Boston Cable License Renewal Hearing
for
Comcast of Boston

Wednesday, March 24, 2021
10:00 AM
(via Boston.gov and Boston City TV & Zoom)
The Mass. Updated Open Meeting Law Guidance (Revised June 9, 2020) during the COVID-19 pandemic requires notice to the public that this meeting is being recorded and is provided under alternative means of public access to technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body in real time.

Please be aware that an audio and visual recording of this meeting is being made and broadcast by Boston City TV at Xfinity Channel 24, RCN Channel 13, and Verizon FiOS Channel 962 and live-streamed at: www.boston.gov/cable
DIGITAL EQUITY & ACCESS: What’s new:

Boston focuses on the “three-legged stool” of broadband: **access, affordability and adoption.**

Working to address the needs of our residents as we manage the public rights-of-way.

Adding free Wi-Fi near city buildings, schools and libraries.

Supporting **Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN-TV), Tech Goes Home (TGH) and the Timothy Smith Network (TSN),** who offer ongoing digital skills training.
DIGITAL EQUITY DURING AND POST COVID-19:

Coming soon!

A new city grant opportunity through the Digital Equity Fund.

Potential grant awards from $5,000 to $35,000 to organizations who implement digital equity initiatives focusing on equipment, access, and training.

DIGITAL EQUITY FUND

The fund supports programs that advance digital equity in Boston. Applications are open until Friday, April 16 at 5 p.m.

HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.
Please email our team with any questions about the Digital Equity Fund and the application process:
DIGITAL.EQUITY@BOSTON.GOV
Boston has many broadband providers -- Comcast, Verizon, RCN, Starry, NetBlazr, etc.

RCN, along with Comcast & Verizon, are facilities-based cable providers, thereby licensed by the City.

All three kept the “Keep America Connected” pledge of broadband & wireless providers to keep folks connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All three also offered versions of affordable broadband

RCN & Comcast offer Senior Discount programs for cable TV.

All three contribute to a robust City-use network - BoNET - for city services, public safety, schools, libraries, etc.
COMCAST-BOSTON
- Low-cost home broadband through Comcast Internet Essentials runs $10/mo.
- Application is challenging, but Comcast is offering 2 months free & waiving some req'ts.
- Comcast offers self-install kits and remote assistance during this health emergency.
- Comcast is universally built-out in Boston

VERIZON FIOS-BOSTON
- Low-cost home broadband thru FCC's Lifeline discount of $20/month.
- Verizon is still building out the City, so service is active in most Boston's neighborhoods.
- Individual homes & buildings require final connection, a process somewhat slowed under COVID.
- Wireless deployment continues to expand at a pace.

RCN-BOSTON
- Low-cost home broadband through their new offer of RCN Internet First runs $10/mo.
- During pandemic, RCN is offering 2 months free & waiving some req'ts.
- RCN offers self-install kits & remote help during emergency. Limited service roll-outs.
- RCN is built-out in about one-third of Boston's neighborhoods.
Outside the Cable TV License....
CITY OF BOSTON HEARING -

RENEWAL OF THE COMCAST OF BOSTON CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE

Wednesday, March 24, 2021
10:00 AM
(via ZOOM, Boston.gov and Boston City TV)

www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston
Comcast in Boston, a timeline

December 15, 1982
Boston Cable Television License granted Cablevision of Boston

December 15, 1988
Cablevision Boston License Amended

May 11, 1998
Renewal Cable Television License granted to Cablevision of Boston

October 6, 2010
Comcast Boston Cable Television License renewed

Oct. 5, 2000
Boston Cable Television License transferred to AT&T Corp.

July 17, 2002
AT&T Broadband’s Boston Cable Television License Amended & Transferred to Comcast Corp.

April, 2021
Comcast Boston Cable Television License renewal
Cable TV License Renewal

- Review of the current cable license
- Comcast Cable system evaluation (field audit of cable wires, grounding, etc.)
- Ascertainment review and analysis of citizen cable satisfaction and needs
- Annual review and inquiry of cable rate increases and related reporting
- Two financial audits (revenue-related and only for the Boston system)
- Review of the cable operator’s financial and customer service filings, including CTV Forms 200, 300 and 400 and 500, ongoing
Cable TV License protects:

- Residents’ cable TV, customer service & privacy
- Support for and broadcast of BNN Media Channels
- More than $10M annually for City and PEG
- Residential access to cable broadband services - which sit outside of the licenses.
- City Use of Dark Fiber for City Network

The License Renewal materials are available at: www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston under the heading: LATEST UPDATES
Cable TV License Protects:

- Senior Citizen Discount on Basic Service
- Employment Policy to benefit Boston residents, women and people of color
- Local Procurement to benefit Boston and MWBE-owned businesses
- Neighborhood Customer Service Centers
Where does Comcast serve Boston?

Xfinity Store by Comcast Branded Partner
235 Border St., East Boston

Comcast Service Center
4640 Washington St, Roslindale

Comcast Service Center
17 Stoughton St., Dorchester

Xfinity Store by Comcast Branded Partner
286 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury

Xfinity Store by Comcast
350 Washington St, Boston

Xfinity Store by Comcast Branded Partner
235 Border St., East Boston

Xfinity Store by Comcast
1316 Commonwealth Ave, Brighton

Comcast Service Center
950 Hyde Park Ave., Hyde Park
Hearing Notices

Published in the Boston Herald, March 10th and 17th, 2021 - -

City website:  
www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston

City Record:  
www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/03/03.15.2021%20City%20Record.pdf

City Clerk’s Public Notices:  
www.boston.gov/public-notices/14769291

Boston PEG TV Channels:

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<th>Boston PEG channels</th>
<th>Verizon FIOS</th>
<th>Comcast</th>
<th>RCN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BNN Community</td>
<td>2160 (HD)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNN News &amp; Info</td>
<td>2161 (HD)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston City TV</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
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AGENDA:
Welcome

City of Boston Presentation on behalf of the Issuing Authority, Mayor Kim Janey
    Mike Lynch, Broadband & Cable, Boston Dept. of Innovation and Technology (DoIT)
    Gerard L. Lederer, Partner BBK Law, outside counsel for Boston

Comcast, Greater Boston Region, Presentation and Response
    Timothy Kelly, Vice President, Government & Regulatory Affairs,
    Gerald Buckley, Senior Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs
    Angela L. Holm, Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs, Comcast

BNN Media
    General Manager Glenn Williams
    Board President Justin Petty

Public Comment
Cable TV License Protects:

- PEG Access Television Channels
- Community Local (LO) Programming
- HD for Community PEG Channels

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<th>Boston’s Public, Educational and Government (PEG-TV) Channels</th>
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<td>Boston City Council TV</td>
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<td>WBCA – LPFM Radio</td>
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Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN Media)

- General Manager Glenn Williams
- Board President Justin Petty
Create hyper-local content to inform our community

• Nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and institutions that serve Bostonians can reach their target audience

• Access to targeted community marketing and promotion

• Access to computers, and equipment for content creation

Variety of media/information distribution arms, reachable 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, all year long
SKILLS & TRAINING

Provides residents, Non-Profit Organizations, and Public Service Agencies low-cost media and technology training.

Provides opportunities for organizations and individuals to get their messages out without technological infrastructure and training.

Provides skill development and acquisition to Boston residents and employees of non-profit organizations in areas of public speaking, design, marketing, promotions, design thinking, project management, and a variety of other soft and hard skills.
NON-COMMERCIAL

The flexibility of content creation without the limitations placed on the content's commerciality

Ability to create more substantive long-form programming that serves the community without financial restrictions

PANDEMIC RELATED BENEFITS

Like commercial stations, we have developed the skills, and tools for our producers to pivot and create content throughout the pandemic.
Public Comments

CITY OF BOSTON:

RENEWAL OF THE
BOSTON CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE,
COMCAST OF BOSTON
March 24, 2021

Public Comment period open through March 26, 2021:

www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston