

Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission 2014 Workplan

SMART Goals and Key Strategies for 2014

1. Commission Effectiveness

By 12/31/14, submit at least one recommendation to Council in one of our key charter areas, e.g. Public, Education, Government (PEG) access channels, Open Government, broadband.)

Key Strategies:

- Hold an update with PEG managers.
 - Reactivate the Working Groups.
 - Get reports or updates from Austin Free-Net, channelAustin and City Departments working on initiatives of interest to the Commission.
- Received Staff Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update. – **January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, August 13, October 8, November 12, December 10**
 - Presentation from Hugh Forrest, Director of SXSW Interactive Festival on the 2014 SXSW Interactive events. – **February 12**
 - Update presentation from Brian Hooper, Sr. Business System Analyst, Austin Energy, on the 311 Citizen Model Platform Project.- **February 12**
 - Received channelAustin update. – **April 9**
 - Received Austin Free-Net update – **May 14, November 12**
 - Report on the channelAustin Media Artist Survey – **May 14**
 - Presentation from Ryan Robinson, City Demographer on demographics of the new 10-1 Council Districts – **May 14**
 - Received Distracted Driving Study Group presentation on recommendation to Council on possible changes to the current distracted driving ordinance. **June 11**
 - Received Communications & Technology Management Department budget presentation. **June 11**
 - Received Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs budget presentation. **June 11**
 - Received Distracted Driving Ordinance update.- **August 13**
 - Approved a recommendation to support continued funding for the Public Access Community Television (aka channelAustin) contract in the amount of \$450,000 as proposed in the FY 2014-2015 (Recommendation attached)– **August 13**
 - Received presentation from Please BE KIND to Cyclists organization. – **August 13**
 - Received CIVIC Project update. – **August 13**
 - Received a review of the FY 2014-2015 budget actions. – **September 10**
 - Received ATXN update – **November 12**

2. Community media and PEG

By 4/30/15, finalize a new scope of work for the public access TV management contract.

Key Strategies:

- Conduct community forums and/or public hearings.
 - Investigate best practices in community media.
 - Conduct a user survey among the media artists regarding their interests and future needs.
 - Cultivate grassroots community interest in community media.
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- Updated on Community Needs Assessment for Public Access Channels from Paul Smolen – **October 8**
 - Received channelAustin update. – **April 9**
 - Report on the channelAustin Media Artist Survey – **May 14**
 - Received Austin Free-Net update – **May 14, November 12**
 - Received ATXN (channel 6) update – **May 14, November 12**

3. Open Government

By 12/31/14, evaluate and offer recommendations on updates to the Open Government Initiative.

Key Strategies:

- Receive regular status updates on the Open Government Initiative.
- Cultivate an effective working relationship with the Chief Innovation Office and identify areas of joint action (including perhaps public education on the value of Open Government.)
- Engage external entities who are involved with Open Government and learn from them.
- Planned activities in support of Internet services and open government technologies offered by the City of Austin:
 - Receive regular updates:
 - from the Austin GO team on status of current initiatives, and discuss plans for improvements to and new capabilities for City online services.
 - from Communications and Technology Management (CTM) on technology initiatives that impact public services.
 - from other key city departments on issues relating to the Open Government Initiative.
- Coordinate with the new Office of Civic Innovation to help develop its role in supporting open government and civic technologies.
- Identify, recommend and support new technology projects that promote community services and citizen engagement, such as those identified in Commission resolution 20130612-010

- Advocate and promote new technology capabilities to the community, such as 311 open data, and support ongoing initiatives, such as deployment of Open 311 API.
 - Provide recommendations to Council on potential updates and improvements to the Open Government Initiative.
 - Provide recommendations and support for the release and implementation of a City of Austin Open Government/Open Data Directive.
- Update from Matt Esquibel, Internet Services & IT Apps Manager, with the City of Austin's Communications & Technology Management on the AustinGo project which included; framework; open data; and Austin Texas.gov. – **February 12**
 - Passed motion to disband the Open Government Working Group as its work has been completed. – **February 12**
 - Received presentation from Austin Fire Department "Using business intelligence tools to extract value from data" - **March 12**
 - Received Austin Public Library update. **June 11**
 - Appointed Commissioner Ramsey and Williams to the Open Government/Open Data working group. - **June 11**
 - Received 311 update from Austin Energy – **October 8**

4. Digital Divide/Inclusiveness

By 12/31/14, complete the "Austin Digital Assessment" survey.

Key Strategies:

- Hold users forums.
 - Agree on survey questions and survey process.
 - Identify and partner with community organizations to distribute the survey and educate the community on broadband.
 - Participate in the development of an Austin Playbook (for high speed internet) including advocating for digital opportunities for the community.
- Created a Digital Inclusion Assessment (survey) Working Group. – **February 12**
 - Revised the members to the Digital Inclusion Assessment (survey) Working Group. – **May 14**
 - Received update on Digital Inclusion Assessment (survey) – **February 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12**
 - Received presentation from St. Edward University on digital inclusion and community hackathon. (David Waldron, VP Information Technology) – **March 12**
 - Passed Motion to accept Austin Digital Assessment as the official name for the Austin technology survey. – **March 12**
 - TARA staff presented overview of Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan resolution (Council Resolution attached). – **April 9**
 - Commission accepted staff recommendation to coordinate a steering committee to create the Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan. – **April 9**
 - Accepted Digital Inclusion Assessment (survey) draft. – **April 9**

- Received update on Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan – **May 14, June 11, August 13, September 10, November 12, December 10**
- Passed FY 15 budget recommendation to Council – Maintain current Austin Free-Net funding of \$197,774, increasing the Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) funding to \$300,000 from \$200,000 and funding one (1) new FTE, a Program Specialist in the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs (Recommendation attached). - **June 11**
- Approved recommendation for the Community Connections Program Site Modification as follows: Boys and Girls Club site connection will be transferred to the Asian American Resource Center and Skillpoint Alliance’s location at 500 E. 4th Street will be transferred to their 201 E. Second Street location. (Council Resolution attached)– **August 13**
- Approved to recommend to Council to create a Broadband/Fiber Playbook for the City of Austin (Recommendation attached)– **August 13**
- Received presentation from Kerry O’Conner, City’s Chief Innovation Officer – **October 8**
- Recommended Austin Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan to Austin City Council (Council Resolution attached)– **October 8**
- Received Presentation and update on the Austin Digital Assessment from Dr. Sharon Strover. – **December 10**

5. Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs)

By 12/31/14, complete implementation of all 2014 programs and receive data and metrics from all 2103 programs.

Key Strategies:

- Encourage the selected organizations to use free community resources, e.g. Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations (TANO), Skillpoint, Austin Free-Net, and to blend/collaborate on programs.
 - Use what we learn from 2014 to refine the 2015 GTOPs process.
 - Encourage the selected organizations to maximize their opportunities from the Community Connections Program
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- Passed motion to appoint Commission Melvin White as the Commission Liaison to the 2014 Grant Review Committee. – **February 12**
 - Received staff update on Community Technology Initiative and the Grant for Technology Opportunities Program. (GTOPs)- **March 12**
 - Approved GTOPs Grant Review Committee awards recommendations. – **March 12**
 - Received presentation from Literacy Coalition and their Learner Web Project. – **April 9**
 - Passed motion to appoint Commissioner White, McCullough and Parker as the 2015 GTOPs review Working Group. – **April 9**

- Passed motion to revise appointed Commissioners Ramsey, White and Parker to the 2015 GTOPs Review Working Group – **May 14**
- Received staff update on the Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs), including GTOPs Grant Review Working Group update. – **August 13**
- Accepted 2015 GTOPs Review Working Groups recommendations. – **September 10**
- Received GTOPs update from staff – **October 8**
- Received presentation from a prior GTOPs recipient, Girlstart. - **August 13**
- Passed motion to appoint 2015 GTOPs Grant Review Committee and Commission Melvin White as the Commission Liaison - **December 10**

Attached: Recommendations