

City of Tacoma Small Cell/RF Wireless Antennas

**City Council Study Session
November 14, 2017**



Agenda

- Background
- Process
- Current Status
- Next Steps
- Safety
- Legislation



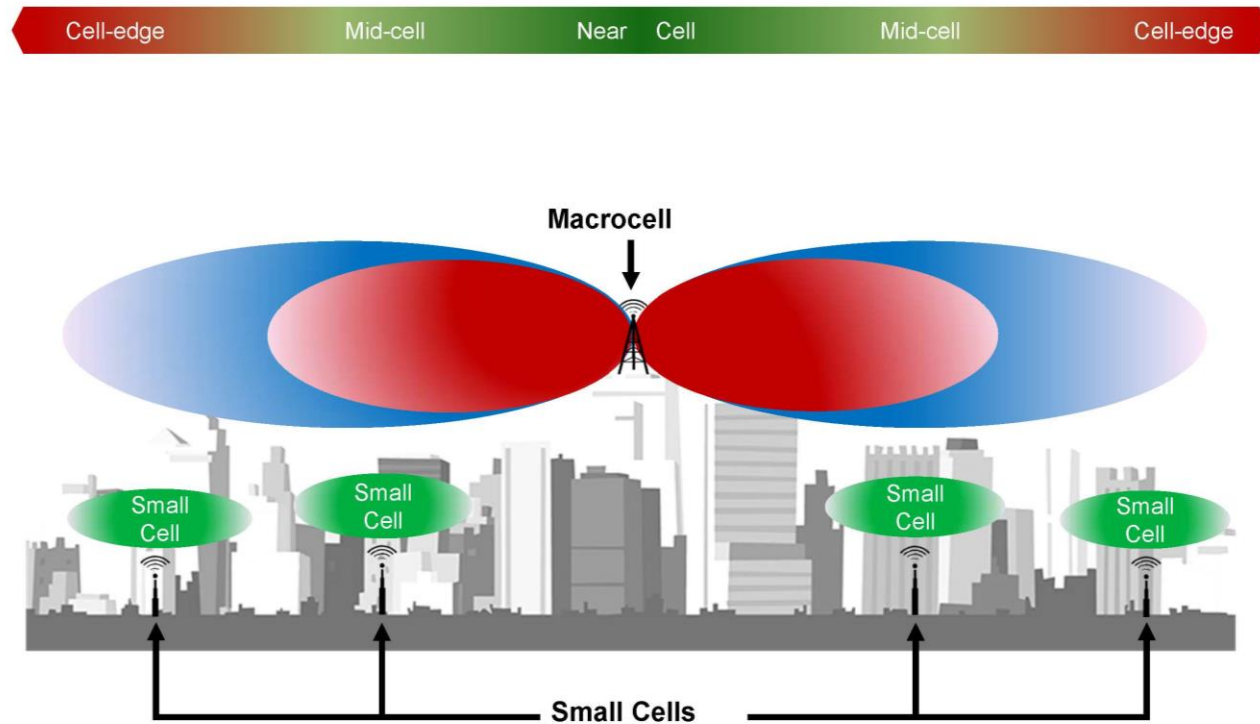
Background

What are small cells?

- Small cells are low powered radio antennas used for transmitting data over short distances. They are “small” compared to macro cell installations, and can be located on existing utility and streetlight infrastructure.
- Small cells are used to compliment the existing network of cell sites, and are expected to be an integral part of future 5G deployment.

Background

What is a Small Cell?



Background



Portland, OR

Utility Pole
Attachments



Las Vegas, NV



Minneapolis, MN



Kansas City, KS

Street Light
Attachments

Background

Why are we talking about small cells?

- Five companies have applied for franchise agreements with the City to allow them to install and operate small cell equipment.
- These companies still need permission to attach to City-owned assets.

Process

- Franchise Agreement
 - Right to work in the right of way.
- Pole Attachment Agreement
 - Right to attach to City or TPU owned property.
- Land Use/ Design Standards (To be developed)
 - Govern what small cells will look like.

Current Status

- Three franchise agreements have been approved for small cell deployment. Three are in process.
- TPU developed a construction standard for small cell attachments.
- The Public Utility Board is reviewing pole attachment fees for wireline and wireless attachments.
 - Review will recommend new fee schedule for wireline attachments and establish wireless attachment fee schedule.
 - Public Works will use TPU attachment agreements as a baseline for their own attachment agreements for street lights and signals.

Next Steps

- Both TPU and General Government will propose fees for wireless pole attachments.
- Work together with PDS to update wireless code to address small cell deployment and create design standards for small cell attachments.

Safety

- Andrew H. Thatcher is a local Consulting Health Physicist
 - Former Managing Health Physicist with the Washington Department of Health – Office of Radiation Protection – 13 years
 - Senior Health Physicist for NEXTEP Environmental – 5 years
 - Subject Matter Expert for the Department of Homeland Security – 4 years

State & Federal Legislation

- Small Cell State & Federal Legislative and Rulemaking activity will be presented in an upcoming Legislative Update
- Continue to lobby in support of local control

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