

# NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

December 21, 2022

6:00 p.m.

1301 81<sup>st</sup> Ave NE

Spring Lake Park, Minnesota

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comments
3. Changes to the Agenda
4. Consent Agenda [pp. 1-26](#)
  - a. Minutes of regular meeting of September 21, 2022
  - b. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - c. Minutes of Operations Committee meeting of October 4, November 1, and December 7, 2022
  - d. September, October and November 2022 financial reports and bill lists
5. Executive Director Report
  - a. Quarterly Report [pp. 27-34](#)
6. Legal Counsel Report
  - a. Quarterly Report [pp. 35-39](#)
7. Old Business
8. New Business
  - a. Pay Study Update and Recommendation [pp. 40-41](#)
  - b. Meeting Date Change
9. Recommended Reading [pp. 42-59](#)
10. Community Calendar
  - A. Next Meeting Dates:
    - a. Operations Committee – January 31, 2023
    - b. Executive Committee – February 1, 2023
    - c. Cable Commission – February 15, 2023
11. Adjournment

# **NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

## **UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**Commission Meeting – September 21, 2022**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair D. Stoesz called the regular meeting of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **Directors Present:**

Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes, Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff; Spring Lake Park, Jesse Wilken; Ham Lake, D. Love; Centerville, Steve McChesney; Circle Pines, Brandon Winge; Lexington,

#### **Directors Absent:**

Julie Jeppson; Blaine,

#### **Others Present:**

Mike Bradley; Legal Counsel, Heidi Arnson; Executive Director, Rose Valez; Admin. Asst., Greg Emmerich; CPA

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **• Minutes, Bill Lists, Financial Reports**

The June 15, 2022 NMTC meeting minutes, September 6, 2022 Operations Committee meeting minutes, and the June, July, and August bill lists and financial reports were approved as presented. **Motion for approval made by B. Goodboe-Bisschoff. Second, D. Love. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **2021 AUDIT PRESENTATION**

G. Emmerich, of Harrington, Langer and Associates, reviewed the 2021 North Metro Telecommunications Commission annual financial report. No abnormalities were found and the Commission is in a strong financial position.

**MOTION:** To approve the 2021 North Metro Telecommunications Commission annual financial report as presented. **Motion for approval made by: D. Love.**  
**Second: S. McChesney. Motion approved.**

### **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

H. Arnson reported on the following items:

- North Metro TV's fall sports schedule is underway. Over the last month sports programming has been viewed over 14,000 times on the NMTV Youtube channel.
- The news team is busy with election related coverage. Candidate biographies are being posted to the website, candidate interviews for contested city races will be produced, and a lived election results program is scheduled.
- A new reporter/host/anchor has been hired to replace Rusty Ray. Rusty left NMTV in August for a full time reporting job at WCCO AM radio. Eric Nelson has years of experience in broadcast news for affiliates in Iowa and for CCX in Brooklyn Park. He has also been a sports announcer for CBS and WCCO radio. He will start on October 4<sup>th</sup>, just in time for election programming.
- Closed captioning is now available on all North Metro TV cable and streaming platforms. There were a lot of technical problems that took the entire summer to work out, but the technical staff of Video Engineer, Matt Waldron, and Programming Coordinator, Michele Silvester, made it happen. There hasn't been an announcement yet, as staff wants to be sure it continues to work, and that they are completely comfortable with the process.
- The second quarter franchise and PEG fees from Comcast were received. PEG fees continue to slowly decrease, as expected, but the franchise fees were slightly higher than last quarter.

### **REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL**

- M. Bradley spoke at two conferences over the summer. He presented a legal update on franchising issues at the local MACTA conference, and a PEG legal update at the Alliance for Community Media conference in Chicago.
- Nancy Warner has agreed to become a partner in M. Bradley's law firm. She was previously the general counsel for NATOA.
- As video streaming continues to grow, revenue in the form of franchise fees is declining. Commissions need to be cognizant of the decline and its causes,

and mindful of the need to replace that revenue. Those members who are active in the League of Minnesota Cities should consider discussions and policies regarding funding for community television to be a legislative priority.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The results of a metro-wide pay study are being considered by the Operations Committee. According to the data, it appears that North Metro salaries are on the low end. The Committee is working on several issues, including exempt vs. non-exempt status for certain jobs, positions that have changed with the addition of new responsibilities, and how best to equitably introduce any step payment plan changes, if necessary. Other considerations include the budget and timing for any changes.

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Upcoming meetings include:

1. The Operations Committee on October 4, 2022
2. The Executive Committee Meeting on December 7, 2022
3. The Cable Commission Meeting on December 21, 2022

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m. **Motion for approval made by S. McChesney. Second, B. Winge. Motion passed unanimously.**

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Julie Jeppson; Secretary, NMTC

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Meeting of December 7, 2022

Executive Cmte. Present: Brandon Winge; Lexington, Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff; Spring Lake Park, Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes; Julie Jeppson; Blaine

Absent:

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director, Chris Massoglia; Blaine Alternate

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the June 1, 2022 Executive Committee meeting minutes was made by J. Jeppson. Second, B. Winge. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

- The news team wrapped up election related programming by producing 25 "Meet the Candidate" interviews. The interviews received over 5,100 views on the NMTV YouTube channel and the post election results story was viewed 2,860 times. Candidate biographies were clicked on over 18,000 times.
- NMTV staff recorded the annual Blaine High School Veterans Day program.
- Plans are underway to live stream the annual Guns N Hoses charity hockey event.
- Arrive Alive is back after a two year hiatus. It is a very intense production that involves planning, days of shooting, obtaining drone shots, hours of editing and coverage of the final presentation. Organizational meetings are currently taking place.
- Closed captioning continues to function pretty well. Problems arise, but have been dealt with successfully.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter franchise and PEG fee reports were reviewed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- H. Arnson gave an update regarding the pay study. A consultant has been hired to review the data and make recommendations regarding any step changes. Based on the data, the Operations Committee recommended that the Cable Commission approve an increase of 1.25% to the 2023 budgeted COLA right away. That would bring the 2023 COLA to 4%. Because of recent staff changes the increase will not adversely affect the budget.

**MOTION:** To recommend adjusting the NMTC 2023 COLA from 2.75% to 4%. **Motion made by J. Jeppson. Second, B. Winge. Motion passed unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Staff recommended that the Committee move their first meetings, in 2023, from March to February. Several items should be addressed earlier in the year.

**MOTION:** To recommend changing the first Commission meetings of 2023 from March 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, to February 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. **Motion made by J. Jeppson. Second, B. Winge. Motion passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

**Motion to adjourn made by B. Goodboe-Bisschoff. Second, J. Jeppson. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.**

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

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began at 11:27 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

M. Wolfe, P. Antonen, D. Buchholtz, S. Cotton, M. Statz,

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

D. Webster, B. Petracek

**OTHERS PRESENT**

H. Arnson

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES**

The meeting notes of September 6, 2022 were approved by consensus.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

- Eric Nelson was introduced to the group. He is the new News Reporter/Anchor/Host, hired to replace Rusty Ray.
- Closed captioning is working, but continues to have hiccups. The newest issue regards the size of video files the ENCO system is able to caption. Additional steps are required to caption large files at this time. An updated version of the software is available. Hopefully it allows for captioning of larger video files.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- H. Arnson stated that she continues to work on the strategic plan and that it should be ready by December.
- A sub-committee of the Operations Committee met to discuss steps for moving forward with the pay study. A consultant will be hired to review the compensation data and job descriptions. It is possible that this could be completed this year. It was recommended that the COLA increase for 2023 be increased from 2.75% to 4%. After the compensation review is completed, any market increases could be added. It was noted that if the study is not completed by the end of 2022, back-pay might be possible.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- H. Arnson reported that there had been attempted check fraud on the Commission account. The fraud was discovered and no funds were lost. Additional steps have been taken to prevent fraud on the account.
- M. Wolfe reminded the group that the Executive Director annual review should be scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

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

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began at 11:09 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

M. Wolfe, P. Antonen, D. Buchholtz, S. Cotton, M. Statz,

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

D. Webster, B. Petracek

**OTHERS PRESENT**

H. Arnson

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES**

The meeting notes of October 4, 2022 were approved by consensus.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

- Twenty-five Local Decision 2022 candidate interviews have been recorded and are available on the NMTV Youtube channel. New hire, Eric Nelson, hosted the interviews and did a great job of keeping the interviews conversational and the guests comfortable. Danika and Eric plan to produce a live election night results show as well.
- Closed captioning continues to function with some hiccups. Programming Coordinator, Michele Silvester, is finding ways to work around the problems. She communicates all issues with the vendors and they are working toward solutions.
- Sports programming is very popular on the NMTV Youtube channel. In the last two months sports have been watched over 32,000 times.
- Third quarter Comcast PEG and franchise fee reports were reviewed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- H. Arnson stated that she continues to work on the strategic plan and that it should be ready by December.
- An update was given regarding the progress on the pay study. Dan Tesch is working on a scope of work.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- M. Wolfe recommended a schedule for the Executive Director annual review.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

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

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began at 11:36 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

D. Webster, M. Wolfe, P. Antonen, S. Cotton, M. Statz

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

D. Buchholtz, B. Petracek

**OTHERS PRESENT**

H. Arnson

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES**

The meeting notes of November 1, 2022 were approved by consensus.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

- NMTV staff covered the annual Veterans Day program at Blaine High School. Usually the event is live streamed, but the school had internet issues. It can be found on all of North Metro TV's playback platforms.
- Special events Coordinator, T.J. Tronson, is scheduled to live stream and record the annual Guns N Hoses charity hockey game in February. This year the organization is hoping to stream the event to channel 45 as well.
- Work has begun on the annual Arrive Alive event. T.J. Tronson has been meeting with Centennial representatives to go over plans. It will involve days of shooting, obtaining drone shots, hours of editing and coverage of the final presentation. The final product is usually quite powerful. NMTV is looking to charge a small fee for coverage of such events moving forward.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- H. Arnson gave an update regarding preparations for upcoming staff retirements.
- It was reported that the pay study is moving forward, and that a final recommendation is forthcoming.
- The 2023 – 2025 NMTC Strategic Plan was reviewed. Goals included diversifying income, determining desired services and staffing, and preparing for leadership transition. The plan was presented in draft form. After any comments or further suggestions from the Committee, the Plan could receive final approval at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- The Committee canceled the January 3, 2023 Operations Committee meeting.
- The Committee discussed the Executive Director's annual review.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION  
BILL LIST**

SEPTEMBER 2022

<b>Date</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
SEPTEMBER	COMBINED	PAYROLL	46,711.07	WAGES
SEPTEMBER	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	14,594.64	WAGES
SEPTEMBER	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,461.29	WAGES
SEPTEMBER	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,901.25	WAGES
SEPTEMBER	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	46.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
SEPTEMBER	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	1,127.88	HEALTH SAVINGS EMPLOYEE
14065	9/4/22	Richard D. Larson	316.00	JANITORIAL
14066	9/6/22	Stanley Access Tech LLC	220.00	BUILDING MAINTENANCE
14067	9/6/22	Siemens Industry, Inc	826.12	ANNUAL CONTRACT-FIRE
14068	9/7/22	Raymond A. Campos	2.43	MILEAGE/EXPENSES
14069	9/8/22	INTERSTATE COMPANIES, INC	1,201.13	ANNUAL CONTRACT-GENERATORS
14070	9/20/22	Bradley Werner, LLC	450.00	LEGAL-GENERAL
14071	9/27/22	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	1,080.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
14072	9/27/22	Corporate Mechanical	17,664.00	MASTER CONTROL SYSTEM REPL
14073	9/27/22	Aid Electric Corporation	454.52	MASTER CONTROL/PROP ROOM
14074	9/30/22	Sam Eckstrom	100.00	STIPEND
14075	9/30/22	Arman Sarda	350.00	STIPEND
EFILE	9/1/22	Authorize.Net	35.17	MONTHLY SERVICE
EFILE	9/15/22	Chase Visa Card Services	3,797.73	OS/STUDIO/PARTS/SFTWR
EFILE	9/1/22	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-01	9/1/22	Principal Financial Group	624.59	STD/LTD/LIFE/ADD
EPAY-02	9/2/22	POPP TELECOM	249.97	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-03	9/3/22	Comcast	541.27	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-04	9/3/22	T-Mobile	102.40	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-06	9/12/22	Circle K Station Stores	344.98	GAS/OIL
EPAY-07	9/12/22	AT&T Wireless	310.97	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-08	9/14/22	Republic Services	374.51	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-09	9/15/22	CenterPoint Energy	30.54	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-11	9/16/22	U.S. Bank Card Service	452.20	ZOOM/AD/MRKT/OS/STUDIO
EPAY-12	9/22/22	HealthPartners	11,536.60	HEALTH/DENTAL
EPAY-13	9/26/22	City of Blaine-utilities	434.19	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-14	9/26/22	Connexus Energy	2,500.71	MONTHLY SERVICE
AUG SALES TAX	9/15/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	150.00	SALES TAX
TEMP	9/27/22	Temporary Adjustment	95.00	TEMP-TO BE REVERSED

**117,097.16**

# North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Balance Sheet  
September 30, 2022

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Cash - Checking Account	\$	2,493,017.72	
Petty Cash		150.00	
A/R - NMTC		174,710.09	
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC		11,459.00	
Total Current Assets			2,679,336.81

### Property and Equipment

Office Equipment - NMTC	1,488,709.00	
Accum Deprec - NMTC	(3,579,966.46)	
Bond Equipment 2016	1,985,000.00	
Building-Polk/125	1,613,485.84	
Land-Polk/125	225,700.00	
Total Property and Equipment		1,732,928.38

### Other Assets

Deferred Out Related/Pension	299,695.00	
Total Other Assets		299,695.00

Total Assets	\$	4,711,960.19
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## LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

### Current Liabilities

A/P - NMTC	\$	18,264.99	
Accrued Payroll Taxes & W/H's		449.54	
PERA - CORRECTIONS		(503.59)	
Garnished Wages		86.40	
Garnished Wages		(86.40)	
PERA PAYABLE - PRIOR		(3,371.42)	
Accrued Vacation		107,313.36	
Franchise Fee App		926,091.63	
Due to City of Blaine		339,318.00	
Due to City of Centerville		21,042.00	
Due to City of Circle Pines		30,176.50	
Due to City of Ham Lake		87,948.00	
Due to City of Lexington		11,187.00	
Due to City of Lino Lakes		103,950.00	
Due to City of Spring Lake Par		36,288.00	
Deferred In Related/Pension		392,476.00	
Total Current Liabilities			2,070,630.01

### Long-Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	418,504.00	
Total Long-Term Liabilities		418,504.00

Total Liabilities		2,489,134.01
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### Capital

Net Equity	193,814.23	
Net Equity - Media Ctr	(206,243.34)	
Net Equity - NMTC	2,517,656.37	
Net Income	(282,401.08)	
Total Capital		2,222,826.18

Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	4,711,960.19
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# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Check Register

For the Period From Sep 1, 2022 to Sep 30, 2022

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

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	9/1/22	Authorize.Net	35.17
EFILE	9/1/22	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00
EPAY-01	9/1/22	Principal Financial Group	624.59
EPAY-02	9/2/22	POPP TELECOM	249.97
EPAY-04	9/3/22	T-Mobile	102.40
EPAY-03	9/3/22	Comcast	541.27
14065	9/4/22	Richard D. Larson	316.00
14066	9/6/22	Stanley Access Tech LLC	220.00
14067	9/6/22	Siemens Industry, Inc	826.12
EFILE	9/7/22	Discovery Benefits	577.69
14068	9/7/22	Raymond A. Campos	2.43
14069	9/8/22	INTERSTATE COMPANIES, INC	1,201.13
EFILE	9/9/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,148.99
EFILE	9/9/22	Public Employees Retirement	3,792.77
EFILE	9/9/22	IRS/US BANK	6,486.59
PEACH	9/9/22	Peachtree/Sage Software	24.00
EPAY-07	9/12/22	AT&T Wireless	310.97
EPAY-06	9/12/22	Circle K Station Stores	344.98
EPAY-08	9/14/22	Republic Services	374.51
EPAY-09	9/15/22	CenterPoint Energy	30.54
AUG SALES TAX	9/15/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	150.00
EFILE	9/15/22	Chase Visa Card Services	3,797.73
EPAY-11	9/16/22	U.S. Bank Card Service	452.20
14070	9/20/22	Bradley Werner, LLC	450.00
EFILE	9/21/22	Discovery Benefits	527.69
EPAY-12	9/22/22	HealthPartners	11,536.60
EFILE	9/23/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,130.45
EFILE	9/23/22	Public Employees Retirement	3,610.42
EFILE	9/23/22	IRS/US BANK	6,255.18

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Check Register

For the Period From Sep 1, 2022 to Sep 30, 2022

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

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
PEACH	9/23/22	Peachtree/Sage Software	22.00
EFILE	9/25/22	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EPAY-13	9/26/22	City of Blaine-utilities	434.19
EPAY-14	9/26/22	Connexus Energy	2,500.71
14071	9/27/22	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	1,080.00
14072	9/27/22	Corporate Mechanical	17,664.00
14073	9/27/22	Aid Electric Corporation	454.52
TEMP	9/27/22	Temporary Adjustment	95.00
EFILE	9/30/22	Public Employees Retirement	498.06
EFILE	9/30/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	181.85
EFILE	9/30/22	IRS/US BANK	1,852.87
14074	9/30/22	Sam Eckstrom	100.00
14075	9/30/22	Arman Sarda	350.00
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>70,386.09</u></b>

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Cash Receipts Journal

For the Period From Sep 1, 2022 to Sep 30, 2022

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amnt	Credit Amnt
9/8/22	PRODUCTION TRUCK	PRODUCTION TRUCK-NATL SPORTS CENTER Miscellaneous receipts	15,000.00	15,000.00
9/29/22	SEPT CC SALES-SQUAR	SEPTEMBER CC SALES-SQUARE SEPTEMBER CC SALES-SQUARE-FEES Credit Card Sales	47.46 1,795.11	1,842.57
9/29/22	PAYPAL	PAYPAL PAYPAL-FEES PAYPAL	1.19 18.81	20.00
9/29/22	SEPT CC SALES-AUTH	SEPTEMBER CC SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET SEPTEMBER CC SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET-FEES Credit Card Sales	1.16 38.84	40.00
9/30/22	INTEREST	INTEREST INTEREST - COMMISSION	4,689.68	4,689.68
			<u>21,592.25</u>	<u>21,592.25</u>

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## General Journal

For the Period From Sep 1, 2022 to Sep 30, 2022

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
9/1/22	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	107,384.33	107,384.33
9/1/22	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	22,121.60	22,121.60
9/30/22	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
9/30/22	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	107,313.36	107,313.36
	<b>Total</b>		<b>249,719.29</b>	<b>249,719.29</b>

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION  
BILL LIST**

OCTOBER 2022

<b>Date</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
OCTOBER	COMBINED	PAYROLL	46,257.00 <b>WAGES</b>
OCTOBER	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	14,213.68 <b>WAGES</b>
OCTOBER	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,396.85 <b>WAGES</b>
OCTOBER	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,510.68 <b>WAGES</b>
OCTOBER	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	46.00 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
OCTOBER	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	3,577.88 <b>HEALTH SAVINGS EMPLOYEE</b>
10/4/22	14076	Bradley Werner, LLC	1,053.25 <b>LEGAL-GENERAL</b>
10/4/22	14077	B Harris, Inc.	675.00 <b>QUARTERLY SERVICE</b>
10/4/22	14078	Richard D. Larson	407.50 <b>JANITORIAL</b>
10/6/22	14079	AvriElle Becker	200.00 <b>STIPEND</b>
10/6/22	14080	Nicolas Falgetelli	172.50 <b>STIPEND</b>
10/6/22	14081	Derek Thury	165.00 <b>STIPEND</b>
10/7/22	14082	Eric Houston	43.65 <b>EXPENSES</b>
10/7/22	14083	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	1,030.00 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/13/22	14084	Harrington Langer & Associates	2,000.00 <b>2021 AUDIT FINAL</b>
10/13/22	14085	Metro Sales, Inc.	891.00 <b>QUARTERLY CONTRACT</b>
10/13/22	14087	Joe Buscher	60.00 <b>STIPEND</b>
10/20/22	14088	Miles Mullaney	270.00 <b>STIPEND</b>
10/20/22	14089	Arman Sarda	350.00 <b>STIPEND</b>
10/25/22	14090	Commercial Steam Team	1,234.80 <b>SEMI-ANNUAL CARPETS</b>
10/31/22	BANK FEES	Bank Reconcilliation Fee	3.00 <b>FEES</b>
10/31/22	DVD REFUND	REFUND OF PURCHASE	40.00 <b>REFUND</b>
10/1/22	EFILE	Authorize.Net	34.29 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/15/22	EFILE	Chase Visa Card Services	1,840.52 <b>OS/MEDIA/STUDIO/SFTWR</b>
10/1/22	EFILE	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	109.99 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/1/22	EPAY-01	Principal Financial Group	624.59 <b>STD/LTD/LIFE/ADD</b>
10/2/22	EPAY-02	POPP TELECOM	249.97 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/3/22	EPAY-03	Comcast	541.27 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/3/22	EPAY-04	T-Mobile	102.40 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/4/22	EPAY-05	Speedway	102.07 <b>GAS/OIL</b>
10/7/22	EPAY-06	Circle K Station Stores	314.77 <b>GAS/OIL</b>
10/12/22	EPAY-07	AT&T Wireless	310.97 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/14/22	EPAY-08	Republic Services	371.14 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/15/22	EPAY-09	CenterPoint Energy	32.52 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/15/22	EPAY-10	Comcast Business 1000M/1000M	627.31 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/16/22	EPAY-11	U.S. Bank Card Service	136.14 <b>ZOOM/AD/MRKT/OS/STUDIO</b>
10/22/22	EPAY-12	HealthPartners	10,323.28 <b>HEALTH/DENTAL</b>
10/26/22	EPAY-13	City of Blaine-utilities	434.19 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/26/22	EPAY-14	Connexus Energy	2,214.37 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
10/15/22	SEPT SALES TAX	MN Dept. of Revenue	126.00 <b>SALES TAX</b>

**101,093.58**

# North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Balance Sheet  
October 31, 2022

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Cash - Checking Account	\$	2,867,052.56
Petty Cash		150.00
A/R - NMTC		174,710.09
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC		11,459.00

Total Current Assets 3,053,371.65

### Property and Equipment

Office Equipment - NMTC	1,488,709.00
Accum Deprec - NMTC	(3,592,866.46)
Bond Equipment 2016	1,985,000.00
Building-Polk/125	1,613,485.84
Land-Polk/125	225,700.00

Total Property and Equipment 1,720,028.38

### Other Assets

Deferred Out Related/Pension	299,695.00
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Total Other Assets 299,695.00

Total Assets \$ 5,073,095.03

## LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

### Current Liabilities

A/P - NMTC	\$	18,264.99
Accrued Payroll Taxes & W/H's		449.54
PERA - CORRECTIONS		(503.59)
Garnished Wages		86.40
Garnished Wages		(86.40)
PERA PAYABLE - PRIOR		(3,371.42)
Accrued Vacation		108,307.68
Accrued Wages		2,737.12
Franchise Fee App		926,091.63
Due to City of Blaine		339,318.00
Due to City of Centerville		21,042.00
Due to City of Circle Pines		30,176.50
Due to City of Ham Lake		87,948.00
Due to City of Lexington		11,187.00
Due to City of Lino Lakes		103,950.00
Due to City of Spring Lake Par		36,288.00
Deferred In Related/Pension		392,476.00

Total Current Liabilities 2,074,361.45

### Long-Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	418,504.00
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Total Long-Term Liabilities 418,504.00

Total Liabilities 2,492,865.45

### Capital

Net Equity	193,814.23
Net Equity - Media Ctr	(206,243.34)
Net Equity - NMTC	2,517,656.37
Net Income	75,002.32

Total Capital 2,580,229.58

Total Liabilities & Capital \$ 5,073,095.03

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Cash Receipts Journal

For the Period From Oct 1, 2022 to Oct 31, 2022

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amnt	Credit Amnt
10/1/22	OCT CC SALES-AUTH	OCTOBER CC SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET		40.00
		OCTOBER CC	1.34	
		SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET-FEES		
		Credit Card Sales	38.66	
10/1/22	FRAUD REDEPOSIT	REDEPOSIT OF CHECKS THOUGHT FRAUD-CORRECTING ENTRY		1,293.18
		Miscellaneous receipts	1,293.18	
10/19/2	TAPE DUBS-CASH	TAPE DUBS-CASH		541.00
		Miscellaneous receipts	541.00	
10/19/2	CONNEXUS REFUND	CONNEXUS REFUND		1,946.27
		Miscellaneous receipts	1,946.27	
10/19/2	PRODUCTION TRUCK	PRODUCTION TRUCK		1,200.00
		Miscellaneous receipts	1,200.00	
10/19/2	STUDIO RENTAL	STUDIO RENTAL		321.38
		Miscellaneous receipts	321.38	
10/19/2	PRIVATE CLASS	PRIVATE CLASS		85.70
		Miscellaneous receipts	85.70	
10/27/2	OCT CC SALES-AUTH	OCTOBER CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTH.NET		40.00
		Credit Card Sales	40.00	
10/28/2	3RD QTR FRAN FEE	3RD QTR FRAN FEE		299,519.97
		Comcast-Franchise	299,519.97	
10/28/2	3RD QTR PEG FEE	3RD QTR PEG FEE		163,322.19
		Comcast-PEG Fees	163,322.19	
10/29/2	OCT CC SALES-SQUAR	OCTOBER CREDIT CARD SALES-SQUARE		927.73
		OCTOBER CREDIT CARD	24.18	
		SALES-SQUARE-FEES		
		Credit Card Sales	903.55	
10/30/2	SEPTEMBER PAYPAL	PAYPAL		20.00
		PAYPAL-FEES	1.19	
		PAYPAL	18.81	
10/31/2	INTEREST	INTEREST		5,897.71
		INTEREST - COMMISSION	5,897.71	
			<b>475,155.13</b>	<b>475,155.13</b>

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Check Register

For the Period From Oct 1, 2022 to Oct 31, 2022

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

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	10/1/22	Authorize.Net	34.29
EFILE	10/1/22	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	109.99
EPAY-01	10/1/22	Principal Financial Group	624.59
EPAY-02	10/2/22	POPP TELECOM	249.97
EPAY-04	10/3/22	T-Mobile	102.40
EPAY-03	10/3/22	Comcast	541.27
14078	10/4/22	Richard D. Larson	407.50
EPAY-05	10/4/22	Speedway	102.07
14076	10/4/22	Bradley Werner, LLC	1,053.25
14077	10/4/22	B Harris, Inc.	675.00
EFILE	10/5/22	Discovery Benefits	527.69
14079	10/6/22	AvriElle Becker	200.00
14080	10/6/22	Nicolas Falgetelli	172.50
14081	10/6/22	Derek Thury	165.00
EFILE	10/7/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,125.64
EFILE	10/7/22	Public Employees Retirement	3,596.98
EFILE	10/7/22	IRS/US BANK	6,231.52
EPAY-06	10/7/22	Circle K Station Stores	314.77
PEACH	10/7/22	Peachtree/Sage Software	22.00
14083	10/7/22	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	1,030.00
14082	10/7/22	Eric Houston	43.65
EPAY-07	10/12/22	AT&T Wireless	310.97
14084	10/13/22	Harrington Langer & Associates	2,000.00
14085	10/13/22	Metro Sales, Inc.	891.00
14087	10/13/22	Joe Buscher	60.00
EPAY-08	10/14/22	Republic Services	371.14
EPAY-09	10/15/22	CenterPoint Energy	32.52
SEPT SALES TAX	10/15/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	126.00
EFILE	10/15/22	Chase Visa Card Services	1,840.52

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Check Register

For the Period From Oct 1, 2022 to Oct 31, 2022

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

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EPAY-10	10/15/22	Comcast Business 1000M/1000M	627.31
EPAY-11	10/16/22	U.S. Bank Card Service	136.14
EFILE	10/19/22	Discovery Benefits	527.69
14088	10/20/22	Miles Mullaney	270.00
14089	10/20/22	Arman Sarda	350.00
EFILE	10/21/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,110.91
EFILE	10/21/22	Public Employees Retirement	3,611.45
EFILE	10/21/22	IRS/US BANK	6,147.97
PEACH	10/21/22	Peachtree/Sage Software	24.00
EPAY-12	10/22/22	HealthPartners	10,323.28
EFILE	10/25/22	Discovery Benefits	22.50
14090	10/25/22	Commercial Steam Team	1,234.80
EFILE	10/25/22	Discovery Benefits	2,500.00
EPAY-13	10/26/22	City of Blaine-utilities	434.19
EPAY-14	10/26/22	Connexus Energy	2,214.37
EFILE	10/31/22	Public Employees Retirement	302.25
EFILE	10/31/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	160.30
EFILE	10/31/22	IRS/US BANK	1,834.19
BANK RECONCILLIATION	10/31/22	Bank Reconciliation Fee	3.00
DVD REFUND	10/31/22	REFUND OF PURCHASE	40.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>54,836.58</b>

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## General Journal

For the Period From Oct 1, 2022 to Oct 31, 2022

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
10/1/22	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	107,313.36	107,313.36
10/31/22	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
10/31/22	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	108,307.68	108,307.68
10/31/22	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	2,737.12	2,737.12
	<b>Total</b>		<b>231,258.16</b>	<b>231,258.16</b>

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION  
BILL LIST**

NOVEMBER 2022

<b>Date</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
NOVEMBER	COMBINED	PAYROLL	39,636.07 <b>WAGES</b>
NOVEMBER	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	13,319.67 <b>WAGES</b>
NOVEMBER	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,301.61 <b>WAGES</b>
NOVEMBER	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,484.01 <b>WAGES</b>
NOVEMBER	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	48.00 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
NOVEMBER	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	1,605.57 <b>HEALTH SAVINGS EMPLOYEE</b>
14091	11/2/22	Richard D. Larson	328.50 <b>JANITORIAL/MAINTENANCE</b>
14092	11/2/22	Footage Firm, Inc	8,200.00 <b>STORYBLOCKS/ANNUAL</b>
14093	11/2/22	Metro Sales, Inc.	255.00 <b>REMAPPING</b>
14094	11/4/22	Bradley Werner, LLC	412.50 <b>LEGAL/GENERAL</b>
14095	11/12/22	Ben Provost	500.00 <b>STIPEND</b>
14096	11/12/22	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	775.00 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
14097	11/28/22	Corporate Mechanical	6,894.00 <b>GARAGE HEAT UNIT REPLACED</b>
14098	11/28/22	Aid Electric Corporation	2,200.00 <b>MASTER CONTROL</b>
EFILE	11/1/22	Authorize.Net	36.95 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EFILE	11/15/22	Chase Visa Card Services	6,869.16 <b>OS/MEDIA/STUDIO/SFTWR</b>
EFILE	11/1/22	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
BANK FEE	11/30/22	Bank Reconciliation Fee	156.17 <b>BANK FEE</b>
EPAY-01	11/1/22	Principal Financial Group	483.68 <b>STD/LTD/LIFE/ADD</b>
EPAY-02	11/2/22	POPP TELECOM	247.66 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EPAY-03	11/3/22	Comcast	541.27 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EPAY-04	11/3/22	T-Mobile	102.40 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EPAY-06	11/7/22	Circle K Station Stores	120.49 <b>GAS/OIL</b>
EPAY-07	11/12/22	AT&T Wireless	310.97 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EPAY-08	11/14/22	Republic Services	373.03 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EPAY-09	11/15/22	CenterPoint Energy	56.93 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EPAY-10	11/15/22	Comcast Business 1000M/1000M	1,237.44 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EPAY-11	11/16/22	U.S. Bank Card Service	117.96 <b>ZOOM/AD/BATRY/OS/SFTWR</b>
EPAY-12	11/22/22	HealthPartners	14,717.65 <b>HEALTH/DENTAL</b>
EPAY-13	11/26/22	City of Blaine-utilities	191.49 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EPAY-14	11/26/22	Connexus Energy	1,790.29 <b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>
EFILE	11/4/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	385.41 <b>GARNISH</b>
TEMP	11/21/22	Temporary Adjustment	95.00 <b>TEMP-TO BE REVERSED</b>
OCT SALES TAX	11/15/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	137.00 <b>SALES TAX</b>

**111,940.88**

# North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Balance Sheet  
November 30, 2022

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Cash - Checking Account	\$ 2,765,538.47
Petty Cash	150.00
A/R - NMTC	174,710.09
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC	11,459.00

Total Current Assets 2,951,857.56

### Property and Equipment

Office Equipment - NMTC	1,488,709.00
Accum Deprec - NMTC	(3,605,766.46)
Bond Equipment 2016	1,985,000.00
Building-Polk/125	1,613,485.84
Land-Polk/125	225,700.00

Total Property and Equipment 1,707,128.38

### Other Assets

Deferred Out Related/Pension	299,695.00
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Total Other Assets 299,695.00

Total Assets \$ 4,958,680.94

## LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

### Current Liabilities

A/P - NMTC	\$ 18,264.99
Accrued Payroll Taxes & W/H's	449.54
Fed/Fica/Medicare	45.90
State Withholding	(385.41)
PERA - CORRECTIONS	(503.59)
Garnished Wages	86.40
Garnished Wages	684.42
PERA PAYABLE - PRIOR	(3,371.42)
Accrued Vacation	109,199.98
Accrued Wages	8,211.36
Franchise Fee App	926,091.63
Due to City of Blaine	339,318.00
Due to City of Centerville	21,042.00
Due to City of Circle Pines	30,176.50
Due to City of Ham Lake	87,948.00
Due to City of Lexington	11,187.00
Due to City of Lino Lakes	103,950.00
Due to City of Spring Lake Par	36,288.00
Deferred In Related/Pension	392,476.00

Total Current Liabilities 2,081,159.30

### Long-Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	418,504.00
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Total Long-Term Liabilities 418,504.00

Total Liabilities 2,499,663.30

### Capital

Net Equity	193,814.23
Net Equity - Media Ctr	(206,243.34)
Net Equity - NMTC	2,517,656.37
Net Income	(46,209.62)

Total Capital 2,459,017.64

Total Liabilities & Capital \$ 4,958,680.94

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Cash Receipts Journal

For the Period From Nov 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2022

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amnt	Credit Amnt
11/7/22	OCT CC SALES-SQUAR	OCTOBER CREDIT CARD SALES-SQUARE		42.86
		OCTOBER CREDIT CARD SALES-SQUARE-FEES	1.80	
		Credit Card Sales	41.06	
11/21/2	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS Miscellaneous receipts	707.03	707.03
11/22/2	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS Miscellaneous receipts	75.00	75.00
11/23/2	NOV CC SALES-AUTH	NOVEMBER CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTH.NET		40.00
		NOVEMBER CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTH.NET-FEES	1.42	
		Credit Card Sales	38.58	
11/24/2	NOVEMBER PAYPAL	NOVEMBER PAYPAL NOVEMBER PAYPAL-FEES PAYPAL	1.89 38.11	40.00
11/25/2	TRUCK PRODUCTION	TRUCK PRODUCTION Miscellaneous receipts	1,071.25	1,071.25
11/28/2	NOV CC SALES-SQUAR	NOVEMBER CREDIT CARD SALES-SQUARE		610.62
		NOVEMBER CREDIT CARD SALES-SQUARE-FEES	16.56	
		Credit Card Sales	594.06	
11/30/2	INTEREST	INTEREST INTEREST - COMMISSION	8,048.46	8,048.46
			<u>10,635.22</u>	<u>10,635.22</u>

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Check Register

For the Period From Nov 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2022

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

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	11/1/22	Authorize.Net	36.95
EFILE	11/1/22	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00
EPAY-01	11/1/22	Principal Financial Group	483.68
EFILE	11/2/22	Discovery Benefits	527.69
EPAY-02	11/2/22	POPP TELECOM	247.66
14091	11/2/22	Richard D. Larson	328.50
14092	11/2/22	Footage Firm, Inc	8,200.00
14093	11/2/22	Metro Sales, Inc.	255.00
EPAY-04	11/3/22	T-Mobile	102.40
EPAY-03	11/3/22	Comcast	541.27
EFILE	11/4/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,085.90
EFILE	11/4/22	Public Employees Retirement	3,535.22
EFILE	11/4/22	IRS/US BANK	6,010.25
14094	11/4/22	Bradley Werner, LLC	412.50
PEACH	11/4/22	Peachtree/Sage Software	24.00
GARNISH	11/4/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	385.41
EPAY-06	11/7/22	Circle K Station Stores	120.49
EPAY-07	11/12/22	AT&T Wireless	310.97
14095	11/12/22	Ben Provost	500.00
14096	11/12/22	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	775.00
EPAY-08	11/14/22	Republic Services	373.03
EPAY-09	11/15/22	CenterPoint Energy	56.93
OCT SALES TAX	11/15/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	137.00
EFILE	11/15/22	Chase Visa Card Services	6,869.16
EPAY-10	11/15/22	Comcast Business 1000M/1000M	1,237.44
EPAY-11	11/16/22	U.S. Bank Card Service	117.96
EFILE	11/16/22	Discovery Benefits	527.69
EFILE	11/18/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,213.41
EFILE	11/18/22	Public Employees Retirement	3,853.24

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## Check Register

For the Period From Nov 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2022

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

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	11/18/22	IRS/US BANK	6,645.79
PEACH	11/18/22	Peachtree/Sage Software	24.00
FRAUD	11/21/22	Temporary Adjustment	95.00
EPAY-12	11/22/22	HealthPartners	14,717.65
EFILE	11/25/22	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EPAY-13	11/26/22	City of Blaine-utilities	191.49
EPAY-14	11/26/22	Connexus Energy	1,790.29
14097	11/28/22	Corporate Mechanical	6,894.00
14098	11/28/22	Aid Electric Corporation	2,200.00
EFILE	11/30/22	Public Employees Retirement	95.55
EFILE	11/30/22	MN Dept. of Revenue	2.30
EFILE	11/30/22	IRS/US BANK	663.63
EFILE	11/30/22	Discovery Benefits	527.69
BANK RECONCILLIATION	11/30/22	Bank Reconcilliation Fee	156.17
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>72,304.81</u></b>

# North Metro Telecommunications Comm

## General Journal

For the Period From Nov 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2022

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
11/1/22	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	108,307.68	108,307.68
11/1/22	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	2,737.12	2,737.12
11/30/22	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
11/30/22	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	109,199.98	109,199.98
11/30/22	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	8,211.36	8,211.36
Total			241,356.14	241,356.14

# North Metro TV

November 2022 Update

## Program Production

In November, a total of **72 new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **77:45:00 hours of new programming**.

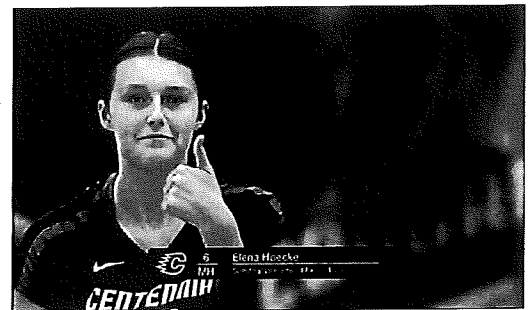
- 32 programs were produced by the public
- 36 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 4 programs were produced by City staff



## Van Shoots

The HD production truck was utilized for 13:45:00 hours of production in November. The following events were produced live and/or recorded for additional playback:

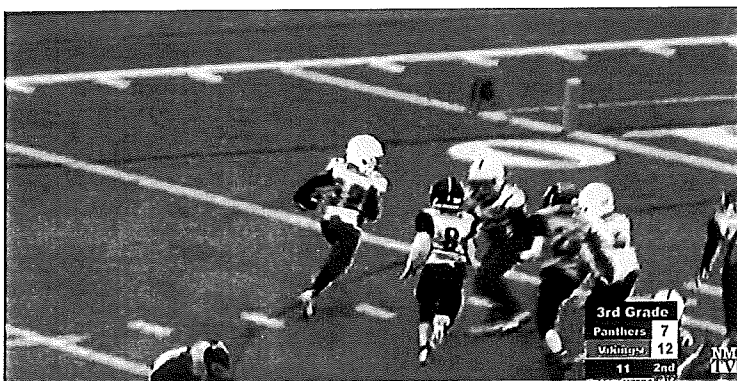
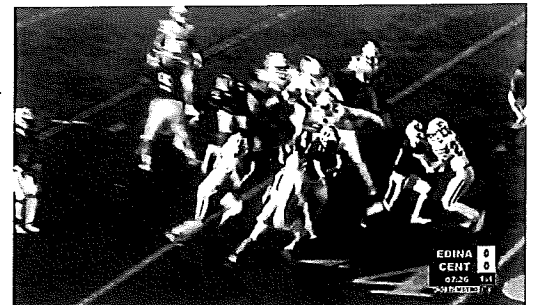
- Football: 4AAAAA Championship: Rogers vs. Spring Lake Park
- Volleyball: 7AAAA Championship: Forest Lake vs. Centennial



## vMix Live Streaming Shoots

The vMix single camera production system was utilized to record/stream 4 events. The vMix system requires significantly fewer staff members than the production truck. vMix crews are spread out over multiple locations and connected via the internet.

- Football: Section Final: Edina vs. Centennial



## Most Viewed YouTube Sports Event

North Metro Youth Football  
227 Views

## Live Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Camera Operation	Eric Houston	Blaine High School Business Professionals of America	5
<b>1 Live Workshop</b>			<b>5 Students</b>

## VOD Workshop Views

Workshop	Type	# of Views	Hours Viewed
Batman's Greatest Villains	Mini	48	3.5 hrs
Columbo: One More Thing	Mini	2476	330 hrs
King of the Cowboys 4 – John Wayne	Mini	30	3 hrs
King of the Cowboys 3 – Randolph Scott	Mini	89	5.5 hrs
King of the Cowboys 2 – Autry/Rogers	Mini	104	7 hrs
King of the Cowboys 1 – Strong and Silent	Mini	29	1.75 hrs
Great British Game Shows	Mini	38	1.25 hrs
We Love Lucy: The Lucille Ball Story	Full	60	6 hrs
The Immortal Ingrid Pitt	Mini	1951	73 hrs
The Oscars: 90 Years of the Academy Awards	Full	32	4.25 hrs
Tim Curry Horror Picture Show	Mini	34	1.5 hrs
Back to the Eighties: The Decade's Biggest...	Full	11	1 hrs
James Bond: 50 Years of 007	Full	11	1.75 hrs
Eurovision: A Celebration	Mini	NA	NA
Yabba-Dabba-Dol! The Fantastic World of Hanna...	Full	517	45.5 hrs
Superman: The Man of Steel on the Silver Screen	Full	3	1.5 hrs
The Fantastic Four on the Silver Screen	Mini	NA	NA
Christmas in Hollywood	Full	6	.75 hrs
TV's Greatest Christmas Specials	Full	42	6 hrs
Chicago Christmas Classics	Mini	1882	94 hrs
Let's Go Ghostbusters: Filmation's Haunted Heroes	Mini	7	.25 hrs
Monster Movies of the 40s and 50s	Full	230	15.25 hrs
Monster Movies of the 20s and 30s	Full	16	1.75 hrs
The Presidency on Film JQA to JFK	Full	NA	NA
Monstervision: The Legend of Joe Bob Briggs	Mini	5	.25 hr
The Cult of Caroline Munro	Mini	2362	98.5 hrs
The Marilyn Monroe Story	Full	NA	NA
Nick at Nite: A TV Viewer's Dream	Mini	55	2 hrs
The Birth of Animation: Mickey, Bugs, and Betty...	Full	10	2.25 hrs
Hollywood Goes to War: World War II	Full	70	10.5 hrs
Come on Down: Game Shows of the 70s and 80s	Full	58	3.75 hrs
The Quiz Show Scandals and Other Game Shows...	Full	164	53.25 hrs
The Three Stooges: Comedy's Heavy Hitters	Full	60	1.25 hrs
The Marx Brothers: Groucho, Harpo, Chico...	Full	54	5 hrs
Mary Pickford: The World's First Movie Star	Full	NA	NA
Hollywood Goes to the Dogs: Lassie, Benji...	Full	5	.25 hrs
<b>36 VOD Workshops</b>		<b>10,463 Total Views</b>	<b>818.5 Hours Viewed</b>



## Most Viewed YouTube Workshop

Columbo: One More Thing  
2,476 Views

## YouTube Stats

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Month	Viewers	Videos Viewed	Hours Watched	New Subscribers	Total Impressions
January	18,800	28,923	2,355	74	459,857
February	18,312	29,142	2,382	29	448,149
March	19,378	29,639	1,981.50	49	463,807
April	18,750	26,754	1,631.5	48	365,914
May	20,925	30,788	2,215.25	68	444,612
June	21,792	34,138	3,073	104	382,258
July	21,999	32,663	2,252	50	346,531
August	47,542	59,753	2,281	61	394,342
September	25,107	44,813	6,611	223	432,853
October	30,304	46,767	4,502.5	196	460,186
November	33,620	38,825	2,194	93	418,215
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>276,529</b>	<b>402,205</b>	<b>31,479.25</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>4,616,724</b>

## NMTV Website Stats

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Month	Number of Users	Number of Views	Live Stream Views
January	4,665	6,102	1,681
February	4,121	10,999	1,945
March	5,916	11,617	976
April	10,913	16,299	611
May	13,815	15,970	1,030
June	5,440	10,253	1,040
July	8,900	14,724	948
August	7,291	13,460	667
September	7,996	20,346	4,185
October	9,084	23,273	3,562
November	10,117	12,469	1,733
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>88,258</b>	<b>155,512</b>	<b>18,378</b>

## Home Movie Transfers

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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	327.5	141	8	58	75	\$878.44
February	262.2	36	85	10	0	\$2,028.95
March	249.75	46	79	10	603	\$1,560.82
April	359.75	104	34	24	100	\$1,947.54
May	339.5	116	36	2	215	\$1,482.63
June	96.5	24	8	0	0	\$592.42
July	303.75	51	100	0	939	\$1,678.66
August	332	52	118	0	149	\$2,112.53
September	364.5	103	22	5	726	\$1,767.59
October	326	69	16	0	998	\$1,538.34
November	262.75	65	47	0	0	\$1,081.98
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,224.25</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>\$16,669.90</b>

## Production Highlights

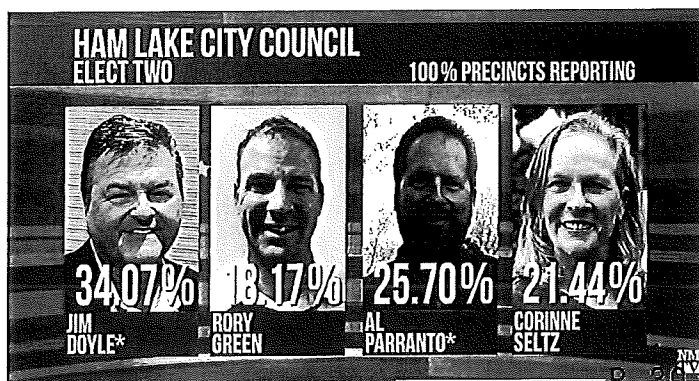
### NMTV News Highlights

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

- It's a Great Pumpkin Anoka
- School Leaders Say Distance Learning Lead to Low Test Scores
- Early November Weather Fills the Golf Course
- Spring Lake Park High School Students Build House
- Helping After the Hurricane
- Jones Family Raises Money for Stomach Cancer Research
- Local Decision 2022 Results
- The History Behind the Name Lino Lakes
- Job Fairs in Anoka County Give Job Seekers Options
- New Little Free Leadership Library at MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce
- Food Need on the Rise
- Post Election Review in Anoka County Showed No Machine Errors
- U.S. Highway 10 Road Construction Progressing; Still More Gridlock Ahead
- Blaine Public Works is Ready to Keep Roads as Safe as Possible During Snowstorms



In addition to daily playbacks of North Metro TV News on the cable systems, there are 1,150 local stories archived for viewers on the NMTV YouTube channel. The channel can be accessed through the northmetrotv.com website.

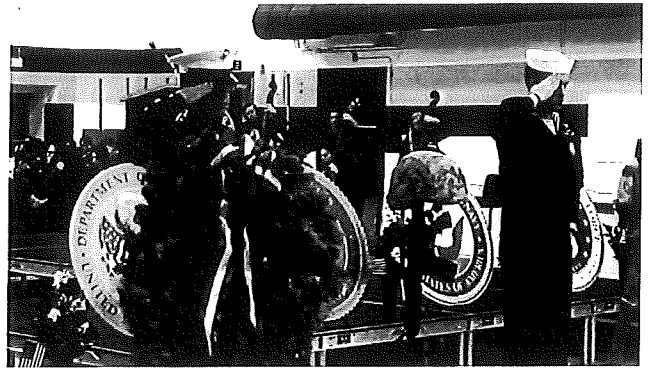


### Most Viewed YouTube News Story

Local Decision 2022 Results  
2,861 Views

## Veterans Day Program

As we do every year, NMTV worked with organizers to cover the annual Veterans Day program at Blaine High School. Special Events Coordinator, T.J. Tronson, along with three crew members, utilized our Sling studio and vMix systems with the intent of live streaming the event. Unfortunately, the school had an issue with its internet that day, and we were unable to do so. T.J. edited the event together with graphics and music, and it is available on all NMTV playback platforms.

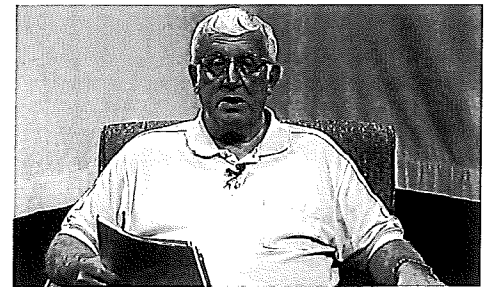


## Upcoming Events

Special Events Coordinator, T.J. Tronson, is currently working on two upcoming special projects. The first is the annual Guns N Hoses charity hockey game. The event is typically streamed live and produced as a program for future playback. This year they are hoping to stream the game to channel 45 as well. The second project is Arrive Alive. It has been a couple of years since we recorded this event, but we're excited that its back. This is a very intense production for NMTV that involves a great deal of planning, days of shooting, obtaining drone shots, hours of editing and coverage of the final presentation. The final product is usually quite powerful.

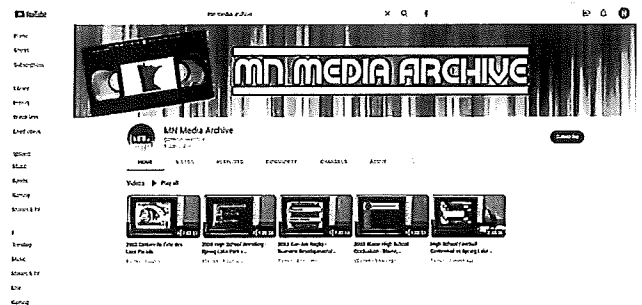
## AARP Interest in Your History

Studio Manager, Eric Houston, met with representatives from the Minnesota branch of AARP recently. They expressed interest in the "Your History" project and were open to helping us promote it. They were also interested in contracting with us to record some similar videos on their behalf. The videos would feature AARP members discussing AARP priorities.



## MN Media Archive

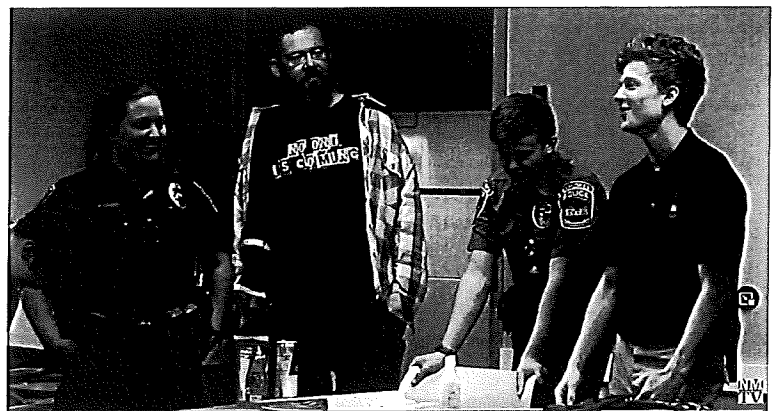
This month, Eric Houston launched the MN Media Archive. It is a new YouTube channel designed to host older videos the public may find exciting to revisit. The videos will include sports, parades, graduations and other events. Currently the Archive is only posting NMTV produced programs, but we hope to expand it to include programs from other cities and community channels. Our goal is to charge those entities a fee for digitizing and hosting their content. We will also be using the channel to promote our Home Movie transfer service by tagging all the content we post with a promo. We will be adding most of our archived events to the channel.



## City Productions

In November, Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, completed two productions. The shows include a promo for the City of Centerville and a story covering Lino Lakes Explorers recruitment. He also assisted with the annual Veterans Day program at Blaine High School and with NMTV's live election night program. Completed programs include:

- City of Centerville Mini Promo
- Lino Lakes Explorers Recruitment



New and ongoing projects include:

- Mayor's Minutes
- Lino Lakes curb recycling promo
- Business profiles
- Possible recurring Rookery segment
- City department highlights
- Police officer highlights

- Blaine Facebook live town halls

Trevor touches base with contacts on a regular basis and also encourages Cities to contact him with ideas for new videos.

## Public Access Programs

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Title	Producer	Runtime
Bad Movie Bros: I Bought A Vampire Motorcycle	Eric Houston	00:28:59
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting	Theresa Stasica	00:41:04
Christ Lutheran Church Worship (5 episodes)	Chance Amundson	04:50:53
Christ Lutheran Worship Message (4 episodes)	Chance Amundson	01:42:03
Christ Lutheran Story Time	Chance Amundson	00:30:19
Lovepower (8 episodes)	Rick Larson	08:00:00
The Power of Love (8 episodes)	Rick Larson	04:00:00
Oak Park Community Church (3 episodes)	David Turnidge	01:54:22
Hope Church On-Line	Parker Payne	00:58:47
<b>32 New Programs</b>		<b>19:32:14 New Hours</b>

## NMTV Staff Programs

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Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Board Meeting (11/8/22)	T.J. Tronson	00:36:26
Anoka County Board Meeting (11/22/22)	T.J. Tronson	00:55:51
Blaine High School Veterans Day Program 2022	T.J. Tronson	00:50:54
NMTV News (4 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Eric Nelson	01:24:07
An Un-Wise Murder: An Anoka County Historical Society True Crime Mystery	Danika Peterson	01:00:36
Centerville Mini Promo	Trevor Scholl	00:00:30
Lino Lakes Explorers Recruitment	Trevor Scholl	00:06:02
Football: 4AAAAA Championship: Rogers/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/Ted Leroux	02:00:38
Volleyball: 7AAAA Championship: Forest Lake/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Ted Leroux	01:45:43
Football: Section Final: Edina/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Ted Leroux	01:59:38
Sports Den	Kenton Kipp/Ted Leroux	00:20:16
Sports Den Fall Season Finale	Kenton Kipp/Ted Leroux	00:29:22
<b>15 New Programs</b>		<b>11:30:03 New Hours</b>

## City Meetings

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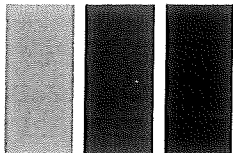
Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (11/7/22)	T.J. Tronson	0:41:16
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (11/9/22)	T.J. Tronson	02:13:19
Blaine Natural Resources Conservation Board Meeting (11/15/22)	Trevor Scholl	00:31:34
Blaine City Council Meeting (11/21/22)	Trevor Scholl	01:12:35
Blaine Park Board Meeting (11/22/22)	Trevor Scholl	00:41:35
Centerville Planning & Zoning Meeting (11/1/22)	John Murphy	01:47:00

Centerville Park & Rec Meeting (11/2/22)	John Murphy	01:57:41
Centerville City Council Meeting (11/9/22)	Teresa Bender	01:07:04
Centerville Special City Council Meeting (11/16/22)	Teresa Bender	00:12:47
Centerville EDA Meeting (11/19/22)	John Murphy	01:23:10
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (11/9/22)	Patrick Willson	00:32:35
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (11/16/22)	Patrick Willson	01:41:25
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (11/22/22)	Patrick Willson	01:23:41
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (11/7/22)	Ray Campos	00:15:10
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (11/14/22)	Patrick Willson	00:08:07
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (11/21/22)	Patrick Willson	00:43:58
Lexington City Council Meeting (11/3/22)	Lexington Staff	00:17:50
Lexington City Council Meeting (11/17/22)	Lexington Staff	01:07:32
Lino Lakes Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (11/9/22)	Anne Serwe	02:10:56
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (11/14/22)	Anne Serwe	00:23:05
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (11/28/22)	Anne Serwe	00:32:46
Lino Lakes Environmental Board Meeting (11/30/22)	Anne Serwe	00:36:04
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (11/7/22)	Ray Flint	00:28:10
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (11/21/22)	Ray Flint	00:45:41
Spring Lake Park Planning Commission Meeting (11/28/22)	Danika Peterson	00:12:03
<b>25 New Programs</b>		<b>23:07:04 New Hours</b>

If you have any questions or comments regarding this monthly report please contact Heidi Arnson at 763.231.2801 or [harnson@northmetrotv.com](mailto:harnson@northmetrotv.com).

# **NORTH METRO TV** Production Statistics 2022

Programming Statistics	J	J	F	M	A	M	J	JU	A	S	O	N	D	22 Total	22 Average
<b>Cablecast Programs</b>	2445.00	2182.00	2497.00	2390.00	2390.00	2316.00	2299.00	2688.00	2686.00	2352.00	2867.00	2367.00	27049.00	27049.00	2254.08
Cablecast Hours	1981.00	1683.50	1839.25	1860.50	1860.50	1888.50	1973.50	2070.50	2083.75	1889.00	2358.50	1986.00	21594.00	21594.00	1799.50
<b>Programs Produced - Public</b>	22.00	12.00	24.00	18.00	13.00	15.75	10.75	12.25	15.50	17.00	17.00	27.00	208.00	208.00	17.33
Program Hours Produced - Public	15.50	8.50	17.00	13.00	6.00	8.00	6.00	8.00	5.00	8.00	8.00	19.50	152.75	152.75	12.73
Prog. Produced - Affiliated Public	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	72.00	72.00	6.00
Prog. Hours Produced - Affil. Public	4.50	5.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	3.30	67.05	67.05	5.59
<b>Programs Produced - City Staff</b>	4.00	7.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	46.00	46.00	3.83
Prog. Hours Produced - City Staff	5.25	11.00	1.75	3.00	3.00	5.25	5.75	3.50	5.50	6.50	3.75	2.75	54.00	54.00	4.50
<b>Programs Produced - NMTV Staff</b>	43.00	44.00	53.00	41.00	39.00	48.00	42.00	83.00	40.00	62.00	70.00	36.00	562.00	562.00	46.83
Prog. Hours Produced - NMTV Staff	44.25	41.75	47.00	30.00	24.00	29.00	22.00	25.00	35.50	67.25	70.50	32.75	551.00	551.00	45.92
<b>Total Public Programs Produced</b>	28.00	18.00	30.00	24.00	24.00	29.00	22.00	25.00	22.00	25.00	25.00	32.00	280.00	280.00	23.33
Total Staff Programs Produced	47.00	51.00	56.00	44.00	44.00	52.00	46.00	87.00	44.00	67.00	74.00	40.00	608.00	608.00	50.67
Total Internal Programs Produced	75.00	69.00	86.00	68.00	68.00	81.00	68.00	112.00	66.00	92.00	99.00	72.00	888.00	888.00	74.00
% Staff Produced Programs	62.67%	73.91%	65.12%	64.71%	64.71%	64.20%	67.65%	77.68%	66.67%	72.83%	74.75%	55.56%	68.47%	68.47%	68.47%
External Programs Submitted	37.33%	26.09%	34.88%	35.29%	35.29%	35.80%	32.35%	22.32%	33.33%	27.17%	25.25%	44.44%	31.53%	31.53%	31.53%
External Program Hours	28.00	27.00	26.00	24.00	24.00	29.75	19.50	13.00	21.50	19.00	18.25	19.75	233.25	233.25	19.44
Total New Programs	103.00	96.00	112.00	92.00	92.00	119.00	89.00	127.00	89.00	114.00	120.00	94.00	1155.00	1155.00	96.25
<b>Public Equipment Usage Statistics</b>															
Facility Hours Available	119.00	112.00	136.50	84.00	84.00	133.00	105.00	110.00	112.00	133.00	119.00	112.00	1275.50	1275.50	106.29
Camera Check Outs	13.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	7.00	10.00	8.00	9.00	101.00	101.00	8.42
Studio A	10.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.25	0.00	4.00	2.00	0.00	21.50	21.50	1.79
% of Available Time	8.61%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.77%	0.00%	3.01%	1.68%	0.00%	1.69%	1.69%	1.69%
Studio B	10.00	6.50	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.50	7.00	7.50	28.25	76.75	76.75	6.40
% of Available Time	8.40%	5.80%	2.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.95%	5.28%	6.30%	25.22%	6.02%	6.02%	6.02%
Editing	11.50	14.25	39.50	14.75	15.75	15.75	14.50	17.00	13.00	21.00	38.75	24.75	224.75	224.75	18.73
% of Available Time	9.66%	12.72%	28.94%	17.56%	17.56%	11.84%	13.81%	15.45%	11.61%	15.79%	32.56%	22.10%	17.62%	17.62%	17.62%
Number of Public Facility Users	19.00	15.00	16.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	4.00	8.00	12.00	21.00	133.00	133.00	11.08
Total Hours of Public Use	31.75	20.75	42.50	14.75	14.75	15.75	14.50	12.25	27.50	32.00	48.25	53.00	313.00	313.00	26.08
<b>Production Var/Mix Statistics</b>															
Number of Van Shoots	9.00	9.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	8.00	8.00	2.00	3.00	12.00	9.00	2.00	70.00	70.00	5.83
Total Van Usage Hours	55.25	58.75	27.50	28.25	28.25	36.25	48.75	12.75	18.25	84.25	60.50	13.75	444.25	444.25	37.02
Number of vMix Shoots	1.00	3.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	6.00	1.00	44.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	75.00	75.00	0.49
Intern Hours	11.50	9.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.50	18.50	0.00	53.00	53.00	4.42
Volunteer Hours	0.00	3.00	13.50	0.00	0.00	8.75	37.50	13.00	4.00	25.00	15.50	15.00	135.25	135.25	11.27
<b>Workshop Statistics</b>															
Number of Live Workshops	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	8.00	8.00	0.67
Number of Students at Live Workshops	10.00	16.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	4.00	5.00	46.00	46.00	3.83
VOD Students All Workshops	3755.00	3427.00	3777.00	3695.00	3695.00	4177.00	3885.00	4196.00	5484.00	5735.00	8796.00	10459.00	57186.00	57186.00	4765.50
<b>Media Transfer Statistics</b>															
Total Transfer Equip. Usage Hours	327.50	262.25	249.75	359.75	359.75	339.50	96.50	303.75	332.00	364.50	326.00	262.75	3224.25	3224.25	268.69
Tapes Transferred	141.00	36.00	46.00	104.00	104.00	116.00	24.00	51.00	52.00	103.00	69.00	65.00	807.00	807.00	67.25
Film Reels Transferred	8.00	85.00	79.00	34.00	34.00	36.00	8.00	100.00	118.00	22.00	16.00	47.00	553.00	553.00	22.39
Slides/Photos Transferred	75.00	0.00	603.00	100.00	100.00	215.00	0.00	939.00	149.00	726.00	998.00	0.00	3805.00	3805.00	317.08
DVDs Copied	58.00	10.00	10.00	24.00	24.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109.00	109.00	9.08
Transfer Hours By Public	9.50	11.25	15.50	15.75	15.75	15.75	7.50	13.25	3.00	0.00	6.00	4.25	101.75	101.75	8.48
Transfer Hours By Staff	318.00	251.00	234.25	344.00	344.00	323.75	89.00	290.50	329.00	364.50	320.00	258.50	3122.50	3122.50	260.21
<b>NMTV YouTube Statistics</b>															
Number of Viewers	18800.00	18312.00	19378.00	18750.00	18750.00	20925.00	21792.00	21999.00	47542.00	25107.00	30304.00	33620.00	276529.00	276529.00	23044.08
Total Videos Viewed	28923.00	29142.00	29639.00	26754.00	26754.00	30788.00	34138.00	32663.00	59753.00	44813.00	46787.00	38825.00	402205.00	402205.00	33517.08
Total Hours Watched	2355.00	2382.00	1981.50	1631.50	1631.50	2215.25	3073.00	2252.00	2281.00	6611.00	4502.50	2194.50	31479.25	31479.25	2623.27
Number of New Subscribers	74.00	29.00	49.00	48.00	48.00	68.00	104.00	50.00	61.00	223.00	196.00	93.00	995.00	995.00	82.92
Total Impressions	459857.00	448149.00	463807.00	365914.00	365914.00	444612.00	382258.00	346531.00	394342.00	432853.00	460186.00	418215.00	4616724.00	4616724.00	384727.00
<b>NMTV Website Statistics</b>															
Number of Users	4665.00	4121.00	5916.00	10913.00	10913.00	13815.00	5440.00	8900.00	7291.00	7996.00	9084.00	10117.00	88258.00	88258.00	7354.83
Number of Views	6102.00	10999.00	11617.00	16299.00	16299.00	15970.00	10253.00	14724.00	13460.00	20346.00	23273.00	12469.00	155512.00	155512.00	12959.33
Live Stream Views	1681.00	1945.00	976.00	611.00	611.00	1030.00	1040.00	948.00	667.00	4185.00	3562.00	1733.00	18378.00	18378.00	1531.50



Bradley Werner  
Attorneys at Law

## MEMORANDUM

**To: North Metro Telecommunications Commission**  
**From: Nancy Werner, Mike Bradley, and Michael Athay**  
**Re: December 2022 Legal Report**  
**Date: December 9, 2022**

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### **Bradley Werner Attorney Elected to the State Senate**

We are pleased to announce that Bradley Werner, LLC attorney, Tou Xiong, was elected to the state senate to represent the residents of Senate District 44. Tou was previously a State Representative. He will be seated in January 2023.

### **FCC Releases Report on Best Practices To Promote Digital Equity**

On November 7, the FCC released its report *Recommendations and Best Practices to Prevent Digital Discrimination and Promote Digital Equity*, prepared by the Commission's *Working Groups of the Communications Equity and Diversity Council*. The 97 page report can be found [here](#).

In its open meeting in December 21, 2022, the FCC will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in which it seeks comment on its proposal to adopt the *Recommendations*. Among other things, the *Recommendations* discuss the benefits of the cable franchising model in terms of requiring buildout of modern communications systems throughout an entire franchise area. The *Recommendations* incorporate this idea as a model best policy: "Agreements to use the rights-of-way should reflect that the privilege of using public assets comes with an obligation to provide a benefit to the public, which includes ensuring that all members of the community have equal access to broadband, subject to economic and technological feasibility."

The NPRM also seeks comment on actions the Commission should take in other policy areas to address digital discrimination of access to broadband services. The Commission noted that the record in the docket thus far includes industry-led proposals to preempt local authority with respect to rights-of-way permitting and fees, but also municipal proposals aimed at ensuring local governments have the authority to address broadband deployment at the local level.

If adopted by the Commission, the NPRM will be a good opportunity for local governments to file comments reinforcing the *Recommendations*' support for local franchising as a means of addressing digital discrimination. It is likely that broadband industry representatives will file comments proposing further limitations on local authority, similar to the FCC decisions on small wireless facilities and cable franchising. A robust local government effort to counter the industry's narrative and push for FCC recognition of the benefits of local franchising could help

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Bradley Werner, LLC

shape not only federal policy, but may also help in efforts to reshape state law on broadband deployment and franchising.

### **Ohio Supreme Court Finds Streaming Services Not Subject To Cable Franchise Fees**

On Dec 1, 2022, the Ohio Supreme Court issued its decision in *The City of Maple Heights v. Netflix, Inc., et al.* (case 2021-0864), finding that Netflix and Hulu are not subject to local franchise fees. Specifically, the Court held that under Ohio state law, Netflix and Hulu were not video providers subject to local franchise fees that are imposed on cable service providers and paid to municipalities. The basis for the Court's decision was its determination that Ohio law excludes from cable franchise fees "video programming provided solely as part of and via a service that enables users to access content, information, electronic mail, or other services offered over the public internet." Because the decision addresses a specific Ohio state law, it is not clear what impact, if any, it may have on other pending litigation involving streaming services.

### **Governor Walz Announces Largest-Ever Investment in Broadband Access Across Minnesota**

On December 8, 2022, Governor Tim Walz announced that internet providers will receive nearly \$100 million to expand broadband coverage to more Minnesotans, representing the largest single investment in broadband infrastructure in state history.

In total, 61 broadband expansion projects around Minnesota will receive \$99.6 million in grants from the Border-to-Border Broadband program administered by the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)'s Office of Broadband Development. Provider grantees estimate the funding will extend new high-speed internet connections to more than 33,000 Minnesota homes and businesses in 48 counties. A list of grant awards by project can be found on DEED's website.

### **Technology Press Reports On Sharp Decline In Traditional Pay TV Subscribers**

TVTech magazine reported early this month that "pay TV penetration is now [i.e. in the third quarter of this year] down to levels not seen since 1993" according to technology research organization MoffettNathanson. Subscribers declined by 6.3 percent in the quarter, following then record declines in pay TV subscriptions in Q2, when total pay TV distribution declined by slightly less at 6.2%. The decline in Q3 a year ago was 5.2 percent. In absolute numbers, Q3 saw a loss of 655,000 subs, compared with 617,000 in Q3 a year ago and just 91,000 in Q3 2020, according to the MoffettNathanson analysis. Their definition of "pay TV" includes traditional cable operators and satellite operators as well as the newer vMVPDs (e.g. Fubo TV, Sling TV, Hulu Live and YouTube TV).

With the Q3 decline, pay TV household penetration, including vMVPDs, is at 61 percent of households, a level not seen since 1993, which was a year before satellite TV was introduced in the United States, according to MoffettNathanson. According to MoffettNathanson, it also means there are now about 55 million households that are outside the cable, satellite and vMPVD pay

TV ecosystem – a trend that could create serious financial problems for over-the-air broadcast stations, which in recent years have relied heavily on retransmission consent payments from pay TV providers and for local and national broadcast TV advertising, which is already under pressure from streaming, by reducing potential audiences for programming. The full TVTech story is available [here](#).

The technology business press has been reporting for months about dramatic acceleration in the decline of traditional pay TV subscribers, cable notably, in favor of internet streaming services. For example, in March of this year, The Street, citing research by [Leichtman Research Group](#) (LRG), reported ([here](#)) that the data company found "the largest pay TV providers in the U.S. – representing about 93% of the market -- lost about 4,690,000 net video subscribers in 2021, compared to a pro forma net loss of about 4,870,000 in 2020," leaving the top pay TV companies with 76.1 million subscribers as of March – “a number that's actually worse than it looks because 7.9 million of those customers subscribe to lower-cost streaming cable bundles through products like Disney's Hulu Live, Sling TV, and Fubo TV.” According to The Street, cable's numbers began declining in 2014 when the industry lost just over 100,000 customers. The decline accelerated steadily, to over a million in 2017, before doubling in 2018, then again in 2019. The current rate is approximately 4.6 to 4.9 million subscribers per year.

The online publication CompariTech reported in early October ([here](#)) that cord cutting is growing fast as TV watchers grow dissatisfied with the high cost of traditional TV (according to CompariTech the average monthly cable TV bill is now over \$200 per month). According to CompariTech, traditional pay TV providers lost around 6 million pay TV subscribers each year from 2019 to 2021, and in total, the major US cable and satellite TV operators have lost 25 million subscribers since 2012 and are projected to lose another 25 million by 2025. The majority of these subscribers, CompariTech reports, are moving to all-digital live TV streaming services (Sling, YouTube, fubo, Hulu and similar services). CompariTech reports that the largest traditional cable TV providers experiencing subscriber losses include the major cable and satellite providers in the U.S.

According to CompariTech, Comcast had 18.5 million video customers in Q3 2021 but lost more than a million and now (in October, 2022) has about 17.1 million customers. Verizon subscriber numbers have decreased every quarter since Q4 2016, with a loss of more than 150,000 Fios TV subscribers in the first half of 2022, and now has about 7.3 million subscribers. Charter is losing tens of thousands of video customers each year with over 225,000 customers cancelling this year, compared with a loss of 58,000 in Q4 2021. DirecTV (satellite) lost 473,000 satellite TV subscribers in Q2 2021, following a decline of 887,000 subscribers in Q2 2021. A further 300,000 customers left in the first quarter of this year. Dish Network, the second-largest cable TV provider in the US, lost 273,000 net pay TV subscribers in Q4 2021, compared with a drop of 133,000 in the year-ago period, and lost another 228,000 customers in the first quarter of this year.

## **FCC December Open Meeting Will Be Held December 21**

The FCC will hold its December Open Meeting on December 21, 2022, from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm EST. Chairwoman Rosenworcel announced that the following items are tentatively on the agenda for the meeting:

### *Preventing Digital Discrimination*

The Commission will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would take the next step in the Commission's efforts to promote equal access to broadband by seeking comment on potential rules to address digital discrimination of access to broadband, consistent with Congress's direction in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. (GN Docket No. 22-69)

### *Satellite Application Processing*

The Commission will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on changes to its rules, policies, or practices to facilitate the acceptance for filing of satellite and earth station applications under Part 25 to help Commission processing stay apace with the number of innovative satellite applications in the new space age. (IB Docket No. 22-411, 22-271)

### *Improving Wireless 911 Call Routing*

The Commission will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding a proposal to require wireless carriers and covered text providers to implement location-based routing on their networks in order to reduce misrouting of wireless 911 calls and texts and improve emergency response times. (PS Docket No. 18-64)

### *Improving Accessible Phone Services*

The Commission will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order on Reconsideration to propose Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Fund compensation for Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS), propose a technical amendment to the compensation formula for Internet Protocol Relay Service (IP Relay), and resolve petitions for reconsideration of a prior order setting IP CTS compensation. (CG Docket Nos. 22-408, 03-123, 13-24)

### *Enforcement Bureau Action*

The Commission will consider an enforcement action.

Open Meetings are streamed live at <https://www.fcc.gov/live>.

Circulation Documents for certain of the items listed above are available at the following links:

[Preventing Digital Discrimination of Access to Broadband](#)

[Facilitating Better Satellite Application Processing](#)

[Improving Wireless 911 Call Routing](#)

[Improving Accessible Phone Services](#)

## **FCC Releases Long Awaited Broadband Maps**

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced release of the “pre-production draft” of the FCC's new broadband maps on November 18, 2022. According to Rosenworcel's announcement

(available [here](#)), these maps will provide “the best picture available to date of where broadband is and is not available across the country, and the maps will only get better from here” as the FCC collects more and more broadband location data and refines its maps.

The FCC’s older maps collected data at the census block level, largely from the Form 477 filings required of facilities-based fixed broadband providers, meaning that if a single home was served in a census block, the whole block would show up as served on FCC maps. The result was maps that overstated the actual availability of high-speed internet service and lacked location-specific information, so did not accurately identify gaps in coverage. Additionally, the Form 477 filings provide information only on where fixed wireless providers offer Internet access service at speeds exceeding 200 kbps in at least one direction. The new maps are a product of the FCC’s Broadband Data Collection (BDC) program, which requires more detailed information filings separate from and additional to the Form 477 filings. With these maps, the FCC states that it has integrated the information from broadband providers with hundreds of location-specific data sources, providing a far more detailed and accurate picture of fixed broadband availability.

According to Rosenworcel’s announcement, the improved maps will directly benefit wireless broadband consumers by providing “a one-stop-shop to search for their address and find information about which internet service providers claim to offer service at the location, the broadband technologies they offer, and the maximum download and upload speeds they advertise for each technology.” The FCC contends this “will create market pressures on internet providers to improve their coverage” and facilitate more accurate targeting of investments in broadband infrastructure to increase availability to unserved and underserved areas, thereby helping to close the digital divide.

State, local, and Tribal governments can challenge (1) the broadband serviceable locations in the map, (2) mobile broadband availability data, and/or (3) fixed broadband availability data. For each type of challenge, the Commission will accept both challenges to individual locations and bulk challenges to multiple locations. Challenges should be submitted by January 13, 2023, to enable the FCC to include corrections in the final version of the map that will be used to allocate federal broadband grant funding later in 2023.

Information on how to access the pre-production maps, formally titled the *Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric*, and BDC program is available at the following links:

<https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/6785010654235-How-Government-Entities-Can-Access-the-Production-Location-Fabric->

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/FCC-Mapping-Two-Pager.pdf>

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**NORTH METRO TV**

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**TO:** CABLE COMMISSION  
**FROM:** HEIDI ARNSON  
**SUBJECT:** PAY STUDY UPDATE AND INTERIM COLA RECOMMENDATION  
**DATE:** 11/29/2022

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Earlier this year, the Operations Committee asked me to perform a salary survey of other community television organizations throughout the Twin Cities. The results of the survey seemed to show that, in general, NMTV positions were below the survey average. Some positions were very well below the average.

After analysis of the information, the Operations Committee determined that a consultant should be retained to review and finalize any recommendations to the Cable Commission. Dan Tesch was selected for the project and work has been ongoing. It is hoped that a final recommendation regarding any market related increases can be ready for consideration by your first meeting in 2023.

In the meantime, based on the low level of current NMTV salaries compared to 2022 survey figures, and with the hope of not getting further behind in 2023, the Operations Committee is recommending that the Cable Commission approve an adjustment to the budgeted COLA by 1.25 %. The COLA approved for 2023 is 2.75%. With the addition it would be 4%. This adjustment would remain within the budget, as savings have been realized with the loss of a staff member at the top of his pay range being replaced with a person starting at the bottom of the pay range. With that staff change, even with the additional 1.25% COLA adjustment, the personnel total will be \$4,168 below the budgeted amount.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** To approve adjusting the 2023 COLA from 2.75% to 4%.

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NORTH METRO TV

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**TO:** CABLE COMMISSION  
**FROM:** HEIDI ARNSON  
**SUBJECT:** RECOMMENDED MEETING DATE CHANGE  
**DATE:** 11/29/2022

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With the move to quarterly meetings, after the December 21, 2022 meeting, the Cable Commission is not scheduled to meet again until March 2023. There are several matters that would be better addressed before that date. They include:

- Determining the Executive Committee
- Approving the annual insurance waiver
- Approving the PEG fee payment to cities

As such it is recommended that you consider changing your first 2023 meeting dates to February 1<sup>st</sup> for the Executive Committee, and February 15<sup>th</sup> for the full Cable Commission.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: To change the first Commission meetings of 2023 from March 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, to February 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.**

# Comcast Set to Jack Up Broadcast TV Surcharges By as Much as \$7

By Daniel Frankel

( NextTV )

published 14 days ago

Comcast's regional sports network fees are also going up, as are set-top rental charges

The number of U.S. consumers subscribing to pay TV and watching broadcast TV continues to decline, but that isn't keeping the No. 1 American cable operator from once again jacking up its broadcast TV surcharge.

Comcast last week began giving its remaining 16.6 million video customers a heads-up that the fee they pay to receive local broadcast channels via their Xfinity TV subscription is going up as much as \$7 a month.

As blogger Phil Swann noted, users in Taunton, Massachusetts, will see their broadcast TV surcharge spike from \$18.65 to \$26 a month, effective December 20. (Yup, 26 bucks a month for content you can get for free over the airwaves.)

Comcast, of course, is blaming the increase on ever-climbing broadcast retransmission fees it has to pay to local stations. The cable operator said that, on average, its customers will experience broadcast fee increases in the 3.8% range. (These fees vary from region to region.)

"TV networks and other video programmers continue to raise their prices, with broadcast television and sports being the biggest drivers of increases in customers' bills," Comcast said in a statement.

Surcharges for regional sports networks are also going up for Comcast pay TV customers (by less than a dollar a month in most cases). And lease fees for set-tops are also increasing by about \$1.50 a month.

Notably, these fees aren't included in the advertised price for pay TV service. So a customer agreeing to pay \$60 a month for Comcast's 125+ channel "Popular TV" tier will end up shelling out well over \$100 a month, once surcharges, CPE fees and taxes are factored in the bill.

Comcast already announced earlier that its broadband service tiers will increase in prices anywhere from \$2 to \$7 a month.

Comcast lost 562,000 pay TV customers in the third quarter, with its year-over-year cord-cutting pacing at 10.6%. ■

Friday, December 9, 2022

## Weekly Digest

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# Why We Need a Full-Strength FCC

*You're reading the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society's Weekly Digest, a recap of the biggest (or most overlooked) broadband stories of the week. The digest is delivered via e-mail each Friday.*

### Round-Up for the Week of December 5-9, 2023



Taglang

The Federal Communications Commission is the lead U.S. agency on a number of technically and legally complex issues that increasingly impact economic opportunity, health, education, and civic engagement. As a nation, we rely upon the FCC to:

- Promote competition, innovation and investment in broadband services and facilities,
- Support the nation's economy by ensuring an appropriate competitive framework for the unfolding of the communications revolution,
- Ensure the highest and best use of spectrum domestically and internationally,
- Advance diversity and localism, and
- Strengthen the defense of the nation's communications infrastructure.

Since January 20, 2021, the FCC has been led by four commissioners: Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Commissioners Brendan Carr, Geoffrey Starks, and Nathan Simington. The Communications Act of 1934, which created the FCC, calls for five commissioners. President Joe Biden nominated Gigi B. Sohn to be the fifth commissioner on October 26, 2021. But Sohn, a Distinguished Fellow at the Georgetown Law Institute for Technology Law & Policy and the Benton Senior Fellow and Public Advocate, still awaits a Senate confirmation vote.

Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel has been making the best of the four-commissioner FCC. She has managed to get votes on a number of important items like affordable broadband, national security, network security, spectrum auctions, and responding to climate change. However, there are many important outstanding matters that have remained unresolved. Over the past year, there

have been over a dozen items that Chairwoman Rosenworcel has teed up for action by the full FCC, items that languish because the FCC does not have the full complement of experts Congress envisioned.

## **Closing the Homework Gap**

Jessica Rosenworcel has long championed internet access for all students "no matter who they are or where they live." Back in May, Chairwoman Rosenworcel proposed to allow the use of federal funding for Wi-Fi in school buses. Her proposed Declaratory Ruling would allow E-Rate program funding to equip school buses with Wi-Fi, providing substantial benefits to students, including millions of students caught in the Homework Gap. The proposal would clarify that use of Wi-Fi or similar access point technologies on school buses serves an educational purpose and the provision of such service is therefore eligible for E-Rate funding.

According to the American School Bus Council, K-12 students in the U.S. spend an average of 180 hours on the school bus each year. That's the same as 20 total instructional days per student. Some school districts that have already equipped buses with Wi-Fi have seen that it decreased the number of bus discipline referrals and made the ride quieter.

Over the years, the FCC has received many requests from E-Rate stakeholders asking that Wi-Fi on school buses be made eligible for E-Rate funding to enhance broadband access to students. With some technology, providing an additional instructional day can cost as little as 58 cents per student.

Using funding for this purpose is consistent with the FCC's past determinations regarding other eligible off-campus uses of E-Rate-supported services. The draft Declaratory Ruling directs the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau to include funding Wi-Fi on buses in establishing E-Rate eligible services. But the item has not been acted upon. A fifth FCC commissioner could review this proposal, help improve it, and ensure the commission provides the resources needed to improve access to educational tools.

## **Updating Measures of Broadband**

As became all-too-clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, affordable, high-speed broadband for individuals, families, and communities is essential to be able to work, learn, and connect remotely. But the digital divide disproportionately affects communities of color, lower-income areas, and rural areas.

To ensure the benefits of broadband are enjoyed by all, Congress requires the FCC to regularly determine whether broadband is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. The FCC last did that in a report issued in January 2021.

In July 2022, Chairwoman Rosenworcel proposed a Notice of Inquiry to kick off the agency's evaluation of the state of broadband across the country. As part of this assessment, Chairwoman Rosenworcel proposed increasing the national standard for minimum broadband speeds and

proposed setting a long-term goal for broadband speed. The FCC last updated its broadband standard in 2015, setting it at 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, speeds that many find inadequate in 2022. The Notice of Inquiry proposes to increase the national broadband standard to 100 megabits per second for download and 20 megabits per second for upload, and discusses a range of evidence supporting this standard, including the 100/20 Mbps requirements for new networks funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Notice of Inquiry also proposes to set a separate national goal of 1 Gbps/500 Mbps for the future. Looking beyond speed, Chairwoman Rosenworcel also proposed that the FCC consider affordability, adoption, availability, and equitable access as part of its determination as to whether broadband is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion.

But the proceeding has not yet started because the item has not been voted out. As the federal government makes its largest investments ever in broadband deployment, adoption and affordability, the FCC's analysis of the digital divide is sorely needed.

## **Broadband Data and Mapping**

The need for accurate data pinpointing where broadband service is available, and where it is not available, has never been greater, especially since broadband availability data will determine state allocations of federal support for broadband deployment.

In March 2020, Congress directed the FCC to make fundamental changes to its requirements, processes, and approach for the collection of data on the availability and quality of fixed and mobile broadband Internet access service throughout the United States. In response to this direction, just last month the FCC released a pre-production draft of its new National Broadband Map. The map has received mixed reviews, with some commenting that it is the most accurate data because it contains location-level information—and others still frustrated by and challenging both the location and broadband availability data. For example, New York's state government recently brought its own challenge, arguing that it found 31,000 locations missing from the fabric data.

Since November 22, there has been a data collection item on circulation at the FCC, but no further action taken. If the nation is going to really ensure internet for all, we need the most accurate data about where broadband reaches and where it doesn't.

## **Spectrum Issues**

### **Airwaves for Public Safety**

In September 2021, the FCC adopted rules to protect public safety operations in the 4.9 GHz spectrum band. In addition to rules, the FCC launched a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking to establish a nationwide framework for the band that will spur technical innovation, lower equipment costs, and promote interoperable communications. The Further Notice explored options to ensure public safety use of the band, including protecting public safety users from harmful interference, collecting more granular licensing data, and adopting technical

standards to promote interoperability. The further notice also seeks comment on ways to encourage use of new technologies, including 5G, and dynamic spectrum access systems to facilitate coexistence between public safety and non-public safety uses of the band. Since late October, new rules and a proposal for additional rules have been ready for a vote by the commissioners but none has been taken.

## **Protecting the Accuracy of Weather Forecasting**

The oldest item before the FCC that is ready for a vote dates back to December 2021. The FCC is considering rules to protect certain sensors from unwanted, out-of-band emissions. These particular sensors are located on satellites used to take measurements of water vapor and cloud liquid water that are used in weather forecasting. These passive sensors are designed to receive and measure natural emissions produced by the Earth's surface and atmosphere. As these sensors receive all natural and man-made emissions in general, passive sensors may not be able to differentiate these two sources of signals.

On August 10, 2021, the House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology wrote to Chairwoman Rosenworcel, encouraging attention to the matter because of concerns about the integrity of global weather forecasting, satellite-based climate measurements, and ground-based radio astronomy observations

## **Drone Communication**

Since August, a proceeding to update the FCC's rules around unmanned aircraft systems has also languished. Unmanned aircraft systems are increasingly used for a wide variety of recreational, commercial, and governmental applications, including inspection of towers, pipelines, and buildings, aerial photography, mapping, and surveillance, deliveries from consumer packages to critical medical supplies, and support for emergency operations like search and rescue, post-hurricane recovery, and wildfire response. While unmanned aircraft communications have primarily relied on unlicensed access to spectrum, some proponents assert that licensed spectrum will increasingly be needed to provide both the spectrum capacity to support future growth and the reliability needed for safe operations to protect life and property in circumstances such as flights in populated areas or beyond-line-of-sight. The Aerospace Industries Association asked the FCC to adopt licensing and service rules for Control and Non-Payload Communications (CNPC) links in the 5030-5091 MHz band to support unmanned aircraft system operations in the United States. The FCC has teed up a proceeding to consider appropriate rules, but no vote has been taken to launch the proceeding.

## **Consumer Protection and Enforcement**

### **Reducing Robocalls**

One of the scourges of modern telecommunications is robocalls. U.S. consumers receive approximately 4 billion robocalls *per month*. Amazingly, one auto warranty scam operation has been responsible for making more than eight billion robocall messages since 2018.

The Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 prohibits anyone from: 1) using an automatic telephone dialing system (ATDS) or an artificial or prerecorded voice (APV) to make a call to any emergency telephone line; 2) initiating any call to a residential telephone line using an APV to deliver a message without the consent of the called party; or 3) using an ATDS in such a way that two or more telephone lines of a multi-line business are engaged simultaneously. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sought clarification that certain automated calls and text messages or prerecorded voice calls relating to enrollment in state Medicaid and other governmental health coverage programs are permissible. An order and declaratory ruling on circulation at the FCC since late November may resolve that issue, but we won't know until it is voted on.

## **Reporting Data Breaches**

In January 2022, Chairwoman Rosenworcel circulated a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would begin the process of strengthening the FCC's rules for notifying customers and federal law enforcement of breaches of customer proprietary network information (CPNI). The proposal outlined several updates to current FCC rules addressing telecommunications carriers' breach notification requirements including:

- Eliminating the current seven business day mandatory waiting period for notifying customers of a breach;
- Expanding customer protections by requiring notification of inadvertent breaches; and
- Requiring carriers to notify the FCC of all reportable breaches in addition to the FBI and U.S. Secret Service.

The FCC has not launched the proceeding yet.

## **Enforcement**

The FCC is responsible for enforcing the provisions of U.S. communications law, its own rules, orders, and various licensing terms and conditions. Since late August, four enforcement orders have awaited a full vote but have not been acted upon.

## **Breaking the Deadlock**

Much ink has been spilled over the past year over the nomination of Gigi Sohn. To simply cut to the chase, the latest update comes from LightReading:

With the midterm elections out of the way, and the Senate to remain in Democratic control, Gigi Sohn, President Biden's pick for fifth FCC Commissioner – nominated back in October 2021—is likely to get confirmed. Some in the industry think it could happen under the current Congress before the end of the year.

In a recent letter, labor groups, including the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, urged senators "to swiftly advance the nomination of Gigi Sohn" noting that the "FCC needs a fully seated commission in order to make

critical decisions during a period of increased federal investment in broadband networks and digital equity initiatives."

The FCC's backlogged agenda proves their point.

# Democrats now have the votes to get Gigi Sohn on the FCC—will they do it?

**After a year of minimal movement, there's hope.**

*Posted on Dec 8, 2022 Updated on Dec 8, 2022, 2:12 pm CST*

Tuesday's runoff victory by Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) not only delivered Democrats a broader 51-seat majority in the Senate, it could finally break the dam on a parade of stalled Biden appointments, including popular telecom and media reformer Gigi Sohn.

Sohn's FCC nomination has been delayed for more than a year, the longest a candidate for that position has ever gone without a vote.

Sohn, nominated last October by President Joe Biden, has spent fourteen months in limbo thanks to a coordinated smear campaign by the telecom and media industries. That campaign has involved using nonprofits to seed false claims in the press claiming that Sohn is an enemy of Latinos, rural America, conservatives, and the police.

Industry observers say the coordinated attack on a highly qualified reformer is the most pointed example of congressional telecom and media industry corruption in recent memory.

"Currently, a huge array of vitally important issues are languishing at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)," Penn State University telecommunications expert Sascha Meinrath told the Daily Dot. "This stagnation is very much supporting telco incumbents given that the last administration kowtowed to pretty much every whim of telco lobbyists."

With the entirety of the GOP lined up in dutiful opposition to Sohn's nomination, a source familiar with the nomination process indicates that Sohn's approval still centers around three Democratic senators: Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.).

All three have yet to either publicly support or oppose Sohn, with Manchin viewed as the least persuadable of the three. All three were also the target of a major summer lobbying campaign by AT&T and Comcast intended to undermine their support. Companies tried to gain additional influence through the hiring of numerous former staffers.

With Warnock winning his runoff victory in Georgia, and Kelly and Masto having survived contentious midterm elections, consumer groups are hopeful Democrats will finally overcome Manchin's opposition in the new year, provided the Biden administration renominates Sohn at the start of 2023.

"Warnock's win should ratchet up the pressure to call the vote—and I think it is incumbent upon [Sen. Chuck] Schumer (D-N.Y.) to get Gigi confirmed as a Day 1—right out of the gate—

priority,” Meinrath said. “It’s well past time to get senators on the record as either supporting a completely qualified candidate or buckling to telco lobbyists.”

Some consumer advocates remain hopeful that Sohn can still be confirmed in the remaining lame-duck session. Without Manchin, such a move would require shoring up Mastro and Kelly’s support and finding a cooperative Republican senator like Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

“The Senate can still get this done in the current lame duck session,” Josh Stager, policy director at consumer group Free Press, told the Daily Dot. “Having 51 Democratic senators next year certainly makes things easier for all Biden nominees, but we cannot wait that long. We simply don’t have time for more delays.”

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, stated last week that other legislative priorities would likely take precedence over Sohn during the lame-duck session. Cantwell and other key Democrats have been widely criticized by fellow party members for “dithering” on the Sohn nomination, failing to defend Sohn from baseless industry attacks, and failing to whip the necessary votes.

By law, the party in control of the White House enjoys a 3-2 FCC Commissioner majority. Yet the Biden FCC has been gridlocked since January 2021, lacking the votes to restore many of the policies dismantled by the Trump administration, whether that’s hugely popular net neutrality protections or decades-old media consolidation limits crafted decades earlier with bipartisan support.

For media and telecom giants, that’s precisely by design.

In late 2020, the industry helped drive the nomination and confirmation of Trump FCC appointee Nathan Simington in less than a month, despite widespread concern that Simington lacked meaningful experience in telecom policy. Simington’s rushed nomination ensured the GOP would enjoy at least a 2-2 tie as Biden entered office.

Sohn’s experience couldn’t have been more different.

A longstanding consumer advocate popular across both sides of the aisle, Sohn has significant FCC experience thanks to her role as an advisor to former FCC boss Tom Wheeler. Yet the protracted smear campaign by telecom and media giants provided flimsy ammunition for industry-friendly lawmakers looking to justify their opposition.

For much of the year, neither Sohn’s would-be FCC colleagues nor the White House provided any meaningful messaging support in the wake of the attacks. Consumer groups involved in discussions say Sohn still has the full support of a Biden administration eager to ensure its broadband policies and programs don’t run aground in the new year.

An unprecedented \$50 billion in COVID-19 relief and infrastructure broadband funds are waiting in the wings and a fully staffed FCC with a competent voting majority will be a key player in ensuring that the money goes where it’s needed.

According to Stager, any further delays significantly imperil the FCC's ability to hold the nation's telecom monopolies accountable for much of anything, whether that's ripping off consumers with egregious fees or unearthed revelations that the industry routinely charges marginalized communities more money for the same service.

The recently passed infrastructure bill demanded that the FCC create a new task force dedicated to thwarting this kind of digital discrimination. But without Sohn and a voting majority, this and other Biden broadband reform efforts could be stuck in policy purgatory.

“Sen. Warnock was a chief architect of the digital discrimination proceeding that is currently before the FCC, so his continued presence in the Senate should help keep that issue a priority,” Stager said. “However, the FCC is required by law to pass an order next year that combats digital discrimination in the broadband market, which will be difficult to achieve if the 2-2 deadlock continues. Gigi Sohn's confirmation would provide a critically needed 5th vote for a strong order—but it needs to happen soon. The FCC has a procedural vote on the matter scheduled for December 21.”

A Biden administration renomination will be needed if Sohn isn't confirmed during the remaining lame-duck session. If she or a replacement nomination aren't seated quickly, the FCC has very little runway to accomplish time-consuming policy goals before the 2024 presidential election.

Should Biden lose in 2024, a GOP Congress could then simply dismantle any new reforms using the Congressional Review Act, much as they did when the 2017 GOP-controlled House dismantled popular FCC broadband privacy rules before they could even take effect.

From four years of a Trump FCC widely accused of being a mindless rubber stamp for the industry to two years of a Biden FCC gridlocked by dysfunction and industry design, the telecom and media industries haven't faced meaningful oversight for going on six years, a massive lobbying victory for some of the most disliked monopolies in America.

“The FCC is entering its third year of deadlock, which is historic and unprecedented for any presidential administration in living memory,” Stager said. “That is unacceptable. [Sen. Chuck] Schumer needs to call a vote this month.”

# The Consumer Broadband Nutrition Label: What you Need to Know

By Ryan Johnston, Senior Policy Counsel, Federal Programs, Next Century Cities

<b>Broadband Facts</b>	
<b>Provider Name</b>	
<b>Service Plan Name and/or Speed Tier</b>	
Fixed or Mobile Broadband Consumer Disclosure	
<b>Monthly Price</b>	<b>[\$]</b>
This Monthly Price [is/is not] an introductory rate. [if introductory rate is applicable, identify length of introductory period and the rate that will apply after introductory period concludes]	
This Monthly Price [does not] require[s] a [x year/x month] contract. [only required if applicable; if so, provide link to terms of contract]	
<b>Additional Charges &amp; Terms</b>	
Provider Monthly Fees [Itemize each fee]	<b>[\$]</b>
One-time Fees at the Time of Purchase [Itemize each fee]	<b>[\$]</b>
Early Termination Fee	<b>[\$]</b>
Government Taxes	Varies by Location
<b>Discounts &amp; Bundles</b>	
Click Here for available billing discounts and pricing options for broadband service bundled with other services like video, phone, and wireless service, and use of your own equipment like modems and routers. (Any links to such discounts and pricing options on the provider's website must be provided in this section.)	
<b>Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)</b>	
The ACP is a government program to help lower the monthly cost of internet service. To learn more about the ACP, including to find out whether you qualify, visit <a href="https://affordableconnectivity.gov">affordableconnectivity.gov</a> .	
<b>Participates in the ACP</b> <b>[Yes/No]</b>	
<b>Speeds Provided with Plan</b>	
Typical Download Speed	<b>[ ] Mbps</b>
Typical Upload Speed	<b>[ ] Mbps</b>
Typical Latency	<b>[ ] Ms</b>
<b>Data Included with Monthly Price</b>	
Charges for Additional Data Usage	<b>[ ] GB [\$/GB]</b>
<b>Network Management</b>	<b>Read our Policy</b>
<b>Privacy</b>	<b>Read our Policy</b>
<b>Customer Support</b>	
Contact Us: <a href="https://example.com/support">example.com/support</a> / (555) 555-5555	
Learn more about the terms used on this label by visiting the Federal Communications Commission's Consumer Resource Center.	
<a href="https://fcc.gov/consumer">fcc.gov/consumer</a>	
[Unique Plan Identifier Ex. F0005937974123ABC456EMC789]	

Credit: Tech Crunch

## **The Consumer Broadband Nutrition Labels are here!**

On Tuesday, November 14, 2022 the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules ([here's the full Report and Order](#)) outlining how broadband providers must design the label, what information it needs to include, and where it should be displayed. The Commission also adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, seeking public comment on crucial accessibility and included network management statistics.

### **Labels must be prominently displayed at the point of sale.**

The Report and Order requires the Broadband Nutrition Label to be displayed at the point of sale, meaning that as soon as a consumer begins to shop for or compare service offerings, the provider must make the label available. The Label must also be displayed "prominently." This requires the label to be displayed at the point of sale in their entirety. Providers are not allowed to display only an icon or link to the label. Unfortunately, the label will not be included on a consumer's monthly bill.

### **Plan Transparency**

In order for the labels to meaningfully inform consumer choice, the FCC required that they include an identifier for each plan to help a consumer differential between plans. This can be by specifying speed or through a unique plan name. The FCC also required that any introductory rate and the length of time a consumer will receive such a rate be included. Other fees included in the label are the base monthly rate, discounts attached to contract terms, recurring monthly charges, and any one time fees. Finally, providers must disclose any charges or reduction in service for any data used in excess of any data caps.

The labels must also include specific network management statistics including the advertised speed, the “typical” speed and latency consistent with the current transparency rule. These are the only performance metrics that are required to be included in the label. However, providers must include links to their network management practices, privacy policies, information about the ACP, whether the provider is participating in the ACP, and a link to a standard glossary of terms used on the label.

### **Machine Readability**

While the Commission adopted the 2016 format for the new Broadband Nutrition Label, the new labels are required to be machine readable. The ability for label contents to be read by computers ensures that key accessibility software is able to read the label and make that data available. Machine readability also provides researchers and data aggregators more ease in collecting and analyzing the data provided by the label.

### **Language Accessibility, Price, and Performance**

Finally, the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeks clarity on key questions surrounding whether the labels should be available in languages other than those in which they market their service. The FNPRM also asks if there is pricing or performance information that should be included in the label that is not currently available. The Commission also seeks comment on whether it should require labels to be submitted to the Commission.

The Broadband Nutrition Label has the potential to be a critical transparency tool, but the Commission must go farther than hiding away basic plan information online.

# Regulating Hidden Fees

Some of the big telcos and almost every large cable company uses what the industry calls hidden fees. These are fees that are not mentioned when advertising for a service but are put onto customer bills. The cable companies have the most egregious fees, in many cases over \$20 per month for new video subscribers.

There is a class action lawsuit in California that shows why ISPs are not worried about using hidden fees. In times past, when the big companies were regulated, they might have been ordered to make a 100% refund of a fee that regulators decided was questionable. But the only realistic remedy against ISPs that misbill customers is a class action lawsuit or the rare ruling against a single ISP by the Federal Trade Commission.

There has been a class action lawsuit in California about the ‘administrative fee’ that AT&T charges to wireless customers. That fee started at \$1 per month in 2013 and was raised to \$1.99 in 2018. There is no basis for this fee – it’s just a portion of the cost of service split off into a separate charge. This lets AT&T advertise rates for \$2 less than the actual fee charged to customers. Somebody buying a \$60 advertised plan will actually pay \$61.99 because of this fee.

The Verge reported earlier this summer that AT&T and the plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit reached an agreed settlement, and AT&T is refunding \$14 million to California wireless subscribers who make a claim. The class action lawsuit claimed that AT&T billed the fee without notifying the public or advertising the fee. But even in agreeing to the settlement, AT&T refused to admit any wrongdoing and says it fully disclosed all fees.

This award shows why big carriers can bill hidden fees with impunity. The typical settlement for a customer that makes a claim under this lawsuit will be between \$15 and \$29, which is far less than the average amount of this fee collected by AT&T in California at \$180 per subscriber. The worst part of the settlement is that AT&T will continue to bill the fee, so they’ll recover any settlement from customers over the next year. AT&T also knows that most eligible customers won’t make a claim. It was reported that AT&T notified customers of the possible claim by text – which many people assume is spam. The settlement only applies to California customers and not folks in the rest of the country. This is a minuscule slap on the wrist to AT&T.

Class action lawsuits are not a great tool for punishing bad behavior by carriers. Lawyers taking on these issues are taking a big chance that they will lose. Anybody filing such a suit has to spend a lot of time on discovery, made worse because carriers will typically drown plaintiffs with mountains of documents in response to data requests. The lawyers employed by large corporations are generally the best around, and many class action suits never reach completion. In this case, the class action lawyers will receive \$3.5 million from the settlement – but they likely spent a lot of money over many years to get the case to a settlement.

The real solution to holding ISPs accountable is strong regulation. In an ideal world, the FCC or the California Public Utilities Commission would have ordered a full refund to customers that were harmed by misdeeds by a carrier. I didn’t do the research in writing this blog, but I assume

that neither regulatory body felt it had that authority in this instance – or else they chose not to take it on. That’s certainly not surprising on the Federal side since the FCC under Ajit Pai prided itself on a shift to light-touch regulation – which is a euphemism for basically no regulation at all. When I broke into the industry in the 1970s, regulators would have made a carrier rebate every cent of an overbilling, so carriers were cautious about trying something like the administrative fee.

It is within the purview of the Federal Trade Commission to tackle this sort of issue, but the agency only has the manpower to pursue a limited number of cases against bad behavior of industries of all types. Companies like AT&T know that the risk of having an issue like this brought before the FTC is tiny. And even if it happened, the company would not likely have to return all of the improperly charged fees.

Hidden fees are an interesting issue because it’s clear that hidden fees give carriers a marketing edge when competing against companies that don’t have hidden fees. The intent of carriers is to hide the fees or at least make it hard for a prospective customer to know about the fees. The issue with hidden fees is not that a company divides a fee for service into several pieces – it’s that the full fees are not disclosed. ISPs and carriers are not the only ones using hidden fees, and President Biden said last month that the administration is going to crack down on hidden fees from the airline and travel industry.

# What do users want from their TV streaming? A new NPR/Ipsos poll has some answers



Eric Deggans

Most of those polled said they cared about cost — and content — when it came to streaming services.

As major platforms like Netflix and Disney+ roll out cheaper subscription tiers and crack down on password sharing, a new NPR/Ipsos poll reveals that consumers are focused on three important criteria when they make decisions about TV streaming services: cost, content and ease of use.

In a survey of 765 U.S. adults who use streaming services (which came from a nationally representative starting sample of 1,031 Americans), 92% of users say cost is an important factor in their decision to *subscribe* to a streaming service — followed closely by 87% who cited specific shows or movies in that decision. The poll has a margin of error of 3.7 percentage points, so results could be nearly 4 points higher or lower. The full data is at Ipsos.

When asked about important factors in their decision to *cancel* or *drop* a service, 91% note cost once again, followed by 83% who cite a change in content.

And when it comes to navigating all the options available for streaming content, 69% of users agree there are too many streaming services; 58% feel overwhelmed by the amount of content available.

"Cost is key...frankly, I think this speaks to the greater economic uncertainty felt by Americans right now," said Mallory Newall, vice president of public affairs at Ipsos, which conducted the poll.

"At the same time, these users are signaling there's such a thing as too much choice....The most attractive thing a streaming provider can do right now is be price-sensitive while also continuing to offer great content. And it's a bonus if they make it easy for their users to navigate their library or to bundle with other platforms."

Other poll results show consumers have strong — and sometimes contradictory — opinions about the major changes coming in media and the streaming industry, highlighting the challenge companies face in keeping subscribers happy and limiting the number who leave their services.

### **Subscribers want ad-supported options, even if they don't use them.**

Netflix will roll out a cheaper subscription tier on Nov. 1 that places ads inside its shows, followed by a similar option at Disney+ on Dec. 8. Poll results show these initiatives may be popular with consumers; 70% of respondents say having the ability to choose whether or not to have ads is an important factor in choosing a streamer.

But people were more evenly divided on the question of whether they would actually purchase such a subscription, with 51% of users still willing to pay a little more for an advertiser-free experience. (47% say they would pay less and watch ads.)

Poll participant Tim Nguyen, 24, an accountant for the government who lives in Philadelphia, says he likes the option of accessing a streaming service with ads, even if he probably wouldn't do so for his favorite streaming services.

"It definitely gives more opportunity for people to watch more [streaming services]," he says. "Sometimes ads are kind of nice, to break up the monotony of [programming]."

Newall says streaming service users like having choices, "but whether or not you choose to have an ad-free experience isn't going to be a make-or-break thing in how you select a streaming platform — and whether you keep it or whether you drop it."

### **People say they don't use others' passwords often — but they may drop a service if it begins charging more for that option.**

Netflix has estimated that 100 million households are using its service by sharing passwords with someone else who actually pays for the subscription. The company told investors it will roll out a plan early next year allowing customers to pay a small fee to share accounts with people outside their households. But the NPR/Ipsos poll found 50% of users say charging more to share accounts would be an important factor in their decision to drop a streaming service (only 15% of respondents were more concerned about a crackdown on password sharing than rising costs, where 83% expressed concerns).

Seventy percent of streaming service users polled by NPR/Ipsos say they pay for all the services they subscribe to; those numbers are not far off from the results of a spring survey by Leichtman Research Group which said that one-third of Netflix subscribers share passwords. Only 3% of streaming subscribers in the NPR/Ipsos poll say they pay for no services and watch all their streaming TV by sharing passwords; 19% say they pay for most services but borrow passwords to watch some platforms.

That's what survey participant Mia Brunkhorst does. The 28-year-old, who works as an instructional designer at Arizona State University in Tempe, pays for three streaming services and accesses a few others via the passwords of close relatives. But she's not worried about extra charges for sharing passwords.

"I feel like even if they added an additional fee, that fee would be cheaper than paying for another Netflix subscription," Brunkhorst said, adding that she believes more people share account information than they admitted to pollsters. "I totally don't believe only 19% of people share passwords."

### **Users didn't change streaming services that often.**

About 48% of users did not add or drop a streaming service from their array of subscriptions in the past year; 31% added or dropped a service once in the past 12 months. And as sensitive as they are to concerns about price, if their most-used streaming service increased its subscription fees by \$5 monthly, 58% would continue their subscription (that percentage drops to 33% if the price goes up \$10 per month).

### **Users don't spend much on streaming.**

Respondents subscribed to an average 3.55 streaming services per month, costing \$42.38 monthly. Compare that to a median cost of \$79 monthly for cable TV service, according to a March survey published on the website cableTV.com, which averaged the prices of 52 different plans.

But a sizable number are still feeling an economic pinch when it comes to the cost of streaming services, with 38% saying they spend more for subscriptions now than a year ago.

### **Streaming is becoming the future of TV.**

Back in July, Netflix co-CEO Reed Hastings predicted the end of linear TV — television scheduled on broadcast, cable and satellite systems — in five to 10 years. Results from all 1,031 people contacted for the NPR/Ipsos poll — a nationally representative sample which includes those who don't use streaming services — indicate that scenario is quickly taking shape.

Just 19% of all Americans say they access TV through broadcasts received through an antenna. By contrast, 71% of Americans use streaming services, compared to 48% who use cable/satellite/fiber optic systems.

### **Respondents see diversity on streaming services...with a caveat.**

Among those polled who use streaming services, a whopping 80% say streaming services do a good job of showing a diversity of characters. A smaller number — a still significant 60% — say streamers do a good job showing characters who reflect THEIR identity.

Newall says these numbers indicate subscribers generally like what they're seeing on streaming services. "A majority feel...they're seeing people like [themselves] reflected, they like the content, they like what streaming platforms have to offer," she said. "They just want to make sure that it's still easy to find the content they're interested in and that they don't have to look across platforms or pay an arm and a leg to do so."

**Which streaming services do respondents (or someone in their household) subscribe to?**

Netflix, 78%; Amazon, 72%; Hulu, 50%; Disney+, 47%; HBO Max, 36%; Peacock, 27%; Paramount+, 25%; Apple TV+ 19%; Discovery+, 9%.