



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open Media Foundation Launches National Rollout of Government Transparency Software to Increase Civic Engagement

Denver, CO, April 27, 2017 – Today the Open Media Foundation is launching the national rollout of Open Media Project (OMP), a digital government transparency platform. OMP empowers citizens to find out what's going on in their local government as easily as they would search for a local coffee shop. After successfully implementing the OMP for the Colorado House and Senate, as well as 10 other municipalities in the state, this national rollout has the potential to significantly boost civic engagement within local governments across the country. City Councils, School Boards, or any public-serving entity can [sign up now](#) for a free trial.

The desire of citizens to get civically engaged is on the rise; the OMP platform makes it easy for governments to digitally open up their meetings to constituents. Here's how it works for governments:

- Create an OMP account via a simple 3-step signup form at [ompnetwork.org](#).
- Create a YouTube account and livestream a meeting.
- Upload your agenda to the OMP and timestamp your agenda items during the meeting.

The OMP, available at [ompnetwork.org](#), is free of charge for governments serving populations of 5,000 or fewer. Governments serving larger populations pay 50-90% less than comparable for-profit solutions.

“Local government is where the public has the greatest opportunity to make an impact, and also where decisions are made that most impact their lives,” said Tony Shawcross, Executive Director of the Open Media Foundation. “With OMP, government can finally be accessible to the public in the way they want to consume information: video” added Shawcross.

Here's how it works for users:

- Visit your local gov website.
- Enter a topic of interest in the search bar (i.e., zoning) to retrieve all video clips from all meetings where that topic has been mentioned. Try it out: <https://www.eugene-or.gov>.

- *COMING SOON: Sign up to receive email/text notifications anytime topics of interest are mentioned in your local government meetings.*

“It’s been an incredible resource for the people of Colorado, lowering the bar for civic engagement and enabling every resident of the state to be informed and engaged in the issues they care about,” said Andrew Romanoff, who planted the seeds for the project with the Open Media Foundation ten years ago as Speaker of the Colorado State House of Representatives. Now, as the CEO of a Colorado-based nonprofit and advocacy organization, Romanoff uses the tools to stay abreast of debate around mental health legislation at the capitol.

[Sign up now](#) for a free trial or encourage your local government representatives to adopt the OMP.

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About the Open Media Foundation:

The Open Media Foundation (OMF) puts the power of media and technology in the hands of the people. In 2013, OMF built a new streaming and archiving service to make video of the Colorado State Legislature searchable and shareable. The new service garnered more than twice the number of users of any previous year, while cutting costs in half thanks to free tools like YouTube’s live streaming service. Building on that success, OMF built and beta-tested a SaaS version of the tool with nearly a dozen state and local governments across Colorado. Last year, the project was invited to participate in the [Fast Forward Accelerator](#), the nation’s top accelerator program for tech nonprofits, resulting in additional funding and a new, low-cost software release targeting small governments who can’t afford the commercial services. To find out more about OMF, visit www.openmediafoundation.org. For more on the Open Media Project, visit ompnetwork.org.

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