

## Information Technology Director's Report – February 2019

### City of Madison Information Technology Initiatives on Building a Digitally Equitable Community

#### 1. Working on a response to the FCC orders: Cable Franchise Fees and PEG

The reply comment period for the Federal Communication Commission's proposed rulemaking on the implementation of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 closed on December 14th, after an initial comment period closed on November 15th. This rulemaking could allow cable operators to deduct the value of Public, Education, and Government television channels from the franchise fees they pay to municipalities for use of public rights of way.

Wisconsin Community Media (WCM), along with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities (LWM), submitted comments strongly opposing this rulemaking. WCM represents 51 PEG operations and LWM represents 590 incorporated municipalities. City of Madison belongs to both organizations. In addition, a number of Wisconsin municipalities, along with organizations and individuals involved in PEG television, submitted comments. WCM wrote model letters and resolutions and assisted with the crafting and submission of these comments. WCM also sent letters to Wisconsin legislators, and a letter from United States Senators, including Tammy Baldwin, was submitted.

Additionally, the National Organization of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), along with the United States Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, The National Association of Regional Councils, and the National Association of Towns and Townships, filed comments on behalf of the municipalities and other entities it represents nationwide. Numerous other groups and individuals also filed, bringing the total to 9286 comments and reply comments submitted. The City of Madison was one of the municipalities included in the filing.

Comments and reply comments will need to be processed before further FCC action is taken. The federal government shutdown has further delayed the process, so there has been no movement since the December 2018 filing deadline. I will continue to report back to DTC.

#### 2. FCC orders: Installation of small cells and other communications facilities in the right-of-way and on city-owned infrastructure

**Project Description:** The FCC 2018 Small Cell Order took effect on January 14, 2019. City staff is still working the on impact of the FCC orders and what processes and permitting, if any, will be impacted by the new ruling. I will continue to report back to DTC.

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities stated that "...the cell phone industry lobbyists have informed us that the industry intends to seek state legislation this session "Wisconsinizing" the FCC's small cell order. No drafts of the bill have been made available to us yet." And, "...Governor Evers' staff has informed us that the Governor will not support small cell legislation sought by the industry without first addressing local government concerns and the legislation must have bipartisan support."

For more information on the FCC order and the impact on Wisconsin municipalities, see the memo to the [League of Wisconsin Municipalities](#) from Anita T. Gallucci, BoardmanClark

### **3. Global Cities Coalition for Digital Rights**

**Project Description:** The [\*Global Cities Coalition for Digital Rights on the Internet\*](#) is an international group of like-minded cities that support the digital rights principles of equal access, privacy, transparency, and participatory democracy. The coalition's goal is to build support for these digital rights and provide member cities with best practices and the ability to learn from other cities. We are working with Max Sevilla, Director of External Affairs, NYC Office of the CTO, to evaluate the coalition's declaration and the process for joining the coalition. Staff will work with departments whose work is related to the coalition declarations to determine if they align with City services and goals. This initiative is in the pre-planning stage.

### **4. Fiber to CDA Housing Authority Properties**

**Project Description:** This project funds a feasibility study of expanding broadband services at City Public housing sites owned and operated by the Community Development Authority (CDA). The study will identify stakeholders, conduct market research to assess current and future needs, determine satisfaction with service and willingness to pay for alternative service, identify potential partners and service providers, evaluate benefits and risks, analyze business models and recommend strategies, develop a conceptual design and cost analysis, and evaluate financing and funding availability. The Study will include consultation with CDA, IT, Traffic Engineering, and other relevant City Agencies to identify all issues and deliver a strategic implementation plan.

#### **Tentative Timeline:**

- **Mid-April:** Internal RFP Kick-off meeting
- **June 13, 2019:** DTC review of draft RFP for feedback and revisions
- **June 24, 2019:** RFP to DTC via email for review
- **July 11, 2019:** DTC final RFP approval
- **July 15, 2019:** RFP posted for six weeks
- **TBD**