

BACKGROUND

Shoreline is currently served by two “land line” cable television providers, Comcast Cable and Ziplly (formerly Frontier Cable). While Ziplly only serves the northwestern portion of Shoreline, Comcast’s Service Area encompasses the entire City. The City’s ability to regulate cable service does not extend to broadband and other non-cable services. Comcast also provides Cable Internet and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) Telephone to Shoreline residents. These services are not covered by this proposed franchise agreement.

Shoreline Municipal Code (SMC) Section 12.25.010 requires all utilities using the City’s rights-of-way for operation and maintenance of their facilities to have a non-exclusive franchise with the City. The City’s current franchise with Comcast expires on October 3, 2020. Comcast’s current franchise with the City can be found at the following link: [Franchise between Shoreline, Washington and Comcast Communications.](#)

The City and Comcast have been negotiating a renewal franchise agreement since 2019, which resulted in proposed Ordinance No. 894 (Attachment A). This agreement provides for a 10-year franchise allowing Comcast to install, maintain, operate, replace, and repair their cable system over, along, under, and through City of Shoreline rights-of-way, with considerations for being allowed to do so.

Council discussed proposed Ordinance No. 894 at its September 28, 2020, meeting. More information about that evening’s discussion can be found here: [Discussing Proposed Ord. 894 – Granting a Non-Exclusive Franchise to Comcast to Construct, Maintain, Operate, Replace and Repair a Cable System Over, Along, Under, and Through Designated Public Rights-of-way in the City of Shoreline.](#)

DISCUSSION

Franchise Terms

The sections of the proposed Comcast franchise are generally similar to the current Comcast franchise. However, there is new franchise language throughout the franchise agreement to improve implementation or align with updated Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations, including amendments to the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 (Cable Act of 1984). The following information provides an overview of the major sections of the proposed franchise:

- **Section 1, Definitions.** This section provides the definitions of terms used throughout the franchise. There are no new definitions in this section, however some definitions were edited to provide further clarity or align with the Cable Act of 1984.
- **Section 2, Franchise Granted.** This section states that the City is granting Comcast a franchise to use the City’s rights-of-way, and the City still controls the right-of-way. The franchise is not exclusive. The term of the franchise is ten (10) years.

