

**AUSTIN COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
2006-2007 WORKPLAN**

1. Continue to support the City of Austin opportunities, initiatives and budgeted plans for expanding equitable public access to telecommunications and information services for all of Austin. Continue to identify digital divide issues and digital opportunities for Austin citizens. Continue to review and recommend emerging technology offerings including but not limited to broadband, Wi-Fi, Wi-Max, broadband-over-power lines (BPL), open spectrum wireless technologies, proprietary wireless/data/cellular services, Voice-Over-Internet Protocol (VoIP), streaming media, open source software, 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.
 - Identify possible funding and support for a technology ascertainment survey.
 - Investigate the community's impact on the coming digital broadcast standards as identified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
 - Offer invitations to IT and communication services representatives to present to the commission.

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 maintain or grow the annual budget commitment for GTOPs.
 - Provide reports to the Council Committee for Emerging Technology and Telecommunications, 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.
 - Continue to encourage promotional efforts and build community awareness of GTOPs.

3. Continue to promote the use of public access television and community media, and advise the Council Committee for Emerging Technology and Telecommunications and the City Council on:
 - Continue to research new sources of funding for public access television and community media projects.
 - Assist the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs (TARA) in the performance evaluation of Public Access Community Television (PACT) and receive quarterly reports.
 - Continue outreach efforts to increase public awareness, viewership and community programming (i.e. revisit public access media forum).
 - Communicate to Council on the emerging technologies and changing regulatory environments as it affects public access television and community media to make policy recommendations.
4. Continue to work with community groups and city staff to spotlight access to and availability of emerging technology opportunities (i.e., technology centers, wireless access). Continue to enhance community networks and community technology centers. Continue to work with programs, events and organizations that assist local interactive, music, film, digital entertainment companies, community media and community technology groups.
5. Stay informed on state and federal legislative and regulatory issues from TARA. Continue to work with TARA staff on legislative and regulatory updates.
6. Develop and maintain working relationships with other boards/commissions, other city departments, city-wide and statewide groups.
7. To gather information on city web sites to recommend the best possible data and services to Austin citizens in all technology aspects; work with city staff to gather information on customer satisfaction and quality statistics. Work with Communications & Technology Management (CTM) to recommend and present citizen recommendations for the city's web services (i.e., optional results from technology survey; citizens' communications; public hearings).
8. Provide program and funding recommendations for FY 2006-07 based on workplan items as appropriate.