

## Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

Update to the Council Committee for  
Emerging Technology and Telecommunications

September 8, 2010

Chip Rosenthal  
Chair 2010  
chip@unicom.com  
512-573-5174

Kedron Touvell  
Chair 2011  
me@kedrontouvell.com  
512-680-5998

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### Access on Analog Service

- Time-Warner Cable will cease analog transmission of all PEG access channels on October 1
- Most *basic* and *standard* tier (analog) subscribers will need additional equipment (QAM tuner) to receive PEG
- Customers may request one converter box, free for a limited time
- Council action in August helpful
- Subscribers may file a complaint with *Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs*. Contact Jane.Reina@ci.austin.tx.us or 974-2999
- Time-Warner Cable customer service: 512-485-6000

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### Public Access Television (1/3)

- Austin's three public access channels are managed by an outside agency (channelAustin)
- Sept 2011 – current management contract expires
- Nov 2010 – RFP for new contract anticipated
- Tonight – Commission recommendations anticipated

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## Public Access - Funding (2/3)

- Muni franchise funded operations at \$617K/yr
- State franchise funds operations at \$0/yr
- Closing in a framework for sustainable funding for operations:
  - Cost reductions, esp. thru technology
  - Increased grant and foundation funding
  - Leverage capital funds for operating revenue
  - Utilize resources for revenue generation
  - City funding to bridge revenue gap

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## Public Access – Future (3/3)

- Some emerging themes:
  - Beyond television – broaden support for community media
  - Relevance for the “digital native” generation
  - Online services – streaming, submission, program guide, online community
  - Increased support for community groups
    - Public access could be the “channel 6” for Austin non-profits and community organizations

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## Possible Directions for 2011

- Public Access
  - Realize the framework for sustainable funding
  - Evolve to meet community need
- Broadband
  - The “Big Gig Austin” effort accomplished more than just a killer app
  - Policy recognition that broadband service is pivotal to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of our community
  - Develop programs to realize that vision

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