



May 1, 2018

The Honorable Victoria Woodards, Mayor  
Tacoma City Council  
747 Market Street, 12th Floor  
Tacoma, WA 98402

*SENT VIA EMAIL:* Mayor Victoria Woodards  
c/o Donlisa Scott[dmscott@cityoftacoma.org]  
Jana Magoon, Planning Manager [JMagoon@ci.tacoma.wa.us]  
Larry Harala, Planner [LHarala@ci.tacoma.wa.us]  
Doris Sorum, City Clerk [DSorum@ci.tacoma.wa.us]

Re: Ordinance No. 28503, Amendments to Chapter 9.08 TMC, Relating to Right-of-Way Occupancies and Small Cell Facility Standards

Dear Mayor Woodards and Councilors:

Thank you for enabling city staff to continue to work with wireless industry stakeholders to further review and refine the City's proposed changes to its right-of-way ordinances regulating small cell wireless facilities. We submit these additional comments on behalf of AT&T.

Since our last comment letter submitted on April 23, 2018, staff provided an updated draft of Chapter 9.08 TMC with additional revisions related to carrier feedback. Staff was generous in their availability to participate in a conference call with AT&T on Friday, April 27, 2018, to review the updated code draft. We continue to thoroughly appreciate the hard work of staff to review and address our previously submitted comments and thank them for including our suggested changes into the most recent proposed code for your consideration.

AT&T continues to generally support Tacoma's approach to regulating small cells. There is one remaining clarification we have discussed with city staff and request the council approve relating to replacement pole height limits (Subsections 9.08.045(G)(5) & (I)(4)). The proposed code allows for antennas to extend up to 10 feet above an existing or replacement pole. However, as currently drafted, this provision only addresses the installation of top-mounted antennas; additional language is needed to clarify and equally apply this provision to the installation of side-mounted antennas located below the top of the pole, especially when an antenna is located below the electrical lines of a standard utility pole. Specifically, side-mounted antenna can require a 10-foot extension of the pole itself due to the required clearances from utility lines mounted on the pole. If the original pole height is not sufficient to provide the needed clearance from utility lines, then the replacement pole would need to be up to 10 feet higher than the original pole to properly install the side-mounted antenna (in the same way that top-mounted antenna are allowed to extend up to 10 feet above the original pole height).

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AT&T suggests the council approve the following amended language (shown in bold and underlined text) in the final, adopted version of Ch. 9.08 TMC:

**9.08.045(G)(5)**

The antenna(s) must not extend more than 10 feet above an existing pole. **If utilizing a replacement pole, its height may be extended up to 10 feet above the original pole height, so long as the height of the replacement pole and/or any antenna(s) does not extend more than 10 feet above the original pole height.** Additional height may be allowed at the discretion of the Director if it is ~~demonstrated that the additional height is needed to provide adequate safety clearance.~~

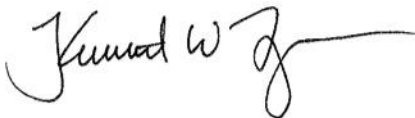
**9.08.045(I)(4)**

Replacement poles may be constructed **up** to the original **pole height, except for the height extension allowed in Subsection G.5 above.** The antennas **and/or replacement pole** must not exceed the height limit in Subsection ~~E.3~~ **G.5** above.

In short, the above proposed language clarifies that up to 10 feet may be added to existing/replacement poles, either as a top-mount antenna extension ***OR*** an extension of the original pole height to which side-mounted antenna may be placed. Because top-mounted antenna extensions are allowed to be the same diameter as the pole, this clarification will not create a visual or aesthetic difference. Accordingly, we believe that this requested language is a needed technical clarification, only, and does not materially change the intent or purpose of the proposed code.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. We would again like to thank staff for their continued work and cooperation to consider and include industry comments and feedback into the proposed code. Their receptiveness and responsiveness to our input has been truly appreciated. I will be attending the May 1<sup>st</sup> study session and my colleague Sara Springer will attend the May 1st council meeting to provide comments on this matter and answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,



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Enclosures: Photosims and drawings of example AT&T installations

cc: Jana Magoon, Planning Manager  
Larry Harala, Planner  
Doris Sorum, City Clerk