



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, ICMA-CM, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: April 1, 2026

Subject: Resolution 2026-20

The proposed Resolution 2026-20 affirms the North Metro Telecommunications Commission (NMTC) as the City's franchising authority for broadband providers operating within the public right-of-way. The NMTC has over 40 years of experience administering cable franchises for member cities and currently performs a wide range of services including franchise negotiation, fee collection, regulatory oversight, and customer support. Affirming NMTC's role for broadband franchising builds on this established framework and allows the City to leverage existing legal expertise, administrative capacity, and regional coordination without creating additional workload for City staff.

Broadband franchising presents an opportunity to establish consistent standards for service quality, right-of-way management, and consumer protections, while also positioning the City to receive potential franchise fee revenue. While there are legal and market uncertainties associated with franchising broadband-only providers, NMTC has been actively engaged in addressing these issues at both the state and federal levels and is prepared to administer the process on behalf of member cities. Adoption of Resolution 2026-20 formalizes this relationship and ensures the City is positioned to respond proactively as broadband infrastructure continues to expand.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.