

## **AUSTIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 2005-2006 WORKPLAN**

1. Continue to support the City of Austin opportunities, initiatives and budgeted plans for expanding public access to telecommunications and information services for all of Austin. Continue to review and recommend emerging technology offerings including broadband, Wi-Fi, Wi-Max, broadband-over-power lines (BPL), open spectrum wireless technologies, VoIP, streaming media, open source software, and adaptive Web services; as well as opportunities created by technology convergence.
  - Investigate and support opportunities for expanded public wireless access in city facilities and venues.
  - Identify new emerging technologies that merit further review, such as adaptive Web services
2. Continue to support and assess the Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) program and review ways to sustain and improve the program.
  - Primary goal is to increase GTOPs annual budgeted amount from \$90,000 back to the historical amount of \$100,000.
  - Provide reports to the Council Committee for Emerging Technology and Telecommunication, and to the City Council, on the accomplishments and successes of GTOPs and its awardees.
  - Continue to assess the GTOPs program and review ways to sustain and improve the program.
  - Encourage promotional efforts and build community awareness of GTOPs.
3. Continue to promote the use of public access television and advise the Council Committee for Emerging Technology and Telecommunications and the City Council on:
  - Discover new sources of funding for access television projects.
  - Assist the City in the performance evaluation of PACT (Public Access Community Television).
  - Work with PACT to solicit public access television to increase public awareness and viewership.
  - Evaluate emerging technologies and changing regulatory environments to make recommendations to assure robust community media services.
4. Identify workforce and education partnerships that expand economic development resources. Support partnership building efforts between the public and private sectors in the industry areas of technology, entertainment, broadband, and digital entertainment.
  - a. Continue to work with programs and events that assist local interactive, music, film, digital entertainment companies, community media and community

technology groups by increasing their visibility at major events.

- b. Continue to work with programs and events that build new private and public sector partners that will enhance the local economic and local technological impact on Austin.
- c. Continue to work with community groups and city staff to spotlight access to and availability of emerging technology (technology centers, wireless access,...) opportunities. Continue to enhance community networks and community technology centers.
- d. Monitor technology-based economic development initiatives: request periodic updates from City staff and make recommendations to Council.

5. Program and funding recommendations for FY 2005-06

- GTOPs
- Community outreach and education forums – townhall meeting
- Continue work with task force and City on video archival needs
  - Work with Music and Library commissions through Archive Task Force to identify the video archive equipment needs of the Austin History Center.
- Continue expanded usage of the City's Public Information Office to inform about all boards & commission meetings (to local media, including print); [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/agenda/boards\\_comms.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/agenda/boards_comms.htm)

6. Develop and maintain networking relationships with other boards/commissions and groups, city-wide and statewide.

- Continue receiving presentations on development of the City of Austin's IT Preparedness Group.