

Boston Cable License Renewal Hearing  
for  
Comcast of Boston



Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
10:00 AM

(via [Boston.gov](http://Boston.gov) and Boston City TV & Zoom)

BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM

Comcast Cable TV License Renewal Hearing, March 24, 2021 10:00 a.m.

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](http://www.boston.gov/cable)

# DIGITAL EQUITY DURING AND POST COVID-19:



## ***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.*



Last updated: 10/17/19

## 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:



[DIGITALEQUITY@BOSTON.GOV](mailto:Digitalequity@boston.gov)

# DIGITAL EQUITY DURING AND POST COVID-19:

*Broadband by Cable Providers:*

*Comcast, RCN & Verizon have responded!*



- 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.

## ADDRESSING BROADBAND ACCESS THRU INFRASTRUCTURE - AFFORDABILITY - ADOPTION

More needs to be done... Self-pay affordable options for Internet access & **Sponsored Accounts** in Boston.

### 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.

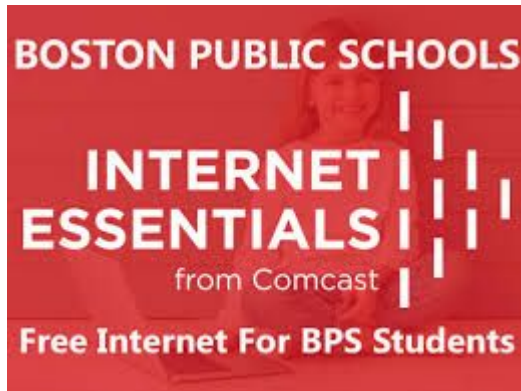


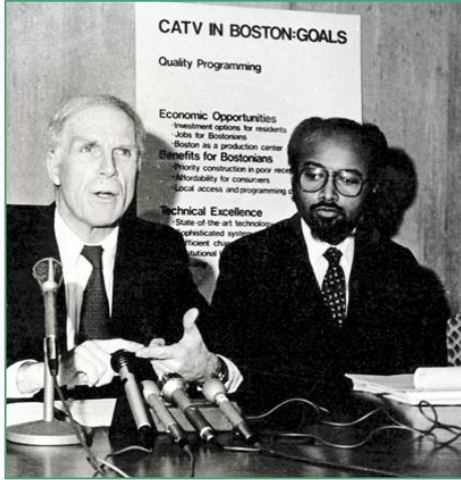


Outside the  
Cable TV License....

COMCAST **BOSTON**

COMCAST GREATER BOSTON REGION: EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MAINE





*Mayor Kevin White with  
BNN founder, attorney  
Charlie Beard, 1982*



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](http://www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston)



# Comcast in Boston, a timeline

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**December 15, 1982**

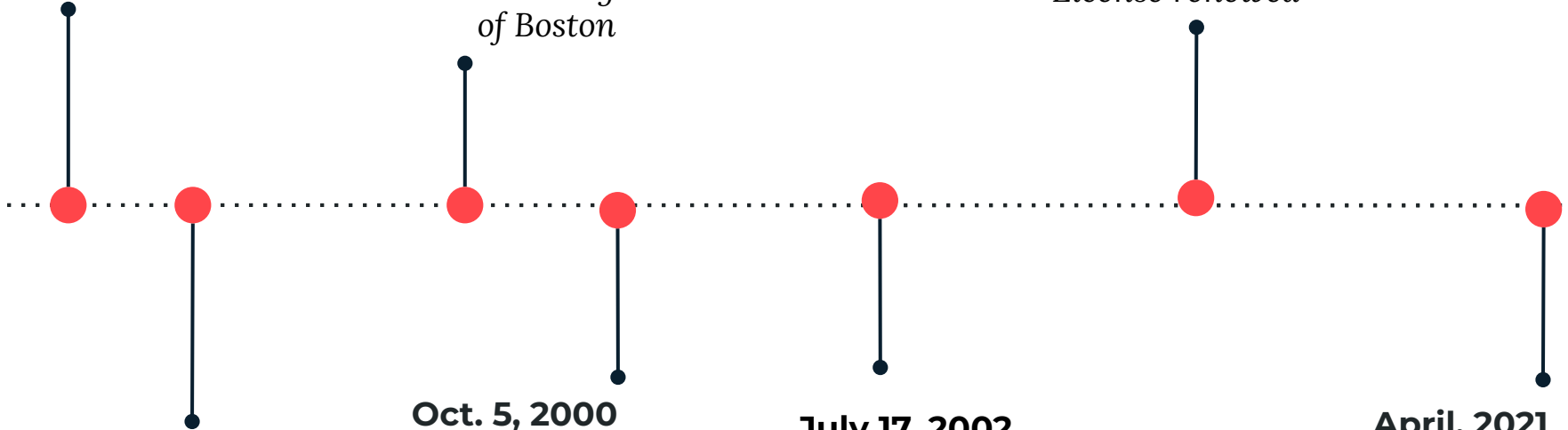
*Boston Cable Television  
License granted Cablevision  
of Boston*

**May 11, 1998**

*Renewal Cable Television  
License granted to Cablevision  
of Boston*

**October 6, 2010**

*Comcast Boston  
Cable Television  
License renewed*



**December 15, 1988**

*Cablevision Boston  
License Amended*

**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*



COMCAST **BOSTON**

COMCAST GREATER BOSTON REGION: EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MAINE

[ABOUT](#) | [CONTACT](#)

## 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



COMCAST **BOSTON**

COMCAST GREATER BOSTON REGION: EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MAINE

ABOUT | CONTACT

## 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](http://www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston) under the heading: LATEST  
UPDATES



COMCAST **BOSTON**

COMCAST GREATER BOSTON REGION: EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MAINE

[ABOUT](#) | [CONTACT](#)

## 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

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

### 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

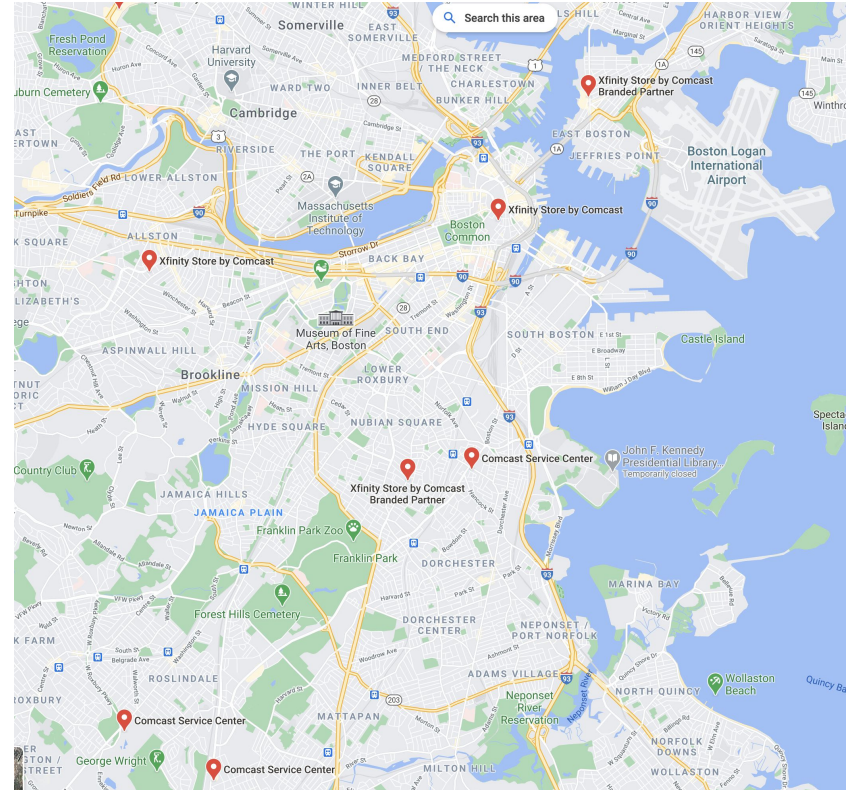
Xfinity Store by Comcast Branded Partner  
286 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.boston.gov/public-notices/14769291)

### Boston PEG TV Channels:

Boston PEG channels	Verizon FiOS	Comcast	RCN
BNN Community	2160 (HD)	23	83
BNN News & Info	2161 (HD)	9	15
Boston City TV	962	24	13

#### LEGAL NOTICES

#### LEGAL NOTICES



CITY OF BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION &  
TECHNOLOGY, BROADBAND & CABLE

CITY OF BOSTON HEARING FOR THE  
CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE  
RENEWAL OF COMCAST OF  
BOSTON, INC.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021, 10:00 a.m.  
Boston City Hall, Room 801, Boston,  
Massachusetts

The City of Boston will hold a Cable Television License Renewal Hearing on behalf of the Issuing Authority for the License Renewal of Comcast of Boston, Inc., to be held virtually on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Please be advised that instructions for attending and participating in the virtual hearing will be posted, along with the Hearing agenda and relevant materials, at: [www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston](http://www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston)

For further information, please call the Boston DoIT Broadband & Cable Office at (617) 635- 3112 or email: [Cable@Boston.gov](mailto:Cable@Boston.gov).

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



COMCAST BOSTON

COMCAST GREATER BOSTON REGION: EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MAINE

ABOUT | CONTACT

## Cable TV License Protects:

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



Boston's Public, Educational and Government (PEG-TV) Channels			
Boston PEG channels	Verizon FiOS	Comcast	RCN
BNN Community	1960 (HD)	23	83
BNN News & Info	1961 (HD)	9	15
Boston City TV	1962	24	13
Boston Kids & Family (WGBH)	1963	22	3
Boston City Council TV	1964	8	82
WBCA – LPFM Radio	102.9 FM		





### Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN Media)

- General Manager Glenn Williams
- Board President Justin Petty



**BNN TV Guide**

[view schedule »](#)



**NEWS & INFO**

Xfinity 9 | RCN 15

Fios 2161

[watch now »](#)



**COMMUNITY TV**

Xfinity 23 | RCN 83

Fios 2160

[watch now »](#)



**VIDEO OnDEMAND**

[view catalog »](#)



**COMMUNITY RADIO**

WBCA 102.9 FM

[listen now »](#)



**SERVING BOSTON**



# CORE BENEFITS



- 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 hards 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](http://www.boston.gov/departments/broadband-and-cable/cable-competition-boston)**