**Comparable Government Stations**

In an effort to see where the Seattle Channel stood compared to other stations around the country, the station surveyed seven comparable and leading government access stations. The narrative section of the report discusses the comparisons of the four channels found to be the most similar to the Seattle Channel. The spreadsheet shows the results for all seven channels and includes budget and funding details.

Narrative Section:

* TVW and NYC Media join the Seattle Channel in having a robust social media presence, while Fairfax and DC do not.
* DC TV does not seem to make many efforts towards partnering while NYC media leverages their close contact with the Mayor’s Office and the Office of Film, Theatre & Broadcasting to receive programming from major cable content providers such as A&E and the History Channel.
* Fairfax County produces what they describe as “quick updates of breaking news” while the other stations only broadcast breaking news in the form of press conferences by electeds.
* In dealing with changes in technology NYC Media has been providing content in taxicabs since 2009, upgraded their cameras to Hi Definition in 2011 and went to a full HD transmission system in 2013. Fairfax is presently working on providing mobile content.
* As far as reactions to changes in viewer habits, NYC Media is creating shorter content (2.5 to 4 minutes) in anticipation of viewers receiving their content over mobile devices. TVW is still studying this issue as over 90% of their content is “gavel-to-gavel” and cannot be edited.
* TVW is looking to promote civic engagement by their recent hiring of an on-staff journalist to update their blog regularly. They also have been coordinating social media with redistricting hearings to allow online comments to be part of the permanent record. NYC Media sponsors and promotes events like “Hackathons” and partners with other city agencies, not for profits and private organizations.
* Budgets run from a low of $1.25 million for Fairfax, Virginia to $8.6 million for DC TV’s two stations.
* While the Seattle Channel’s funding is almost exclusively from cable franchise fees, Washington State’s TVW is funded by a contract for service from the Secretary of State as well as direct charges to the state legislature for meetings’ covered. NYC Media also leases out two of its six stations (Off Track Betting and educational programming from PBS) for a fee.

Spreadsheet Section: