

Click! Network

In advance of CTC Telecomm's Public-Private Partnership Presentation
On March 5, 2019

Click! Network as a public policy topic

After an extensive public outreach process, the Tacoma Public Utility Board is now considering proposals for the remaining two potential public-private partners. We've provided a brief history as context for upcoming policy decisions related to the future of Click! Network.



Recent history of Click! Network

2017 to 2018: All-in retail business plan and rescinding of plan

In May 2017, Click! staff presented an all-in retail business plan for the network and provided the plan to executive management for their review and approval.

In January 2018, the Board and Council rescinded their prior direction to pursue the all-in retail plan.

The Board and Council also issued a new directive to the City Manager and TPU Director to collaborate on conducting an Request for Information/Quotation (RFI/Q) to explore public-private partnership opportunities.

The City secured CTC Telecom and Energy (CTC) as the consultant of choice to assist with developing the RFI/Q and define 12 policy goals for such a public-private partnership. The 12 goals were approved by the Board and City Council in 2018.

The City subsequently hired the Center for Dialog and Resolution (CDR) to conduct a series of stakeholder collaboratives, which included Click! employees and customers, non-Click! utility customers, businesses, government, non-profits and educational institutions, internet service providers (ISPs), and the general public.

The present

After extensive vetting and negotiation, RFI/Q respondents have been narrowed to two partnership candidates, Wave Broadband and Rainier Connect.

Each potential partner has worked with CTC to develop term sheets. These term sheets will be evaluated for their alignment with policy goals. (See next page)

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Stakeholder collaboration

Click! will remain a publicly-owned asset, therefore, policymakers believe that decision-making about the Click! Network must be informed by input from the network's stakeholders. Tacoma Public Utilities sought out a public-private partnership based on the policy goals prioritized by stakeholders and the public.

These stakeholder collaboratives helped rank the policy goals, which have been used to assess any potential public-private partnerships. At the Joint Study Session on March 5, 2019, consultant JoAnne Hovis of CTC will provide an update on the negotiations with Rainier Connect and Wave Broadband and explain how each aligns with these policy goals.



Top three policy goals

- 1 Public ownership of Click! Network** | Continuing public ownership of the telecommunications assets, especially those assets necessary for Tacoma Power operations
- 2 Preserving competition** | Preserving competition among telecommunication providers that benefits customers (such as high-quality, technologically up-to-date, and reasonably priced telecommunications services).
- 3 Affordability** | Creating low-income, affordable access to telecommunications services.

Public stakeholders considered all the policy goals important, however, the ranking determined by stakeholders indicated the goals listed below could be accomplished within the top three policy goal definitions above.



Ensuring geographically, economically and technologically equitable access



Promoting economic development and educational opportunities



Safeguarding the use of telecommunications services by Tacoma Power, the City, and other local governments



Providing job options and security for Click! staff and protecting the intellectual capital of the system



Protecting customer privacy



Enforcing net neutrality principles for all customers



Allowing open access to telecommunication assets by other telecommunication providers, to the extent such access benefits customers



Preserving Click's goodwill, including via its market-leading customer service for telecommunications customers



Maintaining financial stability of the telecommunications business operations utilizing Click! assets