



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services
Jana Magoon, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance Creating Regulations for Small Cell Installation in Right-of-Way – April 3, 2018
DATE: March 19, 2018

SUMMARY:

An ordinance amending Chapter 9.08 of the Tacoma Municipal Code relating to Right-of-Way Occupancies to facilitate the next generation cellular network.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

On November 14, 2018, City staff provided the City Council with updates related to future installation of Small Cell infrastructure in the City right-of-way. The Council asked that appropriate development standards be put in place to avoid negative impacts to the aesthetic environment. Representatives from Public Works, Tacoma Public Utilities, Media and Communication Offices, and Planning and Development Services have worked collaboratively to prepare development standards. The same staff reviewed a draft code with stakeholders on January 31, 2017.

ISSUE:

The City currently lacks design standards applicable to cellular installation in the public right-of-way. Staff will present a series of code changes to regulate these installations. The proposal has been developed in collaboration with multiple city departments and has been reviewed by stakeholders.

The proposals would codify procedures and design standards related to Small Cell and 5G installations. If approved, the proposed regulations would amend the City code as follows:

- Limit height above existing pole to 10 feet; new poles must not exceed height of 45 feet
- Require installation to be same color as pole and require shrouding of cables
- Antennas on pole must be flush mounted or, if top-mounted, comply with diameter requirements
- If required to replace pole, the new pole must accommodate cables internal to the pole
- Ground level equipment, if proposed, must be screened
- If in historic district or in business district with established pole design, the installation will be reviewed for compliance with district
- Increase the permit fee in step towards fiscal sustainability.



ALTERNATIVES:

Cellular providers must obtain Franchise Agreements and Pole Attachment Agreements. This proposal assumes that prior to the pole attachment agreement, the provider must demonstrate that certain development standards are met. As an alternative, the development standards could be imposed by Public Works or Tacoma Public Utilities through the Pole Attachment Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend proceeding with changes as proposed

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
N/A			
TOTAL			

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Plan Review	545300	4322310	\$16,000
TOTAL			\$16,000

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: The total impact is dependent on the number of permits received after May 2018. Based in last year’s permit volumes, it can be anticipated that the change will result in approximately \$16,000 of revenue.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? N/A

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

N/A