



November 2, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Milo Mecham
Subject: Item 4: Comcast Franchise Extension Request

Action Recommended: . Authorize the Chair to send the attached letter to Comcast. Authorize staff to gather further information from Comcast and report back to MPC.

Background

Eugene, Springfield and Lane County have identical franchises with Comcast for cable service within the Eugene Springfield Metro area. The MPC is designated as the franchise administrator for many issues during the franchise term. The franchise will expire July 1, 2008, unless renewed. The primary process for renewal described in the franchise is in Section 16(2)(f), which allows for a ten year renewal, if the MPC agrees that Comcast has shown that it is in compliance of the material terms of the franchise.

Comcast has sent a letter to the MPC staff, asking for an extension of the franchise. A copy of the request is attached. I consulted with the cable regulatory staff of the three jurisdictions, and based on that discussion, responded to Comcast, acknowledging receipt of the letter, and indicating that the matter will be forwarded to the MPC. A preliminary review of the Comcast letter suggests that further discussions with Comcast will be necessary before any action can be taken in response to Comcast's request.

Issue Summary

Staff believes that the best response to Comcast's request is to continue the discussion, gain a more extensive analysis of Comcast's performance with regard to the full range of material provisions of the franchise, and work with Comcast on a means to get this before the MPC in a way that will allow the MPC to fully review the issues before making a decision. If the MPC agrees, staff recommends informing Comcast of this decision and directing staff to proceed.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Request from Comcast
- Attachment 2 – Section 16(2) of the Franchise
- Attachment 3 – Staff letter to Comcast
- Attachment 4 – Draft letter from the Chair of MPC to Comcast

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