

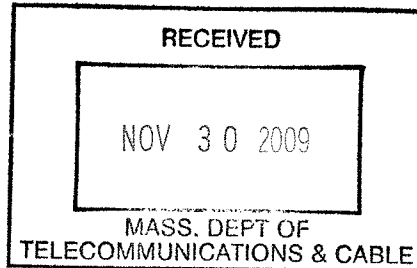


Carol A. Murray  
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November 25, 2009

**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Board of Selectmen  
Stoughton Town Hall  
Town of Stoughton  
10 Pearl Street  
Stoughton, MA 02072



**Re: Stoughton, Massachusetts Cable Television Renewal License:**

Dear Chair and Members of the Board:

Enclosed please find one fully executed originals of the Cable Television Renewal License between the Town of Stoughton and Comcast of Massachusetts I, Inc. As you know, the term is for a ten year period, which will commence on December 1, 2009 and will expire at midnight on November 30, 2019.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 603.695.1490.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Murray  
Franchising Coordinator

/cam

Enc.

cc: Cable Advisory Committee, c/o Stoughton Town Hall  
Catrice Williams - Massachusetts Cable Television Division Municipal Liaison  
Nick Leuci – Comcast Vice President of Franchising & Community Relations *(2nd original)*  
Timothy Murnane – Comcast Vice President of Government & Community Relations *(3rd original)*  
Cathy Maloney – Comcast Sr. Manager of Government & Community Relations  
Comcast Local Accounting Department  
Comcast Corporate Government Affairs Department

**RENEWAL**  
**CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE**  
**GRANTED TO**  
**COMCAST OF MASSACHUSETTS I, INC.**

**GRANTED BY**  
**THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON,**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2009**

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# **STOUGHTON RENEWAL LICENSE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

WHEREAS, Comcast of Massachusetts I, Inc., (hereinafter "Licensee"), is the duly authorized holder of a renewal license to operate a cable television system in the Town of Stoughton, Massachusetts (hereinafter the "Town"), said license having commenced on July 30, 1998;

WHEREAS, Licensee filed a written request for a renewal of its license by letter dated September 9, 2005 in conformity with the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 ("Cable Act") and filed a renewal proposal dated March 31, 2008;

WHEREAS, there has been an opportunity for public comment, as required by Section 626(h) of the Cable Act;

WHEREAS, the Issuing Authority has determined that the financial, legal, and technical ability of Licensee is reasonably sufficient to provide services, facilities, and equipment necessary to meet the future cable-related needs of the community, and desires to enter into this Renewal License with Licensee for the construction and continued operation of a cable system on the terms and conditions set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Board of Selectmen, as the Issuing Authority, finds that Licensee has complied with the terms of its previous license.

NOW THEREFORE, after due and full consideration, the Issuing Authority and Licensee agree that this Renewal License is issued upon the following terms and conditions:

**ARTICLE 1  
DEFINITIONS**

**SECTION 1.1 - DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Renewal License, capitalized terms, phrases, words, and abbreviations shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended from time to time, 47 U.S.C. §§ 521 et seq. (the “Cable Act”), and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A (M.G.L.c.166A), as amended from time to time, unless otherwise defined herein.

(a) Access Provider – shall mean the entity designated by the Issuing Authority for the purpose of operating and managing the use of Public, Educational and Governmental Access funding, equipment and channels on the cable television system in accordance with this Renewal License and 47 U.S.C. 531.

(b) Basic Cable Service – shall mean the lowest tier of service which includes the retransmission of local television broadcast signals.

(c) Cable Act – shall mean the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, Public Law No. 98-549, 98 Stat. 2779 (1984), 47 U.S.C. 521 et. seq., amending the Communications Act of 1934, as further amended by the 1992 Cable Consumer Protection and Competition Act, Public Law No. 102-385 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law No. 104-458, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) and as may be further amended.

(d) Cable Television System or Cable System – shall mean the facility owned, constructed, installed, operated and maintained by Licensee in the Town of Stoughton, consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is designated to provide cable service which includes video programming and which is provided to multiple subscribers within a community, but such term does not include (a) a facility that serves only to retransmit the television signals of one or more television broadcast

stations; (b) a facility that serves subscribers without using any public right-of-way; (c) a facility of a common carrier which is subject, in whole or in part, to the provisions of Title II of the Cable Act, except that such facility shall be considered a cable system (other than for purposes of section 621(c) of the Cable Act) to the extent such facility is used in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers unless the extent of such use is solely to provide interactive on-demand services; or (d) an open video system that complies with section 653 of this title, or (e) any facilities of any electric utility used solely for operating its electric utility systems.

(e) Cable Division – shall mean the Cable Television Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable, Competition Division, established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A (M.G.L. Chapter 166A).

(f) Cable Service – shall mean the one-way transmission to subscribers of (i) video programming, or (ii) other programming service, and subscriber interaction, if any, which is required for the selection or use of such video programming or other programming service.

(g) Drop – shall mean the coaxial cable that connects a home or building to the Subscriber Network or Institutional Network (“I-Net”).

(h) Effective Date – shall mean December 1, 2009.

(i) FCC – shall mean the Federal Communications Commission or any successor governmental entity.

(j) Franchise Fee – shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Issuing Authority, the Town of Stoughton and or any other governmental subdivision, such as an Access Provider, which shall have the meaning as set forth in Section 622(g) of the Cable Act.

(k) Gross Annual Revenues – shall mean the subscriber revenues received by Licensee from the operation of Cable Service(s) over the Cable Television System in Stoughton, including, without limitation: Basic Cable Service monthly fees and all other Cable Service fees; installation, reconnection, downgrade, upgrade and any similar charges; all commercial Subscriber revenues; and converter, remote control and other equipment rentals and/or leases or sales. Gross Annual Revenues shall not include a fee on subscriber fees, nor any fee, tax or assessment imposed or

assessed on services furnished by Licensee and paid to any governmental entity and collected by Licensee on behalf of such entity. Gross Annual Revenues shall also be adjusted for reductions to cash receipts, such as refunds and bad debt calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

(l) Issuing Authority – shall mean the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Stoughton, Massachusetts, or the lawful designee thereof.

(m) Licensee – shall mean Comcast of Massachusetts I, Inc., or any successor or transferee in accordance with the terms and conditions in this Renewal License.

(n) License Fee – shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Issuing Authority, the Town of Stoughton and or any other governmental subdivision, which shall have the meaning as set forth in M.G.L. c.166A, § 9.

(o) Multichannel Video Programming Distributor – shall mean a person such as, but not limited to, a cable operator, a multichannel multipoint distribution service, a direct broadcast satellite service, or a television receive-only satellite program distributor, who makes available for purchase, by subscribers or customers, multiple channels of video programming.

(p) Outlet – shall mean an interior receptacle that connects a television set to the Cable Television System.

(q) PEG Access User – shall mean a Person utilizing the Cable Television System, including all related facilities for purposes of production and/or transmission of PEG Access Programming, as opposed to utilization solely as a Subscriber.

(r) Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access Programming – shall mean programming produced by any Stoughton residents or organizations, schools and government entities and the use of designated facilities, equipment and/or channels of the Cable System in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 531 and this Renewal License.

(s) Person – shall mean any natural person or any association, firm, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other legally recognized entity, whether for-profit or not-for profit, but shall not mean the Issuing Authority.



(t) Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Channel – shall mean a video channel owned by Licensee designated for non-commercial use by the public, educational institutions such as public or private schools, but not “home schools,” community colleges, and universities, as well as the Issuing Authority.

(u) Public Way – shall mean the surface of, and the space above and below, any public street, highway, freeway, bridge, land path, alley, court, boulevard, sidewalk, way, lane, public way, drive, circle or other public right-of-way, including, but not limited to, public utility easements, dedicated utility strips, or rights-of-way dedicated for compatible uses and any temporary or permanent fixtures or improvements located thereon now or hereafter held by the Issuing Authority in the Town of Stoughton, which shall entitle Licensee to the use thereof for the purpose of installing, operating, repairing, and maintaining the Cable System. Public Way shall also mean any easement now or hereafter held by the Issuing Authority within the Town of Stoughton for the purpose of public travel, or for utility or public service use dedicated for compatible uses, and shall include other easements or rights-of-way as shall within their proper use and meaning entitle Licensee to the use thereof for the purposes of installing, operating, and maintaining Licensee’s Cable System over poles, wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, amplifiers, appliances, attachments, and other property as may be ordinarily necessary and pertinent to the Cable System.

(v) Public Buildings – shall mean those buildings owned or leased by the Issuing Authority for municipal government administrative purposes, and shall not include buildings owned by Issuing Authority but leased to third parties or buildings such as storage facilities at which government employees are not regularly stationed.

(w) Renewal License or License – shall mean this Agreement and any amendments or modifications in accordance with the terms herein.

(x) Signal – shall mean any transmission of electromagnetic or optical energy which carries Programming from one location to another.

(y) Standard Installation – shall mean the standard one hundred fifty foot (150') aerial Drop connection to the existing distribution system.

(z) Subscriber – shall mean a Person or user of the Cable System who lawfully receives Cable Service with Licensee's express permission.

(aa) Subscriber Network – shall mean the trunk and feeder signal distribution network over which video and audio signals are transmitted to Subscribers.

(ab) Town – shall mean the Town of Stoughton, Massachusetts.

(ac) Transition Date – shall mean January 31, 2010.

(ad) Trunk and Distribution System – shall mean that portion of the Cable System for the delivery of Signals, but not including Drop Cable(s) to Subscriber's residences.

(ae) Video Programming or Programming – shall mean the programming provided by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by, a television broadcast station.

(af) Video Return Line - The dedicated, separate video return lines providing upstream capacity for Video Programming from specific sites within the Town to the hubsite, where the signal is then switched to the appropriate downstream channel.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE**

#### **SECTION 2.1 - GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE**

(a) Pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 166A, and the Cable Act the Issuing Authority hereby grants a non-exclusive Renewal License to Comcast of Massachusetts I, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation, authorizing and permitting Licensee to construct, operate and maintain a Cable Television System in the Public Way within the municipal limits of the Town of Stoughton. Nothing in this License shall be construed to prohibit Licensee from offering any service over its Cable System that is not prohibited by federal or state law.

(b) This Renewal License is granted under and in compliance with the Cable Act and M.G.L.c. 166A, and in compliance with all rules and regulations of the FCC and the Cable Division in force and effect during the period for which this Renewal License is granted.

(c) Subject to the terms and conditions herein, the Issuing Authority hereby grants to Licensee the right to construct, upgrade, install, operate and maintain a Cable Television System within the Public Way.

#### **SECTION 2.2 - TERM: NON-EXCLUSIVITY [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §3(d) and 13]**

The term of this non-exclusive Renewal License shall be for a period of ten (10) years and shall commence on December 1, 2009 and shall expire at midnight on November 30, 2019.

#### **SECTION 2.3 - POLE AND CONDUIT ATTACHMENT RIGHTS [SEE M.G.L.c. 166 §22-25]**

Pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166, §§22-25, permission is hereby granted to Licensee to attach or otherwise affix including, but not limited to cables, wire, or optical fibers comprising the Cable Television System to the existing poles and conduits on and under public streets and ways,

provided Licensee secures the permission and consent of the public utility companies to affix the cables and/or wires to their pole and conduit facilities. By virtue of this License the Issuing Authority grants Licensee equal standing with power and telephone utilities in the manner of placement of facilities on Public Ways.

**SECTION 2.4 - RENEWAL [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §13]**

(a) In accordance with the provisions of federal law, M.G.L.c. 166A, § 13 and applicable regulations, this Renewal License shall be subject to additional renewals for the periods not to exceed ten (10) years or such other periods as allowed by law.

(b) In accordance with applicable law, any such renewal or renewals shall be upon mutual written agreement by Licensee and the Issuing Authority and shall contain such modified or additional terms as Licensee and the Issuing Authority may then agree.

**SECTION 2.5 - RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY**

Nothing in this Renewal License shall (A) abrogate the right of the Issuing Authority to perform any public works or public improvements of any description, (B) be construed as a waiver of any codes or bylaws of general applicability and not specific to the Cable Television System, Licensee, or this License, or (C) be construed as a waiver or release of the rights of the Issuing Authority in and to the Public Ways. Any conflict between the terms of this Renewal License and any present or future exercise of the municipality's police and regulatory powers shall be resolved by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

**SECTION 2.6 - NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF LICENSE**

(a) Licensee acknowledges and agrees that the Issuing Authority reserves the right to grant one or more additional licenses to other Cable Service providers within the Town for the right to use and occupy the Public Ways or streets within the Issuing Authorities jurisdiction. . If

any such additional or competitive license is granted by the Issuing Authority which, in the reasonable opinion of Licensee, contains more financially favorable or less burdensome terms or conditions than this Renewal License, including, but not limited to: franchise fees; payment schedules; insurance; system build-out requirements; performance bonds or similar instruments; public, education and government access channels and support; customer service standards; required reports and related record keeping; and notice and opportunity to cure breaches, the Issuing Authority agrees that it shall amend this Renewal License to include any more favorable or less burdensome terms or conditions, in accordance with the procedure set forth in subparagraph (e) below.

(b) In the event an application for a new cable television license is filed with the Issuing Authority, proposing to serve the Town, in whole or in part, the Issuing Authority shall serve a copy of such application upon any existing Licensee or incumbent cable operator by registered or certified mail or via nationally recognized overnight courier service within a reasonable time thereafter.

(c) To the extent allowed by applicable law(s), the grant of any additional cable television license(s) shall be on equivalent terms and conditions as those contained in this Renewal License.

(d) The issuance of additional license(s) shall be subject to all applicable federal and state laws, including M.G.L.c. 166A and applicable regulations promulgated thereunder.

(e) In the event that Licensee believes that any additional license(s) has been granted on terms or conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall convene a public hearing on such issue, within not more than thirty (30) days of receipt of a hearing request from Licensee. Along with said written request, Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with written reasons for its belief. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any such additional license(s) are on terms more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this

Renewal License. Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is requested.

(f) Should Licensee demonstrate that any such additional license(s) have been granted on terms and conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall make equitable amendments to this Renewal License within a reasonable time.

(g) In the event that Licensee demonstrates that an existing or future Cable Service provider in the Town has been provided relief by the Issuing Authority from any obligation of its license, then Licensee shall be awarded an equivalent amount of relief from obligations herein. Such relief shall be in writing and in the form of an amendment to this License. The Issuing Authority shall convene a public hearing on the issue within sixty (60) days of Licensee's notification to the Issuing Authority requiring such relief, unless otherwise mutually agreed to. Licensee shall provide reasons for its belief in the notification. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any existing or future service providers in the Town have been provided relief by the Issuing Authority from any obligation of its cable television license. Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is requested to justify its belief; provided, however, that the parties' counsels mutually and reasonably deem said information is non-proprietary.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION**

**SECTION 3.1 - AREA TO BE SERVED [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §3(a)]**

(a) Licensee shall make Cable Service available to every residential dwelling unit within the Town where the minimum density is at least thirty (30) dwelling units per aerial mile and sixty (60) dwelling units per underground mile providing however, that any plant extension is measured from the existing Trunk and Distribution System and Licensee is able to obtain from property owners any necessary easements and/or permits in accordance with Cable Act. Licensee shall make service available to multiple dwelling units (MDU) where economically feasible and providing that Licensee is able to obtain from the property owners any necessary easements, permits and agreements to provide service to said MDU. Subject to the density requirement, Licensee shall offer Cable Service to all new homes or previously unserved homes located within one hundred fifty feet (150') of Licensee's Distribution Cable. For non-Standard Installations Licensee shall offer said service within ninety (90) days of a Subscriber requesting such for aerial installations and one hundred eighty (180) days, weather permitting, of a Subscriber requesting such for underground installations. With respect to areas of the Town which are currently served by Licensee from a contiguous cable television system or currently unserved but could be served by abutting town(s) served by Licensee, Licensee shall have the option to serve such areas from its cable television system in such abutting town.

(b) Installation costs shall conform with the Cable Act. Any dwelling unit within one hundred fifty aerial feet (150 ft.) of the Trunk and Distribution Cable shall be entitled to a Standard Installation rate in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. Underground installs are considered non-standard installations. All non-standard installations shall be provided at a rate established by the Licensee in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

(c) Provided Licensee has at least ninety (90) days prior written notice concerning the opening of residential subdivision trenching, or of the installation of conduit for the location of utilities, it shall install its cable in such trenching or conduits or may seek permission to utilize alternative trenching or conduits within a comparable time frame. If a substantial quantity of cable is required for a large subdivision and said quantity is not in stock, Licensee shall be allowed additional time for said installation. The Issuing Authority, or its designee, shall exercise reasonable efforts to have the Planning Board and developers give timely written notice of trenching and underground construction to Licensee. Developer shall be responsible for the digging and back-filling of all trenches.

### **SECTION 3.2 - SUBSCRIBER NETWORK**

Licensee shall maintain a Cable Television System, fully capable of carrying a minimum bandwidth of 750MHz.

### **SECTION 3.3 - SUBSCRIBER NETWORK CABLE DROPS [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §5(e)]**

(a) Licensee shall maintain the current level of existing active Drops, Outlets and Basic Cable Service, at no charge to the Town, to each Public Building, public school, police and fire stations, public libraries and other Public Buildings as designated by the Issuing Authority within the Town, listed in **Exhibit A** attached hereto, provided such are considered to be a Standard Installation.

(b) Upon written request by the Issuing Authority, Licensee shall provide one (1) Standard Installation Drop, Outlet and Basic Cable Service at no charge to any new Public Buildings and other Town owned Public Buildings, along the Trunk and Distribution Cable subject to the limitations set forth above. The Issuing Authority or its designee shall consult with a representative of Licensee to determine the appropriate location for each of such Public Building's respective Outlet prior to requesting that Licensee install service at no charge.



(c) Nothing in this Section shall require Licensee to move existing or install additional Drops or Outlets at no charge to those buildings included in **Exhibit A**, or to move existing or install additional Drops or Outlets to buildings already installed pursuant to subsection (b) above.

(d) It is understood that Licensee shall not be responsible for any internal wiring of such Public Buildings.

### **SECTION 3.4 – INSTITUTIONAL NETWORK**

- (a) The Licensee shall own, operate, maintain and repair the broadband fiber institutional network (“BFN” or “I-Net”) existing on the Effective Date.
- (b) The I-Net shall be capable of transporting PEG Access Programming from and among those buildings with an activated I-Net Drop listed in **Exhibit B** (“I-Net Buildings”), attached hereto and made a part hereof.
- (c) The I-Net hub site will continue to be located at Stoughton Town Hall (10 Pearl Street).
- (d) The Licensee shall provide and maintain one I-Net Drop, without charge to the Town and/or any designated institutions, to each of the I-Net Buildings.
- (e) The Licensee shall continue to be responsible for equipment to enable its I-Net to interact with the Licensee's Subscriber Network in order that PEG Access Programming may be sent upstream to the Licensee-owned hub site/headend and then transmitted downstream on a Subscriber Network PEG Access Channel.

### **SECTION 3.5 - PARENTAL CONTROL CAPABILITY**

(a) Pursuant to applicable law, upon request, and at no separate, additional charge, Licensee shall provide Subscribers with the capability to control the reception of any channel on the Cable System.

(b) The Issuing Authority acknowledges that the parental control capability may be part of a converter box and Licensee may charge Subscriber for use of said box.

### **SECTION 3.6---EMERGENCY ALERT OVERRIDE CAPACITY**

Licensee shall comply with the FCC’s Emergency Alert System (“EAS”) regulations.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**TECHNOLOGICAL AND SAFETY STANDARDS**

**SECTION 4.1 - SYSTEM MAINTENANCE [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §5]**

(a) In installing, operating and maintaining equipment, cable and wires, Licensee shall avoid damage and injury to trees, structures and improvements in and along the routes authorized by the Issuing Authority, except as may be approved by the Issuing Authority if required for the proper installation, operation and maintenance of such equipment, cable and wires.

(b) The construction, maintenance and operation of the Cable Television System for which this Renewal License is granted shall be done in conformance with all applicable laws, bylaws of general applicability, codes and regulations, including but not limited to OSHA, the National Electrical Safety Code, and the rules and regulations of the FCC as the same exist or as same may be hereafter changed or amended.

(c) Operating and maintenance personnel shall be trained in the use of all safety equipment and the safe operation of vehicles and equipment. Licensee shall install and maintain its equipment, cable and wires in such a manner as shall not interfere with any installations of the Town or any public utility serving the Town.

(d) All structures and all equipment, cable and wires in, over, under, and upon streets, sidewalks, alleys, and public rights of ways of the Town, wherever situated or located shall at all times be kept and maintained in a safe and suitable condition and in good order and repair.

(e) The signal of any Broadcast station carried on the Cable Television System shall be carried without material degradation in quality at all subscribing locations within the limits imposed by the technical specifications of the Cable System and as set forth by the FCC. The Cable System shall be operated and maintained so as to comply with the technical standards set forth in the FCC's rules and regulations as they apply to cable television systems.

(f) Upon written notice from the Issuing Authority, Licensee shall remedy a general deficiency with respect to the technical standards described herein within three (3) months of receipt of notice and a safety deficiency within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of notice and shall notify the Issuing Authority when the deficiency has been corrected.

#### **SECTION 4.2 - REPAIRS AND RESTORATION [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §5(g)]**

Whenever Licensee takes up or disturbs any pavement, sidewalk or other improvement of any public right of way or public place, the same shall be replaced and the surface restored in as good condition as possible as before entry as soon as practicable. If Licensee fails to make such restoration within a reasonable time, the Issuing Authority may fix a reasonable time for such restoration and repairs, and shall notify Licensee in writing of the restoration and repairs required and the time fixed for the performance thereof. Upon failure of Licensee to comply within the time specified, the Issuing Authority may cause proper restoration and repairs to be made and the expense of such work shall be paid by Licensee upon written demand by the Issuing Authority.

#### **SECTION 4.3 - CABLE LOCATION**

(a) In all areas of the Town where all of the transmission and distribution facilities of all public or municipal utilities are installed underground, Licensee shall install its Cable System underground provided that such facilities are actually capable of receiving the Licensee's cable and other equipment without technical degradation of the Cable System's signal quality.

(b) In all areas of the Town where public utility lines are aurally placed, if subsequently during the term of the Renewal License such public utility lines are required by local bylaw or State law to be relocated aurally or underground, Licensee shall similarly relocate its Cable System if it is given reasonable notice and access to the public and municipal utilities facilities at the time that such are placed underground. Any costs incurred by Licensee for relocating utility poles or trenching for the placement of underground conduits shall be entitled to reimbursement of