

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussion of Ordinance No. 710 Granting a Non-Exclusive Franchise to Astound Broadband, LLC, dba Wave, to Operate a Telecommunications Fiber Optic System Within City Rights-of-Way
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office
PRESENTED BY:	Alex Herzog, Management Analyst
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The City has received an application for a new right-of-way franchise from Astound Broadband, LLC, doing business as Wave for a telecommunication (fiber optic) system in Shoreline. Astound will provide telecommunications, internet access, and private line services to potential customers, including mobile backhaul services to existing cell phone towers. Astound may also make available dark fiber or other facilities for governmental institutions. Astound does not presently intend to provide cable television service and understands that a separate franchise may be required to provide cable services. Astound's service area will initially include the general area west of Interstate 5 between N 205th Street and N 145th Street. Astound intends to deploy fiber optic strands attached to already-existing utility poles wherever possible, unless underground construction is required. This installation will extend their existing network outside Shoreline into the City with fiber installations.

Proposed Ordinance No. 710 would grant this non-exclusive right-of-way franchise to Astound (Attachment A). The proposed franchise has a ten year term.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact in adopting proposed Ordinance No. 710 is unknown, as Astound has yet to market its telecommunication services to retail customers in Shoreline. Under state law, the City is precluded from imposing franchise fees, other than costs of administration, upon telecommunication companies and service providers, as defined in RCW 35.99.010, for use of the right-of-way. Given that Astound warrants that their operations are those of a telecommunication company and service provider as defined in these statutes, the City is not able to collect franchise fees based on gross revenue generated in Shoreline by Astound until they collect gross revenues from retail

customers. The City may assess full administrative costs for processing the franchise application and right-of-way permits for new system improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council discuss this item and determine if there is any additional information needed that staff may bring back for further discussion. The Council is scheduled to consider adoption of Ordinance No. 710 approving a franchise agreement for telecommunication services with Astound Broadband, LLC, on April 13, 2015.

Approved By: City Manager ***DT*** City Attorney ***J-AT***

BACKGROUND

RCW 35A.47.040 authorizes code cities to permit and regulate non-exclusive franchises for use of public streets for a variety of public and private utilities, including conduits and wires for the transmission and distribution of signals and other methods of communication. An ordinance granting a franchise must receive a majority vote of the full council membership.

As well, fiber optic telecommunications firms which use the City's rights-of-way for telecommunications systems are required to have a non-exclusive franchise with the City. Shoreline Municipal Code (SMC) section 12.25.030 states that "it shall be unlawful to construct, install, maintain or operate any facility in, on, above, or below the public right-of-way without a valid franchise agreement obtained pursuant to the provision of this chapter."

Shoreline has regulations relating to franchises – SMC 12.15 and SMC 12.25. SMC 12.25 *Right-of-Way Franchises* establishes the requirement for a franchise or other right-of-way agreement for use of the City's rights-of-way and application procedures. Astound has complied with the application requirements of this chapter including a \$5,000 fee deposit. Grounds for revocation of a franchise are set forth in SMC 12.25.100, and these are incorporated by reference in the Proposed Ordinance 710.

SMC 12.15 *Use of Right-of-Way* provides regulations for permitting use of rights-of-way, including utilities, and will be applied if a franchise is not successfully negotiated. This chapter also includes expedited blanket and minor use permit processes for work in the right-of-way by franchisees in good standing, e.g. those in compliance with a long term franchise agreement.

Though Astound plans to deploy fiber optic strands attached to already-existing utility poles wherever possible, undergrounding may be required in some areas. Undergrounding of electric and communication facilities is regulated by SMC 13.20 *Electric and Communication Facilities*, and will be applicable to this franchisee.

DISCUSSION

Astound initially plans to provide telecommunications, internet access, and private line services to potential customers, including mobile backhaul services to existing cell phone towers. Astound may also make available dark fiber or other facilities for governmental institutions. Astound does not presently intend to provide cable service.

Astound is a new entrant as a fiber telecommunications system operator in Shoreline. It is not a publicly owned company. Astound's parent company is Wave Holdco, LLC, which owns a number of other fiber optics companies.

Neither Astound nor its parent companies have filed for relief under any provision of the bankruptcy laws of the United States, have had an involuntary petition against them pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, been the subject of any state law insolvency proceeding such as a transfer for the benefit of creditors, have had a franchise agreement revoked, have been found guilty by any federal, state, or municipal court or administrative agency in the United States, of a) violation of a security, or antitrust law; or b) felony or any other crime involving moral turpitude. A report of independent auditors of the company's financial statements found no issues.

Astound has sufficiently met the requirements of the City's code in pursuit of a franchise agreement, including acquiring and submitting a performance bond in the amount of \$30,000 and submitting a deposit of \$5,000 for the costs associated with the City's evaluation of the application for franchise.

A new franchisee for optic fiber internet services in Shoreline promotes economic development by allowing utilization of unused capacity of an existing right-of-way by a new business. As well, adoption of this franchise makes telecommunication services more competitive for commercial properties in the City as the system is expanded.

The substantive portions of the proposed franchise are outlined below:

- Section 3: The term for this franchise is ten (10) years
- Section 5. Installation of facilities is required to comply with SMC 12.25, Use of Right-of-Way, including sufficient financial guarantees for performance of work. Although new fiber installation will primarily make use of existing utility poles, any undergrounding work must comply with undergrounding requirements of SMC 13.20 when relocation is required by that chapter. As-built plans for new installations must be provided and installed facilities may not be abandoned without city consent. A bond will be required in the amount of \$30,000 prior to any new installations.
- Section 6. Grounds of violation of the franchise set forth in SMC 12.25.100 are incorporated by reference. Procedures for compliance under emergencies are detailed.
- Section 7. Standard insurance provisions are included in this section, including \$2,000,000 of CGL and \$1,000,000 of auto and pollution coverage.
- Section 9. Includes a City approval process for transfer of franchise rights.
- Section 10. Assesses administrative expenses for franchise administration under a representation by Astound that it is exempt from franchise fees beyond those expenses under state law. Affirms that Astound is subject to the 6% utility tax imposed by SMC 3.32 for telecommunication services provided to customers within Shoreline.
- Section 12. Astound must employ ordinary care in installing, maintaining, repairing and operating their system in the right-of-way, and provides indemnification and defense to the City for claims arising from the performance of the franchise by Astound.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of adopting proposed Ordinance No. 710 is unknown, as Astound has yet to market its telecommunication services to retail customers in Shoreline. Under state law, the City is precluded from imposing franchise fees, other than costs of administration, upon telecommunication companies and service providers, as defined in RCW 35.99.010, for use of the right-of-way. Given that Astound warrants that their operations are those of a telecommunication company and service provider as defined in these statutes, the City is not able to collect franchise fees based on gross revenue generated in Shoreline by Astound until they collect gross revenues from retail customers. It may assess full administrative costs for processing the franchise application and right-of-way permits for new system improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council discuss this item and determine if there is additional information needed that staff may bring back for further discussion. The Council is scheduled to consider adoption of Ordinance No. 710 approving a franchise agreement for telecommunication services with Astound Broadband, LLC, on April 13, 2015.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Proposed Ordinance No. 710, Franchise Agreement for Telecommunication Services with Astound Broadband, LLC, dba Wave

ORDINANCE NO. 710

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, GRANTING A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO ASTOUND BROADBAND, LLC, LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING, OPERATING, AND MAINTAINING A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, ASTOUND BROADBAND, LLC, herein after referred as “ASTOUND,” is a telecommunications company that, among other things, provides voice, and data services to customers, including those in the Puget Sound Region; and

WHEREAS, ASTOUND’s desired route through the City of Shoreline, hereinafter referred to as “City,” requires the use of the City rights-of-way for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the use of portions of the City's rights-of-way for installation of telecommunications system benefits local businesses, the citizens of Shoreline, and the region as a result of such services; and

WHEREAS, the franchises for use of public rights-of-way allow for the construction of amenities necessary to serve the future needs of the citizens of Shoreline and the coordination, planning, and management of the City's rights-of-way is necessary to ensure that the burden of costs relating to use of the public rights-of-way are fairly allocated; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35A.11.020 grants the City broad authority to regulate the use of the public right-of-way and RCW 35A.47.040 grants the City broad authority to grant nonexclusive franchise agreements; now therefore;

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Non-exclusive Franchise Granted.

- A.** The City hereby grants to ASTOUND, subject to the conditions prescribed in this ordinance ("Franchise Agreement"), the franchise rights and authority to construct, install, replace, repair, monitor, maintain, use and operate the equipment and facilities necessary for a telecommunications system in, under, on, across over, and through, all City-owned rights-of-way, hereinafter referred to as the "Franchise Area." Facilities includes all wires, lines, cables, conduit, equipment, switches, and supporting structures located in the City’s right-of-way, utilized by ASTOUND in the operation of activities authorized by this Franchise Agreement.

- B.** The foregoing franchise rights and authority (“Franchise”) shall not be deemed to be exclusive to ASTOUND and shall in no way prohibit or limit the City's ability to grant other franchises, permits, or rights along, over, or under the areas to which this Franchise has been granted to ASTOUND; provided, that such other franchises do not unreasonably interfere with ASTOUND’s exercise of franchise rights granted herein as determined by the City. This Franchise shall in no way interfere with existing utilities or in any way limit, prohibit, or prevent, the City from using the Franchise Area or affect the City's jurisdiction over such area in any way consistent with applicable law.
- C.** This Franchise Agreement authorizes ASTOUND to occupy and use the Franchise Area. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to grant or convey any right, title, or interest in the Franchise Area to ASTOUND.

Section 2. Authority. The Public Works Director or his or her designee is hereby granted the authority to administer and enforce the terms and provisions of this Franchise Agreement and may develop such lawful and reasonable rules, policies, and procedures as he or she deems necessary to carry out the provisions contained herein.

Section 3. Franchise Term. The franchise rights granted herein shall remain in full force and effect for a period of ten (10) years from the effective date of this Ordinance. However, this Franchise Agreement shall not take effect and ASTOUND shall have no rights under this Franchise Agreement unless a written acceptance with the City is received pursuant to Section 4 of this agreement.

Section 4. Acceptance of Terms and Conditions. The full acceptance of this Franchise Agreement and all the terms and conditions shall be filed with the City Clerk within 30 days of the effective date of this Ordinance in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A. Failure on the part of ASTOUND to file said consent within 30 days of the effective date of this Ordinance shall result in this Ordinance having no further force or effect and all rights granted under this Franchise Agreement shall terminate.

Section 5. Construction Provisions and Standards. The following provisions shall be considered mandatory and failure to abide by any conditions described herein shall be deemed as noncompliance with the terms of this Franchise Agreement and may result in some or all of the penalties specified in Section 6.

- A. Permit Required.** No construction, maintenance, or repairs (except for emergency repairs) shall be undertaken in the Franchise Area without first obtaining appropriate right of way use permits required under SMC 12.15 from the City of Shoreline and compliance with the permit. In case of an emergency, ASTOUND shall, within 24 hours of the emergency work performed, obtain a permit from the City of Shoreline Public Works Department.

- B. Construction Standards.** Any construction, installation, maintenance, and restoration activities performed by or for ASTOUND within the Franchise Area shall be constructed and located so as to produce the least amount of interference with the free passage of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. All construction, installation, maintenance, and restoration activities shall be conducted such that they conform to City's Engineering Development Manual and with Title 12 of the Shoreline Municipal Code.
- C. Underground Installation Required.** All telecommunications cables and junction boxes or other vaulted system components shall be installed underground, unless otherwise exempted from this requirement, in writing, by the Public Works Director; provided that ASTOUND may utilize existing aerial telecommunication facilities under lease or license from another franchisee. Should ASTOUND utilize existing aerial telecommunication facilities, ASTOUND agrees to cooperate in relocating to underground facilities when required by SMC 13.20 *Electric and Communication* for a City capital improvement project or joint trench opportunity.
- D. Relocation.**
1. Whenever the City causes a public improvement to be constructed within the Franchise Area, and such public improvement requires the relocation of ASTOUND's facilities, the City shall provide ASTOUND with written notice requesting such relocation along with plans for the public improvement that are sufficiently complete to allow for the initial evaluation, coordination and the development of a relocation plan. The City and ASTOUND shall meet at a time and location determined by the City to discuss the project requirements including critical timelines, schedules, construction standards, utility conflicts, as-built requirements, and other pertinent relocation plan details.
 2. To ensure timely execution of relocation requirements, ASTOUND shall, upon written request from the City, provide at ASTOUND's expense, base maps, current as-built information, detailed relocation plan (including detailed schedule of relocation activities, identification of critical path, identification of facilities, and relocation procedures), and other design, technical or operational requirements within the timeframe specified by the City.
 3. ASTOUND may, after receipt of written notice requesting a relocation of its facilities, submit to the City written alternatives to such relocation within a reasonable time specified by the City. Such alternatives shall include the use and operation of temporary facilities in adjacent rights of way. The City shall evaluate such alternatives and advise ASTOUND in writing if one or more of the alternatives are suitable to accommodate the work, which would otherwise necessitate relocation of the facilities. If requested by the City, ASTOUND shall submit additional information to assist the City in making such evaluation. The City shall give each alternative proposed by ASTOUND full and fair consideration. In the event the City ultimately determines that there is no other

reasonable alternative, ASTOUND shall relocate its facilities as otherwise specified in Section 5.E.

4. Upon final approval of the relocation plan by the City, ASTOUND shall at its own expense, unless otherwise prohibited by statute, and at the timeframe specified by the City, temporarily or permanently remove, relocate, place underground, change or alter the position of any facilities or structures within the right-of-way whenever the City has determined that such removal, relocation, undergrounding, change or alteration is reasonably necessary for the construction, repair, maintenance, installation, or operation of any public improvement in or upon the rights-of-way, or for public safety.
 5. If during the construction, repair, or maintenance of the City's public improvement project an unexpected conflict occurs with ASTOUND's facilities, ASTOUND shall upon notification from the City, respond within 36 hours to resolve the conflict.
 6. ASTOUND shall reimburse the City for the direct costs incurred by the City in planning, designing, constructing, installing, repairing or altering any City infrastructure, structure, or facility as the result of the actual or proposed presence in the Public Right-of-Way of ASTOUND's Facilities. Such costs and expenses shall include, but not be limited to, the direct costs of City personnel and contractors utilized to oversee or engage in any work in the Public Right-of-Way as the result of the presence of ASTOUND's Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way, and any time spent reviewing construction plans in order to either accomplish the relocation of ASTOUND's Facilities or the routing or rerouting of any public utilities or Public Rights-of-Way so as not to interfere with ASTOUND's Facilities. Upon request as a condition of payment by ASTOUND, all billing will be itemized so as to specifically identify the direct costs for each project for which the City claims reimbursement.
- E. Removal or Abandonment.** Upon the removal from service of any ASTOUND structures, facilities and amenities within the Franchise Area, ASTOUND shall comply with all applicable standards and requirements prescribed by the City of Shoreline Public Works Department for the removal or abandonment of said structures and facilities. No facility constructed or owned by ASTOUND may be abandoned in place without the express written consent of the City.
- F. Bond.** Before undertaking any of the work, installation, improvements, construction, repair, relocation, or maintenance authorized by this Franchise Agreement, ASTOUND shall upon the request of the City, furnish a bond executed by ASTOUND and a corporate surety authorized to operate a surety business in the State of Washington, in such sum as may be set and approved by the City as sufficient to ensure performance of ASTOUND's obligations under this Franchise Agreement,

provided, however, that such sum shall not exceed 100% of the project construction cost of the proposed telecommunications system work by ASTOUND in the City rights-of-way. At ASTOUND's sole option, ASTOUND may provide alternate security in the form of an assignment of funds or a letter of credit, in the same amount as the bond. All forms of security shall be in the form reasonably acceptable to the City. The bond shall be conditioned so that ASTOUND shall observe all the covenants, terms, and conditions and shall faithfully perform all of the obligations of this Franchise Agreement, and to repair or replace any defective ASTOUND work or materials discovered in the City's roads, streets, or property.

- G. "One-Call" Location & Liability.** ASTOUND shall subscribe to and maintain membership in the regional "One-Call" utility location service and shall promptly locate all of its lines upon request. The City shall not be liable for any damages to ASTOUND's system components or for interruptions in service to ASTOUND customers which are a direct result of work performed for any City project for which ASTOUND has failed to properly locate its lines and facilities within the prescribed time limits and guidelines established by One-Call. The City shall also not be liable for any damages to the ASTOUND system components or for interruptions in service to ASTOUND customers resulting from work performed under a permit issued by the City.
- H. As-Built Plans Required.** ASTOUND shall maintain accurate engineering plans and details of all installed system facilities, within the City limits, and upon request by the City, shall provide such information in both paper form and electronic form using the most current Autocad version (or other mutually-agreeable format) prior to close-out of any permit issued by the City and any work undertaken by ASTOUND pursuant to this Franchise Agreement. The City shall reasonably determine the acceptability of any as-built submittals provided under this Section.
- I. Recovery of Costs.** ASTOUND shall be subject to all applicable permit fees associated with activities undertaken through the authority granted in this Franchise Agreement or under ordinances of the City.
- J. Vacation.** If, at any time, the City shall vacate any City road, right-of-way or other City property which is subject to rights granted by this Franchise Agreement and said vacation shall be for the purpose of acquiring the fee or other property interest in said road, right-of-way or other City property for the use of the City, in either its proprietary or governmental capacity, then the City may, at its option and by giving 60 days written notice to ASTOUND, terminate this Franchise Agreement with respect to such City road, right-of-way or other City property so vacated, and the City shall not be liable for any damages or loss to ASTOUND by reason of such termination other than those provided for in RCW 35.99.

Section 6. Franchise Compliance.

A. Franchise Violations. The failure by ASTOUND to fully comply with any of the provisions of this Franchise Agreement or conditions of breach listed in SMC 12.25.100 may result in a written notice from the City which describes the violations of the Franchise Agreement and requests remedial action pursuant to SMC 12.25.100.

B. Emergency Actions.

1. If any of ASTOUND's actions, or any failure by ASTOUND to act to correct a situation caused by ASTOUND, is deemed by the City to create a threat to life or property, financial harm, or cause a delay of the construction, repair or maintenance of the public improvement, the City may order ASTOUND to immediately correct said threat, financial harm, or delay or, at the City's discretion, the City may undertake measures to correct said threat, financial harm or delay itself; provided that, except in emergency situations, as determined solely by the City, the City shall notify ASTOUND and give ASTOUND an opportunity to correct the situation within a reasonable time as specified by the City, said threat, financial harm or delay before undertaking such corrective measures. ASTOUND shall be liable for all reasonable costs, expenses, and damages attributed to the correction of such an emergency situation as undertaken by the City to the extent that such situation was caused by ASTOUND and shall further be liable for all reasonable costs, expenses, and damages resulting to the City from such situation and any reimbursement of such costs to the City shall be made within 30 days of written notice of the completion of such action or determination of damages by the City. The failure by ASTOUND to take appropriate action to correct a situation caused by ASTOUND and identified by the City as a threat to public or private safety or property, financial harm, or delay of the construction, repair or maintenance of the public improvement shall be considered a violation of the terms of this Franchise Agreement.
2. If during construction or maintenance of ASTOUND's facilities any damage occurs to an underground facility and the damage results in the release of natural gas or other hazardous substance or potentially endangers life, health, or property, ASTOUND or its contractor shall immediately call 911 or other local emergency response number.

C. Other Remedies. Nothing contained in this Franchise Agreement shall limit the City's available remedies in the event of ASTOUND's failure to comply with the provisions of this Franchise Agreement, to include but not limited to, the City's right to a lawsuit for damages.

D. Removal of System. In the event that this Franchise Agreement is terminated as a result of violations of the terms of this Franchise Agreement, ASTOUND shall at its sole expense, promptly remove all system components and facilities, provided that the City, at its sole option, may allow ASTOUND to abandon its facilities in place.

Section 7. Insurance.

- A.** ASTOUND shall maintain liability insurance written on a per occurrence basis during the full term of this Franchise Agreement for personal injuries and property damages. The policy or policies shall afford insurance covering all operations, vehicles, and employees with the following limits and provisions:
- 1.** Comprehensive general liability insurance with limits of not less than \$2,000,000 each occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage, including contractual liability; personal injury; explosion hazard, collapse hazard, and underground property damage hazard; products; and completed operations.
 - 2.** Business automobile liability insurance with limits not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage, including owned, non-owned, and hired auto coverage, as applicable.
 - 3.** Contractors' pollution liability insurance, on an occurrence form, with limits not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage.
- B.** Such insurance shall specifically name as additional insured, the City, its officers, and employees, shall apply as primary insurance, shall stipulate that no insurance affected by the City will be called on to contribute to a loss covered thereunder. The policy shall not be canceled during the life of the permit or Franchise Agreement without giving 30 days written notice to the City. Notice of any cancellation of such insurance shall be provided by Astound at least 30 days prior to the effective date of cancellation by US mail to the City. ASTOUND may utilize primary and umbrella liability insurance policies to satisfy insurance policy limits required herein.
- C.** If the City determines that circumstances warrant an increase in insurance coverage and liability limits to adequately cover the risks of the City, the City may require a commercially reasonable amount of additional insurance to be acquired. The City shall provide written notice should the City exercise its right to require additional insurance.

Section 8. Other Permits & Approvals. Nothing in this Agreement shall relieve ASTOUND from any obligation to obtain approvals or necessary permits from applicable federal, state, and City authorities for all activities in the Franchise Area.

Section 9. Transfer of Ownership.

- A.** The rights, privileges, benefits, title, or interest provided by this Franchise Agreement shall not be sold, transferred, assigned, or otherwise encumbered, without the prior written consent of the City, with such consent not being unreasonably withheld, unreasonably conditioned or unreasonably delayed. No such consent shall be

required, however, for a transfer in trust, by other hypothecation, or by assignment of any rights, title, or interest in ASTOUND's telecommunications system in order to secure indebtedness. Approval shall not be required for mortgaging purposes provided that the collateral pledged for any mortgage shall not include the assets of this franchise. Approval shall not be required for any transfer from ASTOUND to another person or entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with ASTOUND or if ASTOUND adopts a new company name without a change in control. ASTOUND may license fibers to other users operating a telephone business or service providers without the consent of the City provided that ASTOUND remains solely responsible for the terms and conditions outlined in this Franchise Agreement and provides the City with written notice of licenses or leases for such purposes. The licensing or lease of fibers for other uses shall require a separate assignment, franchise or right of way agreement approved by the City.

- B.** In any transfer of this Franchise which requires the approval of the City, ASTOUND shall show that the recipient of such transfer has the technical ability, financial capability, and any other legal or general qualifications as reasonably determined by the City to be necessary to ensure that the obligations and terms required under this Franchise Agreement can be met to the satisfaction of the City. The qualifications of any transferee shall be determined by hearing before the City Council and the approval to such transfer shall be granted by resolution of the City Council. Any actual and reasonable administrative costs associated with a transfer of this Franchise which requires the approval of the City, shall be reimbursed to the City within 30 days of such transfer.

Section 10. Administrative Fees and Utility Tax

- A.** Pursuant to RCW 35.21.860, the City is precluded from imposing franchise fees for any "telephone business" as defined in RCW 82.16.010 or "service provider" as defined in RCW 35.99.010, except that fees may be collected for administrative expenses related to such franchise and a utility tax may be assessed. ASTOUND does hereby warrant that its operations as authorized under this Franchise Agreement are those of a telephone business as defined in RCW 82.16.010 or of a service provider as defined in 35.99.010.
- B.** ASTOUND shall be subject to an administrative fee for reimbursement of the actual costs associated with the preparation, processing, and approval of this Franchise Agreement, not to exceed \$5,000. These costs shall include but not be limited to wages, benefits, overhead expenses, equipment, and supplies associated with such tasks as plan review, site visits, meetings, negotiations, and other functions critical to proper management and oversight of City's right-of-way. Administrative fees exclude normal permit fees for permits issued under Chapter 12.15 of the Shoreline Municipal Code. The franchise application deposit shall be applied to final payment of the one-time administrative fee within 30 days after franchise approval.

- C. In the event ASTOUND submits a request for work beyond the scope of this Franchise Agreement, or submits a complex project that requires significant comprehensive plan review, or inspection, ASTOUND shall reimburse City for amendments and reasonable expenses associated with the project. ASTOUND shall pay such costs within 30 days of receipt of bill from the City.
- D. Failure by ASTOUND to make full payment of bills within the time specified shall be considered sufficient grounds for the termination of all rights and privileges existing under this ordinance utilizing the procedures specified in Section 6 of this ordinance.
- E. If ASTOUND provides services to customers within the City, ASTOUND shall become subject to the City's utility tax set forth in Chapter 3.32 of the Shoreline Municipal Code.

Section 11. Notices. Any notice to be served upon the City or ASTOUND shall be delivered to the following addresses respectively:

City of Shoreline
 City Clerk's Office
 17500 Midvale Avenue N
 Shoreline, WA 98133-4905
 Phone: (206) 801 – 2700

James A. Penney
 Executive Vice President Business and Legal Affairs
 Astound Broadband, LLC
 401 Kirkland Parkplace, Suite 500
 Kirkland, WA 98033
 Email: jpenney@wavebroadband.com
 Phone: (425) 896-1891

Section 12. Indemnification.

- A. ASTOUND shall use reasonable and appropriate precautions to avoid damage to persons or property in the construction, installation, repair, operation, and maintenance of its structures and facilities within the Franchise Area. ASTOUND shall indemnify, defend and hold the City, its agents, officers or employees harmless from all third-party claims, actions or damages or expense of any nature, including reasonable attorney's and expert witness fees, which may accrue to or be suffered by any person or persons, corporation or property to the extent caused in part or in whole by any negligent or intentional act or omission of ASTOUND, its officers, agents, servants or employees, contractors, or subcontractors in the performance of the rights, benefits, and privileges granted to ASTOUND by this Franchise. In the event any claim or demand is presented to or filed with the City which gives rise to ASTOUND's obligation pursuant to this Section, the City shall within a reasonable time notify ASTOUND thereof and ASTOUND shall have a right, at its election, to

settle or compromise such claim or demand. In the event any claim or action is commenced in which the City is named a party, and which suit or action is based on a third-party claim or demand which gives rise to ASTOUND's obligation pursuant to this Section, the City shall promptly notify ASTOUND thereof, and ASTOUND shall, at its sole cost and expense, defend such suit or action by attorneys of its own election. In defense of such suit or action, ASTOUND may, at its election and at its sole cost and expense, settle or compromise such suit or action. This Section shall not be construed to require ASTOUND to:

1. protect and save the City harmless from any claims, actions, or damages;
 2. settle or compromise any claim, demand, suit, or action;
 3. appear in or defend any suit or action; or,
 4. pay any judgment or reimburse the City's costs and expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees), to the extent such claim arises out of the sole negligence or intentional acts of the City, its employees, agents or independent contractors.
- B.** The City shall have the right at all times to participate through its own attorney in any suit or action which arises out of any right, privilege, and authority granted by or exercised pursuant to this Franchise when the City determines that such participation is required to protect the interests of the City or the public. Such participation by the City shall be at the City's sole cost and expense.
- C.** Should a court of competent jurisdiction determine that this franchise is subject to RCW 4.24.115, then, in the event of liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or damages to property caused by or resulting from the concurrent negligence of ASTOUND and the City, its officers, employees and agents, ASTOUND's liability hereunder shall be only to the extent of ASTOUND's negligence.
- D.** With respect to the performance of this Franchise and as to claims against the City, its officers, agents and employees, ASTOUND expressly waives its immunity under Title 51 of the Revised Code of Washington, the Industrial Insurance Act, for injuries to its officers, agents and employees and agrees that the obligation to indemnify, defend and hold harmless provided for in this paragraph extends to any claim brought by or on behalf of ASTOUND's officers, agents or employees. This waiver has been mutually negotiated by the parties.

Section 13. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, either party may deem the entire ordinance to be affected and thereby nullified. However, in the event that a determination is made that a section, sentence, clause, or phrase in this ordinance is invalid or unconstitutional, the parties may agree to treat the portion declared invalid or unconstitutional as severable and maintain in force the remaining provisions of this ordinance; provided that, if the City elects, without agreement by ASTOUND, to enforce the remaining provisions of the ordinance, ASTOUND shall have the option to terminate the Franchise Agreement.

Section 14. Reservation of Rights. The parties agree that this agreement is intended to satisfy the requirements of all applicable laws, administrative guidelines, rules, orders, and ordinances. Accordingly, any provision of this agreement or any local ordinance which may conflict with or violate the law shall be invalid and unenforceable, whether occurring before or after the execution of this agreement, it being the intention of the parties to preserve their respective rights and remedies under the law, and that the execution of this agreement does not constitute a waiver of any rights or obligations by either party under the law.

Section 15. Police Powers. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to affect the City’s authority to exercise its police powers. ASTOUND shall not by this Franchise Agreement obtain any vested rights to use any portion of the City right-of-way except for the locations approved by the City and then only subject to the terms and conditions of this Franchise Agreement. This Franchise Agreement and the permits issued thereunder shall be governed by applicable City ordinances in effect at the time of application for such permits.

Section 16. Future Rules, Regulations, and Specifications. ASTOUND acknowledges that the City may develop rules, regulations, and specifications, including a general ordinance or other regulations governing telecommunications operations in the City. Such regulations, upon written notice to ASTOUND, shall thereafter govern ASTOUND’s activities hereunder; provided, however, that in no event shall regulations:

- A. materially interfere with or adversely affect ASTOUND’s rights pursuant to and in accordance with this Franchise Agreement; or
- B. be applied in a discriminatory manner as it pertains to ASTOUND and other similar user of such facilities.

Section 17. Cost of Publication. The cost of the publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by ASTOUND.

Section 18. Effective Date. This ordinance or a summary thereof shall be published in the official newspaper of the City, and shall take effect and be in full force and effect five (5) days after passage and publication as provided by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE 13th DAY OF APRIL, 2015.

Mayor Shari Winstead

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jessica Simulcik Smith
City Clerk

Margaret King
City Attorney

Attachment A

_____, 2015

[Astound Contact Name
Astound Address block]

RE: City of Shoreline Franchise Acceptance Agreement

Dear _____:

Attached is a certified copy of City of Shoreline Ordinance No. 710, which was passed by the City Council on _____, 2015. Ordinance No. 710 grants Astound Broadband, LLC, doing business as Wave, Inc. a franchise for ten years to construct, maintain, operate, replace and repair an underground fiber optic telecommunications system in, along, under, through and below public rights-of-way of the City of Shoreline. I am forwarding this ordinance to you for acceptance by Astound.

As per Section 4 of Ordinance No. 604, “The full acceptance of this Franchise Agreement and all the terms and conditions shall be filed with the City Clerk within 30 days of the effective date of this Ordinance...”, a copy of which has been filed with the City Clerk.” This letter serves as the stated Acceptance Agreement, and must be signed in duplicate by Astound.

Please obtain the appropriate authorized signature at the bottom of this letter to acknowledge receipt of the ordinance and acceptance by Astound of the terms and conditions of this franchise. Please keep one copy of the Acceptance Agreement and return the other to me.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this process. I may be reached at (206) 801-2231.

Sincerely yours,

Jessica Simulcik-Smith
City Clerk

Attachment: Certified copy of Ordinance No. 710

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Astound Broadband, LLC.