



**TO:** Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager  
**FROM:** Amy Clancy, Media & Communications Office  
Jeff Lueders, MCO Division Manager – Franchise Services *J.S.*  
**COPY:** Government Performance and Finance Committee; Andy Cherullo – Executive Liaison; Anna Le - Staff  
**PRESENTER:** Jeff Lueders, MCO Division Manager – Franchise Services  
**SUBJECT:** Request for renewal of a Telecommunications Franchise Agreement (Ord. No. 28214 and Ord. No. 26465) between the City of Tacoma and Level 3 Communications, LLC (a subsidiary of Lumen)  
**DATE:** July 31, 2025

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**

Request for Action

**SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this item is to Request an Ordinance for a 10-year Telecommunications Franchise Agreement between the City of Tacoma and Level 3 Communications, LLC (a subsidiary of Lumen). This is the third such ordinance for Level 3 (Ord. No. 26465 – 1999, Ord. No. 28214 – 2014). We have reviewed their request, negotiated terms, and reached a tentative agreement pending City Council consideration and approval. Based on Level 3's (a subsidiary of Lumen) Financial and Technical abilities, and History as a provider and vendor, we are recommending passage of this Request for Ordinance.

**BACKGROUND:**

This department's recommendation is based on State and Local Law which requires a Telecommunications Provider to have a Franchise Agreement to operate in the City of Tacoma Public Right of Way.

**ISSUE:**

A competitive Telecommunications marketplace allows all residents and businesses to have choices when selecting services and reduced prices due to competition. A robust marketplace increases livability, service availability and potential employment opportunities. Having multiple service providers increases competition, which in turn provides competitive pricing and improves the quality of life. The increase in infrastructure allows businesses to have choice and get the services they need at competitive prices to move their businesses forward and improves the overall perception of the Tacoma economy.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending passage of this Request for Ordinance by the City Council. This recommendation will allow a telecommunications provider in our community continue to do business, providing services desired by residents, governmental agencies, and businesses.



Upon City Council Approval, Publication and Enactment the estimated Effective Date: September 23, 2025.

The agreement is retroactive to June 1, 2024 when Telecommunications Franchise Agreement (Ordinance No. 28214) expired.