

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission advocates for and protects the public interest in the regulation and development of cable communications systems in Multnomah County and the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale and Wood Village; monitors and helps resolve cable subscribers' concerns in these jurisdictions; and participates in the planning and implementation of community use of communications technologies which make use of the public right of way.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Approved: May 24, 1020

Effective: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

The Commission acknowledges that the policy and regulatory work of the Commission is undertaken in a very dynamic communications technology environment. Consequently, the Commission retains flexibility to modify or revise these Goals and Objectives as may be required from time to time.

Goal I: *Effectively administer cable television franchise agreements to serve our member jurisdictions.*

Objectives

1. Identify and address franchise compliance issues in response to and, when possible, prior to cable company actions.
2. Provide consumer protection for citizens and subscribers in cable television matters by helping to resolve complaints, enforcing customer service standards and addressing other consumer-related franchise compliance issues.
3. Conduct a review of Verizon's allocation of gross revenues and franchise fees among the four cities in order to establish an accurate baseline method.
4. Pursue regulatory and legal processes to ensure fair compensation and correct accounting for franchise fee payments under franchises regarding use of right-of-way by cable company to deliver converged and bundled services (cable TV, internet and telephone).

Goal II: *Successfully negotiate cable services franchise agreements with Comcast, on behalf of the MHCRC jurisdictions, that address cable-related community technology needs and interests and consumer protection issues and trends.*

Objectives

1. To gain public input and comment on potential public benefits of a renewed franchise agreement.
2. To provide the jurisdictions with a recommendation for action on a franchise agreement no later than November 1, 2010.

Goal III: *Ensure access to and use of current and new services available through the cable system technology by citizens, local governments and community institutions.*

Objectives

1. Conduct annual, competitive grant-making processes for the Community Access Capital Grant program to support the development of public, educational and governmental uses of cable system technology in a way that ensures that the grant funds are distributed in accordance with the grant purpose and criteria.
2. Monitor projects that have received grant funding to ensure compliance with the project goals and objectives and accountability for grant funds.
3. Manage and oversee Community Institutional Network (I-Net) planning and fund in order to leverage this public resource as a low cost, high quality tool for public organizations to communicate, inform and deliver services to their constituencies.
4. Manage access provider contracts with Portland Community Media and MetroEast Community Media.
5. Allocate capital funds for Portland Community Media and MetroEast Community Media.
6. Explore creative public and community opportunities arising through local adoption of digital technology for both content development and distribution.
7. Collaborate with organizations, at the federal, state and local levels, to advocate for the community's access to cable system technology.
8. Negotiate a renewed contract with MetroEast Community Media, which reflects the communities' communications technology needs and interests identified through the "Your Voice" ascertainment study.
9. Provide the Portland City Council with a recommendation, no later than May 31, 2011, for a renewed contract with Portland Community Media, which reflects the communities' communications technology needs and interests identified through the "Your Voice" ascertainment study.

Goal IV: *Communicate, educate and respond in a timely and accurate manner to our jurisdictions, cable subscribers and the general public regarding communications technology policy and regulatory issues.*

Objectives

1. Communicate with jurisdictions' elected officials and key staff in order to educate them about communications technology policy and regulatory issues and what's at stake for our communities.
2. Conduct outreach to our communities so that they are empowered to participate in the Comcast franchise renewal process.
3. Support our member jurisdictions in implementing FCC rules and federal laws related to cable and telecommunications.
4. Support and provide resources for the development of Commissioners' education and expertise.

Goal V: *Advocate for continued local authority regarding cable franchises and use of the public rights of way by communication providers.*

Objectives

1. Continue cross-jurisdictional collaborations for information-sharing and coordinated strategies on issues of common concern.
2. Participate in statewide committees or groups that address local government authority, management and control of public rights of way.
3. Prepare for and participate in the 2011 Oregon State Legislative session including a possible statewide telecommunications tax proposal.
4. Participate in litigation and FCC proceedings on behalf of our jurisdictions' and citizens' interests.
5. Participate in national policy discussions in order to advocate for and preserve existing and new public interest benefits, including the Community Access Preservation Act (CAP Act – HR 3745) to preserve PEG channels and funding.

Goal VI: *Operate the Cable Regulatory Office and the Commission efficiently and effectively.*

Objectives

1. Fulfill Intergovernmental Agreement and Rules of Procedure administrative responsibilities.
2. Plan and conduct Commission meetings in a way that respects the volunteer nature of Commission positions and is in accordance with Oregon Open Meeting laws.
3. Conduct annual strategic planning and goal-setting process.
4. Conduct annual MHCRC evaluation of staff services.
5. Present an annual budget request to the Jurisdictions that supports the Commission's mission and respects the Jurisdictions' budget considerations.