



Montana Legislative Services Division
Office of the Executive Director

August 8, 2016

To: Members of the TVMT Advisory Subcommittee of the Legislative Council

From: Susan Fox, Executive Director
Gordy Higgins, Operations Director

Re: Advise the Legislative Council and Legislative Services Division on general policies under the provisions of Title 5, chpt. 11, part 8, MCA.

Legislative Council approved the creation of an advisory subcommittee to offer advice and guidance to the Council and LSD about how best TVMT can "provide Montana citizens with increased access to unbiased information about state government deliberations and public policy events through unedited television coverage..."(5-11-1101 (1), MCA). Over the last 15 years, TVMT has expanded its infrastructure and ability to provide significant coverage of legislative hearings during the session and the interim, executive branch boards and committees, and a variety of events that are of interest to the public. As demand for public affairs broadcasting increases, TVMT staff and contractors need assistance in planning for the future.

TVMT developed a survey asking for thoughts about how we can improve our production and broadcasting services. We'll compile the results to help set the agenda for the subcommittee going forward.

Potential topics are:

1. Future capacity of TVMT coverage during the session and the interim.
2. Upgrading, maintaining, and financing production and broadcasting infrastructure.
3. New production opportunities, particularly highlighting legislators and legislative events.
4. Recommendations for an effective process to prioritize live and streaming broadcasts.
5. Determining cost effective ways to transmit and distribute our signal to reach all of Montana.
6. Agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding between TVMT and the Executive Branch under the provisions of Section 2-3-214, MCA.

We will present a proposed schedule for your consideration and approval and offer the survey results during the Council meeting in August. Thank you for helping us plan for the future of TVMT.