

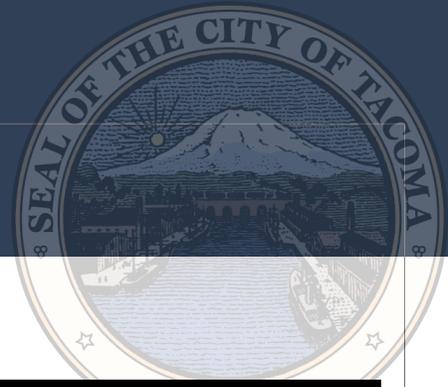
Small Cellular Facilities Code Update

City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services
Infrastructure, Planning & Sustainability Committee
February 14, 2018

OVERVIEW

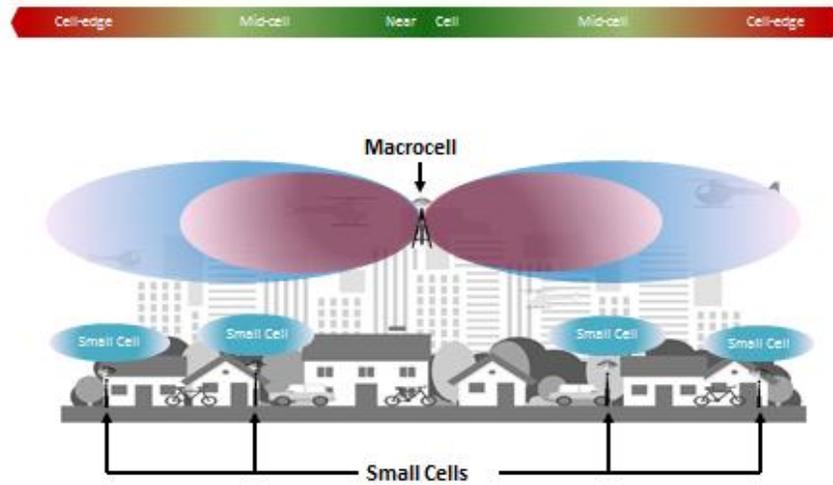


Staff is proposing amendments to TMC Chapter
9.08 Street Occupancies which will codify
procedures and design standards for Small Cell &
5G Installations.

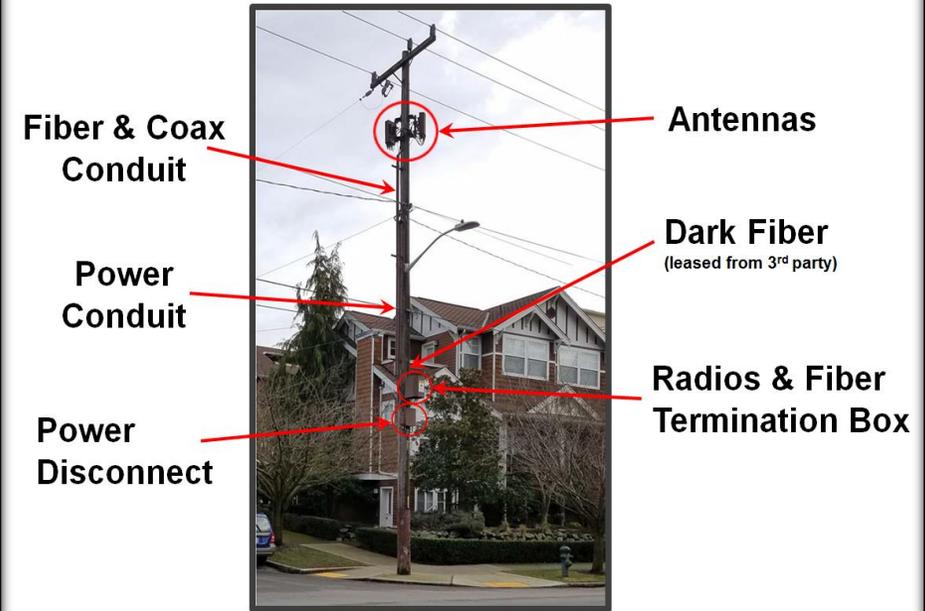


BACKGROUND

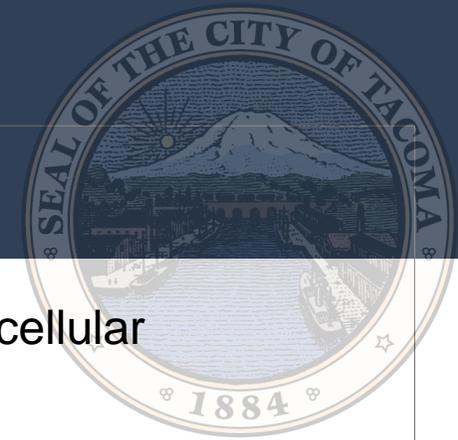
What is a Small Cell?



Small Cell Components



BACKGROUND



- The City of Tacoma currently lacks design standards applicable to cellular installation in the public right-of-way.
- On 11/14/2017, The Council asked that appropriate development standards be put in place to avoid negative impacts to the aesthetic environment.

Examples of Undesirable Designs:





BACKGROUND

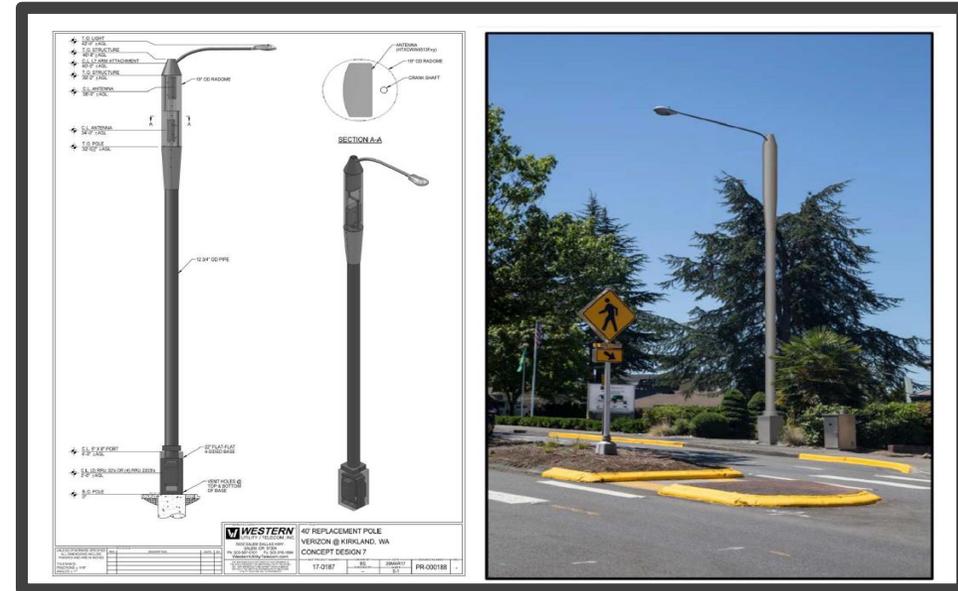
Utility Pole



Greenlake
Seattle, WA

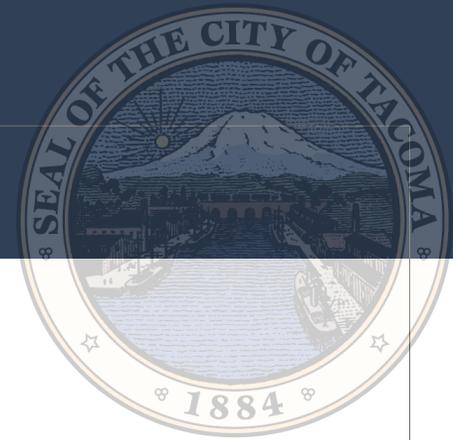


Light Standards

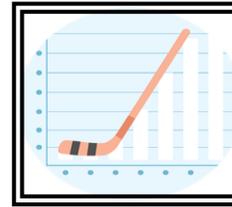


City of Seattle

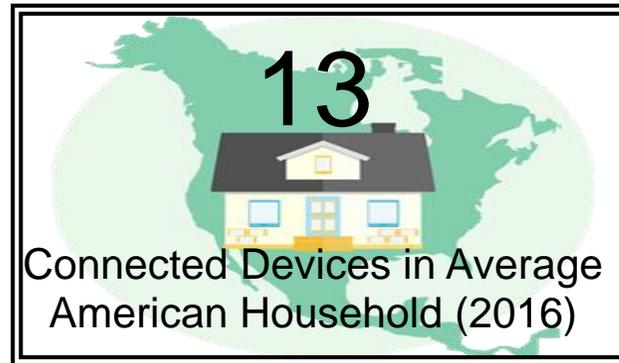
ISSUES



76%
of 911 calls
originate
from cell
phones



35%
increase in
mobile data use
since 2010



13
Connected Devices in Average
American Household (2016)



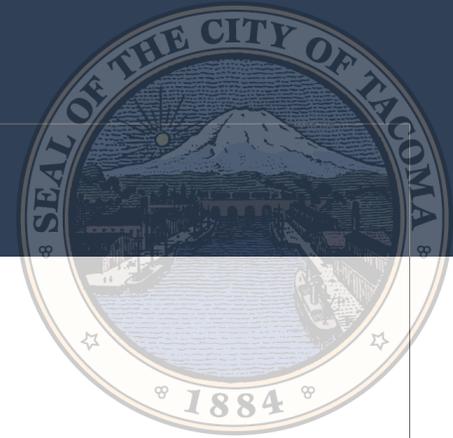
92%
of millennials
have a
smartphone

36M to 263M
increase in machine to
machine connections
(2013-2018)



52%
of all American
Households are
wireless only

PROPOSED REVISIONS



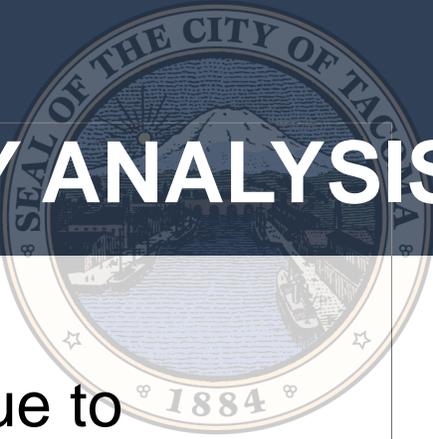
- **City Code Title 9 Public Ways**

- Amends Title 9.08 Street Occupancies to allow for Small Cellular facilities within the City of Tacoma Right-of-Way.
 - Defines “Small Cell Facility”
 - Roadmap to permitting Small Cell Facilities
 - Provides for notice

PROPOSED REVISIONS



- **City Code Title 9 Public Ways**
 - Implement development standards specific to Small Cellular facilities within the City of Tacoma Right-of-Way.
 - Consistency with Business Districts and Historic Districts
 - Height Limitations
 - Limits number of antennas
 - Requires flush mounting antennas; equipment same color as pole
 - Addresses conflicts with residential development



● ● ● HEALTH, EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS

- It is anticipated that wireless technology will continue to bridge the information gap; particularly lower income individuals, the elderly and diverse groups with special needs.

OUTREACH



- Internal - Collaborative process with Planning and Development, Public Utilities, Information Technology, City Attorney, Public Works, Media and Communications
- SEPA
 - Issued 2/5/2018, Comment Deadline 3/7/18
 - Noticed Puyallup Tribe, City of Tacoma Business Council, Neighborhood Councils, Tacoma Daily Index
- Stakeholders – met with representative of multiple cellular providers

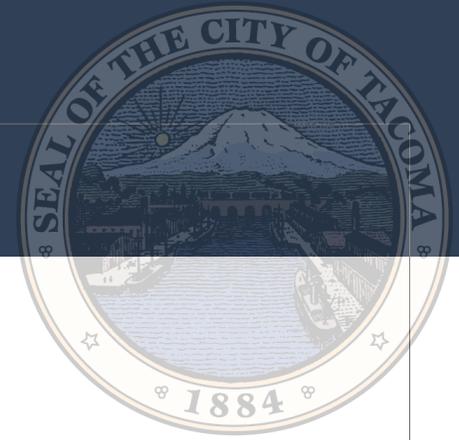
OUTREACH



Stakeholders Meeting Summary:

- Concerned with height limitations on poles, due to equipment and line separation requirements
- Suggested alternatives to shrouding of cables
- Questioned notice requirement when other right-of-way activities do not have a notice requirement
- Encouraged allowance of batch applications
- Request to remove street tree requirement

NEXT STEPS

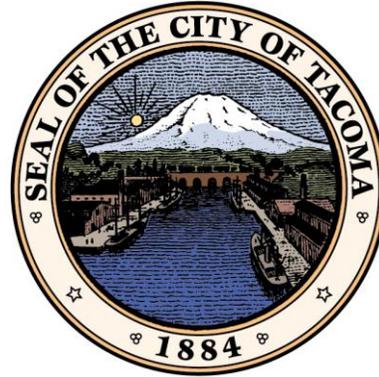


- Study Session – March 20, 2018
- Council First Reading – March 20, 2018
- Code Adoption – April 6, 2018

RECOMMENDATIONS



- Staff recommends the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee forward the proposed changes, with below amendments, to City Council for consideration and approval.
 - Staff propose removal of the street tree requirement
 - Staff propose modification to height requirement to be “minimum necessary”



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