Cable Television Communications Plan

APPROVED FY27 BUDGET	FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS
$5,067,615	0.00

GAIL M. ROPER, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER/DIRECTOR

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cable Television Communication Plan is a special revenue fund. Revenue is provided by cable franchise agreements and fees from the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group. Funding is passed through for the operation of the Office of Broadband Program's (OBP); FiberNet programs; Community Technology; Community Engagement; Montgomery Connects; Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) programming by the Office of Public Information (PIO); the Montgomery County Council; the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); Montgomery College; Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS); Montgomery Community Media; PEG equipment; and municipal franchises administered by the County.

The mission of the Cable Television Communications Plan is to provide effective management of the Fund; the County's cable franchise agreement; quality PEG programming; broadband governance; planning, execution, and operation of FiberNet; the County's communications network; and effective management of the deployment of wireless facilities throughout Montgomery County. Additional funding for OBP is provided and described in the Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions' (TEBS) budget.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The total approved FY27 Operating Budget for the Office of Broadband Programs is $5,067,615, a decrease of $567,555 or 10.07 percent from the FY26 Approved Budget of $5,635,170. Personnel Costs comprise 0.00 percent of the budget for no full-time position(s) and no part-time position(s), and a total of 0.00 FTEs. Total FTEs may include seasonal or temporary positions and may also reflect workforce charged to or from other departments or funds. Operating Expenses account for the remaining 100.00 percent of the FY27 budget.

In addition, this department's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) requires Current Revenue funding.

COUNTY PRIORITY OUTCOMES

While this program area supports all seven of the County Executive's Priority Outcomes, the following are emphasized:

- **Thriving Youth and Families**

- **A Growing Economy**
- **A Greener County**
- **Easier Commutes**
- **Effective, Sustainable Government**

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Leny Bautista of the Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions at 240-777-2865 or Alicia Singh of the Office of Management and Budget at 240-777-2780 for more information regarding this department's operating budget.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance measures for this department are included below (where applicable), with multi-program measures displayed at the front of this section and program-specific measures shown with the relevant program. The FY26 estimates reflect funding based on the FY26 Approved Budget. The FY27 and FY28 figures are performance targets based on the FY27 Approved Budget and funding for comparable service levels in FY28.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Montgomery Community Media

Montgomery County supports community media and digital equity training through a contract with Montgomery Community Television, doing business as Montgomery Community Media (MCM). MCM operates two community media cable television channels, provides media technology training to County residents and community organizations, and produces independent, diverse, and informative cable programming for County residents. MCM's mission is to provide media, television production, and technology training that empowers residents and organizations and provides them with the opportunity to interact, engage, and influence the County government and the community by using the powerful media of television and the Internet.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY24	Actual FY25	Estimated FY26	Target FY27	Target FY28
Hours of Montgomery Community Media (MCM) volunteer effort in creating public access programming	8,525	7,217	7,270	7,335	7,482

FY27 Approved Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY26 Approved	**2,480,422**	**0.00**
Decrease Cost: Montgomery Community Media Adjustment Due to a Decline in Revenue	(198,434)	0.00
FY27 Approved	**2,281,988**	**0.00**

Municipal Support

Cable operator franchise fees and PEG support obligations for participating municipalities in Montgomery County are paid by cable operators to the County to ensure administrative efficiency and effective auditing. The County then redistributes these funds to the City of Rockville, the City of Takoma Park, and the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League (MML).

The County is contractually required to pass through all fees owed to municipalities and has no discretion to modify these payments. Municipalities may use franchise fees for any purpose, but PEG Access Operating Support funds must be used exclusively for PEG programming, and PEG capital support must be used for PEG and institutional network equipment, facilities, and related capital costs.

FY27 Approved Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY26 Approved	**2,346,369**	**0.00**
Re-align: Municipal Transfer Adjustment Due to a Decline in Revenue	(188,349)	0.00
FY27 Approved	**2,158,020**	**0.00**

Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Support Resources

The Montgomery County Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Support Resources cable access media operations produce, schedule, and promote high-quality programming, supported by coordinated social media and outreach efforts to broaden public access to accurate and timely information about Montgomery County. PEG operations collaborate to enhance community engagement, expand audience reach, increase multilingual content, and highlight County leaders, residents, businesses, organizations, and institutions. The budget provides for essential equipment and warranties, as well as promotion and outreach initiatives that strengthen channel visibility, brand awareness, viewership, and long-term strategic planning.

FY27 Approved Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY26 Approved	**808,379**	**0.00**
Decrease Cost: Montgomery Connect Adjustment Due to a Decline in Revenue	(180,772)	0.00
FY27 Approved	**627,607**	**0.00**

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY25	Budget FY26	Estimated FY26	Approved FY27	%Chg Bud/App
CABLE TELEVISION					
EXPENDITURES					
Salaries and Wages	0	0	0	0	—
Employee Benefits	0	0	0	0	—
Cable Television Personnel Costs	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**—**
Operating Expenses	6,442,517	5,635,170	5,635,170	5,067,615	-10.1 %
Cable Television Expenditures	**6,442,517**	**5,635,170**	**5,635,170**	**5,067,615**	**-10.1 %**
PERSONNEL					
Full-Time	0	0	0	0	—
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	—
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
REVENUES					
Franchise Fees	11,467,348	10,636,116	10,862,834	9,920,093	-6.7 %
PEG Capital Revenue	4,335,901	4,085,626	4,152,308	3,838,999	-6.0 %
PEG Operating Revenue	2,556,323	2,296,044	2,365,392	2,113,057	-8.0 %

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY25	Budget FY26	Estimated FY26	Approved FY27	%Chg Bud/App
Tower Application Fees	108,500	89,032	250,000	250,000	180.8 %
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,000,000	0	0	0	—
Investment Income	275,275	92,860	207,990	164,420	77.1 %
Cable Television Revenues	**19,743,347**	**17,199,678**	**17,838,524**	**16,286,569**	**-5.3 %**

FY27 APPROVED CHANGES

	Expenditures	FTEs
CABLE TELEVISION		
FY26 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	**5,635,170**	**0.00**
<u>Other Adjustments (with no service impacts)</u>		
Decrease Cost: Montgomery Connect Adjustment Due to a Decline in Revenue [Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Support Resources]	(180,772)	0.00
Re-align: Municipal Transfer Adjustment Due to a Decline in Revenue [Municipal Support]	(188,349)	0.00
Decrease Cost: Montgomery Community Media Adjustment Due to a Decline in Revenue [Montgomery Community Media]	(198,434)	0.00
FY27 APPROVED	**5,067,615**	**0.00**

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Name	FY26 APPR Expenditures	FY26 APPR FTEs	FY27 APPR Expenditures	FY27 APPR FTEs
Montgomery Community Media	2,480,422	0.00	2,281,988	0.00
Municipal Support	2,346,369	0.00	2,158,020	0.00
Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Support Resources	808,379	0.00	627,607	0.00
Total	**5,635,170**	**0.00**	**5,067,615**	**0.00**

FUNDING PARAMETER ITEMS

CC APPROVED ($000S)

Title	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32
CABLE TELEVISION						
EXPENDITURES						
FY27 Approved	**5,068**	**5,068**	**5,068**	**5,068**	**5,068**	**5,068**
No inflation or compensation change is included in outyear projections.						
Subtotal Expenditures	**5,068**	**5,068**	**5,068**	**5,068**	**5,068**	**5,068**