

Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/>

Quarterly Update
to the Council Committee for Emerging Technology
and Telecommunications
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Chip Rosenthal
chip@unicom.com
512-573-5174

Invited Presentations

- Guy Benson, Federal Communications Commission – Digital Television Transition (Dec 08)
- Dusty Granberry, KEYE-TV – DTV Transition Experience (Apr 09)
- Ken Starks, Helios Project – Helios Project (Feb 09)
- Susan Merick, AT&T – Availability of 311 and 911 on AT&T U-Verse (Dec 08)
- Jim Butler, CoA Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Department – CoA Emerging Technology Program (Mar 09)
- Dale Thompson, Austin Free-Net – AFN Update (Feb 09)
- Linda Litowsky, ChannelAustin – Public Access Television Update (Jan 09)

Committees & Task Forces (1/3)

- Digital Television (DTV) Transition Task Force
 - Purpose: community outreach in support of DTV transition
 - Members: Kedron Touvell (chair), Wendell Ramsey, Arthur Sampson
 - Created Dec 07
 - Sponsored three community forum events
 - Supported FCC outreach activity
 - Continues through Jun 09

Committees & Task Forces (2/3)

- Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) Selection Committee
 - Purpose: recommend GTOPs grant selections and amounts
 - Chair: Lemuel Williams
 - Concluded Feb 09
 - Recommendation accepted

Committees & Task Forces (3/3)

- Access Television Funding Task Force
 - Purpose: identify funding options for continued access television operation
 - Members: Chip Rosenthal (chair), Jim Howerton, Randall Kolb, TARA staff, ChannelAustin staff
 - Created Feb 09

Commission Paperless Initiative

- Effective Mar 09
- Distribute presentations and backup materials via web and email
- Reduce resource (materials and labor) consumption
- Open government benefits
- <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/backup.htm>

Public Access Television Issues

- \$1.2mil capital equipment purchase executed
- Facility issues (roof replacement, wiring upgrade) in process
- Commission has started monitoring “Violations and Grievances” report
- Concerns about operating funds when municipal franchise terminates in 2011

Grant for Technology Opportunities

- www.gtops.org
- GTOPs mission is to provide matching grant funds to Austin organizations for projects that create digital opportunities and foster digital inclusion.
- Created in 2001
- \$150,000 allocated by Council for FY2009
- 2009 grant selections announced Mar 2009

2009 GTOPs Recipients

- Austin Children's Shelter (\$15,000)
- Austin Film Society (\$13,300)
- Austin Groups for the Elderly (AGE) (\$5,400)
- Austin Partners in Education (\$22,500)
- Easter Seals Central Texas (\$24,800)
- El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission (\$22,500)
- Goodwill Industries of Central Texas (\$20,400)
- Heart House of Austin (\$14,100)
- Knowbility (\$12,000)

GTOPs Activity

- Support for FY2010 cycle
 - GTOPs contributes to economic recovery and strengthening community
 - *Community Technology Initiative* supports enhanced City services and customer satisfaction
- Funded with enterprise fund revenue
- Commission recommendation will be forthcoming
- Annual review process to commence

Technology Ascertainment Study

- Determines availability of and needs for communication and information technologies in the community
- Supports community development and economic development
- Last performed 1996
- Needed now for baseline on SB5 telecom deregulation
- Commission resolution passed Feb 08
- Staff cost estimate \$50K-75K

TWC Broadband Caps (1/3)

- Mar 31 – Time Warner Cable (TWC) reveals intent to deploy “metered Internet” in Austin, San Antonio, Rochester, N.Y. and Greensboro, N.C.
- Apr 8 – Regular Commission meeting
- Apr 9 – TWC delays Austin and San Antonio trials to October
- Apr 16 – TWC suspends trials in favor of “education process”

TWC Broadband Caps (2/3)

Current				Proposed (then Suspended)				
Plan	Speed	Price	Cap	Plan	Speed	Price	Cap	Overage
				(unknown)	768 KB/sec	\$15/mo	1 GB/mo	\$2/GB
Lite	768 Kb/sec	\$27/mo	none	Lite	768 Kb/sec	\$27/mo	10 GB/mo	\$1/GB
Basic	3 MB/sec	\$35/mo	none	Basic	3 MB/sec	\$35/mo	20 GB/mo	\$1/GB
Standard	7 MB/sec	\$40/mo	none	Standard	7 MB/sec	\$40/mo	40 GB/mo	\$1/GB
Turbo	15 MB/sec	\$50/mo	none	Turbo	15 MB/sec	\$50/mo	60 GB/mo	\$1/GB
				Super	15 MB/sec	\$75/mo	100 GB/mo	\$1/GB max \$75

source: www.austinbroadband.info

Standard def video consumes approx. 1 GB/hr

TWC Broadband Caps (3/3)

- Staff reports City has no regulatory authority over broadband services
- Very limited Federal regulation of “Interstate Commerce Information Services”
- Commission has expressed concern and taken up matter for Council recommendation

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