



# Small Cell Deployment on City Street Light Poles

City of Tacoma | Public Works

Infrastructure Planning and Sustainability  
February 5, 2020



## OVERVIEW

- Introduction to small cells
- FCC regulations regarding small cells
- City code regulating small cells
- Next steps



## BACKGROUND



What are small cells?

- Small compared to macro cell installations
- Small cells are low powered radio antennas used for transmitting data over short distances
- Can be located on existing utility and streetlight infrastructure



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## OVERVIEW



### Positives

- Fill in gaps in coverage
- Resolve capacity constraints
- Usher in 5G technology

### Negatives

- More infrastructure in the right of way



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## ISSUES



### Federal Regulations

- FCC Rules went into effect January 14, 2019
- Fees: must be “reasonable approximation of objectively reasonable cost”
- Aesthetic requirements:
  - Reasonable
  - No more burdensome than those applied to other types of infrastructure deployments.
  - Objective
  - Published in advance
- Localities are fulfilling a regulatory function when managing the ROW not proprietary
- Changes to shot clock which govern how quickly we must review applications, 90 days for new site 60 days for collocate

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## ISSUES



Small Cell Design Code Adopted in 2018 (9.08.045)

### Antenna and Equipment:

- Same color as pole, internal to pole, flush-mounted, in-line top mounted, or offset from pole a minimum of 6”
- Must not extend more than 10’ above an existing pole
- Total height of pole and antenna may not exceed 45’
- Equipment enclosures must be stacked together and no more than 6” of set from pole
- Cables must be inside pole or concealed on outside of pole.

### New/Replacement Poles

- Shall meet the city’s specifications
- Shall accommodate cables internal to the pole, unless wood

### Historic Districts/ Decorative

- Must comply with district standards and be approved by Landmarks if necessary
- Decorative poles will be evaluated for consistency with pole design for that business district



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## ISSUES



- Master License Agreement almost finalized
  - 5 year term
  - Annual Rent – \$270 per attachment (max allowed by FCC)
  - Permits approved through work order process
  - Design, location and height of poles subject to approval by City
  - Wireless emissions must conform with FCC regulations

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## NEXT STEPS



- Finalize Agreement
- Work with providers on design



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