



**City of Seattle**  
**Citizens' Telecommunications  
& Technology Advisory Board**  
seattle.gov/cttab

Memorandum

To: Bill Schrier, Director, Department of Information Technology

From: Ted Schmitt, Chair, CTTAB

Date: May 20, 2011

Re: Recommendations on use of cable franchise fees in response to Council SLI

CC: David Keyes, DoIT Community Technology Program/ CTTAB coordinator

At the March 8, 2011 meeting, CTTAB considered the request from DoIT that we provide a recommendation about how best to spend the \$182,000 per year from the franchise fee rate increase. This is in response to the City Council SLI 2011-38-2-A-1-145 which requests that DoIT consult with CTTAB and that candidates for this funding include the Technology Matching Fund grant program, and services to be provided by the public access television operator.

CTTAB members had an extensive discussion of the options and merits of allocating these funds to public access TV, the Technology Matching Fund and/or other uses. We took into account the public feedback we received at our January public access TV workshop at Garfield Community Center and subsequent input, as well as information provided by staff and researched by the CTTAB public access TV committee. CTTAB Technology Matching Fund committee members shared their knowledge of the need, work and impact of the Technology Matching Fund grant program.

We recommend that \$95,000 be allocated to Technology Matching Fund (TMF) grants and \$87,000 be allocated to the public access television services.

Our decision was a two step process:

The Board first voted to give \$75,000 to the Tech Matching Fund to restore the cuts that were made in budget and an additional \$70k to bring Public access to the funding level comparable to San Francisco, which made a similar transition to the one Seattle is now making.

With the remaining \$37,000 we voted to recommend that \$20,000 go to TMF, since that will support another grant project at full funding, and we voted that an additional \$17,000 to public access. For the TMF, the decision was made based on the important access and digital literacy services provided by TMF grants, which leverage a community match and often includes projects providing community video training. For the public access support, we recognize that

the dollar amount represents a large reduction in financial support for public access tv and that the amount proposed is minimal in terms of the real overall costs necessary to operating a channel, facilities, and training.

The specifics of the recommendation and discussion are reflected in the CTTAB minutes posted at [http://seattle.gov/cttab/2011minutes/Minutes\\_March82011.pdf](http://seattle.gov/cttab/2011minutes/Minutes_March82011.pdf) as well as in the podcast available for this meeting.

On behalf of the CTTAB members, we sincerely appreciate this opportunity for input afforded by DoIT, Councilmember Harrell and the City Council on behalf of the residents of Seattle. These are important services and we believe this allocation will be a very responsible and appropriate use of cable franchise funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Schmitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ted Schmitt  
Chair, CTTAB