-14	6/26/20	Connexus Energy	1,727.14	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-P01	6/29/20	Richard R. Swanson	135.00	PER DIEM
MAY SALES TAX	6/15/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	4.00	SALES TAX

101,448.80

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

JULY 2020

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount	
JULY	COMBINED	PAYROLL	56,135.86	WAGES
JULY	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	19,039.08	WAGES
JULY	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	3,350.69	WAGES
JULY	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	10,914.35	WAGES
JULY	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	66.30	MONTHLY SERVICE
JULY	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	1,582.50	HEALTH SAVINGS EMPLOYEE
13720	7/1/20	Richard D. Larson	316.00	JANITORIAL/MAINTENANCE
13721	7/1/20	Richard D. Larson	4.11	EXPENSES
13722	7/1/20	Michael S. Johnson	88.55	MILEAGE
13723	7/1/20	Plunketts Pest Control	454.48	ANNUAL CONTRACT
13724	7/5/20	B Harris, Inc.	225.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
13725	7/18/20	Corporate Mechanical	521.05	REPAIRS
13726	7/18/20	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	1,665.00	MONTHLY SERVICE-REPAIRS
13727	7/20/20	Corporate Mechanical	941.35	QUARTERLY CONTRACT
13728	7/22/20	Z Systems	5,094.04	CABLECAST SERVERS/PLAYERS
13729	7/3/20	Metro Sales, Inc.	736.00	QUARTERLY CONTRACT
13730	7/27/20	Jeremy Millington	83.57	EXPENSES
13731	7/30/20	Z Systems	7,566.16	PANASONIC/VIDEO/MIC/SYSTEMS
13732	7/31/20	Bradley Law, LLC	2,637.50	LEGAL-GENERAL
EFILE	7/1/20	Authorize.Net	36.99	MONTHLY SERVICE
EFILE	7/7/20	Chase Visa Card Services	5,202.66	OS/SFTWR/TECH/STUDIO/MEDIA/VIDEO
EFILE	7/1/20	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-01	7/1/20	Principal Financial Group	485.79	STD/LTD/LIFE/ADD
EPAY-02	7/2/20	POPP TELECOM	211.11	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-03	7/3/20	Comcast	289.67	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-04	7/3/20	T-Mobile	102.16	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-05	7/4/20	Speedway	75.00	GAS/OIL
EPAY-06	7/7/20	Holiday Station Stores	42.77	GAS/OIL
EPAY-07	7/12/20	AT&T Wireless	427.47	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-08	7/14/20	Republic Services	206.44	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-09	7/15/20	CenterPoint Energy	36.85	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-10	7/15/20	Comcast Business 200M/200M	1,074.66	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-11	7/15/20	U.S. Bank Card Service	896.32	SPMTG/TECH/POSTAGE
EPAY-12	7/22/20	HealthPartners	12,136.76	HEALTH/DENTAL
EPAY-13	7/26/20	City of Blaine-utilities	368.06	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-14	7/26/20	Connexus Energy	1,953.04	MONTHLY SERVICE
JUNE SALES TAX	7/15/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	96.00	SALES TAX
			<u><u>135,073.34</u></u>	

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

AUGUST 2020

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
AUGUST	COMBINED	PAYROLL	38,366.61 WAGES
AUGUST	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	12,951.32 WAGES
AUGUST	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,212.05 WAGES
AUGUST	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,388.65 WAGES
AUGUST	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	44.20 MONTHLY SERVICE
AUGUST	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	1,062.50 HEALTH SAVINGS EMPLOYEE
AUGUST	COMBINED	UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	5,637.98 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
13733	8/5/20	B Harris, Inc.	225.00 MONTHLY SERVICE
13734	8/7/20	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	755.00 MONTHLY SERVICE
13735	8/11/20	Richard D. Larson	395.00 JANITORIAL
13736	8/19/20	Z Systems	3,109.08 HEADSETS/WINDSCREENS
EPAY-01	8/1/20	Principal Financial Group	485.79 STD/LTD/LIFE/ADD
EPAY-02	8/2/20	POPP TELECOM	215.99 MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-03	8/3/20	Comcast	289.67 MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-04	8/3/20	T-Mobile	102.16 MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-05	8/4/20	Speedway	47.07 GAS/OIL
EPAY-06	8/7/20	Circle K Station Stores	14.00 GAS/OIL
EPAY-07	8/12/20	AT&T Wireless	427.47 MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-08	8/14/20	Republic Services	207.74 MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-09	8/15/20	CenterPoint Energy	27.69 MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-10	8/15/20	Comcast Business 200M/200M	1,074.66 MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-11	8/22/20	HealthPartners	12,136.76 HEALTH/DENTAL
EPAY-12	8/26/20	City of Blaine-utilities	724.28 MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-13	8/26/20	Connexus Energy	2,090.46 MONTHLY SERVICE
EFILE	8/1/20	Authorize.Net	34.29 MONTHLY SERVICE
EFILE	8/7/20	Chase Visa Card Services	46.60 SOFTWARE
EFILE	8/1/20	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00 MONTHLY SERVICE
REFUND-AUTH	8/24/20	REFUND OF PURCHASE	20.00 CUSTOMER REFUND
JULY SALES TAX	8/15/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	68.00 SALES TAX

90,170.02

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

AUGUST 2020

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
AUGUST	COMBINED	PAYROLL	38,366.61
AUGUST	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	12,951.32
AUGUST	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,212.05
AUGUST	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,388.65
AUGUST	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	44.20
AUGUST	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	1,062.50
AUGUST	COMBINED	UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	5,637.98
13733	8/5/20	B Harris, Inc.	225.00
13734	8/7/20	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	755.00
13735	8/11/20	Richard D. Larson	395.00
13736	8/19/20	Z Systems	3,109.08
EPAY-01	8/1/20	Principal Financial Group	485.79
EPAY-02	8/2/20	POPP TELECOM	215.99
EPAY-03	8/3/20	Comcast	289.67
EPAY-04	8/3/20	T-Mobile	102.16
EPAY-05	8/4/20	Speedway	47.07
EPAY-06	8/7/20	Circle K Station Stores	14.00
EPAY-07	8/12/20	AT&T Wireless	427.47
EPAY-08	8/14/20	Republic Services	207.74
EPAY-09	8/15/20	CenterPoint Energy	27.69
EPAY-10	8/15/20	Comcast Business 200M/200M	1,074.66
EPAY-11	8/22/20	HealthPartners	12,136.76
EPAY-12	8/26/20	City of Blaine-utilities	724.28
EPAY-13	8/26/20	Connexus Energy	2,090.46
EFILE	8/1/20	Authorize.Net	34.29
EFILE	8/7/20	Chase Visa Card Services	46.60
EFILE	8/1/20	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00
REFUND-AUTH	8/24/20	REFUND OF PURCHASE	20.00
JULY SALES TAX	8/15/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	68.00

90,170.02

North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Balance Sheet

August 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash - Checking Account	\$	2,468,477.95
Petty Cash		150.00
A/R - NMTC		194,954.36
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC		11,182.00

Total Current Assets 2,674,764.31

Property and Equipment

Office Equipment - NMTC	1,433,026.18
Accum Deprec - NMTC	(2,717,112.72)
Bond Equipment 2016	1,985,000.00
Building-Polk/125	1,572,799.17
Land-Polk/125	225,700.00

Total Property and Equipment 2,499,412.63

Other Assets

Deferred Out Related/Pension	40,333.00
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Total Other Assets 40,333.00

Total Assets \$ 5,214,509.94

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

A/P - NMTC	\$	7,243.70
Accrued Payroll Taxes & W/H's		449.54
PERA - CORRECTIONS		310.09
Garnished Wages		86.40
Garnished Wages		(86.40)
PERA PAYABLE - PRIOR		(3,371.42)
Accrued Vacation		102,232.79
Accrued Wages		18,263.67
Franchise Fee App		942,358.52
Due to City of Blaine		554,758.00
Due to City of Centerville		34,402.00
Due to City of Circle Pines		49,336.50
Due to City of Ham Lake		143,788.00
Due to City of Lexington		18,347.00
Due to City of Lino Lakes		169,950.00
Due to City of Spring Lake Par		59,328.00
Deferred In Related/Pension		110,477.00

Total Current Liabilities 2,207,873.39

Long-Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	536,291.00
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Total Long-Term Liabilities 536,291.00

Total Liabilities 2,744,164.39

Capital

Net Equity	359,252.88
Net Equity - Media Ctr	(206,243.34)
Net Equity - NMTC	2,517,656.37
Net Income	(200,320.36)

Total Capital 2,470,345.55

Total Liabilities & Capital \$ 5,214,509.94

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Cash Receipts Journal

For the Period From Aug 1, 2020 to Aug 31, 2020

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amnt	Credit Amnt
8/4/20	JULY PAYPAL	JULY PUBLIC ACCESS JULY PUBLIC ACCESS - FEES PAYPAL	4.37 125.63	130.00
8/11/20	CITY RECORDING SERV	LINO LAKES RECORDING SERVICES Miscellaneous receipts	51.68	51.68
8/21/20	AUG CC SALES -AUTH	AUGUST CC SALES-AUTH AUGUST CC SALES-AUTH Credit Card Sales	0.58 19.42	20.00
8/26/20	INTEREST	INTEREST COMMISSION CHECKING INTEREST - COMMISSION	43.42	43.42
8/27/20	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS Miscellaneous receipts	250.00	250.00
8/27/20	TAPE DUBS-CASH	TAPE DUBS-CASH Miscellaneous receipts	149.00	149.00
8/28/20	AUG CC SALES-AUTH	AUGUST CC SALES-AUTH AUGUST CC SALES-AUTH - FEES Credit Card Sales	1.16 38.84	40.00
8/29/20	AUG CC SALES-SQUARE	AUGUST CC SALES-SQUARE AUGUST CC SALES-SQUARE - FEES Credit Card Sales	40.49 1,131.83	1,172.32
			<u>1,856.42</u>	<u>1,856.42</u>

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Aug 1, 2020 to Aug 31, 2020

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	8/1/20	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EFILE	8/1/20	Authorize.Net	34.29
EFILE	8/1/20	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00
EPAY-01	8/1/20	Principal Financial Group	485.79
EPAY-02	8/2/20	POPP TELECOM	215.99
EPAY-04	8/3/20	T-Mobile	102.16
EPAY-03	8/3/20	Comcast	289.67
EPAY-05	8/4/20	Speedway	47.07
13733	8/5/20	B Harris, Inc.	225.00
13734	8/7/20	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	755.00
EPAY-06	8/7/20	Circle K Station Stores	14.00
EFILE	8/7/20	Chase Visa Card Services	46.60
13735	8/11/20	Richard D. Larson	395.00
EFILE	8/12/20	Discovery Benefits	520.00
EPAY-07	8/12/20	AT&T Wireless	427.47
PEACH	8/14/20	Peachtree/Sage Software	22.10
EFILE	8/14/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,120.40
EFILE	8/14/20	Public Employees Retirement	3,638.35
EFILE	8/14/20	IRS/US BANK	6,351.41
EPAY-08	8/14/20	Republic Services	207.74
EPAY-09	8/15/20	CenterPoint Energy	27.69
JULY SALES TAX	8/15/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	68.00
EPAY-10	8/15/20	Comcast Business 200M/200M	1,074.66
13736	8/19/20	Z Systems	3,109.08
EPAY-11	8/22/20	HealthPartners	12,136.76
REFUND-AUTH	8/24/20	REFUND OF PURCHASE	20.00
EFILE	8/25/20	Dept of Empl and Eco Development	5,637.98
EPAY-12	8/26/20	City of Blaine-utilities	724.28
EPAY-13	8/26/20	Connexus Energy	2,090.46

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Aug 1, 2020 to Aug 31, 2020

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	8/26/20	Discovery Benefits	520.00
PEACH	8/28/20	Peachtree/Sage Software	22.10
EFILE	8/28/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,091.65
EFILE	8/28/20	Public Employees Retirement	3,639.33
EFILE	8/28/20	IRS/US BANK	6,209.86
EFILE	8/31/20	Public Employees Retirement	110.97
EFILE	8/31/20	IRS/US BANK	390.05
Total			51,803.41

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

General Journal

For the Period From Aug 1, 2020 to Aug 31, 2020

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
8/1/20	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	103,767.47	103,767.47
8/1/20	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	13,303.80	13,303.80
8/31/20	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
8/31/20	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	102,232.79	102,232.79
8/31/20	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	15,964.56	15,964.56
Total			248,168.62	248,168.62

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:37 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

B. Petracek, M. Wolfe, P. Antonen, M. Statz, S. Cotton

MEMBERS ABSENT

D. Webster, D. Buchholtz

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Arnson

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of June 2, 2020 were approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Second quarter franchise and PEG fee reports have been received. The numbers declined from the previous quarter, but are well within estimated amounts for the 2021 budget.
- Negotiations continue between Comcast and the Local Franchising Authorities participating in the Franchise and PEG Fee Review of Comcast's numbers from January 2015 through March 2018. It is possible that there could be a settlement agreement to consider soon.
- H. Arnson requested that NMTV be considered for CARES grant funding from the Member Cities. Materials outlining expenditures made for PPE, equipment, staff hours, and estimates for proposed building upgrades were reviewed. Over half of the requested reimbursements were for expenditures incurred assisting Cities with meeting playback issues. The group was amenable to the idea.
- An update was given regarding briefs filed in the ongoing appeal of the FCC's Third Report and Order.
- A draft franchise document has been sent to Comcast for consideration. The NMTC franchise expires on December 31, 2020.
- With high school sports once again being played, the NMTV sports crew is back out covering events with the production truck and a live single camera kit. Live programming is now sent simultaneously to the channels, streaming channels, Facebook, and YouTube.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting of September 2, 2020

Executive Cmte. Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes, Matt Montain; Centerville

Absent: Bob Nelson; Spring Lake Park

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the June 3, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes was made by D. Swanson. Second, M. Montain. Ayes: D. Stoesz, D. Swanson, M. Montain. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Second quarter franchise and PEG fee reports have been received. The numbers declined from the previous quarter, but are well within estimated amounts for the 2021 budget.
- Negotiations continue between Comcast and the Local Franchising Authorities participating in the Franchise and PEG Fee Review of Comcast's numbers from January 2015 through March 2018. A possible settlement agreement is being discussed.
- An update was given regarding briefs filed in the ongoing appeal of the FCC's Third Report and Order.
- A draft franchise document has been sent to Comcast for consideration.
- With high school sports again being played, the NMTV sports crew is back out covering events with the production truck and a live single camera kit. Coach and Captains segments and the weekly sports show Sports Den are also back in production.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- H. Arnson reported that the Operations Committee had discussed CARES grant money for NMTV. Expenditures for PPE, streaming and safety equipment, some staff hours (primarily video engineering) and estimates for proposed building safety upgrades were considered. Much of the requested funds would be a reimbursement for costs related to making it possible for city meetings produced via a streaming source to interface with the Tightrope playback system. The Executive Committee agreed that it was a good idea to pursue CARES grant funds to cover the discussed expenses.

MOTION: To recommend that the Member Cities include NMTV for CARES Grant reimbursement of COVID19 related expenses. **Motion made by D. Swanson. Second, M. Montain. Ayes: D. Stoesz, D. Swanson, B. Nelson. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by M. Montain. Second, D. Swanson. Ayes: D. Stoesz, D. Swanson, M. Montain. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

North Metro TV

August 2020 Update

Program Production

In August, a total of **75 new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **56:00po:00 hours of new programming**.

- 27 programs were produced by the public
- 31 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 17 programs were produced by City staff



Van Shoots

While the production truck wasn't utilized in August, a lot of work went into preparing a safer work environment for crew members. Plexi-glass dividers, assigned head-sets, and distanced crew positions were incorporated. Van shoots start again in September. Two single-camera live-streamed shoots were recorded in August.



Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Lecture Series – LIVE-The Birth of Animation: Mickey, Bugs, and Betty Boop	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube Live	23 Live, 35 VOD
Lecture Series – Mini Class – Nick at Nite: A TV Viewer's Dream	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube	33 VOD
Lecture Series – VOD Quiz Show Scandals and Other Game Shows of the 50s and 60s	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube	28 VOD
Lecture Series – VOD-The Three Stooges: Comedy's Heavy Hitters	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube	3 VOD
Lecture Series – VOD - Come On Down! Game Shows of the 70s and 80s	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube	15 VOD
Lecture Series – VOD - Mary Pickford: The World's First Movie Star	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube	3 VOD
Lecture Series – VOD - The Marx Brothers: Groucho, Chico, Harpo,	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube	134 VOD

and Sometimes Zeppo			
Lecture Series – VOD - Hollywood Goes to War	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube	16 VOD
Lecture Series – VOD - Hollywood Goes to the Dogs	Eric Houston	General Public via Youtube	5 VOD
1 Live Workshop			23 Live Students, 272 Students w/VOD

Home Movie Transfers

Home movie transfers have become one of our most popular services. Residents can transfer their family videos themselves for free, or pay NMTV to do it. NMTV can also transfer film, slides, and photos for a fee.

Month	Hours Transferred	Tapes	Film Reels	DVDs	Photos/ Slides	Fees Paid
January	192.75	69	4	13	415	\$639.00
February	286	69	86	18	1,020	\$3,595.00
March	343.25	58	107	0	3,587	\$627.00
April	0	0	0	0	341	\$0.00
May	0	0	0	0	495	\$0.00
June	333.5	107	25	0	1,258	\$1,153.00
July	387	60	139	0	0	\$1,114.00
August	455.5	55	133	25	191	\$1,653.22
TOTAL:	1,998.00	418	494	56	7,307	\$8,781.22

Public Usage Stats

For statistical purposes, the public access department documents total numbers of unique individuals and total hours of usage of the facility by the general public, every month. These numbers include regular users, class participants, individuals transferring videos, people who attend events, and any other public usage of the facility. The numbers do not take into account the many members of the public who work with any other NMTV department, such as news, sports, municipal, or educational.

Month	Unique Individuals	Total Usage Hours
January	131	504.75
February	155	636.5
March	59	466.75
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	93	702.00
July	45	660.75
August	54	748.00
TOTAL PUBLIC USAGE:		3,718.75

Production Highlights

NMTV News Highlights

Each week Danika Peterson and Rusty Ray create a news program that highlights events, people, issues, and information important to citizens of our Member Cities. Some August highlights include:

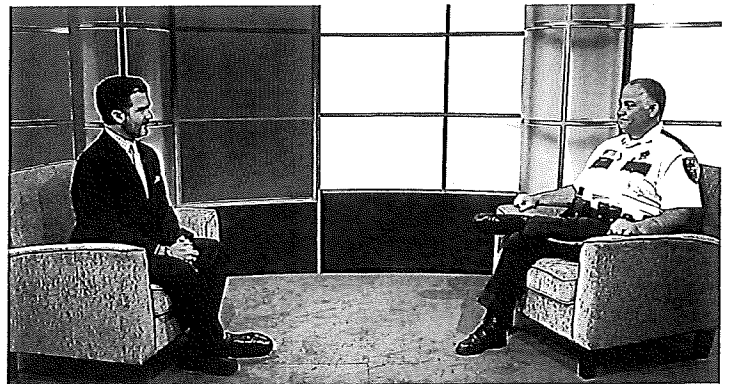
- Hanson Boulevard Ribbon Cutting
- School Year Plans
- High School Sports Will See Shifts This Year
- New Centennial Lakes Police Chief Reflects on Career and Latest Opportunity
- School Bus Companies Working Closely With Districts to Prepare for Uncertain Year Ahead
- Blaine PD K-9 Handler Goes Extra Mile to Help His Partner Recover From Serious Illness
- Blaine City Leaders Work to Keep Voters Safe During Elections in Midst of COVID19
- Anoka County Attorney's Office to Use COVID Relief Money to Build Remote Hearing Space
- Edna Bean: Anoka County Suffragette
- Blaine Police K-9 Team Receives Honors
- Census Workers Come to Anoka County
- Anoka County Creates Virtual Rooms for Contactless Visits Between Staff and Public
- Charter Schools Follow Slightly Different Path in COVID Pandemic
- High School Sports Teams Adapt to Age of COVID
- Teachers Working with Anoka Hennepin Leaders to Craft Plans for Unprecedented School Year



In addition to daily playbacks of North Metro TV News on the cable systems, there are 694 local stories archived for viewers on the NMTV YouTube channel. The channel can be accessed through the northmetrotv.com website.

Conversations Returns

With things getting somewhat back to normal, staff has started interviewing members of the public in studio again. Two episodes of Conversations were produced in August...with the chairs just a little bit farther apart than usual. First, host Rusty Ray interviewed Anoka County Sheriff, James Stuart. They discussed law enforcement and the issues facing the department in 2020. The second episode featured Anoka County Elections Manager, Paul Linnell, talking about the changes and challenges facing voters in the November elections. Conversations features interesting people and topics in the North Metro area.



Sports Den, Coach & Captains are Back

You know the end of summer has arrived when the sports crew starts gearing up for high school coverage. This is an especially exciting start to the season as we've all missed covering high school sports for the last six months! NMTV's wildly popular weekly sports-wrap program, Sports Den, premiered on August 24th. The show highlights coaches, athletes, and plays and scores from the previous weeks' games. A new episode is produced every Monday night throughout the fall and winter sports seasons. Also popular are the Coach & Captain segments that go in-depth to highlight specific teams, featuring interviews with their captains and coaches. We try to get all of our teams covered, but it all depends on team interest, cooperation, and scheduling. Four episodes



were produced in August, including girls tennis and girls and boys soccer. Additional episodes will be produced throughout the fall.

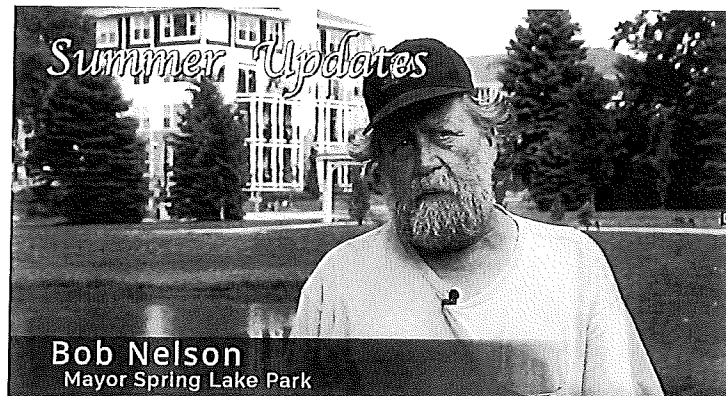
New Lecture

Instructor, Eric Houston, presented one new lecture, live, on YouTube in August. The class is called The Birth of Animation: Mickey, Bugs, and Betty Boop. It includes information about the very first animated movies, comic strip artists that helped cartoons get their start and an introduction to wacky characters like Gertie the Dinosaur and Felix the Cat. He also premiered a new series of "mini-classes" with Nick at Nite: A TV Viewer's Dream. This ten minute class, only available on YouTube, was designed to whet student's appetites between longer classes and better appeal to the regular YouTube viewer, who may prefer shorter videos. The goal is to produce one mini-class a month.



City Productions

In August, Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, completed two productions, including a Summer Mayor's Minutes, with Spring Lake Park Mayor Bob Nelson, and a tour of the Blaine community gardens. Even though they weren't completed in August, he also spent a great deal of time working on a car seat project with the SBM. He has completed 12 car seat clinic videos and is waiting on final approval before finalizing. Programs completed include:



- Summer Mayor's Minutes: Spring Lake Park
- Blaine Community Garden Tour

New and ongoing projects include:

- Continuing Centerville business profiles
- Car seat videos with the SBM
- Night to Unite previews for each City
- Fall Mayor's Minutes
- Ham Lake Cars for Neighbors Gala Zoom presentation
- Grandma's House non-profit
- Centerville music in the park

Trevor touches base with contacts on a regular basis and also encourages Cities to contact him whenever they have an idea for a new show.

Production Equipment Consulting for Cities

Blaine

- 8.27.20: Performed a Sling Studio Pro test using a laptop and a 325 foot Ethernet cable to get signal into zoom, for concert for seniors at Mary Ann Young Center.

Centerville

- No assistance required.

Circle Pines

- 8.27.20: Patrick Antonen requested an audio line to be run from the DSP audio mixer to his dais computer. Fabricated a 75 foot audio cable with a 3.5 mm connection and hooked the other end into the 12x12 prism Symantix DSP on output 6 using the bare wire clamps. Updated the program matrix and ran a virtual line from one of the virtual compressors to output 6.

Ham Lake

- No assistance required.

Lexington

- No assistance required.

Lino Lakes

- No assistance required.

Spring Lake Park

- 8.3.20: Fixed document camera issue. Replaced AC plug with one from tech shop, to hold them over, and ordered new replacement.

All Cities

- No assistance required.

City Channel 16 Playback Stats

City	Number of Times Long-Form Programs Played	Hours Programmed on Channel
Blaine	313	242:57:27
Centerville	48	79:35:35
Circle Pines	143	167:38:41
Ham Lake	71	63:16:45
Lexington	98	51:36:23
Lino Lakes	144	118:21:15
Spring Lake Park	92	86:42:04
Totals:	909 Program Playbacks	810:08:10 Hours of Video Programming on Channels

Public Programs

Title	Producer	Runtime
Bad Movie Bros	Eric Houston	00:30:36
A Fresh New Day	Anita Wardlaw	00:05:01
Lovepower (6 episodes)	Rick Larson	06:00:00
The Power of Love (6 episodes)	Rick Larson	03:00:00
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting (2 episodes)	Theresa Stasica	05:14:26
Christ Lutheran Church (5 episodes)	Chance Amundson	04:38:40
Oak Park Community Church (6 episodes)	David Turnidge	03:24:40
27 New Programs		22:53:23 New Hours

NMTV Staff Programs

Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Board Meeting (8/25/20)	T.J. Tronson	01:14:48
Blaine PD Virtual Squad Tour	T.J. Tronson	00:10:08
Blaine PD Uniform	T.J. Tronson	00:04:19
NMTV News (4 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	01:40:14
Meet the Chief: Centennial Lakes Police Department	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:02:34
Blaine K-9 Still on Patrol After Four Surgeries	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:02:58
Your City Staff: Officer Dan Stefczak	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:02:56
Conversations with Paul Linnell: Anoka County Elections Manager	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:20:54
Backyard Animals	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:04:05
Conversations with James Stuart: Anoka County Sheriff	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:22:40
Mayor's Minutes: Spring Lake Park	Trevor Scholl	00:05:58
Community Gardens Tour	Trevor Scholl	00:10:00
Boys Soccer: Andover/Centennial	Ken Kipp/J. Millington	01:37:44

Girls Soccer: Andover/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:51:26
Coach & Captains (4 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:21:38
Sports Den (2 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:58:05
NMTV Sports Training Video: Camera Set-Up	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:13:19
NMTV Sports Training Video: Camera Operation	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:10:00
25 New Programs		09:33:46 New Hours

City Meetings

Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (8/3/20)	Blaine Staff	00:46:54
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (8/12/20)	Blaine Staff	00:35:40
Blaine City Council Meeting (8/17/20)	Blaine Staff	01:48:59
Centerville Planning & Zoning Meeting (8/4/20)	Centerville Staff	03:17:41
Centerville Park & Rec Meeting (8/5/20)	Centerville Staff	00:45:09
Centerville City Council Meeting (8/12/20)	Centerville Staff	00:56:08
Centerville EDA Meeting (8/19/20)	Centerville Staff	02:37:44
Centerville City Council Meeting (8/26/20)	Centerville Staff	01:08:13
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (8/12/20)	Circle Pines Staff	01:03:32
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (8/19/20)	Circle Pines Staff	00:30:41
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (8/25/20)	Circle Pines Staff	01:02:45
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (8/3/20)	T.J. Tronson	00:33:20
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (8/10/20)	T.J. Tronson	00:22:30
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (8/17/20)	T.J. Tronson	01:33:17
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (8/24/20)	T.J. Tronson	00:12:19
Lexington City Council Meeting (8/6/20)	Lexington Staff	00:23:57
Lexington City Council Meeting (8/20/20)	Lexington Staff	00:30:14
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (8/10/20)	Anne Serwe	00:48:44
Lino Lakes Planning & Zoning Meeting (8/12/20)	Lino Lakes Staff	01:23:28
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (8/24/20)	Anne Serwe	00:20:42
Lino Lakes Environmental Board Meeting (8/26/20)	Lino Lakes Staff	01:07:19
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (8/3/20)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:43:53
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (8/17/20)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:56:46
23 New Programs		23:29:55 New Hours

If you have any questions or comments regarding this monthly report please contact
Heidi Arnson at 763.231.2801 or harnson@northmetrotv.com.

NORTH METRO TV **Production Statistics 2020**

Programming Statistics														J F M A M J JU A S O N D 20 Total 20 Average	
Cablecast Programs															
Cablecast Hours	2606.00	2626.00	2662.00	2449.00	2632.00	2338.00	2463.00	2620.00						20416.00	1701.33
Programs Produced - Public	14.00	20.00	15.00	7.00	0.00	13.00	16.00	18.00						103.00	8.58
Program Hours Produced - Public	11.00	15.75	11.50	2.50	0.00	8.00	13.25	14.00						76.00	6.33
Program Produced - Affiliated Public	7.00	12.00	5.00	16.00	9.00	10.00	7.00	9.00						75.00	6.25
Prog. Hours Produced - Affil. Public	5.50	8.25	5.00	12.00	9.50	10.00	9.00	8.75						68.00	5.67
Programs Produced - City Staff	24.00	21.00	22.00	23.00	24.00	20.00	26.00	17.00						177.00	14.75
Prog. Hours Produced - City Staff	22.00	23.00	23.00	31.50	29.75	24.25	29.25	19.50						202.25	16.85
Programs Produced - NIMTV Staff	53.00	61.00	28.00	45.00	32.00	22.00	19.00	31.00						291.00	24.25
Prog. Hours Produced - NIMTV Staff	26.75	30.00	10.00	12.50	9.00	8.75	7.25	13.25						117.50	9.79
Total Public Programs Produced	21.00	32.00	20.00	23.00	9.00	23.00	23.00	27.00						178.00	14.83
Total Internal Programs Produced	77.00	82.00	50.00	68.00	56.00	42.00	45.00	48.00						468.00	39.00
Total Staff Programs Produced	98.00	114.00	70.00	91.00	65.00	65.00	68.00	75.00						646.00	53.83
% Public Produced Programs	78.57%	71.93%	71.43%	74.73%	86.15%	64.62%	66.18%	64.00%						72.45%	72.45%
% Staff Produced Programs	21.43%	28.07%	28.57%	25.27%	13.85%	35.38%	33.82%	36.00%						27.55%	27.55%
External Programs Submitted	16.00	25.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	37.00	24.00	25.00						187.00	15.58
External Program Hours	12.00	16.25	19.50	12.00	13.00	24.50	17.50	20.00						134.75	11.23
Total New Programs	114.00	139.00	94.00	111.00	81.00	102.00	92.00	100.00						833.00	69.42
Equipment Usage Statistics															
Facility Hours Available	182.00	169.00	144.00	2.50	0.00	161.00	175.00	191.00						1024.50	85.38
Public Field Equipment Uses	8.00	12.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00						32.00	2.67
Studio A	52.75	36.50	18.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	18.00	52.00						179.75	14.98
% of Available Time	28.98%	21.60%	12.50%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.29%	27.23%						17.55%	17.55%
Studio B	4.00	20.50	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						26.25	2.19
% of Available Time	2.20%	12.13%	1.22%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%						2.56%	2.56%
Public MAC A Edit Suite	94.25	222.25	178.00	0.00	0.00	53.00	75.50	88.50						711.50	59.29
% of Available Time	51.79%	131.51%	123.61%	0.00%	0.00%	32.92%	43.14%	46.34%						69.45%	26.65%
Public MAC B Edit Suite	89.00	48.75	30.50	0.00	0.00	93.00	48.75	39.00						349.00	29.08
% of Available Time	48.90%	28.85%	21.18%	0.00%	0.00%	57.76%	27.86%	20.42%						34.07%	34.07%
Public MAC C Edit Suite	47.50	102.75	86.00	0.00	0.00	152.00	252.00	298.00						938.25	78.19
% of Available Time	26.10%	60.80%	59.72%	0.00%	0.00%	94.41%	144.00%	156.02%						91.58%	91.58%
Production Van Statistics															
Production Hours	50.00	71.50	13.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						134.75	11.23
Number of Van Shoots	8.00	9.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						19.00	1.58
Average Hours Per Shoot	6.25	7.94	6.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						7.09	0.94
Number of New Volunteers	6.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						14.00	1.17
Volunteer Hours	92.00	97.00	17.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						206.00	17.17
Public Access Statistics															
Number of Workshops	8.00	13.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00						32.00	2.67
Number of Students	94.00	130.00	38.00	173.00	51.00	70.00	25.00	23.00						604.00	50.33
PAP Volunteer Hours	60.25	95.50	41.50	0.00	0.00	16.00	10.00	10.00						233.25	19.44
Total Public Facility Usage Hours	504.75	636.50	466.75	0.00	0.00	702.00	660.75	748.00						3718.75	309.90

2020 Time of Use Stats

Studio A	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Average
Morning Available Hours	35.00	34.00	30.00	2.50	0.00	26.00	31.00	40.00					198.50	16.54
Morning Hours Used	7.50	7.75	5.50	2.50	0.00	0.00	6.00	27.00					56.25	4.69
Percent of Available	21.43%	22.79%	18.33%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	19.35%	67.50%					28.34%	28.34%
Afternoon Available Hours	79.00	72.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	72.00	72.00	80.00					435.00	36.25
Afternoon Hours Used	8.00	9.00	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	20.00					48.50	4.04
Percent of Available	10.13%	12.50%	10.83%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.94%	25.00%					11.15%	11.15%
Evening Available Hours	68.00	63.00	54.00	0.00	0.00	63.00	72.00	71.00					391.00	32.58
Evening Hours Used	37.25	19.75	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	5.00					74.50	6.21
Percent of Available	54.78%	31.35%	10.19%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.72%	7.04%					19.05%	19.05%
Studio B														
Morning Available Hours	35.00	34.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	26.00	31.00	40.00					196.00	16.33
Morning Hours Used	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00
Percent of Available	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%
Afternoon Available Hours	79.00	72.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	72.00	72.00	80.00					435.00	36.25
Afternoon Hours Used	0.50	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					3.50	0.29
Percent of Available	0.63%	4.17%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%					0.80%	0.80%
Evening Available Hours	68.00	63.00	54.00	0.00	0.00	63.00	72.00	71.00					391.00	32.58
Evening Hours Used	3.50	17.50	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					22.75	1.90
Percent of Available	5.15%	27.78%	3.24%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%					5.82%	5.82%
Public MAC A Edit Suite														
Morning Available Hours	35.00	53.00	46.00	0.00	0.00	26.00	31.00	40.00					231.00	19.25
Morning Hours Used	20.00	53.00	46.00	0.00	0.00	6.50	20.00	18.00					163.50	13.63
Percent of Available	57.14%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	64.52%	45.00%					70.78%	70.78%
Afternoon Available Hours	79.00	120.50	106.00	0.00	0.00	72.00	72.00	80.00					529.50	44.13
Afternoon Hours Used	53.75	120.50	106.00	0.00	0.00	38.75	40.50	43.50					403.00	33.58
Percent of Available	68.04%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.82%	56.25%	54.38%					76.11%	76.11%
Evening Available Hours	68.00	63.00	54.00	0.00	0.00	63.00	72.00	71.00					391.00	32.58
Evening Hours Used	20.50	48.75	26.00	0.00	0.00	7.75	15.00	27.00					145.00	12.08
Percent of Available	30.15%	77.38%	48.15%	0.00%	0.00%	12.30%	20.83%	38.03%					37.08%	37.08%
Public MAC B Edit Suite														
Morning Available Hours	35.00	34.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	26.00	31.00	40.00					196.00	16.33
Morning Hours Used	13.50	6.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	18.00	5.50	8.00					55.00	4.58
Percent of Available	38.57%	17.65%	13.33%	0.00%	0.00%	69.23%	17.74%	20.00%					28.06%	28.06%
Afternoon Available Hours	79.00	72.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	72.00	72.00	80.00					435.00	36.25
Afternoon Hours Used	35.75	17.75	13.00	0.00	0.00	43.50	26.00	24.00					160.00	13.33
Percent of Available	45.25%	24.65%	21.67%	0.00%	0.00%	60.42%	36.11%	30.00%					36.78%	36.78%
Evening Available Hours	68.00	63.00	54.00	0.00	0.00	63.00	72.00	71.00					391.00	32.58
Evening Hours Used	39.75	25.00	13.50	0.00	0.00	31.50	17.25	7.00					134.00	11.17
Percent of Available	58.46%	39.68%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	23.96%	9.86%					34.27%	34.27%
Public MAC C Edit Suite														
Morning Available Hours	35.00	34.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	31.00	53.00	76.00					259.00	21.58
Morning Hours Used	3.25	13.50	14.00	0.00	0.00	31.00	53.00	76.00					190.75	15.90
Percent of Available	9.29%	39.71%	46.67%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%					73.65%	73.65%
Afternoon Available Hours	79.00	72.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	87.00	140.00	150.50					588.50	49.04
Afternoon Hours Used	29.00	18.25	26.75	0.00	0.00	87.00	140.00	150.50					451.50	37.63
Percent of Available	36.71%	25.35%	44.58%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%					76.72%	76.72%
Evening Available Hours	68.00	71.00	54.00	0.00	0.00	63.00	72.00	71.50					399.50	33.29
Evening Hours Used	15.25	71.00	45.25	0.00	0.00	34.00	59.00	71.50					296.00	24.67
Percent of Available	22.43%	100.00%	83.80%	0.00%	0.00%	53.97%	81.94%	100.00%					74.09%	74.09%

NORTH METRO TV

TO: OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
FROM: HEIDI ARNSON
SUBJECT: CARES ACT GRANT REQUEST
DATE: 8/25/2020

I am asking that NMTV be considered for reimbursement from Member City CARES Act Grant funds, for expenses incurred as a result of the COVID 19 virus.

In addition to PPE and disinfecting materials costs, we also incurred equipment costs related to enabling cities to stream meetings directly to our Tightrope playback system, and changes to the production truck to improve safety for crew members. Salary related costs include Video Engineer, Matt Waldron, and Studio Coordinator, Eric Houston, who worked a considerable number of hours on COVID related tasks, and unemployment for our completely sidelined sports crew.

Finally, we have received quotes for safety upgrades to the studio facility. These upgrades include touchless entrance and restroom doors and touchless fixtures in restrooms.

I originally planned to only ask for money for the building upgrades, but was encouraged to include all related costs. However, I have broken down the expenses into separate tables, for easy comparison, and then combined them into one.

I did not include all of the receipts for the equipment and materials, or staff reports on hours spent on COVID related tasks in your packet, (a lot of pages) but they are available and ready for distribution. Summaries of expenses, and quotes for building upgrades are attached to this memo.

Thank you for your consideration.

**CARE GRANT REQUEST
PPE AND DISINFECTING SUPPLIES**

CITY	TOTAL REQUESTED CARE GRANT		CITY REVENUE		TOTAL CARE GRANT BY CITY
			AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE		
Blaine	\$2,857	x	55.34509%	=	\$1,581.21
Centerville	\$2,857	x	3.43055%	=	\$98.01
Circle Pines	\$2,857	x	4.48907%	=	\$128.25
Ham Lake	\$2,857	x	13.58390%	=	\$388.09
Lexington	\$2,857	x	1.60764%	=	\$45.93
Lino Lakes	\$2,857	x	16.03987%	=	\$458.26
Spring Lake Park	\$2,857	x	5.50388%	=	\$157.24
TOTAL:	\$2,857	x	100.00000%	=	\$2,856.99

**CARE GRANT REQUEST
PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT
REIMBURSEMENT**

CITY	TOTAL REQUESTED CARE GRANT		CITY REVENUE		TOTAL CARE GRANT BY CITY
			AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE		
Blaine	\$12,424	x	55.34509%	=	\$6,876.07
Centerville	\$12,424	x	3.43055%	=	\$426.21
Circle Pines	\$12,424	x	4.48907%	=	\$557.72
Ham Lake	\$12,424	x	13.58390%	=	\$1,687.66
Lexington	\$12,424	x	1.60764%	=	\$199.73
Lino Lakes	\$12,424	x	16.03987%	=	\$1,992.79
Spring Lake Park	\$12,424	x	5.50388%	=	\$683.79
TOTAL:	\$12,424	x	100.00000%	=	\$12,423.97

**CARE GRANT REQUEST
SALARIES AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

CITY	TOTAL REQUESTED CARE GRANT		CITY REVENUE		TOTAL CARE GRANT BY CITY
			AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE		
Blaine	\$29,667	x	55.34509%	=	\$16,419.23
Centerville	\$29,667	x	3.43055%	=	\$1,017.74
Circle Pines	\$29,667	x	4.48907%	=	\$1,331.77
Ham Lake	\$29,667	x	13.58390%	=	\$4,029.94
Lexington	\$29,667	x	1.60764%	=	\$476.94
Lino Lakes	\$29,667	x	16.03987%	=	\$4,758.55
Spring Lake Park	\$29,667	x	5.50388%	=	\$1,632.83
TOTAL:	\$29,667	x	100.00000%	=	\$29,667.00

**CARE GRANT REQUEST
BUILDING UPGRADES
REIMBURSEMENT**

CITY	TOTAL REQUESTED CARE GRANT		CITY REVENUE		TOTAL CARE GRANT BY CITY
			AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE		
Blaine	\$18,155	x	55.34509%	=	\$10,047.90
Centerville	\$18,155	x	3.43055%	=	\$622.82
Circle Pines	\$18,155	x	4.48907%	=	\$814.99
Ham Lake	\$18,155	x	13.58390%	=	\$2,466.16
Lexington	\$18,155	x	1.60764%	=	\$291.87
Lino Lakes	\$18,155	x	16.03987%	=	\$2,912.04
Spring Lake Park	\$18,155	x	5.50388%	=	\$999.22
TOTAL:	\$18,155	x	100.00000%	=	\$18,155.00

**CARE GRANT REQUEST
TOTAL
REIMBURSEMENT**

CITY	TOTAL REQUESTED CARE GRANT		CITY REVENUE		TOTAL CARE GRANT BY CITY
			AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE		
Blaine	\$63,103	x	55.34509%	=	\$34,924.41
Centerville	\$63,103	x	3.43055%	=	\$2,164.78
Circle Pines	\$63,103	x	4.48907%	=	\$2,832.74
Ham Lake	\$63,103	x	13.58390%	=	\$8,571.85
Lexington	\$63,103	x	1.60764%	=	\$1,014.47
Lino Lakes	\$63,103	x	16.03987%	=	\$10,121.64
Spring Lake Park	\$63,103	x	5.50388%	=	\$3,473.10
TOTAL:	\$63,103	x	100.00000%	=	\$63,102.99

COVID 19 RELATED EXPENSES SUMMARY

Office Expenses

Software (March through July)	\$439.88
PPE and Disinfecting Supplies (March through July)	\$2,416.86
TOTAL:	\$2,856.74

Equipment Expenses

Raspberry Pi/Related Items	\$219.94
Headset Related Items	\$4,517.02
Encoders and Streaming Devices	\$3 776.81
Streaming Video Mixing Computer	\$3,910.31
TOTAL:	\$12 424.08

Employee Expenses

Video Engineer: 657 hours @ \$33.13	\$21,766.41
Studio Manager: 73 hours @ \$27.21	\$1,986.33
Unemployment (Q1 – Q2)	\$5,914.53
TOTAL:	\$29,667.27

Office Upgrades

Touch Free Doors Exterior/Restroom	\$10,765.00
Touch Free Restroom Fixtures/Drinking Fountain	\$7,390.00
TOTAL:	\$18,155.00

INVOICE AMT

2,416.86

INVOICE AMT

P. 30

Here is the list of expenses related to COVID-19: Items in Green Attached

Raspberry Pi 49.99
Raspberry Pi 65.00
Raspberry Pi Mouse 9.99
Raspberry Pi 15w Power Supply 7.99
Raspberry Pi 15w Power Supply 7.99
Raspberry Pi Keyboard 18.99
Raspberry Pi Touchscreen 59.99
Raspberry Pi Total: \$219.94 ← \$236.50 with tax

(6) RTS PH-88R5 Headsets 1097.25
(30) Telex Windscreens for PH-88 Headsets 231.66
(6) Dual-Sided Telex HR-2R Headsets with A5M Connector 1501.92
(10) Telex C-9 Ear Cushions for Headsets 278.25
(3) HMD 26-II-600-8 Broadcast Announcer Headsets custom fit with XLR6
Connection 1305.94 ← Not received from Alpha/not invoiced yet.
(4) XLR Connectors for 4-pin to 5pin headset conversion 102.00
Headset Items: \$4517.02

(1) NVS-40D 4-Channel Streaming Encoder for On-Location Shoots
1,999.00
(1) Computer for Master Control for off-location access to the Prisma
Network 354.84
(1) Epiphan AV.io 4K Encoder USB 3.0 for TJ to use with Zoom Meetings
499.00
(1) DataVideo NVS-33 H.264 Video Streaming Encoder 699.00
(2) 12 meter HDMI Cable 119.98
(1) 5 meter HDMI Cable 24.99
Zoom Account 160.58 (This was the initial cost, I'm not sure about recurring
charges) Already expensed on Rose's breakdown
vMix Software \$80 ← Still on 60 day trial/not invoiced yet.
Encoders & Streaming Devices: 3937.39

Total: 8674.35

The computer Rose built for backup editing computer, which I converted to
our new streaming video mixing computer. I'm not sure the cost on this one,
you will need to find out from Rose, I think it is north of \$4000 . This
computer will be initially used to broadcast games to limit personnel at the
fields so I would include it in the COVID equipment we purchased.

Invoice enclosed from NewEgg



Karl Bengtson
Territory Manager

Minneapolis Branch
11128 Rhode Island Ave. South
Bloomington , Minnesota
US, 55438
Tel: 612-919-1406
Fax:
Mobile: 612-919-1406
Email: Karl.Bengtson@sbdinc.com

North Metro TV
12520 Polk St NE
Blaine, MN 55434

Quotation #252936-1
North Metro TV - Blaine

03 August, 2020

Stanley Access Technologies, LLC is pleased to provide you a quotation to Furnish and Install the following:

Net Price: \$10,765.00

Add/Deduct as Required:

ADD: \$240.00 for additional bollard post inside main entry vestibule

DEDUCT: \$565.00 to exclude electric strikes from both bathroom doors and remove latches from privacy locks

Scope of Work:

Furnish and install 2 Stanley M-Force automatic swing door operators in dark bronze anodized finish at interior and exterior main entry doors. Includes 2 wireless wave plates, 2 hardwired jamb style wave plates and bollard post at exterior.

Furnish and install 2 Stanley M-Force automatic swing door operators in clear anodized finish at men's and women's restroom doors. Includes 4 wireless wave plates, 2 electric strikes and 2 indicator deadbolts.

Lead Time/Warranty:

Lead Time: Current equipment lead time is 4-6 weeks from receipt of order and approved dimensions. Equipment is furnished and installed during normal business hours, (8:00AM to 4:30PM, Mon-Fri).

Warranty: 1 year parts and labor. During normal business hours Mon-Fri 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

Exclusions:

- Doors, frames & associated hardware.
- 120 volts AC to inside auto door header 5 amp min.
- Back boxes & low voltage wiring from any control to inside auto door header.
- Permits & inspections by others.

If you would like to pay by Credit Card, please contact us at 1(800) 722-2377 Ext. 4.

We accept the following Credit Cards:





Karl Bengtson
Territory Manager

Minneapolis Branch
11128 Rhode Island Ave. South
Bloomington , Minnesota
US, 55438
Tel: 612-919-1406
Fax:
Mobile: 612-919-1406
Email: Karl.Bengtson@sbdinc.com

North Metro TV
12520 Polk St NE
Blaine, MN 55434

Quotation #252936-1
North Metro TV - Blaine

Conditions: Acceptance of this Quotation by purchaser shall constitute an order and is a contract for the purchase of the items & services described herein. The terms of this contract are as follows: Payment by purchaser to Stanley is "Net 30 days", subject only to contract termination by Stanley in the event of an adverse credit decision by Stanley's Credit Department. Payment is not contingent upon purchaser's receipt of moneys from owner or any other source. Purchaser acknowledges that the goods which are the subject of this contract are not returnable and will typically be custom fabricated by Stanley. Unless specifically set forth in this quotation, prevailing wages and specific workforce requirements are excluded. The following shall represent events of default by purchaser in the terms of this contract: non-payment in accordance with the terms set out herein, cancellation of this order by purchaser or refusal by purchaser or its agent to accept delivery of the goods from Stanley. In the event of default by purchaser, purchaser agrees to pay Stanley the contract price for all work completed by Stanley to the date of default or cancellation as well as all of Stanley's costs and expenses incurred in enforcing the terms of this contract including, but not limited to a reasonable attorney's fee, collection and court costs. This contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Connecticut, which state shall have exclusive jurisdiction. Except for purchaser's payment obligations, neither party shall be liable for any failure under this agreement due to acts of nature, acts, regulations or laws of any government; riot, strike, or labor dispute; destruction of product facilities and materials by fire, earthquake or storm; failure of public utilities or common carriers; or any other causes beyond the reasonable control of the affected party. Unless accepted by purchaser, this quotation shall expire ninety days from the date hereof. Sales tax is not included in this Quotation.

This document is a contract. I affirm that I have authority to sign this contract and this is my acceptance of this Quotation as well as my authorization to proceed with the above stated work at the price of \$_____, plus applicable sales tax.

Signature: _____ Title: _____

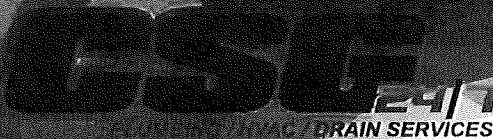
Name (print): _____ Date: _____

Ref# _____

If you would like to pay by Credit Card, please contact us at 1(800) 722-2377 Ext. 4.

We accept the following Credit Cards:





Prepared For:

North Metro TV
Attn: Heidi Arnson
harnson@northmetrotv.com

Service Location:

North Metro TV
12520 Polk St NE
Blaine, Mn 55434

Prepared by: Deja Billigmeier

August 25, 2020

Project Description

Replace 4 manual operated faucets with Sloan SF2450 battery powered sensor faucets. Add 2 Sloan EBV 500 side mount sensor flush to existing Sloan urinal flush valve. Replace 3 floor set tank toilets with new Sloan pressure assist floor set tank toilets and add Flushmate sensor flush to the 3 toilets.

Proposal Includes:

- 1 faucet in men's, 1 faucet in women's, 1 faucet in Unisex restroom, 1 faucet in breakroom
- 1 toilet in men's, 1 toilet in women's, 1 toilet in unisex restroom, 2 urinal sensor flush
- Breakroom faucet will only be able to mount on one side of double bowl sink if changed with sensor faucet.
- 1 Elkay retro-fit bottle filler kit

Exclusions

Overtime	Previous service calls
Electrical	Concrete removal and patch
Wall/ceiling/floor repairs	Pipe Insulation
Permits	

We propose to complete the project as specified above for the sum:

\$7,390

By signing below, the above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted and we are authorized to do the work as specified.

John Lannier

John Lannier, Service Estimator
Commercial Service Group
(612) 328-1171

SIGNATURE

DATE OF ACCEPTANCE

NOTE: All work to be done during normal business hours, unless specified above. Any alternation or deviation for above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. This proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within 30 days. We reserve the right to send prelien notice to the property owner, should we be awarded this project. No work will proceed until signed proposal or purchase order is received. Payment is due within 30 days of invoice date; any balance due after 30 days of invoice date is subject to 1.5% late fee per month.

24428 Greenway Avenue, Forest Lake, MN 55025 (P) 651-464-2988 ~ (F) 651-464-2506

A Game Plan to—Finally—Connect Every American to Broadband

We've struggled for years to bring high-speed Internet to rural and low-income Americans. Here's how to get the job done.

By JOHN STANKEY

09/08/2020 04:30 AM EDT

John Stankey is CEO of AT&T.

According to a recent Gallup survey, more than 60 percent of Americans have been able to work from home during the Covid-19 pandemic thanks to high-speed internet connections. Since 1996, U.S. broadband providers have invested nearly \$2 trillion to connect our communities, incentivized by sound, pro-investment policies. This private investment has been well spent, providing most American consumers good value over some of the world's best networks.

But there's a problem: Our networks still don't reach everyone, and private dollars alone won't solve this challenge.

Although America's broadband networks have performed extremely well during the pandemic, it's troubling that many rural and low-income families don't have the internet access they need to work and learn. This disparity has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has laid bare the challenge of our longstanding digital divide.

The truth is that the "homework gap"—the inability of low-income or rural students to access online educational resources—has grown, particularly for students of color, students with disabilities and students in rural and under-resourced neighborhoods. Millions of American families cannot afford or may lack access to the high-speed internet connection they need to work and learn from home. According to Pew Research, 15 percent of U.S. households with school-age children do not have a high-speed internet connection; for households incomes below \$30,000 a year, 35 percent don't have high-speed internet.

Our country needs to close that gap, and now is the time for legislators and policymakers to act to ensure the educational and economic success of all Americans by making broadband connectivity more accessible, affordable and sustainable. Market forces and private companies can't do it alone because of the lack of return on the significant investment necessary to reach all Americans. But it is in society's interest for our government to financially incentivize the investments necessary to ensure that all children can learn, and all workers can do their jobs. Through a mix of public subsidies for low income households and smart policies that encourage new infrastructure investment in unserved areas, we can finally close this gap.

Here are four specific things Congress and the administration can do to meet the goal of bringing high-speed broadband to every American family:

First, we need to identify where broadband is unavailable with geographic precision.

To close the digital divide, we must know the contours of where the divide starts and ends. We need to telescope our broadband maps from the macro, census-block level to the micro, building level to understand with more precision where broadband is unavailable. The government's existing mapping methodology is past its shelf life. Currently, it does not identify the exact number and location of households that do not have meaningful broadband service, especially in rural areas. Congress recognized this in March by passing the Broadband DATA Act, which will create a more accurate and detailed map of broadband availability, helping companies like mine have the information needed to determine the focus and cost of deployment. The only problem is that Congress hasn't yet appropriated the funds for the more granular maps, although legislation is currently pending.

Second, the Federal Communication Commission's program that supports connectivity for low-income households needs to be modernized.

Called "Lifeline," the program began as a subsidy for phone service, not for high-speed internet. The program has been successful, but it's time to shift its focus to internet to foster equality and economic opportunity.

Lifeline's funding structure also needs an update. The existing program is largely paid for by a narrow set of Americans, those who still rely primarily on voice phone services; these Americans see a 26.6 percent fee on their bills that seemingly grows quarterly. It is effectively a regressive tax on consumers, a policy that absurdly hurts those it is intended to help. Instead, Lifeline should be funded through direct congressional appropriations instead of the antiquated, inefficient and unsustainable excise tax on an ever-shrinking base of voice phone services. Since the internet benefits all Americans, we should have a system that more broadly and fairly distributes responsibility for the subsidies, and ultimately lowers the financial impact per person to connect Americans.

We should also provide beneficiaries of this program with the ability to receive benefits electronically and make digital payments in the same way USDA's SNAP card replaced food stamps. This would be a more efficient and secure approach to keeping low-income consumers connected.

Third, as Congress debates earmarking up to \$80 billion for rural broadband as part of the next round of pandemic relief, we should give equal weight to wired and wireless options.

The FCC currently heavily weights subsidies toward gigabit speeds (fiber) over other technologies (such as fixed wireless). It is simply not practical or responsible to assume a fiber broadband service can be delivered to every unserved rural household—the prohibitive cost is part of why connecting many of these households has been uneconomical. Proposed solutions should also support wireless solutions, so long as they can meet defined performance criteria, and satellite may be required to reach the most remote locations. Being overly prescriptive on the technology solution could result in some homes being permanently unserved. Policy, informed by practical engineering, can achieve all the economic and social benefits of gigabit technology at a fraction of the cost—something every taxpayer should want and expect.

Lastly, Washington should enact a policy framework that incorporates sustainable funding mechanisms for the long run.

As policymakers roll up their sleeves to modernize these programs and fund them through direct appropriations, they should not forget how we got as far as we have. Maintaining a regulatory approach that sustains continued private investment in deployment and upgrades is just as important as modernizing the patchwork of public sector programs. Industry investment provides stability in jobs and overall economic growth. Imposing unrelated and unnecessary regulations will make greater private sector investment less sustainable. Both public sector programs and private sector investment have their roles to play in bringing broadband to all Americans so our children can access remote education and provide our workforce with tools for today's economy.

Failure to act on such policies will serve only to further disenfranchise young Americans who already face precarious social, economic and familial situations, further delaying our journey to equality in justice and economic opportunity. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. Supporting them through this current public health crisis—and beyond—is a social, business and economic imperative.

With so many students having to learn virtually this fall, and with so many workers now dependent on home internet connections to keep their jobs, now is the time for us to work together to ensure all American families have access to critical connectivity and the resources needed to meet the urgent challenges of today and tomorrow. If policymakers fail to act, today's "homework gap" will not only exacerbate the proverbial "generation gap," but we will have failed to bridge it.

The 5G lie: The network of the future is still slow

We speed tested 5G phones against 4G ones. America's new nationwide 5G networks weren't much faster — and in some places they were slower.

By

Geoffrey A. Fowler

Technology columnist

September 8, 2020 at 10:29 a.m. CDT

Unless you've been living under a rock — which in 2020 actually sounds soothing — you've probably heard there's a new cellphone technology called 5G. Any iPhone or Galaxy owner knows the law of Gs: Every additional G makes downloads faster. 3G sent pictures. 4G streamed video.

Apple is planning to hold a launch event on Sept. 15, where it could unveil its first 5G-enabled iPhones. Samsung's entire flagship lineup is now 5G-equipped. So these 2020 models are going to really fly, right?

Well, hold on just a minute. 5G may hold promise for the years ahead — but across most of America in 2020, a 5G phone does diddly squat. Testing 5G phones, I've been clocking download speeds that are roughly the same as on 4G LTE ones. And in some places, like inside my house and along the California highway, my 5G phones actually have been slower.

Yes, slower.

For the past few weeks, I've been carrying six phones: a year-old 4G LTE one and a new 5G one from each of the three major U.S. carriers: AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon. Then wherever I went around the San Francisco Bay area, I ran simultaneous download tests on them using an app called Ookla Speedtest. I've done this more than 4,000 times.

We tested downloads around the San Francisco Bay Area using Ookla's Speedtest app.
(Geoffrey Fowler/TWP)

AT&T and T-Mobile both market their 5G networks as “nationwide,” though they carefully dance around speed claims. AT&T says 5G means “improved speed” and T-Mobile says “faster speed,” without many specifics. Verizon does make extreme-speed claims about its 5G network — it's “25x faster than today's 4G” — but it is, as of this summer, available in less than 1 percent of the country.

But let's be clear: The majority of Americans think 5G means "a faster and more reliable connection," according to a survey by the consulting firm Sykes.

My median download speed on AT&T was 32 Mbps with the 5G phone and 34 Mbps on the 4G one. On T-Mobile, I got 15 Mbps on the 5G phone and 13 Mbps on the 4G one. Verizon's limited 5G network wasn't available in my test area.

Perhaps California is a particularly difficult territory for these initial national 5G networks? Every neighborhood, smartphone model and even way you hold the phone can shape download performance — but I'm not the only one underwhelmed by nationwide 5G performance right now. I swapped results with firms that run network speed tests all over the country with volunteers and by roaming the streets.

RootMetrics, a network-analysis firm owned by IHS Markit, said that in the first half of the year, median AT&T 5G speeds were 46 Mbps, only slightly faster than the 4G LTE speed of 43 Mbps. At T-Mobile, speeds increased more as a percentage, but its median 5G speed of 25 Mbps still can't even compete with its rivals' 4G LTE speeds.

Another firm, Opensignal, said the average 5G phone download speed in the United States between May and August was 76 percent faster than a 4G phone download. But the overall download speed experience of Americans with 5G phones was just 33 Mbps, the second-slowest in the world.

When I asked executives at the networks about speed, they acknowledged a truth their advertisements carefully omit. "Our 5G experience initially is as good or better than our 4G LTE experience," said Chris Sambar, AT&T's executive vice president for technology operations. Let that sink in: At least for now, 5G is ... only as good as 4G.

T-Mobile is equally circumspect, highlighting the range of its coverage, not its jaw-dropping speed. "We're not claiming that this is where the story of 5G ends. It's very much a beginning," said Mark McDiarmid, the senior vice president for radio network engineering and development. He said right now T-Mobile's 5G network is "two times as fast" as its 4G LTE nationwide average.

What should you do if you're in the market for a phone this year or next? Abbi Siler, of Little Rock, told me a cautionary tale about upgrading early. Running her shop, Abbi's Teas & Things, outdoors during the coronavirus pandemic, she relies on her cellphone to be her cash register. So a few weeks ago, her local AT&T shop encouraged her to buy a 5G-enabled \$1,400 Samsung Galaxy S20 Ultra. Like I experienced, her download speed where she needs it is unusably slow on AT&T's 5G network. Just to keep her business running, she ended up buying an additional WiFi hotspot from a different carrier. "What a waste of money," she told me.

There's reason to hope America's 5G situation will get better. But my advice is: Don't upgrade in 2020 without a clear-eyed view of what 5G actually means where you live. Let me break it down in some ways you won't hear in the store.

Many tech companies are counting on 5G for what's next. It could unleash new connected devices — like smarter vehicles and medical equipment — that need faster downloads and less latency, which is the delay in the communication between connections. I'm excited about that.

But up first are smartphones. Carriers are pushing 5G phones to look competitive and to upgrade their systems to handle our crushing data demands. Smartphone makers are marketing 5G FOMO to fuel a “supercycle” of phone purchases after years of ho-hum upgrades.

Your experience with a 5G phone in 2020 is likely to be all over the map. I got searing fast 750 Mbps downloads from AT&T in one corner of downtown. But in the same spot, my 4G phone got an also extremely fast 330 Mbps. Moreover, because of the pandemic, those aren't places I go very often. As I write this from my home office in the middle of San Francisco, I'm getting 11 Mbps downloads on my AT&T 5G phone. On T-Mobile, I get a laughable 8 Mbps on 5G, which is barely enough to stream HD Netflix.

5G's current challenges — and future potential — are a product of how the technology has arrived here.

Like a three-layer cake, 5G comes in bands: low, mid and high. Each band requires access to radio spectrum from the Federal Communications Commission and cellular towers in the right places.

Right now, AT&T and T-Mobile are mostly using low band. This is not the tastiest bite of the 5G cake — it doesn't deliver much faster download speeds than today's 4G LTE networks, with which it shares spectrum. However, low-band 5G allows signals to travel the farthest and penetrate walls. Building out low band allowed T-Mobile and AT&T to claim their 5G is “nationwide,” serving at least 200 million customers.

When PC Magazine challenged AT&T about shortcomings of its low-band 5G network in January, the company downplayed speed. “We've been pretty vocal that early on there's no tremendous difference,” AT&T vice president Gordon Mansfield said at that time.

Verizon, the largest U.S. wireless carrier, has announced it also will launch a low-band 5G network by the end of the year. And at least to investors, Verizon's CEO also has been blunt about the incremental improvements nationwide 5G will offer over 4G. “In the beginning, it's going to be small,” Hans Vestberg told a JPMorgan conference in May.

But there's more 5G cake. Much of the world is using mid-band. It doesn't go as far but does deliver more-impressive downloads, in the range of 300 Mbps. T-Mobile got some mid-band spectrum in its acquisition of Sprint, which it is building into its own network. (I experienced T-Mobile download speeds of 250 Mbps next to the Golden Gate Bridge.) And, good news: the FCC is auctioning more mid-band access.

And then there's the delicious top layer of 5G: high band, also known as millimeter wave spectrum. The crazy-impressive speeds — download a season of “Game of Thrones” in seconds — come via these signals. But they can't travel very far, so they require lots and lots of equipment close by. Most networks have only a bit of this, like in that downtown spot I found with AT&T. Verizon's 5G rollout relied almost entirely on high band in dense public spaces like downtowns and arenas, a strategy that doesn't fit very well with a pandemic keeping people close to home.

While the country waits for more mid- and high-band 5G, we face another problem on the low band we already have. 5G phones sometimes don't work as well as 4G ones for people like me and Siler in Little Rock. We were both aghast to see such slow downloads in some of the places we spend most of our time.

Abbi Siler, owner of Abbi's Teas in Little Rock, upgraded to a Samsung S20 Ultra 5G phone to help speed up sales at her outdoor retail business. But she reports very slow service on AT&T's network. (Abbi Siler)

I told AT&T about both of our cases. It sent me a different phone to test, but the result was the same. “You are two data points,” said AT&T's Sambar. “We've done a lot of internal testing ... [and] we're seeing our that our 5G network is showing speeds that are at least at parity with LTE, if not better.”

Rootmetrics also picked up on an issue in its national tests. When a 5G phone's service is “mixed” — having to drop from 5G to 4G because the signal isn't strong — median download speeds dropped to about half of regular 4G LTE speeds.

“Given this is a wireless network, there are many things that can cause the 5G network to sometimes be slower than LTE,” AT&T spokesman Raul Lopez said by email. “There are times when LTE may aggregate more spectrum which may provide a faster speed. There are other times when the signal strength of the 5G network may be less than LTE.”

Weeks after complaining to AT&T tech support, Siler's 5G phone still just crawls at her tea shop. She and I might get better performance by turning off the 5G capability on our phones and just running on 4G. But then what's the point of upgrading to a 5G phone?

Should you upgrade?

For now at least, the three big U.S. carriers are not charging extra fees to access 5G. But they do require you to buy a new smartphone to use the new network. And for most people, today's 5G just isn't a good reason to upgrade. It's like buying a sports car and then realizing it can't go over 65 mph very often. You're stuck in the slow lane while faster ones are built.

Of course, there are many reasons people upgrade phones — you may want a new camera or color. But I think phone makers jumped the gun with 5G in the U.S. Back when 4G came out, there was about two years between establishing the standard and the first handset sales,

RootMetrics told me. With 5G, there was just one year between establishing the standard and providing the first phone.

Even if you're being realistic about the limits of today's networks, it's hard for you to figure out exactly how the network will perform in the places where you spend your time. Those online maps made by the carriers are of little help. They don't tell you anything about what speeds you'll actually experience.

What if you just want to be ready for the future? Many flagship smartphones you can buy now, like Samsung's \$1,000 Galaxy S20, are 5G-future-proof, meaning they support all the possible 5G bands. But buyer beware: Some coming models might leave out the ability to connect to the high band. Be sure to ask whether a phone can access all of your carrier's 5G bands before you buy.

If your existing phone is more than four years old, or you just shattered yours and must upgrade in a jiffy, go ahead and get a 5G model. You're likely to hold onto that phone for three or more years, and in that time 5G will become a real benefit in the United States. For under \$600, you can get a 5G phone such as Samsung's Galaxy A71 5G and Motorola's One 5G.

But for everyone else, waiting will bring down the cost of great 5G phones. The extra time also will allow handset makers to improve their hardware and software — and let networks figure out how to make sure 5G phones don't actually feel like downgrades.

Cities sue Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, claim they owe cable “franchise fees”

Cities demand 5% of revenue, claim online video uses "public rights of way."

Jon Brodtkin - 8/17/2020, 3:00 PM

Four cities in Indiana are suing Netflix and other video companies, claiming that online video providers and satellite-TV operators should have to pay the same franchise fees that cable companies pay for using local rights of way.

The lawsuit was filed against Netflix, Disney, Hulu, DirecTV, and Dish Network on August 4 in Indiana Commercial Court in Marion County. The cities of Indianapolis, Evansville, Valparaiso, and Fishers want the companies to pay the cable-franchise fees established in Indiana's Video Service Franchises (VSF) Act, which requires payments of 5 percent of gross revenue in each city.

The lawsuit is based on an unusual legal argument and doesn't seem likely to succeed. Essentially, the cities are claiming that Netflix and similar providers use the public rights of way simply by offering video streaming services over the Internet:

Defendants transmit video programming to Indiana subscribers using Internet protocol and other technologies. When doing so, Defendants transmit their programming through facilities located at least in part in public rights of way within the geographic boundaries of Indiana Units, including public rights of way located within Plaintiffs' geographic boundaries. Therefore, Defendants are required by the VSF Act to pay the Plaintiffs—and all other Indiana Units in which Defendants transmit video programming through facilities located at least in part in a public right-of-way—franchise fees.

“Netflix is clearly not a cable operator”

But streaming companies don't have to build physical infrastructure in each city to offer online video, so they aren't deploying their own wires on public rights of way.

"I find it extremely unlikely this lawsuit will prevail," Harold Feld, a longtime telecom attorney and senior VP of consumer-advocacy group Public Knowledge, told Ars. "The [federal] Communications Act defines terms such as 'cable system' and 'cable operator' in physical terms."

As Feld noted, US law defines a cable system as "a facility, consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is

designed to provide cable service." Local franchising rules and fees are based on cities' authority to manage their local rights of way.

"Netflix is clearly not a cable operator" and is therefore not subject to local franchising rules, Feld said. "Furthermore, because broadband is not considered a cable service, Netflix does not offer video programming 'over a cable system,' which would be required to make it a cable operator."

Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+ are Internet-only services. Dish and DirecTV are primarily satellite operators but also offer online access. The cities' lawsuit never mentions the word "satellite" and doesn't fully explain how DirecTV and Dish use the public rights of way. "Defendants DirecTV and Dish have transformed their businesses and delivery methods over the last decade to meet the demands of the marketplace, and subscribers now access their services through facilities located at least in part in a public right of way," the lawsuit said, apparently referring to the newer, online components of the services.

Some backstory

Historically, satellite services haven't had to pay the franchise fees assessed to cable companies. "For years, cable companies have called franchise fees unfair because competitors who don't need the right of way—such as satellite-TV services or online-video services—don't have to pay cities a dime," The Colorado Sun wrote in a [2019 article](#).

When contacted by Ars today, a spokesperson for DirecTV owner AT&T said that "DirecTV doesn't use public rights of way and isn't covered by the Indiana Video Services Franchise Act." Dish has fought efforts to impose franchise fees on satellite providers, saying on its ["Fair TV Tax" website](#) that "Requiring satellite providers to pay a Franchise Fee, or an equivalent tax, is like asking cable and telecom companies to pay for launching satellites into orbit."

Dish declined comment today. We also contacted Netflix, Disney, and Hulu, and will update this story with any responses.

City franchise revenue in decline

Even if Indiana's state court system agrees with the cities, the companies could appeal in federal court and argue that US law preempts local franchise fees on streaming companies. The Federal Communications Commission could also get involved in the legal battle, as it [has done](#) in cases involving federal preemption of local rules. We contacted the FCC today and will update this article if we get a response.

The lawsuit may have been spurred in part by cities getting less franchise revenue as TV customers switch to online video. "Records maintained by the Valparaiso clerk-treasurer show the Porter County city received \$446,000 in video franchise fees last year, \$457,000 in 2018, and \$476,000 in 2017," The Times of Northwest Indiana [wrote](#) last week.

Valparaiso city attorney Patrick Lyp told the Times, "Our case helps ensure a competitive marketplace where everyone subject to the fee pays it. The current situation is unfair to cable providers who have been following Indiana law."

The cities' lawsuit points to the broad definition of "video service" contained in Indiana's Video Service Franchises Act, which defines video service as "(1) the transmission to subscribers of video programming and other programming service: (A) through facilities located at least in part in a public right of way; and (B) without regard to the technology used to deliver the video programming or other programming service." Netflix and the other defendants should be forced to "acquire the necessary franchises, pay the required fees in the future, and compensate Plaintiffs and all other units of government for unpaid fees for past service," the lawsuit said.

A similar lawsuit was filed by the city of Creve Coeur, Missouri, in 2018. Netflix sought dismissal of Creve Coeur's case in federal court, saying that it distributes video programming "exclusively over the public Internet." The case was remanded to the Twenty-First Judicial Circuit of the State of Missouri, where it is still pending.

Broadband Monopoly Report: At Least 49.7 Million Americans Served by Only One Provider

telecompetitor.com/broadband-monopoly-report-at-least-49-7-million-americans-served-by-only-one-provider/

Phil Britt

With large corporations like Comcast, Charter and AT&T dominating the market, at least 49.7 million Americans have only a single internet provider available to them, according to a new broadband monopoly report from the Institute for Local Self Reliance, an advocacy group for local community economic development.

broadband

Comcast and Charter are the only choices for more than 47 million people in the U.S., while the “competitive choice” for another 33 million people is slower, less reliable DSL service, ILSR says in its latest report.

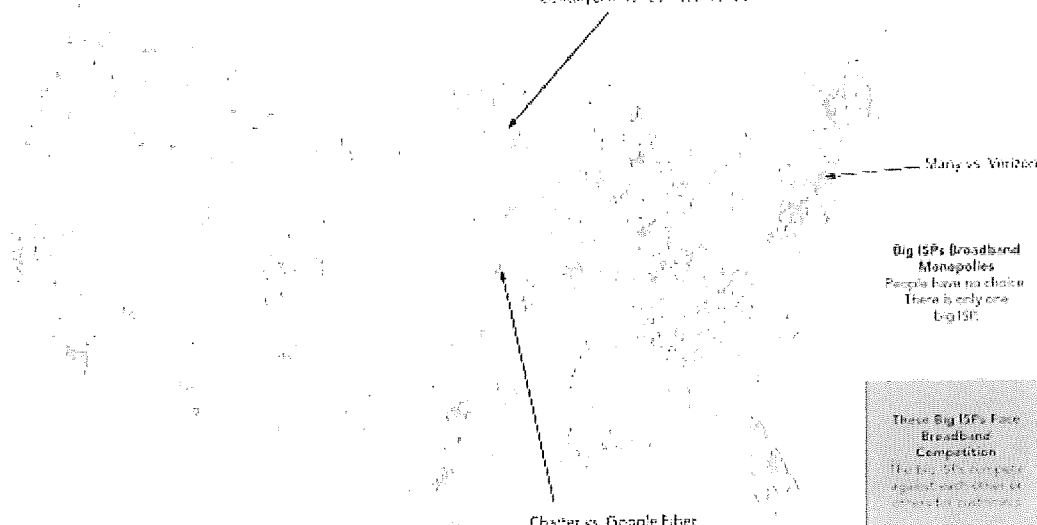
“Nationally, cable companies maintain monopolies on high-speed Internet access,” the report authors note. “The large telecommunication companies, such as AT&T and Verizon, invest mainly where they face cable competition.”

Broadband Monopoly Report

The authors dispute federal data suggesting that Charter and Comcast have an absolute monopoly over fewer households. “We think this is mostly a mirage resulting from how the FCC reports data,” the authors wrote. “A significant number of the census blocks showing new competition are likely only partially served.”

Appendix H: Captured Customers

70 million people have only one broadband option, and that provider is Comcast, Charter, AT&T, CenturyLink, Verizon, or Frontier.
CenturyLink vs Comcast vs US



Design: My Own Research, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Source: [FCC Form 477 data](#)
This is a best case scenario. FCC Form 477 data is often used to estimate broadband availability.

Community

Source: ILSR

ILSR used FCC Form 477 data (June 2019 v1), as the primary source for the data of the report. ISPs self-report their coverage data to the FCC down to the census block level. ILSR believes this data grossly overestimates broadband availability because a census block is counted as having broadband even if only one location in that census block has service.

According to the data, rural areas get little service other than DSL from the largest providers, despite billions of dollars from state and federal programs, including the Connect America Fund (CAF) program, which ILSR calls “a failure.”

This isn't the first time ILSR has blasted what it calls lack of competition for broadband and the failure of the CAF programs, as Telecompetitor reported. A key element of ILSR's critique of the CAF program is that the program — which pertained to the the nation's largest price cap carriers, including AT&T, Verizon, CenturyLink, and Frontier — only required the providers to deliver service supporting speeds of 10/1 Mbps to meet buildout obligations, even though that is below what many people — including the FCC — now consider broadband.

Image courtesy of flickr user Sean MacEntee.

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POTs and PANs

Broadband for All

August 12, 2020

A Fresh Look at Cord-Cutting

[Leave a comment](#)

(https://potsandpansbyccg.com/2014/03/17/whats-up-with-cord-cutters/fatty_watching_himself_on_tv/#main) Roku undertook a survey that took a deep dive into cord-cutting and interviewed over 7,000 homes in March. The overall conclusion of the survey is that cord-cutting is accelerating in 2020. The survey was done at the beginning of the pandemic, and overall industry statistics for the second quarter make it sound like cord-cutting exploded in the second quarter of this year.

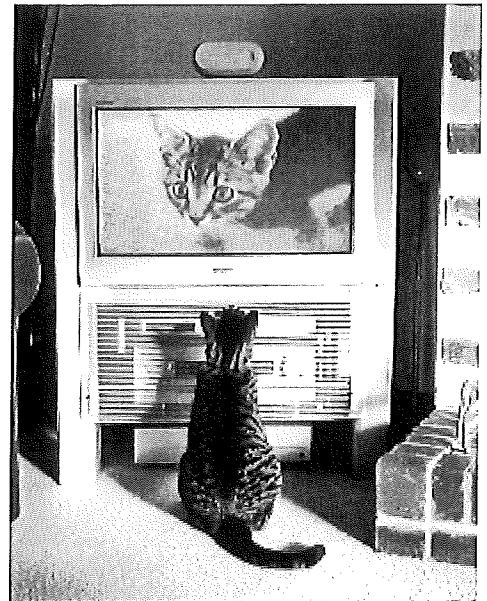
The Roku survey segregates the television market as follows: 43% of homes still have traditional cable TV. Another 25% are cord-shavers and still have traditional cable TV but have downsized to a lower-cost video package. 25% of the market are now cord-cutters, and 7% of the market never had traditional cable TV.

Probably the most interesting statistic is that one-fourth of the market consists of cord-shavers who have reduced their traditional programming packages. It's been clear that cord-shaving has been happening, but I've never seen it quantified before. The big cable companies never mention cord-shaving when reporting cable TV subscribers. The magnitude of the number of households that have trimmed back to lower-cost programming packages explains why the paid subscriptions to cable networks is dropping far faster than the drop in cable customers.

80% of cord-cutters say that they are satisfied with their decision to end their subscription to traditional TV. Two-thirds of cord-cutters say they wish they had cut the cord sooner.

Lack of sports is driving some cord-cutting during the pandemic, and 28% of cord-cutters say that lack of sports is their number one reason for cutting the cord. 17% of cord-cutters (or 4% of the whole video market) say they will consider returning to traditional TV when sports return to the air full time. 31% of cord-cutters say they will pursue a sports streaming service when sports returns.

The number one reason cited for cutting the cord is cost savings, and many of those surveyed say they were driven to this decision due to a change in household income due to the pandemic. The average Roku user said that they are saving \$75 per month with cord-cutting. As a household that has cut the cord, I find that number a little hard to believe – but it's what they reported in the survey. My consulting firm does surveys and we've learned to always be leery when households cite numbers of any kind; in



this case, it would be natural for many homes to exaggerate their savings as a way to justify cutting the cord. I'm sure some homes have saved \$75, but that seems like a high average and it doesn't take more than a few subscriptions to online video services to eat into that savings.

Cord-cutters are watching more free ad-supported content as a way to control costs. 42% of cord-cutting households said that free content or extended free subscriptions to streaming services helped to convince them to cut the cord.

45% of the households in the cord-shaver category say they are likely to cancel traditional TV in the next six months. Every survey about cable TV I've seen for the last five years has included substantial numbers of homes that say they are about to drop cable TV – but then don't. But this statistic is a lot higher than I've ever seen and indicates a lot of households are thinking about cutting the cord. It's often a complicated decision for a home with multiple family members to finally cut the cord.

The pandemic makes it harder to discern long-term trends. This survey supports the industry belief that a lot of homes continue to drop traditional TV packages. But the pandemic provides several good reasons to drop a cable subscription that won't be permanent. Sports will eventually come back to TV and sports fans are going to subscribe. As the economy rebounds, people will get back to work – it's an easier decision to cut a \$100 per month cable subscription when one or more people in a home are unemployed. The pandemic has also killed the creation of new programming content, and many cable subscribers only pay in order to watch the latest versions of their favorite shows. I've read that it might take more than a year after the pandemic ends to see a fresh supply of new content.

It will take time to see if an improved economy reverses any of the cord-cutting trends. For now, any company offering cable TV is in for a rough ride. It's hard to see any positive news from the results of this survey for programmers or cable companies.

Posted by [CCGConsulting](#) in [The Industry](#)

Tagged: [cord cutting](#), [cord shaving](#), [Roku](#)

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FCC, DOJ, Defend Franchise Fee Decisions

Told court appeals of decision are groundless

John Eggerton

Aug 11, 2020

The FCC and Department of Justice have told a federal appeals court it should reject challenges to the FCC's decision to count in-kind cable franchise requirements--network capacity, channels, grants, sponsorships, specially created programming, local retail facilities, cash 'contributions,' free advertising" and more--toward its cap on franchise fees and other elements of its 2019 franchise fee deregulation decision.

In a filing with the court Tuesday (Aug. 11) both agencies said that each of the FCC's decisions "was reasonable, reasonably explained, and consistent with [legislative] text, structure, and history. In other words: Nothing to appeal here, move on.

The FCC voted along party lines back in August 2019 to hold that cable franchising authorities (LFAs) cannot regulate a cable operator's broadband service and that in-kind services or equipment they require those cable operators to provide must count toward the FCC's 5% (of cable revenues) cap on franchise fees charged by the LFAs. It also preempted state or local franchise regs that conflicted with those conclusions and extended its rules to state as well as local franchises.

FCC chair Ajit Pai said counting in-kind "exactions" from LFAs was necessary "to prevent local authorities from unlawfully evading the 5% statutory cap on franchise fees" via those non-monetary conditions.

Related: Markey & Co. Ask FCC to Rethink Franchise Fee Item

Various parties sued over various parts of the decision in various courts, the Third, Sixth and D.C. Circuits, with the case consolidated in the Sixth.

Markey & Co. Ask FCC to Rethink Franchise Fee Item

Argue vote on counting non-monetary items toward cap threatens public access channels

John Eggerton

Jul 30, 2019

Some Democrat senators are trying to get the FCC to reverse course on its plan to vote Aug. 1 to count non-monetary considerations in cable franchise agreements toward the 5% cap on franchise fees.

They are concerned that allowing cable companies to assign a monetary value to franchise requirements related to schools, libraries, public safety or PGE (public, educational and government) channels will force localities to choose between PEG and other services, and both might lose out in that choice.

“[PEG] stations connect Americans to their communities, catalyze civic engagement, and keep us up to date on the local issues and activities that affect our lives,” the Senators wrote in a letter to FCC chair Ajit Pai. “Your proposal would force local governments to decide between supporting PEG stations and supporting other important services for critical community institutions like schools and public safety buildings. We strongly urge the Commission to avoid any policy changes that will harm PEG channels and limit needed services to the communities we represent.”

Pai almost certainly has the votes of his Republican majority to require the changes, which cable operators have asked for.

NCTA-the Internet & Television Association, has told the FCC that despite clear direction from Congress, local franchise authorities (LFAs) have been abusing the prices through excessive fees and in-kind "contributions," which include but are not limited to "courtesy equipment, I-Net construction, network capacity, channels, grants, sponsorships, specially created programming, local retail facilities, cash 'contributions,' and free advertising," NCTA has said.

Given the stranded investment of built-out systems, cable providers lack power to refuse the LFA demands, NCTA told the FCC in comments on the proposed reforms.

Signing on to the Markey letter were Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Pat Leahy (D-Vt.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn).

Cities lose lawsuit against FCC's 5G rules



Kim Hart, author of Cities

Ajit Pai. Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images

A federal appeals court upheld the Federal Communications Commission's rules that limit municipalities' ability to negotiate with telecom companies such as AT&T and Verizon that are seeking to deploy thousands of 5G antennas on city streets and neighborhoods.

Why it matters: The ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is a blow to dozens of cities that sued the agency, claiming the FCC's 2018 rules takes away their leverage and autonomy in deciding how the telecom industry can install "small-cell" antennas to build 5G networks.

The other side: The FCC maintains that its rules — which prohibit excessive fees and permitting delays by municipal governments — will speed up the deployment of 5G networks throughout the country by removing burdensome barriers to telecom providers.

"The wind is at our backs: With the FCC's infrastructure policies now ratified by the court, along with pathbreaking spectrum auctions concluded, ongoing and to come, America is well-positioned to extend its global lead in 5G and American consumers will benefit from the next generation of wireless technologies and services."

— *FCC Chairman Ajit Pai in a statement*

The big picture: How quickly telecom providers can deploy the 5G antennas throughout cities is a critical factor in reaching more ubiquitous 5G coverage throughout the country.

- Because of the technical limitations of 5G airwaves, 5G networks require hundreds of thousands of small-cell antennas to carry wireless signals from across cities and towns.
- Some major cities, however — including San Jose, Los Angeles and Portland — have argued that they should have more say over how those small-cell antennas are installed on public right-of-ways and city property.