

Commence Astound Cable Franchise Renewal Resolution

Parks, Public Utilities & Technology Committee

May 28, 2025

Purpose of Resolution

- Resolution commences the City's formal cable franchise renewal proceedings with Astound and authorizes the implementation of processes to enable the City to comply with all of its obligations under Federal law and the Cable Act of 1984 and Telecommunications Act of 1996, as amended.
- Astound's current franchise agreement with the City will expire on November 11, 2027.
- Resolution Schedule:
 - 5/14/25: Transmit legislation to Council
 - 5/14/25: Parks, Public Utilities & Technology Committee (briefing only)
 - 5/28/25: Parks, Public Utilities & Technology Committee (vote)

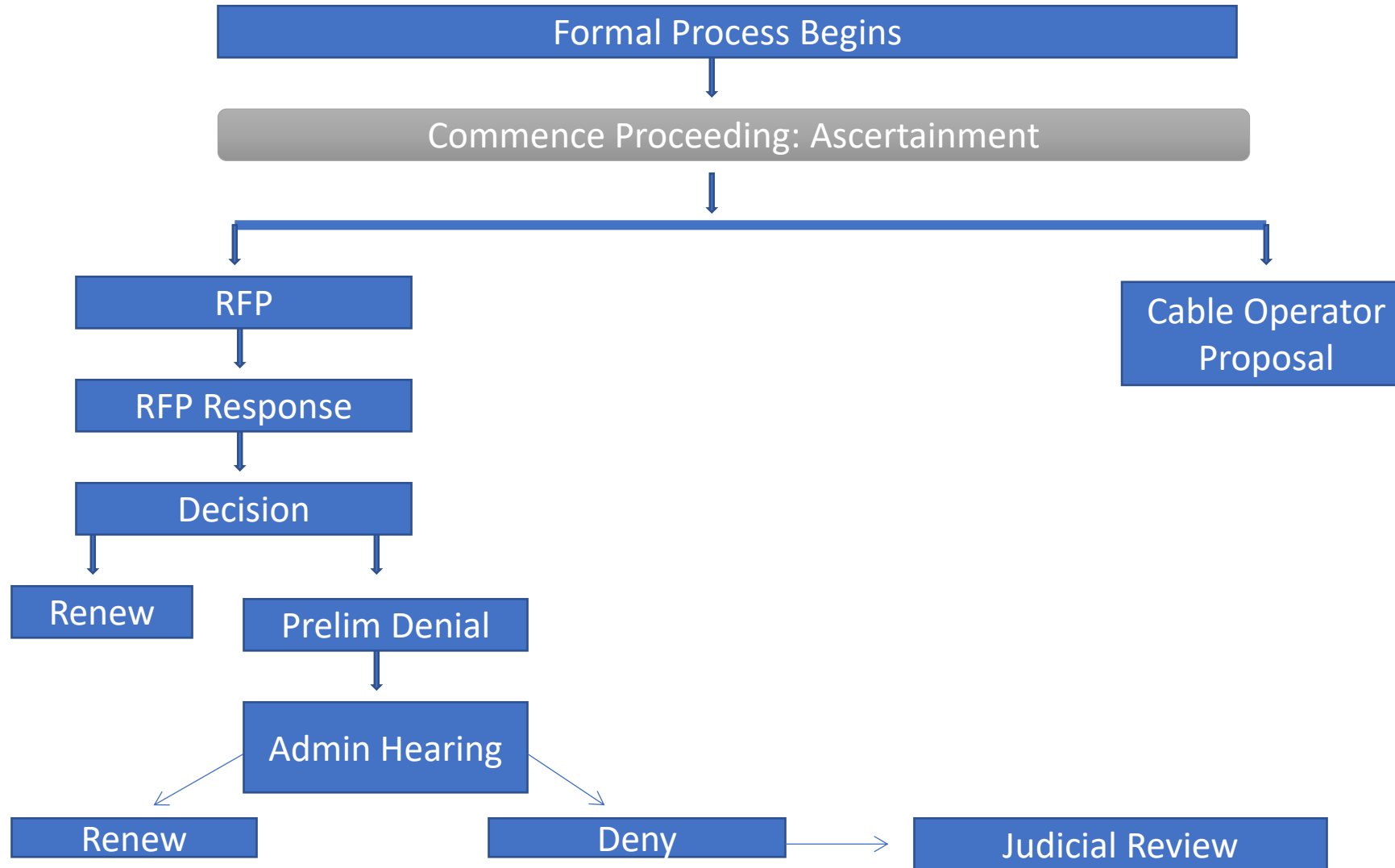
Cable Franchises

- Governed by Federal law, 47 U.S.C. section 542, the Cable Act of 1984, and Telecommunications Act of 1996.
- SMC 21.60, Seattle Cable Code, requires cable providers to meet technical, customer service, and privacy standards, including the Cable Customer Bill of Rights.
- Current franchisees include Comcast and Astound (formerly Wave).

Cable Franchise Renewals

- Franchise Agreements expire after 10 years as currently negotiated.
- Renewal begins 3 years prior to franchise expiration.
- Formal and Informal Renewal Process options.
 - Processes Run Concurrently
- Majority of Franchises via *Informal Process*.
- Must remain mindful to comply with all requirements.

Process Flow



Resolution: Commencement of Proceedings

- No formal guidelines under federal law as to what constitutes an action that “commences a proceeding.”
- The Council Resolution clarifies the City’s intent and ensures that the City has complied with this initial procedural requirement.
- The Resolution also provides notice to the public and an opportunity for public comment.

Cable Franchise Renewals - Timeline

Action	Comcast	Astound
Renewal Notice Received	2/21/2023	12/12/2024
Commence renewal proceedings by	<i>Resolution 32095, adopted 7/5/2023</i>	6/12/2024
Renewal Period	Feb 2023-Jan 2026	Dec 2024-Nov 2027
<i>Council Ordinance Process Period</i>	<i>July 2025-Dec 2025</i>	<i>June 2027-Oct 2027</i>
Council Approve New Franchise by	Dec 2025	Oct 2027
Franchise Expires	Jan 20, 2026	Nov 2027