

**BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

STREAMLINING DEPLOYMENT	)	
OF SMALL CELL INFRASTRUCTURE	)	
BY IMPROVING WIRELESS FACILITIES	)	WT Docket No. 16-421
SITING POLICIES;	)	
	)	
MOBILITIE, LLC	)	
PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING	)	
_____	)	

**COMMENTS OF SMART COMMUNITIES SITING COALITION**

Joseph Van Eaton  
Gail Karish  
Gerard Lavery Lederer  
BEST BEST & KRIEGER, LLP  
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Suite 5300  
Washington, DC 20005

Michael Watza  
KITCH DRUTCHAS WAGNER VALITUTTI &  
SHERBROOK  
1 Woodward Avenue, 10th Floor  
Detroit MI 48226-3499

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## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS OF THE SMART COMMUNITIES SITING COALITION**

The Smart Communities Siting Coalition (“Smart Communities”) is comprised of individual localities, local government associations, and local agencies responsible for roadway safety which collectively represent more than 1,800 communities and nearly 30 million residents in 10 states. Smart Communities understand the importance of deployment of advanced wireline and wireless communications technologies and are actively engaged in significant efforts to encourage broadband deployment, particularly to underserved areas. Smart Communities believe that no additional federal regulations are required, and that the Commission need not, should not and cannot grant the relief sought by Mobilite. Smart Communities respectfully submit:

1. The shared interests of all levels of government in advanced wireless and wireline broadband infrastructure do not justify additional regulations. The Notice is focused on a particular type of wireless infrastructure, being deployed by personal wireless service providers, or companies that build facilities for those providers. Mobilite and others argue this infrastructure is needed for 5G and Internet of Things (IoT), but there is no way of knowing, at this point, whether the infrastructure proposed by these particular service and facilities providers will prove to be best means of advancing high-speed wireless or whether, for example, the IoT is more likely to depend on different types of networks, or end user devices with different capabilities. That fact alone ought to lead to regulatory caution, as rules that favoring incumbent service or facilities providers can have significant consequences for innovation.

2. As a basic principle, the Commission should be reluctant to adopt any rules that have the effect of requiring states or local governments to subsidize the business plans of these service and facilities providers, or to assume risks that flow from their business plans. The ruling sought

by Mobilitie – or further regulatory actions by the Commission aimed at local governments – would have just that effect.

3. The placement of small cells, particularly in the rights-of-way, presents significant challenges and risks to communities including:

- Increased safety risks,
- Negative impacts on adjoining property, local businesses, other utilities, and on redevelopment projects,
- Increased costs to localities for maintenance, expansion and modernization of the public right-of-way, and
- Limitations on access by pedestrians and persons with disabilities.

The purpose of sharing these challenges is not to say that wireless infrastructure cannot be accommodated, as Smart Communities have and will continue to accommodate such necessary infrastructure, but to show that potential costs associated with the challenges and risks are real and substantial (amounting potentially to billions of dollars), and cannot be ignored. Because of the complexities associated with small cell siting, particularly in public rights-of-way, and the potential costs if local authority is further confined, the Commission should not be setting special time frames for either batch or small cell applications, or complicating siting review with additional federal regulations, should be encouraging cooperative approaches to deployment.

4. There is no need for action. Deployment of wireless facilities is proceeding apace and where there are problems with the speed of deployment, they will not be solved by additional federal regulation of local processes. Notably, the primary cause of delays in application processing continues to be the failure of applicants to submit complete applications. For example, as a routine matter, Mobilitie has submitted cookie cutter proposals for 100-120 foot

towers in the public rights-of-way, without doing any meaningful field engineering, or making any significant effort to comply with state, federal or local requirements – imposing significant cost on communities

5. The Commission could speed deployment through informal actions such as sharing information on successful deployment approaches and by examining the role its own regulations play is hindering deployments, including but not limited to:

- Reexamining the Section 6409 rules. At present, the Commission’s Section 6409 rules allow for installations in public rights-of-way to grow to sizes entirely inappropriate for many areas, including residential areas and many redeveloped historical, seaside and downtown areas. A rewrite of the Commission’s Section 6409 rules that authorizes local governments who allow small cell deployments to be able to actually keep them small in size would expedite deployments.
- Ensuring that applicants understand that both initial and modified installations must comply with guidelines for roadway safety, as implemented by state and local authorities
- Clarifying that existing Shot Clock rules regarding incompleteness do not prevent a locality from simply rejecting a defective application and/or imposing upon the applicant a charge to recover the expenses incurred in addressing such omissions. Today’s rules require detailed responses to incomplete applications actually which slows the process and add costs for everyone (community, competitors and applicant) when applicants do not make a good faith attempt to submit complete applications.
- Modernizing RF emissions standards to address the densification and proximity of small cell deployments to the public. The failure of the FCC to modernize its RF

standards creates public distrust in wireless systems, and makes it more difficult for all parties to develop creative solutions for siting.

6. As a matter of policy, however, the FCC should reject Mobilitie’s request that it regulate either the regulatory fees associated with applications to place wireless facilities, or the rents it must pay to use public property. A federal policy that allows Mobilitie or other wireless service or facilities providers to obtain permits without paying the full costs of those permit, or to use public property without paying fair market value will encourage inefficient, intrusive deployments, deter innovation and could impose billions of dollars in costs on local communities and their citizens. Any such policy will have marginal benefits, at best. It is unlikely to lead to deployment in areas that are not served today.

7. As a matter of law, the Commission cannot regulate or dictate rents charged for use of public rights-of-way or other government property or limit recovery to marginal costs as requested by Mobilitie. The Commission lacks a legal foundation for adopting any such rules:

- Mobilitie is seeking relief under Section 253 (barriers to entry) but Section 253 does not apply and provides no avenue for relief where resolution of an issue would “limit or affect” local authority over decisions regarding the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service –as regulation of fees and rents would.
- Even if Section 253 did apply, the Commission has limited authority to regulate charges for access to property or facilities that may be useful for placement of communications facilities, no authority to regulate rates for access to public property, and certainly no authority to limit charges to certain marginal costs, as proposed by Mobilitie. Under Section 253, a court must uphold any charge that is competitively

neutral, non-discriminatory and “fair and reasonable” and charging fair market value for use of public property inherently passes those tests.

- Mobilitie’s proposed “non-discrimination” test for Section 253 is wrong and not supported by case law, Commission precedent or the Constitution.

8. The Commission need not address debates in the Circuits or otherwise address the meaning of the effective prohibition standard in Section 332(c)(7). Participants have adjusted to the tests within their Circuits, and in many cases, reflected those standards in local laws. A new framework would create uncertainty. Moreover, the “hindrance” standard that the Notice proposed is inconsistent with pertinent case law.

9. The Notice is not the appropriate vehicle for action. While the Commission has broad authority to choose how to proceed, the Notice seems to envision precisely the sort of action that the D.C. Circuit found requires notice and comment rulemaking.

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- Exhibit 2 - The Economics of Government Right of Way Fees, Dr. Kevin Cahill, Ph.D
- Exhibit 3 - Report and Declaration of David E Burgoyne for the Smart Communities Siting Coalition
- Exhibit 4 - Report and Declaration of Steven M. Puuri for the Smart Communities Siting Coalition
- Exhibit 5 - Proposal for Tower from Mobilitie to Monroe, MI, and Response of City
- Exhibit 6 - Proposal for Tower from Mobilitie to Centerville, GA., and Response of City
- Exhibit 7 - Proposal for Tower from Mobilitie to Laurel, MD
- Exhibit 8 - Deposition of Crown Castle Representative
- Exhibit 9 - Crown Castle Right of Way Use Agreement

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**COMMENTS OF SMART COMMUNITIES SITING COALITION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Smart Communities Siting Coalition (“Smart Communities”) is comprised of local governments, and associations that represent them, as well as local government agencies responsible for highway safety. Collectively, the individual members and associations represent approximately 1,854 communities in 10 states, serving nearly 30 million residents.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Individual members:

Ann Arbor, MI; Atlanta, GA; Berlin, MD; Berwyn Heights, MD; Boston, MA; Capitol Heights, MD; Cary, NC; Chesapeake Beach, MD; College Park, MD; Dallas, TX; DeSoto County, MS.; Frederick, MD; Gaithersburg, MD; Greenbelt, MD; Havre de Grace, MD; LaPlata, MD; Laurel, MD; City of Los Angeles, CA; McAllen, TX; Monroe, MI; Montgomery County, MD; Myrtle Beach, SC; New Carrollton, MD; Perryville, MD; Pocomoke City, MD; Poolsville, MD; Portland, OR.; Rockville, MD; Takoma Park, MD; University Park, MD; and Westminster, MD.

Organizations Representing Local Governments and Road Agencies:

Texas Coalition of Cities for Utility Issues (TCCFUI) is a coalition of more than 50 Texas municipalities dedicated to protecting and supporting the interests of the citizens and cities of Texas with regard to utility issues. The Coalition is comprised of large municipalities and rural villages. The GVMC DAS Tower Consortium is a collaboration of over 20 Western Michigan cities, villages and townships that worked collectively with local telecommunication providers to establish a model permitting process and fee structure. The Conference of Eastern Wayne is a formal council of governments established by intergovernmental agreement consisting of the six municipalities on the eastern side of Wayne County outside of the City of Detroit. The municipalities represented are: City of Grosse Pointe, City of Grosse Pointe Farms, City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Village of Grosse Pointe Shores (a Michigan City), and the City of Harper Woods. The Michigan Coalition to Protect Public Rights-of-Way (“PROTEC”) is an organization of Michigan cities that focuses on protection of their citizens’ governance and control over public rights-of-way. The Michigan Townships Association (“MTA”) promotes the interests of 1,242 townships by fostering strong, vibrant communities; advocating legislation to meet 21st century challenges; developing knowledgeable township officials and enthusiastic supporters of township government; and encouraging

Collectively, the Smart Communities have significant experience in addressing the placement of wireline and wireless facilities, including wireless deployments that involve very large structures and monopoles like the Mobilitie 120 foot towers, as well as relatively small wireless structures. As importantly, many of the members have devoted significant resources to undergrounding utilities or to other redevelopment projects whose job-creating success depends on balancing the needs of local businesses, utilities, residents, consumers and tourists – all while maintaining the safety and integrity of infrastructure communications and other private and public infrastructure located in their public rights-of-way. The Smart Communities thus have a good understanding of the challenges presented or that will be presented by new generation wireless deployments, and welcome the opportunity to participate in this proceeding.

In addition to these comments, several members of Smart Communities, including Montgomery County, Maryland and Cary, North Carolina are submitting separate comments to provide additional information, and several are supporting comments filed by others, including, in particular, the comments filed by the Texas Municipal League.

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ethical practices of elected officials. The Public Corporation Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of approximately 610 attorneys who generally represent the interests of government corporations, including cities, villages, townships and counties, boards and commissions, and special authorities. The Public Corporation Law Section participates in cases that are significant to governmental entities throughout the State of Michigan. The position expressed in this Brief is that of the Public Corporation Law Section only. The State Bar of Michigan takes no position. The Michigan Municipal League (“MML”) is a non-profit Michigan corporation whose purpose is the improvement of municipal government. Its membership includes 524 Michigan local governments, of which 478 are members of the Michigan Municipal League Legal Defense Fund. The purpose of the Legal Defense Fund is to represent MML member local governments in litigation of statewide significance. The County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan works with all 83 county road agencies on matters of common interest. County road agencies in Michigan are responsible for ensuring safe, efficient transportation on 73 percent of the road miles in Michigan and are responsible for reviewing the applications for placement of facilities along the roads to ensure, among other things, that proposed facilities do not interfere with road functions, or create safety issues. The Kitch Firm represents Monroe, Michigan, DeSoto County, Mississippi and the Michigan associations identified above. Best Best & Krieger represents the others in the Smart Communities coalition.

## II. SUMMARY

Smart Communities understand the importance of deployment of advanced wireline and wireless communications technologies; many of them are engaged in significant efforts to encourage broadband deployment, particularly to underserved areas.<sup>2</sup> Based on our experience, Smart Communities believe that no additional federal regulations are required at this time, and the Commission need not, should not and cannot grant the relief sought by Mobilitie.

As we explain below:

1. The shared interests of all levels of government in advanced broadband do not justify additional regulations. The Notice states that “local land-use authorities ... are facing substantial increases in the volume of siting applications for deployment of these facilities.”<sup>3</sup> Some members of our coalition in fact are dealing with large numbers of small cell applications, and some have received very few or none.<sup>4</sup> Our experience shows that the small cell technology

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<sup>2</sup> Smart Communities celebrates that our efforts permit Chairman Pai in a February 28, 2017 keynote address to the Mobile World Congress that “...98% of Americans now have access to three or more facilities-based [wireless] providers. And the United States has led the world in the deployment of 4G LTE.” Those successes are local governments’ as much as they are the industry’s. Address available at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairman-pais-keynote-mobile-world-congress-barcelona>

<sup>3</sup> Notice at 1-2. The placement of these wireless facilities amount to the first significant above ground intrusion into local rights of way in many decades and therefore demands a very careful and patient approach so that all issues and stakeholders are adequately considered and protected. The last such intrusion involved the electric and wireline industries. The potential multiplication of above ground facilities is a grave concern for all local communities and their residents for reasons we explain below. Even the industry acknowledged this in a CTIA article dated May 2016, in which industry commentators strongly encouraged this wireless facility roll out using principally the millions of existing electric utility poles. See article here: <http://www.ctia.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/enabling-the-wireless-networks-of-tomorrow.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> For example, Boston has approved nearly 400 DAS/small cell installations in the rights of way with three neutral hosts companies (Crown Castle, ExteNet and American Tower). In Boston, two-thirds of the installations have or will take place on City-owned Streetlights or traffic lights and the remainder on jointly-owned Eversource-Verizon poles. The majority of these installations have been in place for about eight years, but recent interest and engagement by carriers, as well as additional neutral hosts, indicate that number could treble in the next 2 years and again in following 4 years. Atlanta has approved 257 applications (174 for Crown Castle and 83 for Mobilitie), and reports that Mobilitie has indicated a request for more than 200 sites within the city in the next months. The City of Houston has approved over 350 locations and are anticipating as many as 800 more requests as Zayo, Crown Castle, Verizon, and Mobilitie have each expressed a desire to build out entire networks, which could be as many as 200 locations for each company, or some 800 more sites. The Bureau listed the Montgomery County Maryland experience in the Notice at 2. But it is not just the larger communities that are being challenged to meet demands for

is not being deployed ubiquitously, and is not necessarily helping to close the digital divide, but does have significant consequences for areas where citizens and the communities have spent millions of dollars to attract new jobs and businesses, and to create safe infrastructure.

Moreover, in many cases “small cell” applications are being submitted for placement on public property where a private deployment would obviously be available and would avoid significant safety issues. The sole purpose of such installations appears to be to avoid costs that others in the market bear, and shifting those costs onto the taxpayer via use of local community owned public rights-of-way.

It bears emphasizing that the Notice is focused on a particular type of wireless infrastructure, being deployed by personal wireless service providers, or companies that build facilities for those providers (referred to throughout as “service providers” or “facilities providers”).<sup>5</sup> As a basic principle, the Commission should be reluctant to adopt any rules that have the effect of requiring states or local governments to subsidize the business plans of these service and facilities providers, or to assume risks that flow from their business plans. The ruling sought by Mobilitie – or further regulatory actions by the Commission aimed at local governments – would have just that effect. Mobilitie of course, suggests that its deployments are critical to deployment of 5G infrastructure and the Internet of Things (IoT) – by which we believe they mean the infrastructure is critical to widespread deployment of high-speed wireless service infrastructure. However, as discussed below, there is no 5G standard in place today, and there is no way of knowing, at this point, whether the infrastructure proposed by incumbent service or facilities providers will prove to be best means of advancing high-speed wireless or

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rights-of-way access. Ann Arbor, Michigan, in just the last two years has dealt with more than 60 (or more than 70) applications for DAS facilities.

<sup>5</sup> The former would be typified by Verizon Wireless, and the latter by Mobilitie, although we recognize that service providers may also be facilities providers.

whether, for example, the IoT is more likely to depend on different types of networks, or end user devices with different capabilities. That fact ought to lead in the direction of regulatory caution, as rules that effectively favor the incumbent service or facilities providers can have significant consequences for innovation.

Smart Communities, in both these Comments and in the expert declarations<sup>6</sup> attached to this filing will outline some of the particular challenges and potential billions of dollars in external costs that may be caused by placement of “small cell” infrastructure. These costs are the result of, *inter alia* increased safety risks, negative impacts on adjoining property, local businesses, other utilities, and on redevelopment projects; increased costs to localities for maintenance, expansion and modernization of the right of way, and potential limitations on access by pedestrians and persons with disabilities, among other things. The purpose of sharing

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<sup>6</sup> In an effort to assist the Bureau with its data driven mandate, Smart Communities has retained experts to provide insights into the issues and challenges of siting wireless devices in the communities rights-of-way. These include:

- **Andrew Afflerbach of CTC Technology & Energy** has prepared a Report and Declaration of Andrew Afflerbach For the Smart Communities Siting Coalition (referred to herein as the CTC Declaration) – CTC’s work has been cited by the Commission and its leaders have regularly appeared before the Commission. The CTC Declaration reports on small cells and the challenges they present to communities. Perhaps the most important message of the CTC Declaration is that the small in small cell refers to the area served, not the size of the equipment. The CTC Declaration is attached as Exhibit 1.
- **Dr. Kevin Cahill, Ph.D of ECONorthwest** has prepared a report entitled The Economics of Government Right of Way Fees (referred to herein as the ECONorthwest Declaration) ECONorthwest is a nationally recognized economics firm that has been cited in prior Commission proceedings. The ECONorthwest Declaration contains an economic analysis of the effect of limiting the amounts that may be charged for use of the public rights-of-way and concludes that the rulings sought by Mobilitie will not promote economically efficient deployment of public rights-of-way and will discourage innovation. More information about ECONorthwest may be found at <http://www.econw.com/>. The ECONorthwest Declaration is attached as Exhibit 2.
- **David Burgoyne of Burgoyne Appraisal** has prepared a Report and Declaration of David E Burgoyne for the Smart Communities Siting Coalition, to highlight for the Commission the potential impacts of wireless facilities on adjoining property values (referred to herein as the Burgoyne Declaration). That declaration concludes many deployments of small cells could affect property values, with significant potential effects. Mr. Burgoyne is a licensed appraiser in Ann Arbor, Michigan. More information about Burgoyne Appraisal may be found at <https://burgoyneappraisal.com/appraisal-litigation-support/>. The Burgoyne Declaration is attached as Exhibit 3.
- **Steve Puuri, P.E., of Puuri Engineering, LLC**, has prepared a Report and Declaration of Steven M. Puuri for the Smart Communities Siting Coalition (referred to herein as the Puuri Declaration) regarding the impacts of placement of wireless structures in the public rights-of-way. Mr. Puuri been involved in roadway design for 25 years. The Puuri Declaration is attached as Exhibit 4.

these challenges is not to say that wireless infrastructure cannot be accommodated, as Smart Communities have and will continue to accommodate such necessary infrastructure. Rather, Smart Communities outline these challenges to share with the Commission the complexity and competing demands presented by the sorts of applications that are now being filed by the providers of the personal wireless services or facilities. Smart Communities desire to preserve the opportunity to identify, leverage, and support other developing wireless technologies such as IoT networking sensors that will enable our communities to offer solutions related to transportation, energy, air pollution, public Wi-Fi, and other new generation services. But those goals, central to the Notice, will not be served by additional regulations governing the uniquely local siting process, or by regulating charges for use of public property and public rights-of-way. As the declarations attached to these Comments suggest, while the cost to the public and to communities from the sorts of rulings Mobilitie requests may be in the billions of dollars, the benefits to deployment would be marginal or negative.

2. In most cases, deployment is proceeding apace. Where there are problems in deployment the problems will not be solved by additional federal regulation of local processes. The problems in deployment are in many if not most cases caused by the companies seeking to place the facilities. For example, as a routine matter, Mobilitie has submitted cookie cutter proposals for 120 foot towers in the public rights-of-way to various local government departments, without doing any meaningful field engineering, or making any significant effort to comply with state, federal or local requirements. Applications of this sort take enormous time to process.

3. If the Commission does wish to speed deployment it may be able to achieve that goal through informal action (sharing information on successful deployment approaches) or by doing the following:

a. “Small Cells” vary dramatically in size and visibility. Some proposed facilities could have significant, negative impacts on adjacent property values. There are technologies readily available that can reduce the size of the facilities. But, compounding siting issues are the Commission rules under 47 U.S. §1455(c) (colloquially, Section 6409), which allow for installations to grow to sizes entirely inappropriate for many areas, including residential areas and many redeveloped historical, seaside and downtown areas. If local governments can allow small cells and keep them small in size, localities will be in a better position to develop safe harbors and development plans that can provide a simpler path for deployment.

b. Commission rules requiring detailed responses to incomplete applications actually slow the process and add costs for everyone when applicants do not act in good faith to submit complete applications. The Commission should make it clear that its rules regarding incompleteness do not prevent a locality from simply rejecting an application and/or imposing upon the applicant a charge to recover the expenses incurred in addressing such omissions.

c. Local governments often receive public comments on RF radiation. While those comments do not affect siting decisions, they are of concern, because widespread deployment and adoption depend on public acceptance of wireless technology. Because the Commission has failed to modernize or even address RF risks in any sensible way, it

has essentially created a barrier to deployment. The agency needs to do its job and modernize those standards promptly.

4. The Commission should not regulate or attempt to regulate charges imposed by state or local governments or agencies.

The Notice actually mixes together different types of charges that may apply to a wireless provider. An applicant who wishes to obtain a *regulatory* authorization will typically pay fees that are cost-based and designed to recover costs associated with issuing the permit or authorization, and costs associated with inspecting a facility for compliance and other legal requirements.<sup>7</sup> Mobilitie appears to ask the Commission to regulate the costs that can be charged to it so that it, for example, is not forced to bear the full costs associated with repeated applications, engineering, or land use reviews of its application. The Commission has no authority to regulate these charges, much less require localities to effectively subsidize Mobilitie's applications; and even had it that authority, Mobilitie's actions show why it would be wrong to do so.

In addition to these regulatory charges, a wireless service or facilities provider who wishes to use proprietary property, which may include the public rights-of-way, street lights, public buildings or other structures will typically pay a fee that is intended as a rent.<sup>8</sup> Those rates are often set through negotiation and may take a variety of forms based upon the use sought. Those rents are intended to recover the fair value of the property used. As the ECONorthwest Declaration explains, a one size fits all federal standard that requires access at less than fair market value would actually deter innovation, encourage inefficiency, and could

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<sup>7</sup> These compliance inspections must necessarily also include annual reviews given the proximity of these facilities to busy and inherently dangerous roadway surfaces.

<sup>8</sup> The rents may take the form of franchise or license fees, lease payments, occupancy fees, etc.

shift billions of dollars in value to incumbents and from resident taxpayers. As importantly, the Commission cannot dictate rents charged for proprietary property, or (consistent with the Constitution) limit recovery to marginal costs as is apparently requested by Mobilitie.

### **III. THE LOCAL PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF SMALL CELL APPLICATIONS**

The Notice seeks information from local governmental authorities on the process for reviewing and making decisions on siting applications for small wireless facilities (including DAS and small cells), particularly the amount of time it takes to complete this process.

The Notice is in response to a Petition by Mobilitie, seeking regulations that favor particular service providers and facilities providers, and their respective business plans. The Commission has recognized, however, that the Commission’s rules should “neither explicitly nor implicitly expresses a preference for one particular entry strategy....an attempt to indicate such a preference... may have unintended and undesirable results....As to success or failure, we look to the market, not to regulation, for the answer.”<sup>9</sup>

We therefore stress, at the outset, that Smart Communities are committed to developing processes that encourage deployment of advanced wireline and wireless systems. Not only do we understand that our citizens increasingly depend on access to broadband; the efficient operation of our communities and the future economic health of our communities also depend on taking advantage of the opportunities presented by new wireline and wireless technologies. While different communities will take advantage of these technologies at different paces, local governments and road agencies recognize the powerful opportunities the IoT and wireless technologies present for delivering public services more efficiently, improving public health and

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<sup>9</sup> *In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Interconnection between Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers*, 11 FCC Rcd 15499, 15508-15509 (FCC 1996)(“Interconnection Order”).

safety, and attracting new businesses. We are watching and adopting technologies that will permit us to, among other things, reduce energy consumption while improving street light efficiency; identify and respond to problems with sewer and water lines; and provide more efficient public transit. The City of Los Angeles, for example, was the first city in the world to deploy Philips/Ericsson SmartPole technologies, which turn street lights into hubs for existing and future wireless technologies.<sup>10</sup> Where we depart from Mobilitie and, perhaps, from the Notice, is that we do not believe the IoT depends on the authorization of the towers Mobilitie and others seek to deploy (the CTC Declaration,<sup>11</sup> along with our own experiences, explains why it does not). Nor do we believe that regulating placement of wireless facilities or charging for use of the public rights-of-way is inconsistent with effective and efficient deployment of wireless technologies. As the expert reports explain, given the potential safety issues associated with public right-of-way deployment; the potential negative impacts on property values; and, the predictable negative economic effects that would flow from the rulings requested by Mobilitie, local review and local charges actually *encourage* efficient deployment of advanced wireless technologies.

A. Processes For Review Of Small Cell Applications

1. *The structure of a “small cell.”*

In its discussion of whether it should develop another shot clock aimed specifically at “small cell” facility applications, the Commission asks how it could define small cell for that purpose. In our view, this approach is misguided because, as we discuss below, communities distinguish between facilities based on their impacts, not their technical classification. Indeed,

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<sup>10</sup> For more information see <https://www.ericsson.com/networks/cases/networks-cases/philips-smartpole-with-ericsson> (last accessed 3/7/2017).

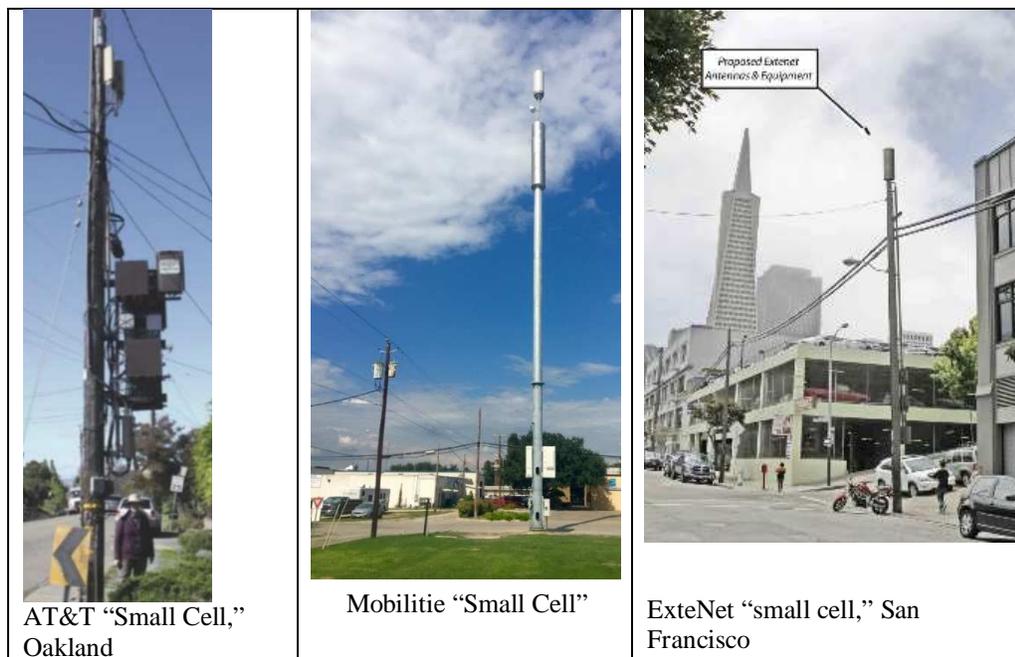
<sup>11</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 15.

any technical definition would be stretched at best, since the term “small cell” has no clear technical meaning. What is clear is that there are many existing and developing technologies that allow wireless services to be provided in a way that is far less intrusive than many facilities providers like Mobilitie are proposing to deploy.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 9.

The term “small cell” is typically used to describe an installation that serves a small area – not to distinguish between facilities that are “small v. those that are large.”<sup>13</sup> For purposes of this Notice, it is important to recognize that what falls within the rubric of a “small cell” at any given site can actually involve many different pieces of equipment, some of which could be quite large and quite intrusive. Thus, as CTC explains, at any given location, a “small cell” may involve a support structure (ranging in size from a Mobilitie tower to a more conventional utility pole); an antenna; radio units; power supplies/electric meters/disconnects/cabling; and potentially back-up power supplies.<sup>14</sup> Some of these facilities may be mounted on the tower or pole; some may be placed in a vault, and some may be ground-mounted. A facility might look like any of these:



<sup>13</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 2.

<sup>14</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 6.

The CTC report includes additional examples. As CTC explains, small cell sizes may approach or exceed the size of many monopoles or macrocells.<sup>15</sup> Indeed, many small cells may actually utilize the same equipment that is utilized on traditional macrocells, but the equipment may serve a smaller physical area because of placement or powering.

The problems presented by various “small cell” installations can vary dramatically and argue against adoption of a unique and shorter “shot clock” for these applications. The Mobilite 120 foot “small cell” shown in the photograph above will require installation of a significant foundation that could extend well below ground level and require analysis of the soil underneath the facility and the support required to prevent the tower from falling. It could also, of course, raise Section 106 Historic Preservation Act issues.<sup>16</sup> The AT&T facility pictured on the previous page may create significant aesthetic concerns if proposed in a residential area that would not be presented if located in an industrial area. The placement of any new structure in the rights of way, whether categorized as a small cell or not, can raise significant issues for roadway engineering, safety, and coordination with other utilities.<sup>17</sup> The time required to address these issues is not easily limited by adopting a definition of “small cell” unless small is literally defined to exclude towers and new structures altogether, to only apply to modifications of existing utility poles where there is no need for any excavation or strengthening, and where all facilities associated with a structure are in fact “small” and not capable of expansion. A more favorable shot clock for “small cells” will add complications without accurately identifying a class of facilities for which review time may logically be shortened. It is worth emphasizing that

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<sup>15</sup> CTC Declaration at pp. 6-8.

<sup>16</sup> Exhibit 5 is a small cell proposal for a historic district in Monroe, Michigan and the City’s response to a facility 40” in diameter with a 50” base plate, and rises 100’ above ground. The tower and structure are proposed to be located very near a roadway, and with a foundation of unspecified size.

<sup>17</sup> Puuri Declaration at p. 2.

there have been very few cases that in fact turn on a failure of a community to act in a timely way, particularly once the industry applicant acknowledges local governance rights over their public rights-of-way,<sup>18</sup> and industry has never shown that a shorter time frame is required or would significantly to cut deployment times, given, for e.g., the time required prior to beginning construction (*e.g.*, for make-ready work).

2. *Localities Distinguish Between Facilities Based on Characteristics, Not on Their Technical Classification*

The Commission seeks information as to whether and how communities are distinguishing between small cells and macrocells in their siting review procedures. In some respects that is the wrong question. Localities either originally wrote ordinances to provide enough flexibility to distinguish among installations based on impact or are modifying or have modified ordinances to distinguish between facilities that are small and less visible, and those which are not. Land use ordinances typically identify factors (*e.g.*, whether a proposed structure is consistent with the design of a particular neighborhood; or whether a proposed structure is the least intrusive required) that would necessarily take into account the size, appearance, and physical characteristics of a proposed facility. It is certainly true that many local ordinances were originally written for macrocells, and incorporate provisions that may be appropriate for a fenced facility, but are not appropriate for a facility on a utility pole. But as a general matter, land use ordinances provide sufficient flexibility to distinguish among types of facilities based on their physical characteristics (as opposed to the technical classifications suggested by the Notice).

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<sup>18</sup> Many Smart communities have experienced stiff opposition by industry to basic state constitutional rights and obligations granted or imposed upon those local communities concerning the proper and safe management of their public rights-of-way. Such opposition is a cause of delay.

What is noteworthy is that processes and ordinances are often being revised in consultation with industry. As the CTC Declaration explains,<sup>19</sup> many communities are working with industry to develop new approaches to deployment that take wireless into account as part of the development processes associated with new subdivisions, roadway widening, or as part of a general planning processes that is designed to provide some certainty for both localities and for providers as to what may be installed, and where. This process may take some up front time, and is distinct from the procedures that apply once an application is received under Section 332(c)(7) or Section 6409. This preliminary work may appear to result in a delay in deployment, as communities gather all industry players together to attempt to develop a cooperative solution. But the “upfront” time may translate into faster consideration of individual applications over the longer term, as providers gain a better understanding of what is required of them, and submit applications that are tailored to community requirements. This consultative process ought to be encouraged, and certainly provides no basis for additional regulations.

Regardless of these developments, where a land use approval is required, the process – whether for smaller or larger facilities – may require some form of public hearing and notice; as well as a process for appeal of decisions.

3. *Permitting Costs and Costs Associated with the Application Process are Typically Cost-Based*

The review process typically begins with the submission of an application, which may also require submission of application fees. It bears emphasizing that the Mobilitie Petition lumps together application fees, and rental fees for use of public property, although the two are

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<sup>19</sup> CTC Declaration at pp. 23-25.

legally distinct.<sup>20</sup> We discuss Mobilitie’s request to limit rents *infra*. Here we discuss its complaints about fees for application to place wireless facilities.

A regulatory fee is typically cost-based and charged in connection with an applicant’s voluntary decision to engage in a particular activity: the decision to build a bar, for example, may lead to the requirement to obtain certain licenses, require certain ongoing inspections, and may require certain actions on business termination. Generally, a locality may charge a reasonable regulatory fee to cover the cost of the regulation.<sup>21</sup>

What Mobilitie calls application fees fall into this category and thus are cost-based. The applicant bears these costs for the service. Typically, every application must be filed along with a fee amount that is approved periodically by the appropriate municipal body to recover the estimated costs associated with consideration of types of applications. The application fees are not typically refundable if an entity abandons a project, or if it files an application at Point X and then submits a renewed or revised application at Point Y.

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<sup>20</sup> Localities may charge rents, license fees, or occupancy fees, for access to publicly-owned property, including public rights-of-way. Those rents include, for example, franchise fees for use of public rights-of-way by cable systems, *City of Dallas v. FCC*, 118 F.3d 393 (5th Cir. 1997, but can also include rents for the use or occupancy of rooftops, traffic lights or other structures owned by a municipality (or a municipally-owned utility). Rents may of course include provisions that recover costs, but are not limited to cost recovery. *See, e.g., City of St. Louis v. Western Union Tel.*, 148 U.S. 92, 99 (1892), *reh’g in City of St. Louis v. Western Union Tel.*, 149 U.S. 465 (1893). (establishing as a constitutional principle that the public may exact rents for use of public spaces); *Alpert v. Boise Water Corp.*, 795 P.2d 298, 306 (Id. 1990) (“the charge imposed was not a tax but was contract consideration for the franchise granted.”); *City of Plant City v. Mayo*, 337 So.2d 966, 973 (Fla. 1976) (“we have absolutely no difficulty in holding that the franchise fees payable by Tampa Electric are not ‘taxes....[They] are bargained for in exchange for specific property rights relinquished by the cities.”); *Philadelphia v. Holmes Elec. Protective Co.*, 6 A.2d 884, 887 (Pa. 1939); *Berea College Utilities v. City of Berea*, 691 S.W.2d 235, 237 (Ky. Ct. App. 1985) (“But the consideration exacted in the ordinance is neither a tax nor a license fee; it is in the nature of an annual rental to be paid for the privilege of the use of space under the streets”); a franchise fee such as that involved is not a tax, but is instead a charge bargained for in exchange for a specific property right, i.e., rental or compensation for use of public streets.”)

<sup>21</sup> Cost-based fees, it should be emphasized, do not need to be based on the incremental cost of regulating a particular business, or reviewing a particular application. Inspecting a restaurant for compliance with food safety laws requires that the locality have an inspector, that the inspector have the tools required to conduct the inspection, and that the inspector have the “back room” support required to submit reports, track inspections and so on. All of those are properly recoverable, although the particular method for recovery may vary from place to place. *See, e.g., City of Tullahoma v. Bedford County*, 938 S.W.2d 408 (Tenn. 1997); *City of Paris v. Paris-Henry County Public Unity District*, 207 Tenn. 388, 340 S.W.2d 885 (Tenn. 1960) (discussing difference between fees imposed in regulatory capacity and proprietary capacity).

In addition, there will typically be fees associated with particular construction or building permits that may be required for a project, and are routine but necessary for safety and similar reasons. For example, if an electrical permit is required, there will be a fee for that permit. If a foundation is being poured, or there will be excavation in a public right-of-way, there may be a fee that applies to review the plans for installation as against existing facilities, and inspection during construction and for restoration. There may be additional fees that apply if a facility must be removed and then rebuilt. Where zoning or land use processes apply, there may be fees associated with that.

In some cases, the application fee would be a flat fee, or estimated deposit that may be partly refunded, or additional payments may be required based on actual costs. However, the fee may also be assessed on other bases. For example, to speed project deployment, some localities have set up concierge services where fees are based on the hours spent by a service team dedicated to consideration of the applicant's application(s). This process was used by some California communities when AT&T deployed facilities to roll out its U-Verse product.

Mobilitie's request to limit application fees to cost is thus misplaced. It is already paying cost-based fees. If it is complaining that it must pay multiple fees, it needs to provide the Commission more information: is it because it has been required to remove facilities it installed without authorization, and must go through another application process? Is it because an application was withdrawn or rejected? As the later discussion of Mobilitie's behavior suggests, it is incurring many fees because of its own actions. And of course, if Mobilitie is asking the Commission to set a particular formula for recovery of costs, or allow it to pay only part of the costs of reviewing an application, the request should be rejected. Allowing Mobilitie to escape

its full costs responsibilities amounts to a subsidy to Mobilitie.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, the request runs afoul of the statute and constitution (which provide the Commission no authority to dictate how fees are recovered). The Commission is in any case not in a position to manage or oversee the manner in which localities account for or recover costs; any effort to do so would simply bog down the permitting system, and require adoption of a system of accounts far more burdensome than the system established for common carriers.

4. *Timing Depends on Completeness of Applications and What is Being Proposed for Approval.*

a. Incomplete applications continue to be a major problem.

Once an application is received, it must then be reviewed before it can be approved. The Notice asks commenters to address whether some parties' applications are granted more frequently or reviewed more expeditiously than others, and if so, why?<sup>23</sup> As the CTC Declaration explains, to the extent that there are "delays," most delays in processing an application are caused by incomplete applications.<sup>24</sup>

Mobilitie unfortunately provides the paradigmatic example of an entity that causes its own delays – and in the course of doing so, increases the costs of regulatory review. While Mobilitie has actually deployed facilities in some of the Smart Communities, and is entering into agreements to do so in others, its record in many communities is not pretty.

**Mobilitie submitted applications before it had legal authority to operate, or containing false claims regarding Mobilitie's legal authority.** In early 2016, several subsidiaries of Mobilitie began submitting applications to place towers in the public rights-of-

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<sup>22</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at p. 8.

<sup>23</sup> Notice at 9.

<sup>24</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 20.

way in communities across the country. The applications were essentially cookie cutter applications, and were submitted initially with letters claiming that the subsidiary was certificated by the state public service commission and had the right to use the public rights-of-way. In many cases, however, the subsidiary was not even licensed to do business in the state, and had not filed an application with the public service commission at all. An example involving Centerville, Georgia is attached in Exhibit 6.<sup>25</sup>

In cases where it *was* licensed to operate, Mobilitie made false claims about its rights to enter onto municipal property. For example, on December 20, 2016, the Michigan Public Service Commission ruled and granted the applications requested in two cases, U-18067 (Mobilitie Management LLC's application to provide basic local exchange services) and U-18125 (Utility Network Authority MI, LLC,'s application to provide basic local exchange

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<sup>25</sup> The reader will notice that the pictures and designs are virtually identical to those contained in the Monroe application and contain no reliable site-specific engineering. The proposal is for a 120' tower on a narrow street; it is not clear the structure could even be placed at the location proposed without blocking the sidewalk. In early 2016 in Georgia, applications were received from either Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC or Interstate Transport and Broadband, LLC. Neither of these companies had a CPUC certificate; Mobilitie did, but it did not even file to transfer that certificate to its subsidiaries until after filing applications with localities. Other names under which Mobilitie sought applications included names which appeared to be designed to convince localities that it was a functionary of the state:

Alaska Utility Pole Authority  
Arizona Utility Pole Authority  
Arkansas Utility Pole Authority  
Florida Utility Pole Authority  
Illinois Utility Pole Authority  
Indiana Utility Pole Authority  
Minnesota Utility Pole Authority  
Missouri Utility Pole Authority  
North Dakota Utility Pole Authority  
Ohio Utility Pole Authority  
Oregon Utility Pole Authority  
Pennsylvania Utility Pole Authority  
Rhode Island Utility Pole Authority  
Vermont Utility Pole Authority  
West Virginia Utility Pole Authority  
Wisconsin Utility Pole Authority  
Wyoming Utility Pole Authority

Even where it had obtained authority, Mobilitie caused delay and confusion by falsely claiming it had obtained rights to use rights of way in communities when it clearly had not.

services), but had to remind the applicants that a license to provide basic local exchange service does not constitute authority for providing other services, such as DAS networks, and does not circumvent the requirement to obtain the necessary permits from municipalities to access their public rights-of-way.<sup>26</sup> Nonetheless, applications submitted to localities claimed the MPSC license authorized right of way entry.

In these situations, localities must spend time and effort notifying Mobilitie that it should have authorizations to operate in a state, or it must obtain required consents. And in addition – even though the application is not remotely valid, the locality must detail other problems in the application, even where it is not clear the company will be in a position to pursue deployment.

Mobilitie submitted applications that omitted obviously required information, and that involved almost no field engineering. As a result, localities had to devote resources to reviewing proposals that had, among other things obvious safety issues, were inconsistent with the ADA (blocking handicapped access), and involved placement of new 120 foot towers in historical districts or in front of historical structures. The Centerville responses in Exhibit 6 provide a good example of the problems with the sort of applications received from Mobilitie. As suggested there, in many cases, Mobilitie applications reflect almost no real field engineering. While facilities are proposed to be placed in the public right-of-way, the drawings submitted do not show detailed foundation or pole depth specifications – facts obviously critical to public right-of-way safety.

Moreover, in many cases facilities are proposed at locations that are plainly not viable locations. In Laurel, Maryland, for example, Mobilitie proposed to install a 75-foot tower in the Laurel Historic District, in front of the Citizen’s Bank, in a 6’9” brick sidewalk near a

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<sup>26</sup> The Orders are available at: <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/docs/18067/0026.pdf> and <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/docs/18125/0019.pdf>, respectively.

handicapped access ramp. The proposal required the tower to be embedded 11' underground, even though underground utilities including electrical utilities are at that location. The proposal was submitted without any structural work or surveying to determine whether it could be safely installed as proposed.



Laurel Historic District

The Laurel application is attached as Exhibit. 7. Laurel was required to spend staff time and effort to review an application that should never have been submitted for the location proposed.

Other communities have faced similar applications. As noted *supra*, in Monroe, Michigan, Mobilitie proposed to place a 100-foot tower in the verge next to a sidewalk within the Old Village Historic District (#82002854) in the National Register of Historic Places, and in front of an historically significant structure. The proposed tower was in the sight lines of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, listed on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites in 1998 and within one block of Memorial Place, commemorating the Kentucky soldiers that fought and

died at the Battle of the River Raisin in January 1813. The application was, like the Laurel and Centerville applications, woefully deficient.<sup>27</sup>

**Application deficiencies are often followed by silence.** Monroe notified Mobilitie of the problems with the application, and the City has not heard back from the company. This has also been the case with De Soto County, Mississippi, Frederick, Maryland and numerous other local governments. Where there have been continued contacts, the siting process may involve what is effectively an entirely different proposal. For example, in Cary North Carolina, Mobilitie originally submitted five “applications” in 2016 for 120’ towers in the public right-of-way. Following correspondence addressing the incompleteness of the application, Mobilitie and Town staff met in October of 2016 and again on in February of 2017. While formal applications have not been filed, Mobilitie has indicated they now have plans for about twenty sites in the town at elevations far less than 120 feet.

**Mobilitie often does not accurately identify the location of its proposed facilities.** The applications submitted by Mobilitie typically include a set of plans that might (but often do not) accurately identify the location of the proposed deployment. In many cases, the location sought for the tower was not within the jurisdiction of the government entity receiving the application.<sup>28</sup> I

**The deficiencies in the applications suggest the company made almost no real effort to comply with local requirements.** In many cases, no application fee accompanied these

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<sup>27</sup> The Monroe application and response letter are attached as Exhibit 5.

<sup>28</sup> Sugar Land, Texas received requests for eight sites, of which seven were located on state rights-of-way. Consent to use the rights-of-way is required prior to approval from a state agency, the Texas Department of Transportation, in addition to compliance with City requirements, requiring detailed coordination between both jurisdictions on current and proposed road construction work in the area. Another example may be found in DeKalb County, Georgia where more than half of the requested sites were in Georgia rights-of-way. Still DeKalb and Mobilitie are close to reaching an Master License Agreement on different terms from the Georgia Municipal Association Mobilitie agreement.

applications, but there was always a request for a community contact. The same application packet (or a virtually identical packet) was received across the country, regardless of local forms or any requirement that the forms be filed electronically. In many cases, communities received multiple applications, all of them incomplete.<sup>29</sup>

Worse, in some cases Mobilitie built its facility without going through required federal, state or local requirements. Mobilitie installed a pole without going through this Commission's Section 106 process in a historic district in Denison, Texas, and then removed it (*see* Texas Municipal League's Comments for additional detail on Mobilitie in Denison, Texas and Section 106 issues). In Baltimore, Maryland, Mobilitie was required to remove a pole it placed in a sidewalk ramp that made the sidewalk non-ADA compliant. The cost of remediating these problems falls on local and state governments, and not just on Mobilitie, especially when important laws like the ADA are involved. And those costs incurred by local communities must be recoverable in full.

It is thus somewhat strange to see Mobilitie complain that its deployments are being unreasonably delayed. Despite the problems identified above, local governments do continue to work with Mobilitie – and notably, Mobilitie has not raised the concerns it raises here with any of them.<sup>30</sup> But in any case, the key point is that behavior like Mobilitie's adds significantly to the cost, burden and time required to process small cell applications; localities are being asked to

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<sup>29</sup> In Montgomery County, MD, Mobilitie filed hundreds of applications in a single day; not one was complete. The separate comments of Montgomery County provide the detailed timeline — it took eight months before even a single complete test application was submitted. Los Angeles reports requests for 1,900 locations. In Boston, Mobilitie identified 219 locations for DAS/Small Cell installations, 204 of these on City Poles and 15 on Eversource/Verizon Poles. The City sent Mobilitie a DAS/Small Cell agreement and a Dark Fiber agreement on Feb 3rd for execution.

<sup>30</sup> See also Comments of Arlington, Texas (filed March 8, 2017) at 1-2. “[Arlington] is actively involved in negotiations with Mobilitie for placement of their small cell facilities in City rights-of-way. These discussions are progressing with a master license agreement likely entered in the near future that will serve as a template for other providers going forward. It is interesting to note that the issues raised by Mobilitie in their Petition have not been raised at the local level in our discussions.”

do work Mobilitie itself should have performed. Given the record here, the Commission’s reference to local government behaviors discussed in the *2009 Declaratory Ruling* and *2014 Infrastructure Order* are particularly inapt, and cannot justify additional regulations.<sup>31</sup>

b. Applications for the public rights-of-way present special problems.

Setting aside the problems created by incomplete applications, the evaluation of applications for placement of “small cells” in the public rights-of-way is not simple, and does require a stringent review. The issues raised by Mobilitie are public right-of-way issues – in fact, press reports indicate its customer Sprint is abandoning existing macrocells in favor of “cheaper” towers in the streets.<sup>32</sup> But in contrast to applications for use of private land, the public right-of-way is a shared space, which must accommodate vehicle traffic, pedestrian traffic, and a large variety of utilities. The Declaration of Steven Puuri explains some of the problems presented by adding structures to public rights-of-way, and why it is critical that proposals for placement of facilities be carefully reviewed. As discussed below, many of the areas that are most trafficked and that are particular targets for small cell deployment are also areas where the city has spent millions of dollars beautifying the area to particular design standards. While certainly not impossible, it is often more difficult to disguise facilities, particularly where agreements on design require the consent of the wireless providers, the community, and a private utility that may have an interest in infrastructure. Moreover, the use proposed – installation of vertical structures that could be (and historically have been) placed outside the the public right-of-way – is not a necessary public right-of-way use (normally public rights-of-way are dedicated to linear and transiting uses, and uses related to transportation). The placement of incongruent structures

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<sup>31</sup> Smart Communities would ask that the Commission examine the role of each entity in causing delays and provide a fresh look to these complaints in a post Shot Clock world.

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.rcrwireless.com/20160125/opinion/analyst-angle-sprints-network-plan-equals-suicide>

in the public rights-of-way creates different problems, and may create legal issues depending on any limitations on uses of the public rights-of-way or associated utility easements.<sup>33</sup> Thus, applications for use of the public rights-of-way may require more stringent review than non public right-of-way applications – which is to say, approval of small cells of the sort that are the focus of the Notice may require as much or more time than approval of macrocells.<sup>34</sup> Those problems may be particularly significant in areas where all other utilities are underground, where the installation presents not only new safety but also aesthetic issues.

Receiving applications in batch for small cells does not necessarily speed the process either. There may be some ways to manage batches of applications to speed certain aspects of the review. For example, if the same design is used in the same zoning area, that design may be approved for the entire area, subject to certain restrictions (e.g., a design generally appropriate may not be appropriate in front of an historic landmark). But the degree to which batching is helpful may depend on the structures proposed (new v. additions to existing facilities) and the size and visibility of the installations; and on the coordination required with other utilities.

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<sup>33</sup> See *D'Andrea v. AT&T*, 289 Mich. App. 70 (2010) See also unpublished Opinion following post-trial appeal: *D'Andrea v. AT&T*, 2014 Mich. App. Lexis 1570 (2014). As Mr. Burgoyne explains, intrusive small cell installations may affect property values; even small reductions in property values could have significant economic effects. Burgoyne Declaration at pp. 2, 8.

<sup>34</sup> The placement of a node may have significant ripple effects that are recognized in the Programmatic Agreements, are not typical of macrocells, and that are of appropriate concern in determining whether the placement should be authorized. Each node on a DAS system may require 4-6 dedicated fibers that connect to a larger fiber bundle. Placement of the fiber may require significant roadway trenching. The consideration and mitigation of those impacts may be time-consuming, particularly if each entity asserts the right to build the particular network facilities it wants, with the connectivity it desires, at the time it prefers, with no interest in collocation at any time... which is what Mobilite is effectively asking the Commission to order. In Myrtle Beach, trenching along the Ocean Boulevard during summer could cause millions of dollars in losses to businesses and to hotels. To avoid the trenching problem, the City installed conduit in consultation with utilities to limit or avoid the need for disruption. That should speed deployment, but only does so if localities can require wireless service and facilities providers to use their assets, or otherwise act to protect against disruption.

c. Local processes do not, however, result in gaps in service.

The Commission asks: are there greater coverage gaps in specific states or localities where applications are processed more slowly or where more stringent showings are required? If so, to what extent are these gaps attributable to such factors regarding the processing and consideration of siting applications?

In Smart Communities view, there are not greater coverage gaps in specific states or localities where applications are processed “more slowly.” (The framing has of the question presumes applications are being processed “more slowly,” but we assume that the Commission is really asking whether the land use review process itself results in gaps.) As the CTC report points out, most of what industry seeks to characterize as “small cell” deployments are not designed to serve areas that lack broadband service. Many of the deployments are occurring in areas where residents have multiple options for high-speed access to the Internet, whether via licensed or unlicensed frequencies. Many of the deployments (in Montgomery County for example) are occurring in areas where hundreds of facilities have already been authorized.<sup>35</sup> The issue is usually the quality of the service, and in some cases, those concerns may have to do with the delivery of services (like video services) that are not the focus of Section 332(c)(7).

Moreover, as discussed above, in most cases “delays” in processing are due to inadequate engineering or other incomplete information or documentation by the applicant, and that is particularly true with respect to Mobilitie. But undue delay is not created generally by localities. This is perhaps well-reflected in the fact that, since the adoption of the Commission’s shot clocks, there have been almost no cases where courts have found that localities have unreasonably failed to act on a pending application for placement. In many – perhaps most cases

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<sup>35</sup> Montgomery County Comments (filed March 8, 2017).

– this is because localities and providers have agreed upon a time for final action, taking into account the issues that were associated with particular applications.

Nor should the Commission be concerned by ordinance requirements which establish safe harbors for deployment. The Commission notes that some ordinances require wireless facilities to be placed a certain distance apart. That is true, but ordinances governing placement of facilities typically allow requirements to be varied for cause, and of course are subject to preemption where they actually or effectively prohibit the provision of wireless services. What standards like the distance standard do is define an acceptable set of design parameters, which then provide some certainty for a wireless provider who can design to those standards. Rather than delaying approval, such standards ease the process.

5. *The Commission's Own Rules, Which Require Localities To Go Through A Detailed Notice Process Rather Than Simply Reject Incomplete Applications As Is The Case For Other Permits Adds To The Cost.*

The Commission's own rules add to costs that otherwise apply, and as suggested above, can add to the time required for review. The 2009 Declaratory Ruling's "Shot Clocks" by pushing wireless applications to the front of the line (by establishing federal requirements above and beyond state law requirements) impose costs on localities that need to be recovered. By requiring incompleteness notices that list defects in detail (rather than requiring the applicants to do the work, as is the case with other permits, which are routinely denied or given back to the applicant if incomplete) the Commission creates additional regulatory costs that need to be recovered. Thus, the Commission's elaborate rules requiring detailed incompleteness notices in a short time frame have had the perverse effect of adding to the processing time and costs for applications, and created an incentive for applicants to file incomplete applications. This incentive may be amplified by the relationship between wireless service and facilities providers,

which the Commission should investigate as part of this Notice, should it wish to proceed further. If, for example, an infrastructure provider is paid on milestones (when an application is filed for example) there will be an additional financial incentive to file without doing the work required to prepare a complete application .

6. *Applicants who seek to use the public rights-of-way or other public property may require additional approvals.*

The Commission should recognize that the placement of facilities in the public rights-of-way or other public property may require additional or different approvals.

In addition to necessary land use approvals, an applicant who seeks to place facilities on private land will require the landowner's permission. The same is true for facilities in the public rights-of-way or other public property. The permission of the landowner or trustee for the property – which will either be the local government or the state – must be obtained. Hence, in states where the right to use the public rights-of-way is subject to local consent (whether in the form of a license or franchise) the applicant must have the authority to use the public rights-of-way. Similarly, if the applicant wishes to occupy other public property (parks, buildings, easements, etc.) it will need to have authority to use that property. The location may then affect whether additional land use requirements apply or not. There may be no additional land use approval requirements for some locations or some types of installations (a city park, or a right of way may not be subject to land use regulations in many communities). The choice to deploy on property other than privately-owned land and buildings may thus trigger other requirements that affect deployment.

B. Deployment Can Present Significant Challenges, and Those Challenges Suggest Small Cell Deployment Should Be Approached Cautiously

As suggested above, as a factual matter, the deployment of small cells in the public rights-of-way presents problems, including safety problems, that are significant, and may involve significant externalities.

Thus, as Mr. Puuri points out, the placement of new structures in the public rights-of-way creates an ongoing risk to public safety that cannot be avoided. The installation of wireless facilities can also create long-term stresses on the road bed, interfere with drainage, and make it more expensive to maintain and expand the roadway, or to improve other utilities. The cost to local governments that result from the addition of new structures to the public rights-of-way may be millions or billions of dollars annually.<sup>36</sup>

Moreover, the placement of small cells – depending on their size and visibility – may affect neighboring property values. As Mr. Burgoyne explains, the literature suggests that placement of utility infrastructure aboveground does affect property values.<sup>37</sup> That impact is related to the size and visibility of the installed structures. As even a small reduction in value of homes in a neighborhood may have multi-million dollar effects – it becomes very important to minimize the impacts of proposed installations.

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<sup>36</sup> The costs associated with using the rights of way can be significant. Mr. Puuri's Declaration includes simple example of costs associated with making a roadbed and roadside safe for a single small cell installation where there are almost no competing utilities; the road is a rural road, and the design of the facility will not affect the roadway itself in any way; and no special construction is required for the facility. The costs listed are costs associated with modifying the roadside, and do not include costs associated with reviewing plans and developing specifications for the site; do not include costs associated with inspecting the installation during construction or periodically thereafter. The estimates do not include joint and common costs associated with maintaining the road and the roadside areas so that those are safe for all users, and it does not include special costs that may arise when the roadway or other utilities need to be moved. It does not reflect costs associated with responding to emergencies involving the structure. What it does suggest is that the cost limits proposed by Mobilite are not in any respect realistic, and that use of the rights of way involves significant costs that will be taxed to the public unless fully borne by service or facilities providers. *See also* CTC Declaration at p. 16.

<sup>37</sup> Burgoyne Declaration at p. 3.

This is particularly so since, as the CTC Declaration points out, providers often do have alternative placement options, and technology may permit provision of advanced services without the negative impacts.<sup>38</sup> Indeed, if localities can respond to the potential problems by establishing placement requirements, that may reward innovators who can design networks that minimize impacts. Rather than discouraging deployment, strong local standards may encourage companies who have traditionally designed and built municipal infrastructure to develop innovative designs for deployment of next generation wireless.<sup>39</sup>

The stakes are enormous. Smart Communities call on the Commission to recognize that actions with a singular focus on facilitating deployment without any consideration of the community context could have enormous, and negative economic effects, affecting millions (if not billions) of dollars in community investments made not just for aesthetic reasons, but for financial and health and safety reasons.

To provide one example: Myrtle Beach is one of the nation's most popular tourist destinations, and the most popular destination in South Carolina, attracting more than 17 million visitors per year to a city with a permanent population of roughly 30,000. That tourism – primarily driven by the area's beaches, golf courses and attractions – has been the engine for tremendous growth in the City and the nearby entire Grand Strand, in both Horry County and Georgetown County. Myrtle Beach's unemployment rate is below the national average, while the metropolitan area growth rate is the second fastest in the nation (2014-2015 Census estimate).<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 16.

<sup>39</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 22; ECONorthwest Declaration at p. 5.

<sup>40</sup> See <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article67886402.html>.

Myrtle Beach accounted for nearly four percent (3.94 percent) of the state's 2014 retail sales. Tourism is South Carolina's main industry, and the Grand Strand is the engine behind it. Negative impacts on tourism in Myrtle Beach have a ripple effect across state government and state coffers, since Horry County and Myrtle Beach are "donor" locations within the state, providing state funds for other locations that do not have that tourism base. Conversely, positive impacts on tourism generate jobs, sales tax, accommodation taxes, hospitality taxes and economic stability both locally and statewide. The economic impact is astounding. In 2015, tourism generated \$20.2 billion in economic activity statewide, a 6.1 percent increase over 2014, and the fourth straight year of growth. 'Tourism is South Carolina's largest industry, supporting one in 10 jobs and generating \$1.5 billion in state and local tax revenues.<sup>41</sup>

Maintaining and responding to that growth is a challenge. The City competes nationally with Las Vegas and Orlando at convention center level; but as it attracts most of its non-convention visitors from the East Coast, including the Midwest and Canada, it must compete with other coastal destinations along the east coast shoreline.<sup>42</sup> To compete, the City has developed a comprehensive and holistic approach to enhance its tourism economy that has steadily grown since the 1950s. The public investment includes more than \$80 million in the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, the Convention Center Hotel and the Myrtle Beach Sports Center. The City has planned, financed and worked hard to develop the 10 mile commercialized Ocean Boulevard, its public beaches and Boardwalk, investing more than \$100 million in public improvements to streets, sidewalks, the boardwalk, underground utilities, deep-water ocean outfalls, public parks, new streets and new recreational spaces. The City of Myrtle Beach partnered with the local electric utility, Santee Cooper, to fund the removal of overhead utility

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<sup>41</sup> <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article134436159.html#storylink=cpy>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.myrtlebeachareachamber.com/research/docs/24theditionstatisticalabstract.pdf>

lines from major public streets and thoroughfares, spending more than \$30 million on that effort since 1999. The City has aggressively incorporated this holistic approach to growing its tourism economy through long-range capital improvement plans and budgets. The City incorporates aesthetic requirements into every development agreement, every Municipal Improvement District, every Tax Increment Financing District and every approval process. How Myrtle Beach looks is a key determinant of how well its economy will function and grow.

Moreover, and on a practical level, such a holistic approach is required for public safety. The area is subject to hurricanes, so it seeks to avoid preventable damage and limit repair time through strict building codes and adherence to FEMA's and other agencies guidelines. An obvious goal is to limit the number of structures that can create hazards to the public and to property during high winds. Moving utilities underground was part of those efforts.

Most of the tourists who visit Myrtle Beach arrive by automobile, but they rightly expect to walk and bicycle through the central beach areas and residential districts, which means that the City has a significant interest in minimizing obstructions in the public rights-of-way. Looking ahead, the City has identified as much as \$2 billion of required road improvements,<sup>43</sup> while facing significant reductions in available state and federal funding – additional infrastructure that may make improvements more difficult simply adds to those costs.

Indeed, understanding these future growth issues, the City met with all interested utilities during the underground conversion discussion to ensure that the underground infrastructure would include sufficient conduit and other structures to avoid future trenching, road blockages or other retrofitting.

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article67886402.html>

The City is now receiving requests that it allow installation of above-ground towers on its beach public right-of-way. Installation in the public right-of-way is *not* needed to provide service. The beachfront is lined with multi-story buildings and private parking lots (with lighting structures) that could easily support placement of wireless facilities. In fact, off-road placement on private property may lead to more coverage, as it would enable a provider to better serve the hotels that line the beach. The main reason providers wish to use the public property appears to be cost – the idea that it will be cheaper for them to place facilities in the public’s public rights-of-way, rather than to secure appropriate private property, even if the impact on surrounding businesses, tourism and employment could have long-term negative consequences that are far greater than the cost of negotiating to use private property.

Based on that City’s experiences, those costs could be significant. Nonetheless, the City is currently working with providers of infrastructure and services to create a development guide that would allow placement of some facilities in the public rights-of-way – the goal being to try develop safe harbors to which all providers may design rather than dealing with applications on a case-by-case basis. This may involve (1) use of street lights or other structures that can be used to hide facilities; (2) limiting placement in the public right-of-way in sensitive areas to facilities that meet stringent design requirements, and otherwise requiring facilities to be first placed in locations where they are not going to create harms; and (3) limiting new facilities that are permitted, and limiting the height and placement to avoid risks to vehicles, pedestrians, and roadbeds.

Even this process is not simple. The use of street lights for placement of wireless facilities is not as simple as one may imagine. Street lights themselves are evolving, and may incorporate sensors and other infrastructure for government and public use. It is important that

use by wireless providers not foreclose those other important uses. Moreover, the replacement of one street light structure with another, heavier structure may create maintenance, replacement and safety issues that did not exist before. And, as street lights are often installed and maintained pursuant to complex tariffs that, among other things, effectively require separate metering for each powered user.

Myrtle Beach's experience, the experience of the other Smart Communities and the expert declarations indicate:

First, placement of wireless facilities has significant initial and ongoing impacts on the public rights-of-way. The impact may be focused on the antennas, but it is not limited to the antennas; for example, 120-foot poles could block the public right-of-way, create permanent obstructions for placement of other utilities by virtue of the foundations required to support that structure, and create hazards that do not otherwise exist.

Second, the problems can and are being addressed, but addressing the problems may require a coordination with other utilities and stakeholders that does require some time. Additional rules will not speed the process.

Third, the Commission should recognize its own rules may be a barrier to creative solutions to deal with redeveloped areas, historical areas and residential areas (particularly underground areas). It ought to encourage approaches that allow for creation of safe harbors for conforming providers to place facilities in the public rights-of-way, while limiting the ability for those who place within the safe harbors to expand those facilities.

Before adopting any new rules, particularly rules of the sort proposed by Mobilite, the Commission needs to carefully consider the negative cost and impact of all those rules, and if the data is not clear, study those impacts in detail. *See also* Part VI, *infra*.

#### IV. OVERALL, THE LOCAL PROCESS IS WORKING WELL

While there are challenges that need to be addressed, deployment is in fact proceeding at a fairly rapid pace. While the Notice ostensibly seeks “updated information” to evaluate whether “further action” in addition to that taken in the *2009 Declaratory Ruling*<sup>44</sup> and *2014 Infrastructure Order*<sup>45</sup> is warranted – the questions that are posed are heavily skewed to seeking data to show local governments are hindering deployments.<sup>46</sup> For instance, the Bureau unduly limits its inquiry to “whether and to what extent the process of local land-use authorities’ review is hindering, or is likely to hinder, the deployment of wireless infrastructure....”<sup>47</sup> In this post Shot Clock order era, perhaps the most telling empirical data for the timely actions of local governments can be found in the *lack* of Shot Clock violations being alleged in courts around the country. One reason for this is the existing rules give the applicant and the locality the flexibility to address timing issues by agreement.

Despite the challenges and uncertainties, small cell deployments are being made in large numbers. Verizon is deploying 400 small cells in San Francisco.<sup>48</sup> Smart Communities members have already met significant requests from numerous wireless providers and DAS companies for access to public rights-of-way. Boston has approved nearly 400 DAS/small cell installations in

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<sup>44</sup> *Petition for Declaratory Ruling to Clarify Provisions of Section 332(c)(7) to Ensure Timely Siting Review, Declaratory Ruling*, 24 FCC Rcd 13994 (2009).

<sup>45</sup> *Acceleration of Broadband Deployment by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies*, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 12865 (2014).

<sup>46</sup> The Notice at p. 9 asks:

- Do the concerns that motivated the Commission to take action in 2009 and 2014 still exist?
- Have they become less or more salient?
- Which, if any, local government actions (or inaction) have the effect of hindering the introduction of new services, obstructing efforts to improve existing services or make networks more robust, or deterring prospective service providers from entering markets?
- Commenters should provide specific information and detailed explanations and, to the extent possible, should quantify any such effects. We will accord greater weight to systematic data than merely anecdotal evidence.

<sup>47</sup> *Id.*

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.fiercewireless.com/wireless/verizon-to-deploy-400-small-cells-san-francisco>

the public rights-of-way with three neutral host companies.<sup>49</sup> Atlanta has approved 257 applications<sup>50</sup> and Houston has approved over 350 locations.<sup>51</sup> Demand is not expected to slow down. Houston, for example, believes that they will receive requests for as many as 800 additional locations in the not so distant future.<sup>52</sup> But it is not just the larger communities that are being challenged to meet demands for public rights-of-way access. Ann Arbor, Michigan, in just the last two years has dealt with more than 70 applications for small cell facilities.<sup>53</sup>

This is a case, in other words, where the Commission should encourage additional cooperation, and not create additional disincentives to solutions. As the CTC Declaration explains, deployment is most efficient when localities work with service and facilities providers to develop solutions for the problems presented by small cell deployment and particularly, small cell deployment in the rights of way.<sup>54</sup> Additional rules will at best complicate existing powers and at worst will discourage cooperative approaches.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Boston has agreements with Crown Castle, ExteNet and American Tower that provide that two-thirds of the installations will take place on City-owned Streetlights or traffic lights and the remainder on jointly-owned (Eversource-Verizon) poles. The majority of these installations have been in place for about eight years, but recent interest and engagement by carriers, as well as additional neutral hosts, indicate that number could treble in the next 2 years and again in 4 years.

<sup>50</sup> These approvals break down as 174 for Crown Castle and 83 for Mobilitie. Atlanta reports that Mobilitie has indicated a request for more than 200 sites within the city.

<sup>51</sup> Houston explains that in addition to the 350 locations already approved, they are anticipating as many as 800 more requests as Zayo, Crown Castle, Verizon, and Mobilitie each have expressed a desire to build out an entire network, which could be as many as 200 locations for each company.

<sup>52</sup> The City of Los Angeles reports that it has approved nearly 100 Mobilitie sites alone.

<sup>53</sup> Between 2015 and 2016, ACD.net filed application for 29 locations with Ann Arbor, only to withdraw each of those applications and submit 18 new applications in late 2016 and early 2017. One day, when an individual at ACD.net tried resubmitting its applications with the required detailed drawings for each location and got a bounce because of the email and attachment size, the individual at ACD.net resubmitted the same email and drawings two more times, crashing the Ann Arbor engineer's mailbox, and causing the engineer's computer to be down for all purposes for approximately six hours.

<sup>54</sup> CTC Declaration at pp. 22-23.

<sup>55</sup> As we have pointed out in this filing, and as CTC explains, the Commission's 6409 rules are often a barrier to solutions in sensitive areas like residential areas because they permit small installations to grow in a manner that will be significant to residents. *See also* Burgoyne Declaration.

**V. REGULATING THE PRICES CHARGED FOR ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY OR OTHER GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IS BAD POLICY**

**A. Fees for Use of Government Property Should Be Priced At Fair Market Value**

1. *As a basic economic principle, if local governments are forced to give away property at less than fair market value, it will encourage inefficient deployment.*

While Mobilitie complains that it is subject to high and multiple fees, it is unclear exactly what it is stating.<sup>56</sup> However, Mobilitie admits in its Petition that its desire to use of the public rights-of-way “for backhaul and transport” is driven by a desire to take advantage of lower transaction costs as compared to use of private property.<sup>57</sup> That is consistent with press reports stating Mobilitie wants to be in the public rights-of-way solely to save costs now being paid to private landlords.<sup>58</sup> To this end, Mobilitie has filed countless applications for structures 60 to 120 feet tall which the company calls “utility poles” with no plans for stringing wires on them. These facilities will not use the public rights-of-way for backhaul and transport but rather will use point-to-point microwave antennas. These can only accurately be described as monopole towers in the public rights-of-way. Unlike pipelines, electrical, and fiber facilities, there is no logical reason these facilities have to be placed in the public rights-of-way. And it is solely that Mobilitie hopes to gain financial benefits by coopting this public property and obtaining access at marginal costs.

But as the ECONorthwest Declaration points out, the public rights-of-way and other state and local property are scarce resources. Allowing Mobilitie to install and pay less than fair market value simply encourages economically inefficient deployment and may discourage

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<sup>56</sup> Notice at 7, Mobilitie Petition at 14, 16 and 17

<sup>57</sup> Petition at 7-8.

<sup>58</sup> *See, supra*, fn. 32.

innovation.<sup>59</sup> Mobilitie installs at the cost of public safety and the value of nearby homes. Even a small devaluation of homes would result in costs to society far greater than Mobilitie/Sprint is bearing now. Long term harm to roadbeds, and hazards will predictably result in billions of dollars of loss to the economy.<sup>60</sup> Ironically, Mobilitie quotes with approval from an article that states a level playing field is where all firms “pay for the actual costs they cause”<sup>61</sup> yet the company’s business plan counts on *not* paying any such costs.

2. *As a basic economic principle, pricing to reflect the value and impacts will lead to innovation, and reward companies that devote research to new technology and means of deployment.*

As a basic economic principle, pricing property at less than fair market value encourages users to overuse that resource, and effectively requires others (whether taxpayers or neighboring property owners) to subsidize that use. As ECONorthwest explains:

if a municipality is forced to sell access to its ROW at a below-market rate, then users will not fully consider the cost of accessing the ROW and will over utilize it. One form in which this overutilization could manifest itself is that existing ROW could become overcrowded, and be unable to accommodate new, innovative technologies.<sup>62</sup>

Indeed, one would expect that if a locality can charge fair value for use of the public rights-of-way, entrepreneurs will be incentivized to minimize unnecessary use – and will not shift a facility from one location to another for the sole purpose of avoiding rent, as appears to be a primary driver for Sprint. While (as CTC explains) public right-of-way costs are not likely to be the determinative factor in making a decision to deploy in rural versus urban areas, subsidizing use by wireless providers will not promote efficient deployment within communities

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<sup>59</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at p. 13.

<sup>60</sup> Burgoyne Declaration at pp. 8-10; Puuri Declaration Declaration at p. 3.

<sup>61</sup> Mobilitie Petition at 30.

<sup>62</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at p. 5.

that are deployment targets, and in the long term may delay development of innovative schemes for deployment of the next generation of networks.<sup>63</sup>

3. *As a basic economic principle, underpricing property will not lead to deployment in underserved areas; it will exacerbate existing marketplace inequities.*

As local governments explained in response to the Commission's 2011 Right-of-Way Notice of Inquiry,<sup>64</sup> many underserved areas (not surprisingly) seek to attract providers by charging nothing for use of public property or public rights-of-way. As they also pointed out, consumers often have more choice, and better services, in areas which do charge for use of the public rights-of-way. The same factors that make property valuable in those areas also make the areas more profitable to serve. As a basic economic principle, firms will first deploy in the areas that are most profitable. Further, the areas that are most profitable under a system with market-based prices will, when public rights-of-way are underpriced, likely remain among the most profitable areas (albeit more profitable due to lower costs). Underpricing public rights-of-way, therefore, is *unlikely* to lead to increased deployment in underserved areas. Montgomery County sees that pattern in the applications it has received, which focus on some of the wealthier residential areas in the County, and not on its more rural areas.

This is not a case where the Commission need step in because providers face monopolistic pricing. Communities can and do compete with one another for businesses and services, and have in fact vigorously competed for deployment of advanced infrastructure.<sup>65</sup> Nor is this a case where a subsidy would be consistent with the purposes of the *Communications*

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<sup>63</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 14; ECONorthwest Declaration at p. 5.

<sup>64</sup> Acceleration of Broadband Deployment: Expanding the Reach and Reducing the Cost of Broadband Deployment by Improving Policies Regarding Public Rights of Way and Wireless Facilities Siting, WT Docket Nos. 13-238, 13-32; WC Docket No. 11-59 (Apr. 7, 2011).

<sup>65</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 19.

*Act* specifically or generally; while the goal of the *Communications Act* is to promote competition, it is focused on doing so through adherence to market principles, which include requiring market participants to pay market rates for resources used. Those rates, as ECONorthwest explains, are not limited to out-of-pocket cost, much less the subset of costs that Mobilitie asks the Commission to adopt.<sup>66</sup> Fair market value is the proper standard for pricing access to public right-of-way and other public property.

**VI. GIVEN THE BILLIONS IN POTENTIAL HARMS, AND THE LIMITED POTENTIAL BENEFIT, THERE IS EVERY REASON FOR THE COMMISSION TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT, AND TO ALLOW SMART COMMUNITIES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CREATIVE SOLUTIONS**

A. Before It Adopts Any New Rules, the Commission Should Consider the Costs and Not Assume the Benefits.

In this filing, Smart Communities have shown that there are significant costs associated with adopting additional regulations restricting local siting authority, and that restricting police power fees or regulating rents could have significant negative effects on communities and on wireless deployment. By contrast, there is little evidence that wireless deployment will be prohibited if new regulations are not adopted, and every reason, based on the deployments that have already occurred, to expect it will move forward. At the very least, before adopting new regulations, the Commission must carefully examine and quantify the negative impacts of proposed deployments like the Mobilitie 120-foot towers in public rights-of-way, both on communities and on innovators who may wish to enter the market.

B. The Red Herrings: Ubiquitous Broadband and 5G Do Not Justify Additional Regulation

As we have already explained, there is no reason to believe new rules will lead to ubiquitous broadband deployment. According to CTC, small cell systems do not provide a

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<sup>66</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at pp. 7-12.

particularly useful vehicle for providing services where there is none now (with certain limited exceptions small cells may overcome topographical barriers).<sup>67</sup> Small cells are not necessarily the most efficient or cost-effective means of providing service in many locations. They are unlikely to be deployed in sparsely populated, rural areas despite Mobilitie’s unsupported claim to the contrary.<sup>68</sup> Even where small cells make sense, there are often ways to place facilities on buildings or rooftops which avoid the hazards and harms associated with placement in the public rights-of-way.

The Commission bases its notice in part on the conclusion that “...small wireless facilities are the kinds of technologies the Commission envisions needing to enable 5G network in those bands.”<sup>69</sup>

As an initial matter, this statement means less than at first appears. There is of course, no existing 5G standard, and no true 5G equipment.<sup>70</sup> And it is not obvious that the best way to take advantage of the potential of 5G is via the sorts of large structures that some providers propose to put in the public right-of-way. Indeed, as the CTC Declaration explains, there are alternative ways to deploy 5G networks that may not require the sorts of structures proposed by Mobilitie, or even the large small cell and DAS installations that have been installed by some companies. There are different technologies, with quite different form factors that allow for facilities to be disguised (C-RAN etc.) – and no doubt others that can or will be developed.<sup>71</sup>

There are non-licensed technologies that are being used to provide wireless services that can free up licensed frequencies, and may actually reduce costs associated with wireless services.

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<sup>67</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 16.

<sup>68</sup> Petition at p. 6.

<sup>69</sup> Notice at p. 4.

<sup>70</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 15.

<sup>71</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 9.

For example, cable operators routinely provide modems in home with two bands, one which provides a private and one a public Wi-Fi capacity.<sup>72</sup> They install strand-mounted, low-powered Wi-Fi devices. These “in-home” facilities, combined with service provided from larger structures may provide more than adequate coverage.

Deployment of the “small cell” networks — or at least, the particular networks proposed by Mobilitie and other incumbent service and facilities providers may not advance the development of smart communities. As we pointed out,<sup>73</sup> many of the Smart Communities are already deploying facilities that support advanced wireless services. Autonomous vehicles (AV) may need to communicate with one another; and may eventually rely on information from infrastructure (traffic signal information and so on), but V2V and V2I create significant security risks for vehicles; AV dependence on a network for information controlled by a private company with no clear obligation to serve may make autonomous vehicles *less* reliable. In this respect, it is notable that a Crown Castle representative has testified that it is a real estate company. The Commission should be reluctant to allow a real estate company to capture a public resource (particularly at a subsidized rate); that may actually deter development of innovative solutions.

C. The Notice Fails To Establish A Predicate For Action Against Local Governments.

While Smart Communities are heartened by the Bureau’s claim that it seeks to “develop a factual record”<sup>74</sup> on the deployment of small cell infrastructure, we expect that record to be based on more solid evidence than that which was presented in Mobilitie’s Petition or the Notice.

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<sup>72</sup> <http://www.pcworld.com/article/2363389/to-xfinity-wifi-were-all-hotspots-but-you-dont-have-to-be.html>

<sup>73</sup> *Supra*, p. 9.

<sup>74</sup> See Exhibit 8, Excerpt from Deposition of Mark Reudink, Complaint of Crown Castle NG Central LLC, SOAH Docket No. 473-16-3891 PUC Docket No. 45470 (October 12, 2016); Notice at 2.

The absence of specifics in the Mobilite Petition is notable. Moreover, the Notice seeks to suggest it is an uncontested fact that there are unacceptable delays in wireless siting and concerns about costs but of the five documents on which the Notice relies to establish a predicate for action, not a single one cites any empirical data, and some are nothing more than advocacy filings for the industry.

- A Fierce Wireless article<sup>75</sup> is referred to as proof of unacceptable delay: “According to some firms, it frequently takes two years or more from small cell site acquisition to completion.”<sup>76</sup> Regardless of whether the statement were true, the regulatory approval is but a single component of this period, and the only component that has a shot clock to ensure timely compliance.<sup>77</sup>
- An industry advocacy piece authored by MD7<sup>78</sup> is cited for the claim “Many municipalities reportedly review small cells the way they review macrocells.”<sup>79</sup> A review of the MD7 article supports no such claim. MD7 does explain “Some municipalities have specific, well written guidelines which define small cells, approval timelines, and preferred site locations. Others are altogether silent on small cells and may not even be

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<sup>75</sup>Colin Gibbs, Small Cells: Still Plenty of Potential despite Big Challenges, (Sept. 1, 2016) <http://www.fiercewireless.com/wireless/small-cells-still-plenty-potential-despite-big-challenges> (“Fierce Wireless”)

<sup>76</sup> Notice at 7.

<sup>77</sup> It is interesting to note that the Bureau did not cite the Fierce Wireless article for this statement about a local government solution: “We previously noted how the planning commission in San Francisco voted in favor of a code amendment to deal with the proliferation of small cells better and insure their ability to force operators to clean-up shoddy work by requiring permit renewals after 10 years. We suspect that trend to continue in other towns and cities throughout America.” Nor did the Bureau cite the article for the recognition of industry player contributions to delay. “Many markets face incremental challenges driven by the backlash from the aggressive tactics of Mobilite...And to be clear, Mobilite shouldn’t shoulder all of the blame....As we continue to peel the onion, we are finding examples where Crown Castle’s siting practices are aggravating local communities as well....” Fierce Wireless

<sup>78</sup> Sean Maddox and Daniel Shaughnessy, Regulatory Challenges with Small Cells, (Jun. 23, 2016) <http://www.md7.com/2016/06/the-challenges-in-developing-regulatory-framework-to-accelerate-small-cell-deployments/>

<sup>79</sup> Notice at 7.

familiar with the concept, which is no surprise given the new technology and the difficulties in updating municipal codes.”

- A Small Cell Forum<sup>80</sup> is cited to assert that “applicants are required to contend with a long and costly process.” Yet, there is no analysis as to cost or time for applications in the United States. There is a very comprehensive study of costs and time for small cell deployed in Europe<sup>81</sup> but there is no comparable chart or explanation for the United States.
- Two industry assertions<sup>82</sup> of “exorbitant fees” are provided; an *ex parte* letter, and the Mobilite petition.<sup>83</sup> But neither provides any empirical evidence of the claims made.

The Commission cannot rely upon claims made without empirical data. As these Comments highlight, and as some of the industry experts acknowledge<sup>84</sup> local governments of all shapes and sizes *are* making efforts to address small cell deployments changes.

The Notice utterly fails to inquire as to whether and to what extent delays in the permitting process are the result of the actions of the applicants, and without that investigation, it is hard to justify additional regulations based on alleged local failures – particularly given the potential societal costs of limiting local authority.

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<sup>80</sup> Small Cell Forum, Small Cell Siting: Streamlining Administrative Processes and Procedures at 7 (Oct. 2016) [http://scf.io/en/documents/190 - Small\\_cell\\_siting\\_Streamlining\\_administrative\\_processes\\_and\\_procedures.php](http://scf.io/en/documents/190_-_Small_cell_siting_Streamlining_administrative_processes_and_procedures.php)

<sup>81</sup> See Figure 8.1 on p. 17.

<sup>82</sup> See Notice at 7, fn 47 and 48.

<sup>83</sup> Mobilite complains that some fees are set at 5% of gross revenues. As we explain *infra*, the 5% fee is a favored model proposed by Crown Castle in many communities, and the Commission cannot assume a model prepared by industry is “exorbitant.”

<sup>84</sup> See Fierce Wireless and MD7 entries.

D. The Issues With Small Cell Deployments Actually Suggest The Commission Needs to Loosen Some of the Restrictions In Existing Rules

Under Commission rules implementing Section 6409, with certain important exceptions, if a locality approves placement of a wireless facility in the public rights-of-way that has no concealment elements, that facility can grow at least ten feet in height; any number of six foot appurtenances can be added to the structure; and if any ground cabinet is authorized at a wireless facility, more can be added, even if (as is now being proposed) the wireless facilities are in someone's front yard. The Commission would have benefited from the advice of the Harvard Business Review,<sup>85</sup> or pitching great Bob Feller<sup>86</sup>: "More is not always better." Many local governments are struggling to evaluate the impacts of so-called small cell deployments within the public rights-of-way that can grow unchallenged by such mass. The Commission needs to recognize this, and also address the fact that its rules implementing Section 6409 undermine the premise that deployment of small cell wireless infrastructure in public rights-of-way will be unobtrusive and insignificant. As the Burgoyne Declaration explains, there is no reason to believe that the impacts of the sort of large deployments allowed by Commission rules (and shown in pictures, *supra* at pp. 9-10) are inconsequential.<sup>87</sup>

Particularly for residential areas, and for areas where all other utilities are underground, the Commission should recognize that a change from a truly small facility to one that is substantially more massive *is* significant. If local governments can allow small cells and yet keep them small, the initial approval process is simpler. One way for the Commission to address

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<sup>85</sup> <https://hbr.org/2006/06/more-isnt-always-better>

<sup>86</sup> While not nearly as quoted as Yogi Berra, legendary Indian pitcher Bob Feller is credited with "The difference between relief pitching when I did it, and today is simple, there is too much of it. It's one of those cases *where more is not necessarily better.*" (emphasis added) The Athlete's Way: Training Your Mind and Body to Experience the Joy of Exercise (Christopher Bergland, St. Martin's Griffin Publishing, 06/10/2008, Page 290).

<sup>87</sup> Burgoyne Declaration at pp. 9-10.

the matter is to recognize that in particular areas, any changes beyond a small percentage change in any component is significant, as is the addition of ground cabinets. Given the examples we now have of the size of some “small cells,” this is actually critical to ensuring the Commission’s rules comport with the statute. But it also is important for the Commission to interpret Section 6409 in a way that makes it possible for localities to create and enforce safe harbors for dense deployment of wireless facilities. As the CTC Declaration explains, many communities are working to create development processes that allow for more straightforward deployment of wireless facilities, but the viability of those processes depends on being able to enforce adopted design standards for an area.<sup>88</sup>

Similarly, the Commission should allow more flexibility to respond to incomplete applications, so that focus may be on applicants who are working seriously on deployment.

Finally, the Commission should make it clear that among conditions enforceable against an applicant under its Section 6409 rules are not merely adopted safety codes, but also practices and guidelines for road deployments. Absent that reassurance, the problems created by the sorts of facilities being proposed for the public right-of-way become even more troubling.

E. The Commission Should Not Be Setting Shorter Time Frames For Either Batch Or Small Cell Applications

Without citing to any research or documentation, the Bureau asserts “[t]he presumptive timeframes established in the 2009 Declaratory Ruling *may be longer than necessary* and reasonable to review a small cell siting request.”<sup>89</sup> With this prejudgment hanging in the air, the

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<sup>88</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 23.

<sup>89</sup> Notice at 11 (*emphasis added*).

Bureau next asks whether when “applications are filed dozens at a time, those presumptive timeframes may not be long enough.”<sup>90</sup>

Smart Communities would offer that while we have some concerns that more time is actually required, at least the Commission’s current time frames allow the parties, and ultimately the courts to assess the reasonableness of the time taken under the circumstances. We doubt the Commission can come up with a rational rule that harmonizes the time required to review 400 applications submitted in one day with submission of 2, nor should it attempt to.

Smart Communities believe that applications can be more easily considered in batches if localities can create “safe harbors” that allow entities to design to specifications created by the community, at least if the specifications are enforceable. But batch applications often exceed the capacity of a locality to handle with existing staff, since in many cases, each site has to be independently evaluated and considered , and because modifications to one part of the batch (if, for example, installations are proposed in an historically protected area) may require changes to other proposed sites.<sup>91</sup>

There are additional costs and additional time associated with consideration of batch applications that can potentially be addressed through local permitting fee mechanisms that permit speedier review, i.e. the applicant pays for the additional costs to the community (additional staff, for example) required to review the application.<sup>92</sup> But federal rules here will not be very helpful, since the process is most easily worked out cooperatively at the local level for particular projects.

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<sup>90</sup> Notice at 11.

<sup>91</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 21.

<sup>92</sup> CTC Declaration at p. 21. The City of Los Angeles for instance affords applicants the opportunity to pay an additional fee to receive expedited service.

F. The Commission Could Enhance Deployment By Its Own Actions

1. *The Commission Could Enhance Smart Communities' Responses To Applications By Updating Its RF Regulations And Educational Information.*

Smart Communities and other local governments routinely receive public comments expressing RF radiation concerns about wireless applications. As small cell deployments anticipate many more installations in public rights-of-way much closer to the public in many more locations, Smart Communities anticipate increased public awareness and concern. Smart Communities cannot act on that basis of RF concerns, but we also recognize that successful deployment requires adoption; and the public is reluctant to accept deployments that it knows, and the Commission knows, are tied to outdated standards. The Commission should therefore modernize its radiofrequency, or “RF” standards and bring to a close a proceeding that has been lingering for years.<sup>93</sup> The Commission’s inaction is inexplicable given the Commission’s insistence that deployment should and must occur rapidly.

2. *The Commission Can Support the Myriad Other Initiatives Already Underway to Address Common Issues with Small Cell Deployments*

Smart Communities are disappointed that the Notice only “seeks comments on ways in which the Commission could promote wireless infrastructure deployment by issuing a declaratory ruling....”<sup>94</sup> The singular focus of the Notice is troubling in another sense – there is no reference to requests or suggestions for partnerships in developing model ordinances, model master license agreements, model public right-of-way franchises, best practices for responding to

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<sup>93</sup> Proposed Changes in Commission Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields, Report and Order (Order) and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Further Notice) in ET Docket No. 03-137; Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies, Notice of Inquiry (Inquiry) in a new docket, ET Docket No. 13-84.

<sup>94</sup> Notice at 1.

common challenges,<sup>95</sup> nor preferred deployment methodologies. Unlike the Notice, these are many of the goals that Chairman Pai outlined in his vision for the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC).<sup>96</sup> There was also the twenty-one page report to the Commission by the Federal Communications Commission's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) delivered in June of 2016 addressing challenges and possible solutions to siting wireless communications facilities.<sup>97</sup> Oddly, this local government work effort is not referenced in the Notice, but an industry letter to IAC is.<sup>98</sup>

Moreover, the recent robust response of local elected and appointed officials to Chairman Pai's call to serve on BDAC is further evidence that we understand the need for such non-regulatory responses.<sup>99</sup> The failure of the Notice to encourage commenters to explore, let alone, promote partnership opportunities to examine the challenges being faced by all concerned with small cell and DAS deployments is therefore disappointing.

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<sup>95</sup> See e.g. Comments of the Georgia Municipal Association ("GMA") filed February 28, 2017. GMA shared with the Bureau a copy of a model master license agreement, a model wireless access to the rights of way ordinance and a model agreement for placement equipment that the association negotiated with Mobilite. While Smart Communities does not necessarily endorse the products, it is important to note that given time and lack of interference from parties such as the FCC, local governments and industry can reach agreements as we have a common goal of ensuring the residents of a community are connected.

<sup>96</sup> The BDAC "is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders with interests in this area to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on broadband deployment... Issues to be considered by the Committee may include, but are not limited to, drafting for the Commission's consideration a model code covering local franchising, zoning, permitting, and rights-of-ways regulations; recommending further reforms of the Commission's pole attachment rules; identifying unreasonable regulatory barriers to broadband deployment; and recommending further reform within the scope of the Commission's authority (to include, but not limited to, sections 253 and 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act and section 6409 of the Spectrum Act." FCC Announces the Establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee and Solicits Nominations for Membership, Public Notice, DA 17-110 (rel. Jan. 31, 2017).

<sup>97</sup> Report on Siting Wireless Communications Facilities available at <https://transition.fcc.gov/state/local/IAC-Report-Wireless-Tower-siting.pdf>

<sup>98</sup> Notice at 7, fn 47.

<sup>99</sup> Smart Communities nominated no less than five official and appointed officials and supported the nominations of several others to serve on the BDAC. In addition, Smart Communities are represented on the FCC Intergovernmental Advisory Council.

## **VII. THE COMMISSION LACKS A LEGAL FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTING ANY NEW RULES GOVERNING USE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY OR OTHER GOVERNMENT PROPERTY**

The Commission's Notice and Mobilitie's Petition rely on only two provisions of law, 47 USC §332(c)(7) and 47 USC §253.<sup>100</sup> The first, along with Section 6409, define the Commission's authority with respect to wireless siting decisions. The second more generally preempts local and state legal requirements that prohibit, or have the effect of prohibiting the ability of any entity to provide telecommunications services. However, the Commission's discussion of what declaratory rulings it might make pursuant to those provisions greatly strays from its very limited legal authority under Section 332(c)(7) and Section 253.

We begin, with two observations:

1. The protections afforded by Section 332(c)(7) apply only to "personal wireless service facilities," and that term refers to facilities used for common carrier services.<sup>101</sup> It does not include the construction of buildings, towers or other structures that might someday be used in connection with the provision of these services. It is far from clear that the facilities Mobilitie proposes to put in the public rights-of-way are "personal wireless facilities" used in the provision of common carrier services. When applying for local approvals and permits Mobilitie calls its towers "utility poles" (though it does not propose to put telephone lines on them), the company may have no customers or proposed wireless facilities included in the application -- thus no one really knows what these so-called "utility poles" might be used for, if anything. Mobilitie's cover letters typically suggest all sorts of possible uses including for example, as locations for

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<sup>100</sup> There is a limited reference to Section 706 in a footnote in the Mobilitie petition but only for the proposition that wireless access is required for all Americans. The Notice does not mention Section 706 at all, and the Commission would need more, specific findings to rely on Section 706, if Section 706 even provides the Commission any preemptive power at all.

<sup>101</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C).

placement of DSRC devices.<sup>102</sup> But it is not clear they will ever be used for personal wireless services or qualify for Section 332(c)(7) protections.

Likewise, Section 253 only permits preemption of local requirements to the extent that they prohibit or effectively prohibit the ability of any entity to provide telecommunications services – which by definition, are common carrier services.<sup>103</sup> It would be wise for the Commission to examine the contracts governing use of facilities being installed by facility providers before proceeding to analyze the protections afforded by sections that may not apply to Mobilitie (or to some of the other participants in this proceeding). Assuming that the sections are relevant at all, however, the relief requested exceeds the Commission’s authority.

2. What are at issue legally are prohibitions and effective prohibitions, and not hindrances, as the Commission seems to suggest in its Notice. The term “prohibit” is not defined in the Act, but it has an ordinary meaning: to formally forbid (something) by law, rule, or other authority; or to “prevent, stop, rule out, preclude, make impossible.” A mere “hindrance” “is simply not in accord with the ordinary and fair meaning” of the term prohibit,<sup>104</sup> and can provide no basis for additional Commission intrusions on local authority over wireless facilities. Much of what Mobilitie complains about is a “hindrance” at most (and usually a hindrance magnified by its own actions).

A. Section 253 Does Not Apply Where A Challenge Involves Matters That are the Subject to Section 332(c)(7)

Both Section 332(c)(7) and Section 253 are preemptive statutes. They define the circumstances under which the Commission may preempt local laws governing

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<sup>102</sup> Exhibit 6 (Centerville application). We can find no evidence that Mobilitie has applied for, or has obtained rights to install DSRC devices, or that it proposed 120 foot tower is even a likely location for such a device.

<sup>103</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 152.

<sup>104</sup> *AT&T v. Iowa Utilities Board*, 525 U.S. 366 (1999).

telecommunications services (Section 253) or personal wireless service facilities (Section 332(c)(7)). What is clear is that where Section 332(c)(7) applies, Section 253 cannot. Section 332(c)(7)(A) declares resoundingly that, except for four limitations at (7)(B),

nothing in this Act shall limit or affect the authority of a State or local government or instrumentality thereof over decisions regarding the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities.<sup>105</sup>

And if there was any additional doubt as to the inconsistency Section 332(c)(7) and Section 253 the two provisions, the Conference Report explained:

It is the intent of the conferees that other than under section 332(c)(7)(B)(iv) . . . the courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all other disputes arising under this section.<sup>106</sup>

Section 253(d), by contrast, permits the Commission to decide cases where it is claimed that a local requirement prohibits or effectively prohibits the provision of wireless services. Section 332(c)(7) precludes Commission review of such complaints.

In this case, it is clear that, while Mobilitie seeks rulings under Section 253, many if not most of Mobilitie's complaints relate to matters which are subject to Section 332(c)(7). The Commission cannot and should not take action under Section 253 with respect to such matters. For example, Mobilitie complains that it is required to pay regulatory fees in connection with processing applications it submits to localities for the placement of structures which (if they are subject to Section 253 or 332(c)(7) at all) are wireless facilities. Regulating regulatory fees would "limit or affect the authority of a State or local government or instrumentality thereof over decisions regarding the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service

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<sup>105</sup> The declaration is reinforced by Section 601(c) of the Act, stating that "the amendments made by this Act shall not be construed to modify, impair, or supersede Federal, State or local law unless expressly so provided . . . ."

<sup>106</sup> H.R. Report No. 104-458, at 208.

facilities”<sup>107</sup> since it would effectively prevent a locality from addressing the issues that could be examined as part of an application review. Hence, Mobilitie can obtain no relief under Section 253 with respect to regulatory fees.

Other Mobilitie complaints relate to rents in agreements it may enter into with localities with respect to use of proprietary property. However, in its *Section 6409 Order*, the Commission noted:

Like private property owners, local governments enter into lease and license agreements to allow parties to place antennas and other wireless service facilities on local-government property, and we find no basis for applying Section 6409(a) in those circumstances. We find that this conclusion is consistent with judicial decisions holding that Sections 253 and 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act do not preempt “non regulatory decisions of a state or locality acting in its proprietary capacity.”<sup>108</sup>

The proprietary regulatory distinction is consistent with constitutional principles. Any regulation of state property is, after all, an intrusion on important aspects of state sovereignty: the federal government cannot deprive a state (or its authorized subdivisions) of the power to control the property within its own borders without infringing upon the state’s sovereignty.<sup>109</sup> However, here the proprietary regulatory distinction is compelled not just by constitutional preemption principles, but by the plain language of Section 332(c)(7)(A) which protects not just decisions, but anything that could “limit or affect” the “authority” to make decisions. The choice to charge rent, and what rent to charge is critical in making any decision to provide access to property for siting. At least with respect to wireless facilities, those choices are protected from preemption or complaint under any provision of the Acts.

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<sup>107</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(A).

<sup>108</sup> Section 6409 Order at ¶ 239.

<sup>109</sup> *United States v. Alaska*, 521 U.S. 1, 4 (1997) (ownership of lands is an essential attribute of sovereignty); *Pollard v. Hagan*, 44 U.S. 212, 224 (1845) (federal government’s exercise of a power of municipal sovereignty over lands within a state would be “repugnant to the Constitution”).

Mobilitie also asks the Commission to address the meaning of the phrase “competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory basis,” which appears in Section 253(c). But Section 332(c)(7) has its own “antidiscrimination provision,” Section 332(c)(7)(B)(i)(I), which provides that a state or local government may not “unreasonably discriminate among providers of functionally equivalent services.” Thus, Mobilitie is asking the Commission to interpret a provision of law (in Section 253(c)) that is different from the applicable provisions of Section 332(c)(7). Mobilitie provides no evidence that an interpretation of this section is necessary, and no evidence that any locality is unreasonably discriminating against it, as compared to “providers of functionally equivalent services.”<sup>110</sup> What is shown by these comments, and by the separate comments of Montgomery County and the Texas Municipal League, is that differences in the treatment of Mobilitie relate to its own failures, and its decision to propose large towers for the public rights-of-way. There is no need for any declaratory ruling with respect to Section 332(c)(7)(B)(i)(I), much less Section 253(c).

To be sure, the Petition and Notice do raise some specific questions regarding Section 332(c)(7) and its application that we have answered in the preceding comments, or answer below. But there is an easy and obvious explanation for the fact noted in the Notice that the Commission has never used its authority under Section 253(d) to issue a preemption order to preempt any state or local action (or inaction) involving wireless facilities siting – the Commission simply has no authority to do so under that Section.<sup>111</sup> It also has very limited authority to regulate local siting processes or siting decisions under Section 332(c)(7) – its

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<sup>110</sup> Several courts have considered the meaning of the term, and those definitions are not consistent with Mobilitie’s definition. Those courts have recognized that siting decisions may distinguish between even functionally equivalent services where justified by, *e.g.*, differences in the facilities proposed. *Sprint Spectrum, L.P. v. Willoth*, 176 F.3d 630, 639 (2d Cir. 1999).

<sup>111</sup> Notice at FN 33.

authority is limited to adopting rules that define ambiguous provisions of the four requirements under Section 332(c)(7)(B). It does not have authority to establish uniform federal standards for permitting or permitting costs, or to decide how permitting (much less proprietary charges) should be established.<sup>112</sup>

B. Even if Section 253 Did Apply, the Commission Should Not Adopt the Interpretations Urged By Mobilitie, And Lacks the Authority To Do So.

1. *The Petition and Notice Miss a Critical Step in the Section 253 Process.*

Even if Section 253 did apply, the Mobilitie Petition and the Notice omit a critical part of the statute. The provision that is the focus of the Notice, Section 253(c), is a safe harbor. Local government actions that fall within that safe harbor (or the safe harbor or Section 253(b)) cannot be preempted regardless of circumstances.<sup>113</sup> However, before any “State or local statute or regulation, or other State or local legal requirement” may be preempted, an entity challenging a provision must show that it has been prohibited, or effectively prohibited from providing any intrastate or interstate telecommunications service. Hence, the fact that there are charges imposed on Mobilitie is of no moment unless there is a reason to believe that the charges are prohibitory. The record before the Commission in this proceeding shows that thousands of small cells have been deployed across the country; based on that record, there is no reason to find either a direct or effective prohibition, or even the possibility of a prohibition.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>112</sup> The language of Section 332(c)(7) was added by Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“TCA”). It was fashioned in a conference of the House and Senate. The conferees decided against adopting the House proposal to empower the Commission “to develop a uniform policy for the siting of wireless tower sites.” In some respects, this is what Mobilitie is asking the Commission to do.

<sup>113</sup> *BellSouth Telecoms., Inc. v. Town of Palm Beach*, 252 F.3d 1169, 1188 (11th Cir. 2001) (“it is clear that (b) and (c) are exceptions to (a), rather than separate limitations on state and local authority in addition to those in (a).”); citing *In re Missouri Municipal League*, 16 FCC Rcd. 1157, (2001); *In re Minnesota*, 14 FCC Rcd. 21,697, 21,730 (1999); *In re American Communications Servs., Inc.*, 14 FCC Rcd. 21,579, 21,587-88 (1999); *In re Cal. Payphone Ass’n*, 12 FCC Rcd. 14,191, 14,203 (1997).

<sup>114</sup> *Level 3 Comms. LLC v. City of St. Louis*, 540 F.3d 794 (8th Cir. 2008) defined standards for prohibition and effective prohibition which are now being applied by the courts. That first step is important - a management

2. *The Commission Has Limited Authority To Regulate Access To Property Or Facilities That May Be Useful For Placement Of Communications Facilities*

There is an important distinction between a *legitimate and factual based* plea to eliminate regulatory barriers versus a “candid demand to invade” the recognized property rights of another.<sup>115</sup> Mobilite Petition requests the latter, but under Section 253(c) the Commission has no given authority to set prices or formulae for regulatory fees, or for the use of proprietary property.

That omission is important, and the power cannot be implied. It is notable that Section 253(d) prevents the Commission from resolving cases that require resolution of issues that arise under Section 253(c). Authority to set prices was left with local governments, a result consistent with the basic structure of the *Communications Act*.

The Commission was created fundamentally for the purpose of “regulating interstate and foreign commerce in communication by wire and radio.”<sup>116</sup> As a general matter, the Commission regulates *communications*; it does *not* have authority to regulate rates for access to public or private *property or facilities* that may be useful for communications, except where specifically granted.

An example of a specific and limited grant to regulate certain private property is in the *Pole Attachment Act of 1978*, codified as 47 U.S.C. § 224. The legislative history of the *Pole Attachment Act of 1978* provides an insightful and pertinent reminder of the limitations of Commission authority over any property or facilities that may be useful for placement of

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practice could be discriminatory or unreasonable and still be lawful under Section 253—provided that it does not have a prohibitory “effect.” Such a fee is easy to imagine. Suppose a local government charged a \$1 fee for a permit application written in black ink, and a \$2 fee for an application written in blue ink. This might not be justified on any basis; it might be discriminatory; but it would not be prohibitory.

<sup>115</sup> Property Rights, Federalism, and the Public Rights-of-Way, Volume 26, Seattle Law Review (2003).

<sup>116</sup> 47 USC § 151.

communications facilities. The whole reason Congress adopted the *Pole Attachment Act of 1978* was due to the fact that the Commission itself clearly recognized its fundamental jurisdictional limitations. As the legislative history explains:

... the Federal Communications Commission has recently decided that it has no jurisdiction under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to regulate pole attachment and conduit rental arrangements between CATV systems and nontelephone or telephone utilities. (*California Water and Telephone Co., et al.*, 40 R.R. 2d 419 (1977).) This decision was the result of over 10 years of proceedings in which the Commission examined the extent and nature of its jurisdiction over CATV pole attachments. *The Commission's decision noted that, while the Communications Act conferred upon it expansive powers to regulate all forms of electrical communication, whether by telephone, telegraph, cable or radio, CATV pole attachment arrangements do not constitute "communication by wire or radio," and are thus beyond the scope of FCC authority. The Commission reasoned:*

The fact that cable operators have found in-place facilities convenient or even necessary for their businesses is not sufficient basis for finding that the leasing of those facilities is wire or radio communications. If such were the case, we might be called upon to regulate access and charges for use of public and private roads and right-of-ways essential for the laying of wire, or even access and rents for antenna sites.<sup>117</sup>

This Commission reasoning remains as valid today as it did nearly 40 years ago. For while there have been legislative amendments since that time, none has granted Commission authority to regulate “*access and charges for use of public and private roads and right-of-ways*” and it is incumbent upon the Commission to stay within the confines of its delineated authority. Section 224 does give the Commission rate-setting authority over some rights-of-way, but by definition not those that would be owned by a local government or a cooperative.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>117</sup> See Senate Report 95-580, 95th Congress (1st Session) November 2, 1977 at p. 14 (*emphasis added*).

<sup>118</sup> Section 224 authorizes fees charged for access to certain property of a utility. The term “utility” is defined narrowly, and specifically “does not include any railroad, any person who is cooperatively organized, or any person owned by the Federal Government or any State.” The term “state” is further defined broadly to cover “any State,

Thus, when the Notice asks whether federal pole attachment rules may be of some relevance defining what is “fair and reasonable” compensation under Section 253, it misses the point – the authority granted by Section 224 to set rates is explicitly missing from Section 253, and forbidden by virtue of the definitions in Section 224.<sup>119</sup> To the extent it provides any guidance at all, Section 224 is notable in that it defers to *state established* formulas in certain circumstances. Here, it is noteworthy that several state constitutions require that localities obtain fair market value in return for providing access to public property.<sup>120</sup>

3. *To the Extent It Applies, a Rate Set At Fair Market Value Would Be “Fair and Reasonable” Within the Meaning of Section 253.*

Because the Commission has no authority to regulate the rates charged for public property, its powers (and the powers of a court) would at most be limited to preempting where the rates fall outside the broad bounds of what is “fair and reasonable” or are not levied on a “competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory basis,”<sup>121</sup> and where the charges actually prohibit or effectively prohibit the provision of competitive services.

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territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof.” Notably, Section 224 reaches only utility rights-of-way.

<sup>119</sup> Notice at 14. Setting aside legal objections, none of the formulas or concepts developed by the Commission to regulate rates charged by private utilities for use of their poles, ducts and rights-of-way are particularly helpful for structures as complex as the rights of way. And a formula like the notoriously complex pole attachment formula would be incredibly expensive to put into place for every right-of-way nationwide, given the diverse and evolving usage of that right-of-way.

<sup>120</sup> For example, Michigan local communities have a Constitutional right and obligation to their taxpayer residents to seek and obtain franchise support for the substantial cost of public right-of-way development, preservation and maintenance from those who wish to utilize this precious and limited resource for the purpose of doing business with our residents. Mich. Const. Art VII Sec. 21 prohibits localities from using tax revenues for non-public purposes (such as subsidizing Mobilitie) and even public utilities must obtain consents and accede to appropriate conditions as a condition of public right-of-way use, Mich Const. Art. VII Sec 29. See also Tex. Const. art. III, §52; Comments of Arlington, Texas; Comments of Texas Municipal League (filed March 8, 2017) (Texas Constitution prohibits a municipality from granting any public funds or thing of value to an individual, association or corporation.)

<sup>121</sup> The rates for compensation are textually in addition to rates that may be charged in connection with the management of the rights of way.

The latter point is critical to grasp: Section 253 was focused on preempting State and local regulatory systems that granted or had the effect of granting telephone monopolies:

Congress apparently feared that some states and municipalities might prefer to maintain monopoly status of certain providers, on the belief that a single regulated provider would provide better or more universal service. Section 253(a) takes that choice away from them, thus preventing state and local governments from standing in the way of Congress's new free market vision.<sup>122</sup>

Charging a fair market value for use of public property is in fact, consistent with free markets, by definition. As ECONorthwest explains, prohibiting local governments from charging rents based on property values is likely to lead to a number of negative results, and encourage inefficient use of the public rights-of-way, and create market distortions.<sup>123</sup> As one court recognized, Section 253(a) is not concerned with franchise fees, but with local government actions that keep entities out of the market: “[A] municipality’s assessment of a fee for franchise rights, and the franchisee’s rights being conditioned on the payment of this fee ‘cannot ‘be described as a prohibition within the meaning of section 253(a) . . . .’”<sup>124</sup> Certainly, in context it is hard to imagine 253(a) as being read to command that property be provided at less than fair market value.

Nor (contrary to the suggestion of *Mobilitie*) is there a serious conflict among the courts as to the rights of states or localities to obtain fair market value for use of property. For well over a century, it has been understood that when telecommunications providers occupy their property, local governments are entitled to “compensation, which is in the nature of rental.”<sup>125</sup>

Courts interpreting Section 253 have not read that section to limit localities to cost recovery. As

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<sup>122</sup> *Cablevision of Boston, Inc. v. Pub. Improvement Comm’n*, 184 F.3d 88, 97-98 (1st Cir. 1999) (citation omitted).

<sup>123</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at pp. 7, 8, 10.

<sup>124</sup> *City of New Orleans v. Bellsouth Telecomms. Inc.*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 60925 at \*20 (E.D. La. 2011) (quoting *TCG Detroit v. City of Dearborn*, 206 F.3d 618, 624 (6th Cir. 2000)).

<sup>125</sup> *City of St. Louis v. Western Union Tel. Co.*, 148 U.S. 92, 99 (1893), opinion on rehearing, 149 U.S. 465 (1893).

noted in *City of Portland*,<sup>126</sup> Congress chose the term compensation, rather than cost, with the intention that local municipalities be permitted to recoup revenue in exchange for a telecommunications provider's use of the public streets.<sup>127</sup> The court states that it is inconceivable that Congress intended to strip the City of its right to compensation for use of its public rights-of-way.<sup>128</sup> Neither the terms of section 253(c), the legislative history, or relevant case law require that the fee charged by the City be restricted by the municipality's cost of maintaining the public rights-of-way. Nor does it require absolute parity among providers and utilities in setting compensation levels.

The legislative history of Section 253(c) supports those conclusions. Congressman Barton, one of the key architects of what became Section 253(c) noted:

[The amendment] explicitly guarantees that cities and local governments have the right to not only control access within their city limits, but also to set the compensation level for the use of that right-of-way. . . . The Chairman's [Manager's] amendment has tried to address this problem. It goes part of the way, but not the entire way. The Federal Government has absolutely no business telling State and local governments how to price access to their local public right-of-way.<sup>129</sup>

The amendment was proposed as an alternative that would have required localities to charge the same rate to every provider – the so-called “parity” amendment. That amendment was resoundingly rejected. But even the Barton-Stupak amendment's opponents indicated that they did not intend to limit localities to recovery of costs. For example, Representative Schaefer

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<sup>126</sup> *City of Portland v. Elec. Lightwave, Inc.*, 452 F. Supp. 2d 1049, 1062 (D. Or. 2005).

<sup>127</sup> *Id.* at 1072.

<sup>128</sup> *Id.*

<sup>129</sup> 141 Cong. Rec. H8460 (1995). Representative Stupak later added, “[W]e have heard a lot from the other side about gross revenues.... The other side is trying to tell us what is best for our local units of government. Let local units of government decide this issue.” 141 Cong. Rec. H8461 (daily ed. August 4, 1995)(Statement of Rep. Stupak).

acknowledged that local governments were already entitled to freely charge for rent; the parity amendment, he suggested, merely required them to charge each provider on an equal basis:

The bill philosophy on this issue is simple: *Cities may charge as much or as little as they wanted* in franchise fees. As long as they charge all competitors equal, the [Barton-Stupak] amendment eliminates that yet critical requirement.<sup>130</sup>

Representative Bliley echoed: “What we say is *charge what you will*, but do not discriminate. If you charge the cable company 8 percent, charge the phone company 8 percent, but do not discriminate.”<sup>131</sup>

There are, to be sure, cases where localities have adopted compensation schemes that exceeded their authority under state law, or that seemed to bear no relation to rights granted for use of the public rights-of-way. But courts have also recognized that a variety of formulae, including gross revenues-based fees, may be used to obtain reasonable compensation for public right-of-way use.<sup>132</sup>

Mobilitie argues that courts have said that localities may use their “monopoly control” over public rights-of-way to exact artificially high rents, and claims this is precisely what is happening now.<sup>133</sup> However, the company provides no evidence to support this claim other than the fact that different communities charge different rates for different services and applications and use of different types of property. This is precisely what one would expect in a free market. And it fails to explain how it could ever be charged a monopoly rent, given that it has private

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<sup>130</sup> *Id.* (Statement of Rep. Schaefer.) (emphasis added).

<sup>131</sup> *Id.* (Statement of Rep. Bliley.) (emphasis added).

<sup>132</sup> *TCG Detroit v. City of Dearborn*, 206 F.3d 618, 624-25 (6th Cir. 2000); *City of Portland v. Elec. Lightwave, Inc.*, 452 F. Supp. 2d 1049 (D. Or. 2005). See also *Qwest Corp. v. City of Santa Fe*, 224 F. Supp. 2d 1305 (D.N.M. 2002), *aff'd in part, Qwest v. City of Santa Fe*, 380 F.3d 1258 (10th Cir. 2004) (not limiting fees to costs, but finding City failed to show its appraisal methodology was reasonable). The Commission has itself set fees based on gross revenues, and thus cannot argue that there is something inherently unfair or unreasonable about such fees. *In re Telephone Number Portability*, 13 FCC Rcd. 11701 ¶ 109 n.354 (1998).

<sup>133</sup> Mobilitie Petition at p. 15.

property alternatives for placement of its facilities.<sup>134</sup> Particularly with respect to wireless facilities, but also because of the broad municipal interest in encouraging broadband deployment, localities lack monopoly power, and have no incentive to misuse such market power as they may have.<sup>135</sup>

Whatever Mobilitie’s unsubstantiated fears with respect to “monopoly power” that fear cannot justify limiting fees to out-of-pocket costs, which by definition, do not fully cover local costs, and by definition, cannot be the outer bounds of a “reasonable” rate.<sup>136</sup> One of Congress’s principal purposes in adopting Section 253(c) was to ensure that Section 253 did not constitute an unfunded mandate.<sup>137</sup> Fair market value is by definition fair – it is the normal measure of “just compensation” under the Fifth Amendment’s Takings Clause.<sup>138</sup>

4. *While the Commission Need Not Address It, Mobilitie’s Proposed “Non-Discrimination” Test for Section 253 Does Not Comport With the Law*

The Commission seeks comment on Mobilitie’s proposed interpretation of the term “competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory” in Section 253(c) and whether the proposed definition is an appropriate or the best definition of the statutory language. The simple answers are that no, the proposed definition is not appropriate under the law, inconsistent with the clear

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<sup>134</sup> See also ECONorthwest Declaration at p. 14.

<sup>135</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at p. 14; CTC Declaration at p. 19.

<sup>136</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at pp. 7-12.

<sup>137</sup> 141 Cong. Rec. H8460 (daily ed. August 4, 1995)(statement of Rep. Stupak) (“It is ironic that one of the first bills we passed in this House was to end unfunded Federal mandates. But this bill, with the management’s amendment, mandates that local units of government make public property available to whoever wants it without a fair and reasonable compensation. The manager’s amendment is a \$100 billion mandate, an unfunded Federal mandate. Our amendment is supported by the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Governors Association. The Senator from Texas on the Senate side has placed our language exactly as written in the Senate bill. Say no to unfunded mandates, say no to the idea that Washington knows best. Support the Stupak-Barton amendment.”).

<sup>138</sup> *United States v. 50 Acres*, 469 U.S. 24, 25 (1984).

legislative intent behind Section 253, and runs afoul of Congress’s express intent to preserve local powers over the control of its public right-of-way.

Mobilitie proposes an interpretation that “fees imposed on a provider for access to public rights-of-way may not exceed the charges that were imposed on other providers for similar access to the public rights-of-way.”<sup>139</sup> As explained above, prior versions of Section 253 contained such parity provisions that contained provisions almost identical to those now proposed by Mobilitie, and those were resoundingly rejected. As ECONorthwest explains, a variety of factors must be considered in determining whether a rate is “competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory,” including, among other things, when a use was authorized (timing) and the unique impacts a particular structure may have on property.<sup>140</sup> It is fair to consider, in pricing access to property for a 120 foot tower, not only the amount of the property occupied, but also the impact on other uses. It would not be surprising, then, if Mobilitie were charged more for a structure that substantially blocked a sidewalk than would be charged to someone who proposed a use that was less intrusive.

This approach is consistent with the way the Commission has approached “competitive neutrality” in other circumstances. In setting interconnection rates, for example, the Commission devised a formula under which common costs were shared by formula, while the costs created by a particular user were borne by that user. That is another way of saying: charging one entity based on the uses it intends to make of property and the attendant impact is neutral.<sup>141</sup> Every difference in treatment does not tip the competitive scales, or rise to the level of

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<sup>139</sup> Mobilitie Petition at 32. We understand Mobilitie to mean that if its towers occupy 4 sq. ft. of space, it should be charged the identical rate charged for someone else who is authorized to use 4 sq. ft. of space. That would be true even if, *e.g.*, the impacts of the facilities on the surrounding properties and structures in the rights of way were quite different.

<sup>140</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at p. 12.

<sup>141</sup> *Interconnection Order, supra.*

discrimination.<sup>142</sup> Indeed, as the ECONorthwest Declaration suggests, failure to discriminate between different uses and situations may have significant negative impacts – the Mobilite placement of towers in the public rights-of-way being a prime example of a bad idea driven by a desire to benefit from free or low-cost public property.<sup>143</sup>

Consistent with the foregoing, Courts that have applied the “competitive neutrality” and “nondiscrimination” principles have rightly concluded that the safe harbor does not require precise parity of treatment. Local governments “may, of course, make distinctions that result in the de facto application of different rules to different service providers so long as the distinctions are based on valid considerations.”<sup>144</sup> Indeed, because rents can take many forms, “a city can negotiate different agreements with different service providers; thus, a city could enter into competitively neutral agreements where one service provider would provide the city with below-market-rate telecommunications services and another service provider would have to pay a larger franchise fee, provided the effect is a rough parity between competitors.”<sup>145</sup>

Adoption of the Mobilite definition would not be consistent with the statute, and there is little reason for the Commission to adopt guidance beyond that already provided by court decisions. Indeed, as a practical matter, localities find that providers themselves (each having different business plans) often ask that localities agree to different approaches for compensation for use of the public rights-of-way. Crown Castle’s model contract for access to the public

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<sup>142</sup> The FCC has clearly recognized this principle in carrier discrimination cases. *In re Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements*, 15 FCC Red. 16,720 at ¶ 23 (2000) (recognizing it is not unlawful discrimination to “differentiate among users so long as there is a valid reason for doing so”); *see also Competitive Telecommunications Ass’n v. F.C.C.*, 998 F.2d 1058, 1064 (D.C. Cir. 1993).

<sup>143</sup> ECONorthwest Declaration at pp. 7, 8, 10, 13.

<sup>144</sup> *New Jersey Payphone Ass’n v. Town of W. N.Y.*, 299 F.3d 235, 247 (3d Cir. 2002); *TCG N.Y. v. City of White Plains*, 305 F.3d 67, 79 (2d Cir. 2002).

<sup>145</sup> *Id.* at 80.

rights-of-way in New York proposes to pay 5% of gross revenues for such access.<sup>146</sup> Other companies may prefer a per site charge. Some providers may prefer to offer conduit or fiber in lieu of rental fees.

In the experience of Smart Communities, there is variation in pricing formulas because providers want to take on different risks. Crown Castle clearly wanted a 5% of gross revenues standard. Other companies want a fixed rent that applies from Day 1. There is no particular reason to require that the *same formula* be applied to every telecommunications service provider. The relevant question under Section 253 is whether the differences are actually unreasonable, and of course, whether they actually have a prohibitory effect.

5. *The Interpretation of Section 253 Proposed By Mobilitie Is Inconsistent with the Constitution.*

Limiting localities to recovery of out-of-pocket costs would raise a variety of constitutional issues, most notably Fifth Amendment issues.<sup>147</sup> The Supreme Court has construed the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause to protect the property of State and local governments from uncompensated taking under federal law,<sup>148</sup> and held that it "requires that the United States pay 'just compensation' normally measured by fair market value."<sup>149</sup> If the federal government were to require a local government to place a wire or an antenna on its property without compensation, it would constitute an unlawful taking under the Fifth Amendment.<sup>150</sup> The

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<sup>146</sup> Exhibit 9.

<sup>147</sup> Because the supercession of state authority also directly implicates state control of its own properties, it raises significant federalism concerns, including Tenth Amendment concerns.

<sup>148</sup> *United States v. 50 Acres*, 469 U.S. 24, 31 (1984).

<sup>149</sup> *Id.* at 25 (citing *United States v. Miller*, 317 U.S. 369, 374 (1943)).

<sup>150</sup> *Loretto v. Teleprompter Manhattan CATV Corp.*, 458 U.S. 419, 433 (1982) (state law requiring property owner to permit access to cable company to install lines on private property constituted a taking).

Supreme Court has clearly recognized a local government’s “right to exact compensation” for such property uses:

[W]hile permission to a telegraph company to occupy the streets is not technically a lease, and does not in terms create the relation of landlord and tenant, yet it is the giving of the exclusive use of real estate, for which the giver has a right to exact compensation, which is in the nature of rental.<sup>151</sup>

And the Court has also held that like private property owners, local governments have the same right to fair market value compensation for the federal government’s taking of property as private property owners.<sup>152</sup> It matters not that the intrusion may be relatively slight:

[P]ermanent occupations of land by such installations as telegraph and telephone lines, rails, and underground pipes or wires are takings even if they occupy only relatively insubstantial amounts of space and do not seriously interfere with the landowner’s use of the rest of his land.<sup>153</sup>

Reading the Communications Act to allow local governments to recover fair market value for property avoids most Fifth Amendment concerns. But reading the Act to both compel the government to provide access and to allow the Commission to limit compensation would create significant takings issues.<sup>154</sup>

C. The Commission Need Not Address Debates in the Circuits as to the Meaning of the Effective Prohibition Standard In Section 332(c)(7), Or Otherwise Address the Meaning of the Provision.

The Commission asks whether it needs to clarify the apparent conflict in approach among the circuits as to what “prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting” the provision of personal wireless services. We do not think the desire for uniformity justifies Commission action. First,

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<sup>151</sup> *City of St. Louis v. Western Union Telegraph Co.*, 148 U.S. 92, 99 (1893), *op. on rehrg.*, 149 U.S. 465 (1893); *see also Cities of Dallas and Laredo v. FCC*, 118 F.3d 393, 397-98 (5th Cir. 1997) (“Franchise fees are . . . essentially a form of rent: the price paid to rent use of the public rights-of-ways.”).

<sup>152</sup> *United States v. 50 Acres of Land*, 469 U.S. 24 (1984).

<sup>153</sup> *Loretto*, 458 U.S. at 430.

<sup>154</sup> *FCC v. Florida Power Corp.*, 480 U.S. 245 (1987).

it is not obvious that, as a practical matter, the legal differences lead to different results in comparable cases. Even more importantly, localities and providers have adjusted to the tests within their circuits, and in many cases, reflected those standards in local laws. Announcing a new framework simply creates more uncertainty. We do caution, as noted above, that the term that the Notice uses — “hindrance” — is not the same as the standard adopted by any court, much less an apt standard for “effective prohibition, and would not provide a basis for any interpretation of either Section 253 or Section 332(c)(7).

Likewise, when the Commission asks whether actions that prevent a technology upgrade “have the effect of prohibiting” the provision of service it in some ways begs the statutory questions that are relevant. The relevant question is whether a denial (assuming it occurs – in many cases localities will not even regulate the changeouts) results in a prohibition of personal wireless services as defined. If Mobilitie upgrades its facilities, but the upgrade is not for the provision of personal wireless services, the proposed upgrade is not protected by Section 332(c)(7). If the upgrade simply improves personal wireless services, so that there is no prohibition whether granted or denied, Section 332(c)(7) does not apply; if the regulation simply prevents an intrusive upgrade where a less intrusive one will do, that also is not a prohibition. In other words, the Commission could not fairly conclude that simply because something is labeled an “upgrade,” it must be permitted. Indeed, that would mean expanding Section 332(c)(7) in a manner seems inconsistent with the limits established by Section 6409. It bears emphasizing that no locality prohibits upgrades *per se* – what is affected is the ability to add new poles, increase sizes in particular locations and so on, without regard to whether the cause is a system upgrade or downgrade.

D. The Notice is Not A Proper Vehicle for Action

Setting aside the fact that the declaratory rulings here are improperly sought under Section 253, this notice is not a proper vehicle for any final Commission action.

The Bureau, in teeing up the question of whether the Commission should impose declaratory rulings, ignores the fact that the statute, in Section 253(d), defines precisely how and under what circumstances the Commission may entertain a “prohibition” challenge under Section 253(a). Section 253(d) envisions a case-by-case, tailored determination: the Commission must provide “notice and an opportunity for public comment” and then may only preempt “such statute, regulation, or legal requirement to the extent necessary to correct such violation or inconsistency.” In a 1997 decision, the Commission explicitly rejected an argument that Section 253 preempts on a *per se* basis, and correctly ruled that the statute requires a factual showing:

We cannot agree that the City’s exercise of its contracting authority as a location provider constitutes, *per se*, a situation proscribed by section 253(a). The City’s contracting conduct would implicate section 253(a) only if it materially inhibited or limited the ability of any competitor or potential competitor to compete in a fair and balanced legal and regulatory environment in the market for payphone services in the Central Business District. In other words, the City’s contracting conduct would have to *actually prohibit or effectively prohibit* the ability of a payphone service provider to provide service outdoors on the public rights-of-way in the Central Business District. As described above, the present record does not permit us to conclude that the City’s contracting conduct has caused such results. If we are presented in the future with additional record evidence indicating that the City may be exercising its contracting authority in a manner that arguably “prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting” the ability of payphone service providers other than Pacific Bell to install payphones outdoors on the public rights-of-way in the Central Business District, we will revisit the issue at that time.<sup>155</sup>

The Commission later reinforced the point:

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<sup>155</sup> *In re Cal. Payphone Ass’n*, 12 FCC Rcd. 14191, 14209 (July 16, 1997) at ¶ 38 (emphasis added).

With respect to a particular ordinance or other legal requirement, it is up to those seeking preemption to demonstrate to the Commission that the challenged ordinance or legal requirement prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting potential providers ability to provide an interstate or intrastate telecommunications service under section 253(a). Parties seeking preemption of a local legal requirement such as the Troy Telecommunications Ordinance must supply us with *credible and probative evidence* that the challenged requirement falls within the proscription of section 253(a) without meeting the requirements of section 253(b) and/or (c).<sup>156</sup>

Since neither the Notice, nor Mobilitie<sup>157</sup> have identified *any* particular ordinance, or even the communities that allegedly adopted invalid statutes or regulations, it is hard to imagine how these requisites could be satisfied. Without particular facts the Commission is certainly not in a position to preempt only “to the extent necessary,” as the statute requires, to prevent a prohibition (particularly since there is no prohibition shown).

As importantly, the issues raised in the Notice are of the sort that should be addressed through notice and comment rulemaking. Here, we have a petition for relief untethered from any specific facts or circumstances, and which appears to seek relief under a section that does not even apply. The Notice seeks a broad range of information, appears to contemplate adoption of rules that would affect every state agency and subdivision, but provides no notice of what those rules might be. While the agency has broad authority to choose how to proceed, the Notice seems to envision precisely the sort of action that the D.C. Circuit found requires notice and comment rulemaking.<sup>158</sup>

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<sup>156</sup> *In the Matter of TCI Cablevision of Oakland County, Inc., Memorandum Opinion and Order*, FCC 97-331, 12 FCC Rcd. 21,396 (September 19, 1997).

<sup>157</sup> The Notice at 13 defines Mobilitie’s complaints of excessive and unfair fees for use of public rights-of-way as a nationwide issue, not the fact specific standard required by the statute.

<sup>158</sup> *American Mining Congress v. Mine Safety & Health Admin.*, 995 F.2d 1106, 1108-09 (D.C. Cir. 1993); *General Motors Corporation v. Ruckelshaus*, 742 F.2d 1561, 1565 (D.C. Cir. 1984) (en banc) (quoting *Noel v. Chapman*, 508 F.2d 1023, 1030 (2d Cir. 1975)).

## VIII. CONCLUSIONS

For the reasons discussed above, and in the expert declarations, the Commission should not grant Mobilite the relief it seeks, or adopt additional rules or shot clocks for “small cell” deployments.

It should clarify its rules to ensure that service and facilities providers are not incentivized to file incomplete applications; should clarify its Section 6409 rules so that small cells remain small and subject to safety guidelines applicable to roads; and should move forward to update its rules governing RF emissions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph Van Eaton  
Joseph Van Eaton  
Gail Karish  
Gerard Lavery Lederer  
BEST BEST & KRIEGER, LLP  
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Suite 5300  
Washington, DC 20005

On Behalf of its Clients in the Smart Communities Siting  
Coalition

Michael Watza  
KITCH DRUTCHAS WAGNER VALITUTTI &  
SHERBROOK  
1 Woodward Avenue, 10th Floor  
Detroit MI 48226-3499

On Behalf of its Clients in the Smart Communities Siting  
Coalition

March 8, 2017

**Exhibit 1**  
**Report and Declaration of Andrew**  
**Afflerbach For the Smart Communities**  
**Siting Coalition**

**BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

STREAMLINING DEPLOYMENT	)	
OF SMALL CELL INFRASTRUCTURE	)	
BY IMPROVING WIRELESS FACILITIES	)	WT Docket No. 16-421
SITING POLICIES;	)	
	)	
MOBILITIE, LLC	)	
PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING	)	
	)	

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**REPORT AND DECLARATION OF ANDREW AFFLERBACH  
FOR THE SMART COMMUNITIES SITING COALITION**

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## 1. Summary

This document describes small cell and DAS wireless deployments, discusses local permitting and oversight process, and suggests strategies to maximize public-private collaboration to facilitate mobile wireless construction. As I explain below, “small cell” refers to the wireless antennas’ coverage areas, not the size of the antennas themselves; because of the large scale of some small cell deployments, the installed equipment may approach the scale of typical macrocells.

The observations in this report are based on my experience over two decades of observing and overseeing build-out of communications infrastructure across the United States and abroad.<sup>1</sup>

Accommodating permitting and other local government requirements in public rights-of-way is typically a relatively small part of the cost and time required for design and construction of outside plant for a communications network. In my experience, the fees charged by local governments in connection with broadband represent a small portion of the cost of wireless network deployment, and the process entailed in local oversight of wireless facilities siting represents a very modest portion of the process and timeline of building or upgrading a wireless network, assuming that the wireless company participates in the process.

Local permitting processes and fees have little impact on the decision to deploy broadband in urban versus rural areas. In fact, the permitting process and local government coordination can help and facilitate deployment. When it is done effectively, it protects the integrity of existing infrastructure and public safety, and provides certainty and predictability to wireless carriers and wireless infrastructure companies.

In my experience, the optimal way to facilitate and smooth the wireless siting process is for wireless companies to work with localities by filing complete, accurate, timely siting applications—and by collaborating with the localities in an efficient, mutually-beneficial process of pre-planning, specification development, and reasonable staging of the deployment.

Localities are highly motivated to facilitate and incentivize broadband build-out, and are willing to use permitting and other processes to enable and smooth the deployment process as much as possible. Numerous localities are currently involved in creative efforts to understand private sector needs and to develop ways to work collaboratively. The next generation of wireless broadband deployment can best be achieved if wireless companies undertake a similarly collaborative, constructive engagement with localities.

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<sup>1</sup> CTC provides technology engineering and business planning consulting services for public sector and non-profit clients nationwide and abroad. Since 1983, CTC has assisted hundreds of public and non-profit entities to analyze technology needs and strategies; plan and design wired and wireless broadband networks; and work with the private sector to meet local broadband and technology needs.

## **2. Small cell and DAS facilities in the PROW are neither small nor insignificant in impact**

The term “small cell” is used loosely within the industry to refer to a wide variety of installations that are designed to serve a smaller area than traditional “macrocells.” A search of literature suggests that there is no agreed-upon definition that could easily distinguish “small cells” from “macrocells” other than that loose distinction. For purposes of this report, we will treat any radio unit designed to serve a relatively small area as a “small cell” or “small cell and DAS” regardless of its technical configuration. What is critical to this proceeding is that the classification of something as a “small cell” does not mean that the impacts and complexities associated with its installation and maintenance are small.

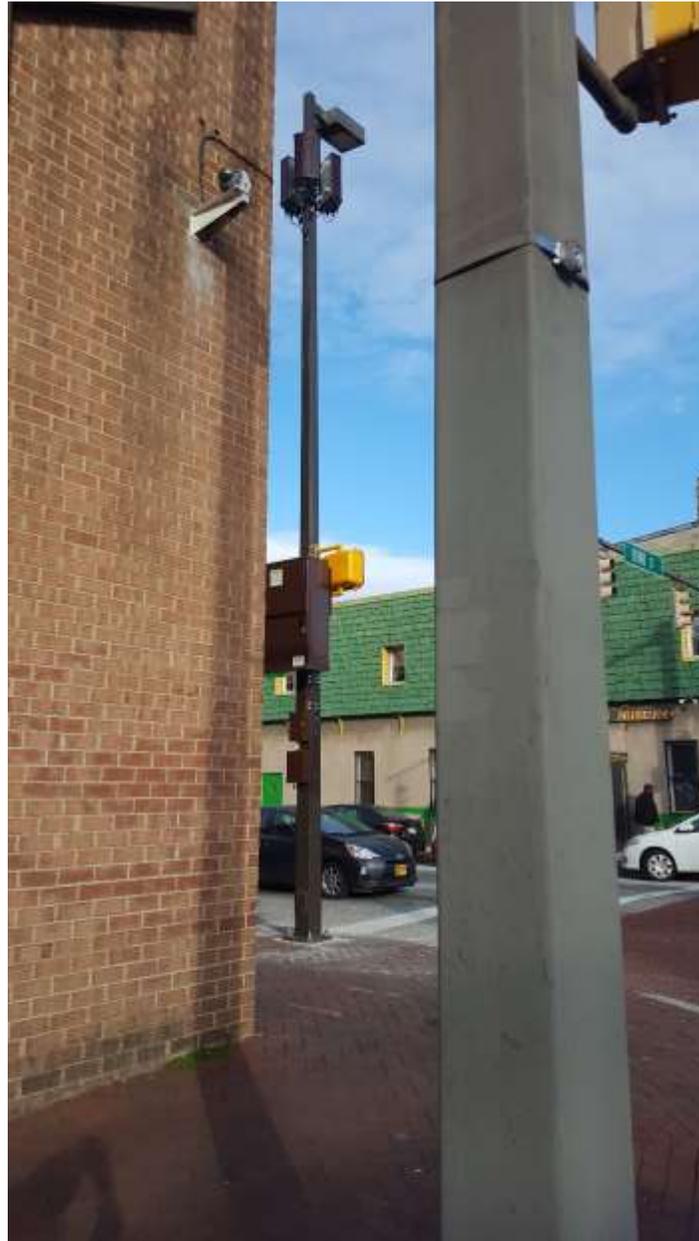
“Small” cell facilities can have significant profiles, including many components additive to the “small” cell antenna.

Over the past decade, service providers have begun to augment tall tower deployment with neighborhood wireless transmission facilities—such as DAS and small cells—that have smaller coverage footprints. In the new distributed wireless architecture, broadband users communicate with localized access points, typically mounted at elevations of 20 to 30 feet above ground level. These neighborhood access sites target service areas with a radius of 250 to 300 feet from the access site.

Small cell technologies vary in size and profile, depending on the functionality they are designed to provide.

A smaller antenna may be used to enhance mobile data capacity in an area that is already mostly served by a macrocell. At the small end is a system for a single band, using fiber optic connectivity to connect to the network. In this case the system might comprise a set of three panel antennas, each approximately 2 foot by 1 foot, attached 20 feet high on an existing light pole.

Figure 1 – Smaller Small Cell Pole with Fiber Optic Backhaul Connectivity



It would be accompanied by an electronics and power cabinet approximately 4 foot by 3 foot mounted between 8 and 12 feet off the ground, and by a power meter and load center five feet off the ground and by electric conduit up the entire length of the pole.

Because of the weight and wind loading of all the new attachments, existing light poles might not support them, and therefore placement of the small cell infrastructure often requires replacing the pole.

A larger system may be proposed in some cases. One reason may be that, instead of augmenting an existing macrocell network, a cluster of small cells or a multifrequency distributed antenna system (DAS) is being used in lieu of the macrocell, potentially because the terrain or aesthetics do not allow for a macrocell nearby. In this case, a provider will want a larger system that carries more spectrum bands. In a larger system that is being deployed instead of a macrocell, there may be a separate building, comparable to the hub building of a macro cell site (typically 25 feet by 50 feet), that manages and operates the cluster of DAS or small cell antennas. The system may require replacement of existing light or utility poles with taller ones, to enable the antennas to be mounted between 40 and 60 feet high. Antennas may be a combination of 2 foot by 1 foot panel antennas and 5 feet long whip antennas. Each pole may require multiple cabinets for the electronics, each approximately 3 foot by 2 feet. The cabinets may fill the entire area at the lower part of the pole. There is also significant cabling.

Figure 2 – Multifrequency DAS Structure with Multiple DAS Antennas



Figure 3– Multifrequency DAS Structure with Multiple DAS Antennas



Figure 4 – Base of DAS Installation With Multiple Cabinets for Radios, Backhaul, and Power



In addition to the physical components shown in these pictures, many “small cell” installations require a wireline connection to a central hub, and may also involve back-up power supplies, which may often be placed in ground cabinets of fairly significant size.

### **2.1 Some “small” cell facilities approach “macro” site facilities and electric transmission monopoles in size and weight**

Because of the large scale of some “small” cell deployments, the deployments may approach the scale of typical macrocells.

In some small cell deployments, the technology does not use fiber or wired infrastructure to connect to the network. The network connectivity, known as “backhaul,” is done wirelessly. In order for backhaul to work effectively using a wireless approach, there needs to be a strong signal between the small cell devices and one or more master backhaul antennas. Some providers are accomplishing this by making the master backhaul antenna especially tall, potentially 70 to 120 feet, which exceeds the height of many macrocells. Mobilitie is one company that uses this architecture and has filed many applications for poles of great height.

The figures below provide examples of exceptionally tall “small” cell deployments in the rights-of-way, including one with the radios placed above high voltage transmission lines. The only visual difference from a macro cell monopole, which is frequently of this height and placement, is the relatively skinnier antenna profile at the top.

Figure 5 – Small Cell Comparable in Height to Macrocell



Figure 6—Small Cell at Height of High Voltage Transmission Lines



## 2.2 Alternative technologies have smaller form factors

The photographs above reflect the equipment required for particular deployments by particular providers of wireless services or facilities used in the provision of wireless services. The facilities are primarily designed to make more efficient use of commercial cellular wireless spectrum and are designed to provide those services to commercial wireless users. There are, however, design alternatives that could serve the same ends, without the large form factors shown on some of the photographs. That is, to some degree, many of the same functions could be performed using different and potentially less intrusive technologies.

There are also other wireless technologies under development and deployment that have a smaller form factor and lighter equipment. For example, wireless equipment using very high frequencies in the submillimeter spectrum, also known as mmWave, is envisioned as part of the emerging 5G architecture. mmWave equipment typically uses spectrum above 10 GHz and uses much larger channels than the commercial wireless providers. This provides potentially much higher speeds. Examples of mmWave equipment are shown in the figures below. The white devices are mmWave equipment, and these provide intermediate connectivity to the Wi-Fi equipment (black panel antennas). The devices are relatively small, some measuring 12 by 6 inches and weighing a few pounds.

While mmWave equipment is not a full replacement for commercial cellular technology,<sup>2</sup> it may provide an alternative solution for parts of the cellular architecture, such as the backhaul network connection, and indicates that future generations of wireless equipment might not be as large and heavy as the current generation of small cells. For example, if it operates as a backhaul technology that connects a network to cellular or Wi-Fi equipment on a pole, it can be a lighter-weight and smaller profile alternative to the types of backhaul technologies that require 90- to 120-foot poles.

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<sup>2</sup> mmWave does not support mobile use in its current form. It requires line of sight or near line of sight connections, mmWave user equipment is not yet mass produced at low prices. However, it can be part of a comprehensive wireless solution that does support mobile use.

Figure 7 – mmWave Antennas Providing Backhaul for Wi-Fi Network



Photo courtesy of Siklu Communications

Figure 8 – mmWave Antennas Providing Backhaul for Wi-Fi Network



Photo courtesy of Siklu Communications

Cable operators are also deploying Wi-Fi equipment in the rights-of-way, leveraging their cable attachments on utility poles and devices installed on customer premises. Like the mmWave equipment, the Wi-Fi equipment is smaller and lighter than the cellular small cells. It is powered through the cable system and does not require additional cabinets on the poles. Wi-Fi and future generations of unlicensed technology may be deployed on utility poles and customer premises and may also provide an alternate technology solution for the densification challenge that are currently being addressed by the small cells.

The sorts of deployments proposed by companies like Mobilitie are thus not necessarily critical to ubiquitous broadband, and local efforts to minimize impacts can be entirely consistent with rapid and efficient wireline and wireless deployment.

Figure 9 – Wi-Fi Antenna on Cable TV Attachment



### **3 Local review protects public safety and critical infrastructure**

The recent round of wireless applications, including for the types of tall poles described above in residential neighborhoods, historic districts, or in areas where citizens have spent significant resources on redevelopment, has drawn the attention of the public itself—with large turnouts in public meetings, organized movements, and media stories. As a result, the review processes become more time consuming, but not without good reason. In fact, the review of applications for placement of small cells in the rights-of-way may be far more complex than the review of an application for placement on private land, a rooftop, or the side of a building.

A typical community reviewing an application for use of the rights-of-way considers:

- Effect on public safety communications
- Effect on public safety, including potential impact on pedestrians and vehicles; the likelihood that the object will be hit; and the possibility it will contribute to an accident, for example by blocking a view
- Effect on other public infrastructure, including, for example, storm water systems

- Effect on residents, neighbors, business owners, and customers
- Effect on ADA compliance and on members of the community with disabilities
- Congestion on sidewalk or roadway
- Aesthetics, including the compatibility with the surroundings, blockage of view
- Setback, including the risk of damage or injury if the object falls

These reviews, and the ongoing use of the wireless infrastructure are complicated by the fact that rights-of-way are constantly changing. Aboveground facilities may be moved underground pursuant to a development plan or in response to hazards created by the placement of structures. Sidewalks and roadways may need to be widened, or hazard-free-paths created for pedestrians or cyclists. The addition of occupants to the rights-of-way necessarily complicates the process of coordinating right-of-way uses.

### **3.1 Local review protects against interference with public safety communications**

Applications that are in proximity to public safety communications antennas or collocated on the public safety antenna sites require extra scrutiny for interference. Usually this due diligence is performed by the applicant as a condition of use of those structures, but it requires additional review by the public safety communications staff. The siting review process is a way of ensuring that applications that may pose risk to public safety communications come to the attention of the public safety communication staff, and that the applicant has demonstrated it will not interfere.

### **3.2 Local review protects public safety and utility worker safety**

A well-organized siting review process can systematically evaluate the risks to public safety and utility worker safety. By requiring a complete application, the process requires the applicant to do its homework and conduct all engineering and design in advance, and perform all the necessary evaluation of compliance with local code, land use and transportation corridor rules.

In the review process, a community can identify the clearances between the structure and the road and buildings. It can verify the RF emission and its compliance with FCC rules regarding emissions and signage. It can verify the placement of power meters and power shutoff. It can verify that structural engineering has been performed. It can verify that soil studies and drainage studies have been properly performed, both of which are critically important for structures on the scale of the new poles, especially the tallest, which are nearly four feet in diameter at the base. It can verify that the applicant has coordinated with the existing utilities. It can verify that landowners and community groups will be notified and where appropriate, provide their consent.

Cabinets at ground level or on poles can block traffic or obstruct views. The review process can verify if the placement will have an impact on traffic or the view in a way that can impact public safety or increase the likelihood of accidents. It can verify compliance with safety clear zones. It can verify compliance with DOT rules that allocate different spaces in the rights-of-way to different uses, or ensure that the DOT has an opportunity to perform the review.

### **3.3 Local review protects critical public infrastructure**

One of the main purposes of the rights-of-way is the storm drainage from the road. The review process can verify that the design is in compliance with rules on drainage. Similarly, the review can verify that the design for the structure will not create problems for snow removal.

Placement cannot interfere with potential road widenings. A new structure needs to be placed so as not to interfere with known or potential road widenings, and there needs to be a procedure in place if road widening needs to happen—such as one in which the applicant moves or dismantles the structure.

### **3.4 Local review allows consideration of impact on ADA compliance**

Communities are making large investments in ADA compliance in the rights-of-way. Examples include the placement of ramps at intersections, audio at crossing lights, and sufficient space on sidewalks for wheelchairs. A review process can ensure that a proposed structure is compliant with community rules about the sidewalks and does not reverse these efforts or make them more difficult to implement. Not only the pole needs to be compliant, but cabinets need to be placed such that they do not obstruct. The process also needs to take into account future modifications that may take place on the poles. Since many of these may be done by right, the initial review needs to take into account sufficient margin to accommodate modifications without becoming a risk to people with disabilities.

### **3.5 Current FCC rules for “minor” modifications increase risk regarding issues such as public safety by creating technical incentives to deploy in inefficient ways**

The importance of review of these areas related to safety, ADA compliance, and existing utilities is compounded by the FCC’s existing rules that allow certain increases in size of facilities by right. Indeed, permissive rules for expansion of existing wireless facilities as currently applied to facilities in the rights-of-way actually create more problems than they resolve because they allow for small form factors to be replaced by large form factors.

As a result, a proposed installation that is acceptable as initially installed could create public safety challenges at a future date. And the potential for growth discourages more efficient designs and technology choices that can deliver the same coverage and functionality without the size and complications of Mobilitie-type deployments.

In these ways, the FCC's current modification rules are incenting design inefficiency by the companies and are greatly complicating the local review process.

#### **4 Small cell infrastructure may not enable 5G and IoT deployment**

There is no 5G standard—at the moment, 5G is envisioned as a means to providing the next generations of mobile broadband applications, especially low-latency communications for machine-to-machine communications and the Internet of Things (IoT).<sup>3</sup> Researchers and industry experts differ on the extent to which this future will be an evolution of LTE and licensed frequencies, the use of mmWave technologies, and the use of unlicensed technologies using small radios at short range—or the degree to which 5G will be ubiquitous or simply for high-traffic corridors and specific applications. And there is no way of knowing, at this point, whether traditional licensed frequencies provide the best option for IoT or whether the IoT is more likely to depend on low-powered unlicensed wireless networks that can use networks of small sensors connected to a fiber backbone to provide real time information. And we do not know how the communications networks will function with are be integrated with wireless charging networks now being tested in the U.S. and elsewhere.

From an engineering standpoint, it may be that the things that companies like Mobilitie want now (large, 120-foot towers) do not provide the best model for the future, and that limited rights-of-way real estate is better dedicated to smaller profile, embedded devices that work in conjunction with fiber and larger wireless networks.

In other words, it is not necessary to clear the path for placement of small cells of any size and form for 5G or IoT – if anything, putting a thumb on the scale favoring Mobilitie's 120-foot deployments may simply interfere with creation of more efficient networks. The Commission's own struggles with LTE-U suggest why not every deployment is necessarily a deployment that will advance 5G or IoT.

#### **5 It is more time-consuming to evaluate applications for facilities in the PROW than on private property**

Given the potential impact on safety, the scarcity of space, and the competing needs for the rights-of-way, the review process in the rights-of-way needs to be very extensive. By contrast, on private property, the review process is more limited—does the structure fit into the surroundings, is it safe, have the right people been notified and approved? There is often no need to worry about traffic, drainage, ADA compliance, or existing utilities—or those issues may be more easily addressed.

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<sup>3</sup> Wirelessly interconnecting electronic devices and machines over the internet.

## 5.1 Private property offers a workable alternative to rights-of-way for siting small cells and DAS

The public rights-of-way are not the only way “small cell” systems can be built. From a technical standpoint, the network can frequently be designed for similar coverage using private rather than public property. As an example, Mobilitie is requesting approval for a 75-foot structure in a crowded downtown area in suburban Washington, D.C. The proposed structure and its height are indicated by the red arrow. Near the proposed structure are several buildings where the rooftop and façade could be used. There are already macrocell antennas on two nearby rooftops, so clearly backhaul and power are readily available. Using those structures could eliminate the need for the new 75-foot structure. **The only advantage of using the rights-of-way is for Mobilitie to avoid paying rent to the building owners—but this “savings” comes at the expense of the public through the added risk, congestion, and disruption of placing a very large pole in a very busy sidewalk, very close to the road and buildings.**

Figure 10 – Site of Mobilitie Application for New 75-Foot Pole



## 6 Reducing local fees or processes will have marginal impact on rural broadband deployment

It is deeply misleading to suggest that “streamlining” processes for reviewing small cell deployments will lead to increased build-out in rural areas—because such processes and fees are limited or non-existent in those areas already, and the technology is not well-suited to rural areas.

## **6.1 Small cell and DAS are typically not deployed in rural areas because the technology is not suited to rural needs**

Small cell technologies are best suited to add capacity to mobile wireless networks in areas that are congested and where demand for bandwidth outpaces supply, or where macro cell sites are not suitable for aesthetic or functional reasons.

Small cell networks are designed to maximize the use of spectrum by efficiently reusing the spectrum in many smaller coverage areas rather than across fewer, larger coverage areas (as macro cell sites do). That is, these networks are typically not being used to expand the area covered by existing macrocells; rather, they add capacity in existing coverage areas, or fill in spotty coverage gaps in very targeted areas within a carrier's current coverage area such as, for example, in valleys where the terrain blocks coverage from a macro cell.

For these reasons, these technologies are best suited for urban and suburban markets with high concentrations of users in relatively small areas, and for very limited deployment in high-value rural areas, such as alongside major roads in rugged terrain. They are not intended for most rural or low-density markets where density of users is lower and where fewer, larger macro sites are far more cost effective to deliver service than frequent micro sites.

The following photo illustrates a deployment of DAS in rural areas. This DAS is located alongside U.S. Route 6 in Clear Creek County, Colorado, where a macro site is not possible because of the terrain and the macro sites in the mountains above cannot provide coverage in the narrow canyon below.

Figure 11 – Distributed Antenna Installation on U.S. Route 6 in Clear Creek County, Colorado



## 6.2 Local process and charges have marginal impact on rural broadband deployment patterns

Based on my experience observing broadband investment patterns since the advent of the wireless and cable platforms in the late 1970s, nationally mandated changes to permitting fees, franchise or license fees, or fees for leasing public property or structures, or changes to local oversight of wireless siting are unlikely to change the return on investment calculus in a way that would result in advanced wireless services being deployed in rural or other underserved areas.

The fundamental dynamic of broadband investment is that network deployments and upgrades are capital-intensive—and capital flows to areas where projected returns are greatest because demand is most concentrated and per customer costs lowest. Shortening the Section 332(c)(7) review times, setting up a national regulatory system to review fees, or nationally regulating rents for use of public property would not change that fundamental dynamic. At best, national standards would mean industry costs would be reduced in rural and urban areas; such standards would not make it more likely that build-out would occur in those areas. In fact, it is my observation that carrier deployment investment decisions are made centrally and the companies' local representatives compete for investment allocations.

As a result, even where the economics of rural build-out could be marginally improved (through elimination or reduction of a cost of doing business), investment patterns do not change because the fundamental economics do not change. In decades of experience, we have never observed a build-out scenario where reduced marginal costs (such as local fees or public process) resulted in

funds that were allocated for build-out in more populous areas being diverted to a rural or underserved area.

Indeed, in most rural communities, local permitting processes and fees do not exist. It is in the most unserved and underserved rural areas where local fees and process are most minimal or non-existent, either because the locality does not see a need for them (for example, traffic control in these areas requires less coordination) or because as a matter of local or state policy, there exists little or no process or fee for permitting communications infrastructure.

In recent years, we have on numerous occasions worked with local government clients to approach carriers to request enhanced build-out and to inquire as to how the locality can facilitate and enable (or even subsidize) such build-out. But even where localities commit to eliminating regulation and fees, we have not seen carriers commit to new investment for which they did not otherwise have existing plans for a business case.

## **7 Localities exert themselves to attract and facilitate private investment in new or upgraded broadband facilities, including in wireless**

Even though the effort does not always bear fruit, local governments are highly motivated to facilitate broadband deployment and attract broadband investment, both in wireline and wireless service. Over the past decade, we have observed countless communities seeking to build processes and incentives for private investment in broadband, and to simultaneously facilitate and smooth the way for private deployers.

We have observed this dynamic in both the wired and wireless areas. With regard to wireline broadband, for example, more than 1,100 cities and counties filed initial requests in response to Google's call to communities to compete for new broadband investment—and Google has been inundated by request and proposals from hundreds more communities in the years since. And those communities that Google Fiber selected for potential deployment undertook multi-year efforts to organize, streamline, facilitate, and enable Google's deployments,<sup>4</sup> even without any assurance that Google would eventually commit to building in their city.

Those and other cities also undertook similar efforts to recruit other companies, both incumbents (particularly AT&T and CenturyLink, who also availed themselves of public facilitation in response to the Google Fiber competitive threat<sup>5</sup>) and competitors (including a new class of smaller

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<sup>4</sup> Derek Slater, Google Fiber Blog, "Behind the scenes with Google Fiber: Working with city governments," October 7, 2013, <https://fiber.googleblog.com/2013/10/behind-scenes-with-google-fiber-working.html>.

<sup>5</sup> In the research triangle area of North Carolina, for example, AT&T was granted significant process concessions and reduced fees by a consortium of cities working with local universities to encourage and facilitate broadband

wireline and fixed wireless ISPs that have emerged in the past few years with capital to build new networks in select cities).<sup>6</sup>

In the wireless area, both metro-area and rural communities work to fulfill public demands for better mobile connectivity—sometimes to no avail if the wireless industry does not prioritize the unserved or underserved areas.

We have observed considerable public sector effort to understand and address private sector investment imperatives in mobile wireless, and numerous county and town efforts to recruit mobile companies to improve services in underserved areas. In some cases, public enticements to the industry will begin with meetings and requests but can extend as far as offers to contribute assets, pay for deployment, or subsidize operations.

Summit County, Colorado, for example, offers a good example of how communities seek to facilitate private deployment. The County last year released an RFI “to convey its interest in partnering with a motivated, high-caliber partner to make wireless broadband service available in three underserved areas of Summit County over privately or publicly-constructed infrastructure.”<sup>7</sup> The County is working energetically to create opportunity and incentive for wireless carriers to deploy in these rural areas, and has offered access to public assets as well as the potential for public contributions of capital to support the private deployment.<sup>8</sup>

A national set of rules that effectively forces local and state resources to be expended to comply with those rules will at best handicap such efforts, in our view.

### **7.1 Delays in review of applications are frequently created by insufficient or inaccurate applications by carriers**

In many cases, delays in processing requests for placement submitted to localities are caused by the applicant’s submission of incomplete or unverified engineering information, and subsequent delays in responding to requests for additional information. In my company’s experience, there exists a pattern with some applicants of consistently filing inaccurate or incomplete applications and then criticizing the locality for not approving these insufficient applications.

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investment. North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN) Blog, “NCNGN Selects AT&T,” April 8, 2014, <https://ncngn.org/>.

<sup>6</sup> In Holly Springs, NC, for example, the Town leased fiber, streamlined permitting, and facilitated entry and construction by competitor Ting Internet. Ting Internet Blog, “Interview with Jeff Wilson, IT Director of Holly Springs” January 26, 2017, <https://ting.com/blog/internet/hollysprings/interview-jeff-wilson-director-holly-springs/>.

<sup>7</sup> Request for Information for Partnership for Deployment of Wireless Broadband to Three Underserved Areas in Summit County, November 21, 2016, <http://www.co.summit.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/16781?bidId=169>.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, page 13.

For all of the public safety, public infrastructure, and ADA compliance reasons described above, localities cannot approve erroneous or incomplete applications – nor would they want to create incentive for the applicants to continue filing insufficient applications.

In contrast, many companies consistently file adequate, complete, professionally prepared documents, which enables expeditious review and resolution of the applications—to the benefit of both public and private sectors.

Challenges can also be created by filing of hundreds of permits at one time, or an unwillingness of carriers to work with the locality to stage applications and mutually determine a schedule that works for both parties. In contrast, if the applicants work with the city or county to plan to stage the filing of permit applications rather than filing hundreds at one time, the processing burden on the locality is spread over a reasonable period of time. In my experience, localities are very willing to work with deployers to establish timetables and processes for reasonable submission—and reasonable review—of permit applications. In a cooperative process, the parties can define a logical construction area for which all necessary applications can be submitted, and a timetable for review that balances applicant needs and competing demands on the locality's staff. In some cases, to accommodate bulk review, the locality must hire additional or outside staff, and the applicant agrees to pay those additional costs. What works depends on the community and on the project.

It is worth emphasizing that submission of applications in bulk does not necessarily reduce the time required to review applications. A bulk submission does allow a locality to understand the overall impacts and design of a network, and that is helpful in understanding the goals of the applicant, and in considering alternatives. However, many elements of a review, discussed above, are site-specific, and the time required may depend on the resources required. In our view, attempting to regulate what is now a cooperative process would not be helpful. In our experience, bulk applications, if only because they do require coordination across many sites, require more time to review than individual applications, particularly individual applications for use of private land. However, in our experience localities have been able to address the bulk review process within the parameters of the FCC's Section 332(c)(7) shot clock through agreements with the operator.

## **8 The optimal way to enable broadband deployment is to encourage local public-private collaboration**

In my experience, the most successful and speediest broadband deployments are those in which public and private entities work collaboratively and willingly.<sup>9</sup>

This collaborative local process is not only a successful strategy for enabling private investment, but is also an efficient means by which to ensure that communications networks are built in efficient, thoughtful ways through comprehensive planning.

Network deployment is likely to be fastest and most efficient if the private deployer will work with the public sector to plan adequately and comprehensively for design, permitting, and staging of construction—and if all private entities will collaborate with each other and the public sector to plan ahead in ways that will make construction more efficient for all.

### **8.1 Collaborative process facilitates and speeds deployment, while minimizing conflict, both in wireless and wireline**

Comprehensive development planning, with frequent collaboration and input from both public and private sectors in the pre-construction phase allow private providers and localities to understand and coordinate each other's plans and timelines. For example, this kind of cooperative planning enables a willing provider to stage permit and inspection requests rather than filing for an overwhelming number of permits at one time. It also allows the provider to strategically plan where it will deploy infrastructure.

An additional benefit of this approach is transparency: both parties are incented to share information to maximize the pre-construction planning and minimize likely points of conflict. Indeed, the need for transparency and communication is mutual: much as the locality should be open about its processes, the private deployer should do the same and should plan and stage its construction to maximize cooperation with the locality.

For example, a comprehensive process was undertaken in 2014 between the City of San Antonio and Verizon Wireless to support Verizon's small cell efforts. Through a collaborative process between the two parties that addressed a city-wide plan and accommodations for historic sites, San Antonio and Verizon Wireless agreed on a master license agreement for use of City rights-of-way for the installation of small cell equipment on utility and traffic light poles.<sup>10</sup> The process

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<sup>9</sup> Speed of deployment, of course, also assumes that private sector processes such as make-ready on utility poles, proceed efficiently, and that private entities do not endeavor to slow down existing or potential competitors by obstructing such processes as make-ready. See, for example, *Ibid*.

<sup>10</sup> This agreement was adopted by the City Council by ordinance in June 2015. "Master License Agreement Between the City of San Antonio and San Antonio MTA, L.P. D/B/A Verizon Wireless for the Use of Public Rights-of-Way," June 2015, <https://webapps.sanantonio.gov/filenetarchive/%7BCDFE105E-763B-4D83-BFC0->

enabled Verizon to plan ahead, with predictability and stability, for its small cell deployment, while simultaneously enabling the City to protect key public interests (such as public safety), critical historic sites (such as the Alamo and historic Missions), and the vibrant tourism economy that is based on those historic sites and the City's unique history.

## **8.2 Treating wireless deployment like a development plan encourages industry to work with localities and satisfy public concerns**

Treating wireless deployment planning like development planning enables creation of a comprehensive infrastructure plan ahead of time so as to ensure adequate capacity and efficiency of construction—with reduced need for subsequent retrofits.

Broadband planning at the local level works best and most efficiently if it aligns with how communities plan for other forms of infrastructure: In new development areas, the community and utilities develop master plans to include all utility constructions in the appropriate locations and with the appropriate easements. This process ensures that there is sufficient space for all utilities and ensures that the utility companies are notified and given opportunity to place their infrastructure at the appropriate time, subject to the agreed-upon design criteria developed during the planning stage. And once the plan is in place, all parties agree not to deviate from it; all are obligated to meet the design parameters of the plan, which minimizes their costs and enables them the opportunity to participate.

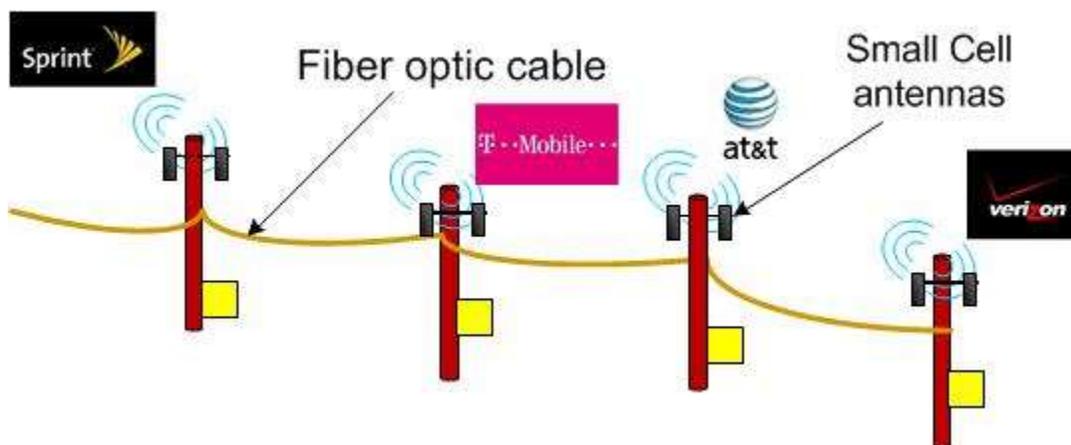
Similarly, in the case of significant redesign projects (such as redesign of roads or sidewalks or water utilities), standard planning process requires all utilities to together to ensure coordinated, efficient planning and construction. This reduces the costs for all parties, and gives both public and private sectors certainty. So long as the wireless carriers are willing to work with the locality on such processes, they can benefit from this city-led effort to ensure that infrastructure is deployed efficiently and that the design works for as many of the companies as possible, at the same time as protecting the public interest.

For example, in one likely scenario (illustrated below), comprehensive planning creates mutually-beneficial design parameters that allocate poles to ensure all carriers have access to infrastructure. This effectively grants the carriers siting pre-approval and reduces process for carriers down the road so long as they comply with the design parameters.

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[2B4D11E4712A%7D/%7BCDFE105E-763B-4D83-BFC0-2B4D11E4712A%7D.pdf](#). Subsequent agreements have been developed with other entities, including Mobilitie.

Figure 12 – Illustration of Planned Allocation of Poles to Enable Deployment by Four Wireless Carriers



The following examples are illustrative of some of the other creative efforts underway at the local level to seek means of public-private collaboration. This list is by no means exhaustive; rather, hundreds of such processes are underway throughout the country in communities of all sizes.

The City of Seattle in February released a request for information (RFI) seeking private sector input and ideas regarding potential public-private collaboration for deployment of wireless infrastructure and services.<sup>11</sup> With one clear goal focused on enabling new access to broadband services by lower-income members of the community, the City’s RFI seeks to “gauge the interest of for-profit and non-profit entities in forming collaborations or partnerships with the City to enable the deployment of wireless services in Seattle. The City is seeking ideas from the private sector with regard to ways that public and private sectors can work together, with the City as facilitator, enabler, and potential partner to the private sector, in deploying wireless network infrastructure to support key goals.”

The RFI specifically invited “both competitors and incumbents of the communications industry” to respond, as well as “a wide range of non-traditional entities that may be interested” in wireless in Seattle.”<sup>12</sup>

In the RFI, the City notes that it “seeks to utilize its assets, capabilities, and other attributes to enable deployment of new and cost-effective wireless services. Among other assets, the City may

<sup>11</sup>“Request for Information for Collaboration and/or Partnership between the City of Seattle and Private Sector Entities for Wireless Services and Potential Smart Cities Deployments, Including in Low-Income Districts, and Parks,” February 2017, <http://www.ctcnet.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Seattle-Public-Wifi-RFI-FINAL.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> The request is specifically made to such potential respondents as companies involved in the emerging Smart Cities ecosystem, including solutions providers and manufacturers; companies involved in the emerging drone and aerial vehicle ecosystems; non-profit organizations; local businesses, including those in the technology sector; manufacturers of equipment, including of network equipment and of the physical housing and platforms for wireless services; nontraditional wireless providers (e.g., technology companies, technology integrators, software providers, and engineering companies); and investors. Ibid.

be able to make use of conduit, fiber, and wireless siting locations.” The RFI invites responses that would help the City learn “more about what assets and contributions would facilitate the deployment of the provider’s solution. Respondents should discuss permitting, rights-of-way, property usage, conduit access, fiber connections, electricity requirements, and any other required or beneficial contributions.”

The City also offers that it “seeks to maximize its processes and structures to best enable and facilitate new and cost-effective wireless services. In keeping with Mayor Ed Murray’s ongoing commitment to enable private deployment of broadband facilities, the City seeks to determine strategies by which to make itself as friendly as possible to private broadband investment.”<sup>13</sup>

Similarly, the City of Fresno, California released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in 2016, seeking private interest in expansion of broadband, both wired and wireless, throughout the City.<sup>14</sup> The RFQ invited private entities to share their ideas about how public and private sectors could work together to expand broadband availability. In the RFQ, the City offers that it would work with the private sector to make available the City’s extensive networks of light poles, towers, rooftops, structures, fiber optics, and conduit. The City also notes its streamlined permitting process and willingness to commit resources to facilitate private deployment.<sup>15</sup>

What is critical to these efforts is that the FCC rules are interpreted in a manner that permits localities to work with providers to pursue these solutions. It is, for example, much more difficult to come up with an acceptable development scheme if an acceptably designed facility in the right-of-way can be replaced by intrusive designs of the sort shown earlier in this report.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March 8, 2017.



Andrew Afflerbach, Ph.D., P.E.  
Director of Engineering  
Columbia Telecommunications Corporation

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<sup>13</sup> Responses to the RFI are currently being reviewed by City staff.

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.fresno.gov/information/services/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2016/10/WiFiRFQwithAppendices\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.fresno.gov/information/services/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2016/10/WiFiRFQwithAppendices_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., page 11. Responses to the RFQ were received in November 2016 and are currently under review.

## **Exhibit 2**

# **The Economics of Government Right of Way Fees, Dr. Kevin Cahill, Ph.D**

BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

STREAMLINING DEPLOYMENT OF  
SMALL CELL INFRASTRUCTURE BY  
IMPROVING WIRELESS FACILITIES  
SITING POLICIES;

MOBILITIE, LLC  
PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING

WT Docket No. 16-421

**THE ECONOMICS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RIGHT OF WAY FEES  
DECLARATION OF  
KEVIN E. CAHILL, PHD**

March 8, 2017

**THE ECONOMICS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RIGHT OF WAY FEES**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Author**

1. My name is Kevin E. Cahill, PhD. I am a project director and senior economist at ECONorthwest, a public policy and economics consulting firm based in Portland, Oregon. I have published on a variety of topics related to applied microeconomics and have presented my research at academic conferences nationwide. I am also experienced in commercial litigation and antitrust matters, labor economics, and public policy and have testified numerous times in deposition and at trial. I earned my BA in mathematics and economics (with honors) from Rutgers College and MA and PhD in economics from Boston College. My professional and academic qualifications are described in my curriculum vitae, which is attached as Appendix A.

### **B. Purpose**

2. My declaration in this matter addresses two topics: 1) the economic criteria that municipalities should apply when considering rights-of-way (ROW) charges, such as those at issue in the Mobilitie, Inc. (“Mobilitie”) Petition;<sup>1</sup> and 2) the appropriate measures of economic cost for determining a fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory rate.

### **C. Summary of Opinions**

3. Economic principles provide a clear justification for why municipalities should charge market-rate fees to access government-owned property such as rights-of-way.<sup>2</sup> First, market-rate fees ensure the efficient use of ROW—the allocation of this scarce resource that

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<sup>1</sup> Mobilitie, LLC. 2016. Petition for Declaratory Ruling. Before the Federal Communications Commission, In the Matter of Promoting Broadband for All American by Prohibiting Excessive Charges for Access to Public Rights of Way, WT Docket No. 16-421 (November 15).

<sup>2</sup> Mobilitie’s petition, as I understand it, addresses two very different charges: regulatory fees, which are designed to capture the cost associated with regulating a particular voluntary activity in which a user engages, and market rents, which capture the costs associated with providing a benefit to a particular entity in return for a use of public properties. From an economics perspective the term “cost” as it pertains to access to ROW, and the “market rate” based on this cost, incorporates both those associated with regulatory fees (e.g., administrative costs and operations and management costs) and those associated with market rents (e.g., opportunity costs and negative externalities). As I note throughout this report, these costs should be fully considered in the price that municipalities charge for access to ROW in order for an efficient allocation of resources to take place. Further, while most of this report is focused on costs related to market rents, it bears emphasizing that, unless fees are set at a level that recovers all costs associated with a regulatory activity, that activity effectively is being subsidized by others and a marketplace benefit is being provided to the entity that is allowed to avoid these costs.

maximizes social welfare. Restricting fees below the market rate creates excess demand for ROW and leads to its overutilization. Second, the market rate should compensate the municipality not only for the administrative costs and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs associated with ROW access, but also for the fixed costs that the municipality incurred to create the ROW, the opportunity costs associated with occupying the ROW (e.g., increased costs in planning for future projects), and any negative externalities associated with placement of a facility in the rights of way (e.g., negative impacts on community aesthetics and property values). These components reflect the true cost to the municipality of granting access to its ROW.

4. Municipalities do not “profit” when users pay the full cost of accessing the ROW, nor is the socially-optimal level and rate of deployment of a new technology achieved when fees are restricted to just cover administrative costs and operations and maintenance costs. Quite the contrary. Such restrictions harm municipalities because resources are misallocated. The fact that some organizations might benefit from these restrictions—namely, by lowering their costs of production and supplying more of their product—does not imply that municipalities and its citizens and businesses also realize a net benefit (they do not).
5. Simply put, the efficient allocation of ROW is achieved when users pay the market price for accessing the ROW.

## II. THE ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES OF ACCESSING ROW

6. Economics is the study of the efficient allocation of scarce resources. In an economic sense, a resource is scarce when demand or wants exceed the available supply. Very few resources would *not* be considered scarce—sand in the desert or seawater at the beach are two examples. Each household, city, state, and country has a limited supply of scarce resources (e.g., labor, land, knowledge, energy), and each entity decides how to allocate their resources. Municipalities, too, have scarce resources—land, infrastructure, vehicles, buildings—which they hold in trust for residents, businesses owners, and taxpayers.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Mankiw, G. 2015. *Principles of Microeconomics*. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning; Samuelson, P. and W. Nordhaus. 2005. *Economics*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill International Edition; Hall, R. and M. Lieberman. 1998. *Microeconomics: Principles and Applications*. Cincinnati, OH: South-Western College Publishing.

7. Economies allocate scarce resources via markets and prices. In general, producers want to sell their goods at the highest price possible and consumers want to buy their goods at the lowest price possible. A price must be acceptable to both producers *and* consumers for an exchange to occur because each party has the freedom not to participate in the exchange. Economists generally refer to the market-clearing or equilibrium price as one that satisfies two conditions: 1) the price enables producers to cover their costs and 2) the price satisfies consumers' willingness to pay given their preferences. A price below the market-clearing price will result in too many consumers willing to buy and too few producers willing to sell (excess demand) and a price above the market-clearing price will result in too few consumers willing to buy and too many producers willing to sell (excess supply). Price adjustments help ensure a match between supply and demand and an efficient allocation of scarce resources.<sup>4</sup>

**A. Charging a fee to access ROW ensures the efficient allocation of a scarce resource**

8. A municipal ROW—constrained by location and dimension—is a scarce economic resource. Because it is a scarce resource, charging a fee to access a municipal ROW makes good economic sense and is consistent with the trust responsibilities of municipal officials. Charging a market rate to access a municipal ROW is consistent with the economic principle of using prices to efficiently allocate scarce resources. The closer the charged rate is to the market price the closer the allocation of the ROW is to the efficient outcome.
9. Because a municipal ROW is a scarce resource choosing one use for the ROW means that the municipality foregoes other opportunities to use (or not use) the resource, so long as the user maintains its access to the ROW. The creation of a pedestrian-only mall prevents access to adjoining properties by vehicles, for example, and the placement of a pole may make use of a sidewalk more difficult for a pedestrian. Economists refer to the foregone use as an opportunity cost associated with the resource-allocation decision. Economists consider opportunity costs in resource allocation decisions because resources can be used in

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<sup>4</sup> Mankiw, G. 2015. *Principles of Microeconomics, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning; Samuelson, P. and W. Nordhaus. 2005. *Economics*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill International Edition.

alternative ways and decisions made today can impact what choices are available in the future.<sup>5</sup>

10. Occupying space in the above- or below-ground portions of the ROW has opportunity costs. Access by others entities, including the locality, may become more expensive or more difficult, or in some cases, may be foreclosed. The three-dimensional space occupied by a given wire obviously cannot be occupied by another. Allowing one wireless provider to use a light pole may foreclose, or limit the use by others, unless the dimensions of the pole are substantially changed. Also, depending on the specifics of the use, the installation, the maintenance, and the replacement of any given facility in the ROW may create problems for and impose costs on the city, other users of the ROW, and on property owners adjacent to the ROW. For these reasons charging a fee to access ROW helps ensure that the ROW will be used in an efficient manner.

#### **B. Below-market pricing results in excess demand**

11. As noted above, if a price is set below the market-clearing price then there will be too many consumers willing to buy the product at that price and too few producers willing to sell the product at that price, resulting in an excess demand for the good or service. In the case of ROW, if a municipality is forced to sell access to its ROW at a below-market rate, then users will not fully consider the cost of accessing the ROW and will over utilize it. One form in which this overutilization could manifest itself is that existing ROW could become overcrowded, and be unable to accommodate new, innovative technologies. Another form is that a company like Mobilitie may abandon property for which it does pay rent in order to access property that it hopes to occupy at no charge, or at a heavily regulated charge.
12. Allocating the ROW by first-come, first-serve or on some other non-market price makes little economic sense, especially given the external costs imposed on third parties if a ROW is over-consumed by any user. The same result follows if one artificially limits a community to charging fees without regard to value. Charging a ROW fee that reflects the ROW as a

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<sup>5</sup> Mankiw, G. 2015. *Principles of Microeconomics, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning; Samuelson, P. and W. Nordhaus. 2005. *Economics*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill International Edition; Nicholson, W. 1997. *Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application*. Oak Brook, IL: The Dryden Press.

valuable asset or resource for which there are important and competing uses easily prevents this.

### **C. Above-market pricing is disciplined by municipal competition**

13. Municipalities compete to attract business and jobs, retirees and their savings, and high-skilled workers. They use a variety of means to do this, such as by offering favorable tax policies and subsidies, providing municipal amenities, and investing in infrastructure.<sup>6</sup> Many cities have economic development departments whose purpose includes attracting businesses away from other jurisdictions to locate in their city and employ their residents. These activities are part of municipal managers' responsibilities to protect and support their community's quality of life and economic health and wellbeing.
14. Telecommunication services are an important component of cities' economic development plans.<sup>7</sup> The extent to which a community has high quality telecommunications services—including, in particular, high-quality broadband Internet access—can affect economic-development prospects and general quality of life. As such, some municipalities may choose to price access to ROW below the market rate in order to obtain these telecommunications services before other communities.
15. Critically, any given municipality is constrained by market forces if it attempts to charge an above-market price.<sup>8</sup> Consider the case in which a municipality attempts to extract excess revenues from interested users of a ROW with a fictitious opportunity cost argument. Some interested users of the ROW will no doubt opt not to use the ROW because of the higher price, leading to excess supply in the municipality's existing ROW. Meanwhile, its competitor municipalities have every incentive to take advantage of this misstep by pricing access to their own ROW such that no excess capacity exists. The result will be an enhanced availability of services in the competing municipalities. The enhanced services can then be

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<sup>6</sup> O'Sullivan, A. 2012. *Urban Economics*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Irwin.

<sup>7</sup> Lucky, R. and J. Eisenberg (eds.). 2006. *Renewing U.S. Telecommunications Research*. Committee on Telecommunications Research and Development, National Research Council. ISBN: 0-309-66396-2. <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11711.html>; Salt Lake City. No date. *Economic Development – Research: Utilities and Telecommunication*. <http://www.slcgov.com/economic-development/utilities-and-telecommunication>.

<sup>8</sup> Price is just one factor. Market forces can also limit other outcomes, such as excessive regulation, that might be detrimental to a municipality's citizens and businesses.

touted by the competitor municipalities to lure away individuals and businesses from the municipality with excess capacity in its ROW.

16. Another form of competition exists *within* municipalities—leaders compete for the votes of their constituents. Unlike corporations, municipalities are not profit maximizers; rather, municipalities have an obligation to their citizens to promote economic development. If leaders within a municipality obstruct market forces and fail to establish market prices that invite technological innovation, citizens and businesses will no doubt be unsatisfied with such decisions and seek new leadership in subsequent elections. This threat of being voted out of office serves to discipline leaders within a municipality from demanding above-market prices.
17. Another disciplinary force is the option to use private property instead of a municipality's ROW. The right of way is, as I understand it, not necessarily the only property on which wireless facilities may be placed. While there may be different costs associated with placing facilities on private property (including costs of negotiation), the fact that there are alternatives to using the rights of way limits the pricing power of a municipality.
18. The key takeaway is that market forces—both across and within municipalities and between municipalities and private property owners—discipline those that seek to extract surplus revenues from ROW users. The argument that municipalities should be restricted from setting prices for fear that they will extract excess revenues from interested users is highly flawed because it ignores these disciplinary market forces.

### **III. QUANTIFYING FAIR, REASONABLE, AND NONDISCRIMINATORY PRICES**

19. The previous section describes the economic principals of accessing ROW, and the importance of pricing in such a way that leads to the efficient allocation of this scarce resource. In this section, I describe the various components of such pricing. A key takeaway is that an artificial constraint that restricts municipalities to charging only the current out-of-pocket marginal cost of accessing the ROW will inevitably lead to an inefficient outcome that harms the municipality, its citizens, and its businesses.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> For simplicity, I refer to administrative costs and operations and management costs as out-of-pocket marginal costs. Opportunity costs and those associated with negative externalities are technically marginal costs as well, in the sense that they increase incrementally with the introduction of a new user of a ROW.

## **A. Administrative and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs**

20. In its Petition for Declaratory Ruling, Mobilitie states that, “The Commission should first declare that the phrase ‘fair and reasonable compensation’ means charges that enable a locality to recoup its reasonable costs to review and issue permits and manage its rights of way, and that additional charges are unlawful.”<sup>10</sup>
21. Mobilitie is correct insofar as it acknowledges that municipalities should be able to charge for the (full) incremental administrative and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs that a municipality incurs when it grants access to ROW. As I note above, these sorts of costs are typically included in regulatory fees associated with issuing permits for activities inside or outside of the rights of way. These charges can include the cost of personnel time for permitting and maintenance of the ROW, the cost of any modifications to the ROW that are necessary and borne by the municipality, and any costs associated with regulation compliance with rules for use of the rights of way. These charges should also include any necessary engineering reviews, field inspections, utility adjustments, or site restoration tasks. Moreover, it is important to note that some of these costs are not one-time events. In these cases municipalities should be able to recover, over time, any costs related to access of ROW that are ongoing.
22. Economically speaking, however, these regulatory costs do not reflect what an economist would view as the full cost of use of the rights of way. Other components include fixed costs, opportunity costs, and negative externalities. Ignoring these components will lead to a below-market rate, excess demand, and an economically inefficient use of ROW (as well as a subsidy for users, such as Mobilitie).

## **B. The importance of including fixed costs**

23. Mobilitie is incorrect in its assertion that pricing above current out-of-pocket marginal costs implies that municipalities are somehow profiting from the use of ROW. Specifically, Mobilitie states, “The Commission should declare, however, that additional charges that exceed these [marginal] costs are unlawful. Thus, a locality’s one-time and recurring charges

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<sup>10</sup> Mobilitie, LLC. 2016. Petition for Declaratory Ruling. Before the Federal Communications Commission, In the Matter of Promoting Broadband for All American by Prohibiting Excessive Charges for Access to Public Rights of Way, WT Docket No. 16-421 (November 15), p. 24.

and fees cannot be set at levels that are designed to raise revenues for the locality, because those charges would allow the locality to profit from its exclusive control of rights of way.”<sup>11,12</sup>

24. Pricing above out-of-pocket marginal cost does not imply that municipalities earn “profits.”

The reason is that municipalities incur fixed costs and opportunity costs, and may experience impacts from negative externalities. First, municipalities have likely incurred at least some of the cost of establishing and maintaining the ROW up until the present time. Myrtle Beach, for example, has expended hundreds of millions to redevelop its beachfront, underground utilities and rebuild its roads.<sup>13</sup> It is economically nonsensical to imply that the municipality should be compelled to give away for free the fixed-cost value of establishing the ROW and maintaining it through the present time simply because the municipality incurred these costs in the past. Far from earning “profits,” municipalities would be incurring a very tangible loss if they were not allowed to charge users for their fixed costs—or would be simply transferring costs which ought to be borne by those occupying the rights of way to others, such as taxpayers.

25. Municipalities can and have invested in infrastructure with the expectation that they would recoup at least some portion of such investment spending. For example, jurisdictions in Oregon charge a system development charge (SDC) for new residential and commercial development. The purpose of SDC is to recover the fixed costs of infrastructure capacity that serves new development. As new residential developments come on line they pay their portion of the fixed costs for infrastructure capacity needed to serve the new development.<sup>14</sup> Forcing municipalities to give away these assets for free makes little economic sense and could inhibit municipalities’ investments in infrastructure going forward.

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<sup>11</sup> Mobilitie, LLC. 2016. Petition for Declaratory Ruling. Before the Federal Communications Commission, In the Matter of Promoting Broadband for All American by Prohibiting Excessive Charges for Access to Public Rights of Way, WT Docket No. 16-421 (November 15), p. 24.

<sup>12</sup> I note that the “exclusive control” of the rights of way is something of a misnomer. Property owners have exclusive control of their property but my understanding is that such exclusive control is rarely in and of itself viewed as a justification for regulating rates for access.

<sup>13</sup> MyrtleBeachOnline. 2016. “Myrtle Beach metro area again one of the fastest-growing in the country.” March 24. <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article67886402.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Galardi Consulting, Dr. A. Nelson, and Beery, Elsner and Hammond. 2007. *Promoting Vibrant Communities with System Development Charges*. Metro. July; Leung, M. 2015. *System Development Charges*. Portland Water Bureau. May 27.

26. Importantly, allowing municipalities to charge for their fixed costs does not imply that all municipalities will do so. The ROW is an asset to the municipality and some municipalities might decide to waive their fixed costs to compete with other municipalities to attract certain types of investment. This flexibility is a key feature of how municipalities compete, to the benefit of its citizens and businesses. This dimension of competition would be stifled if municipalities are not allowed to recoup their fixed costs.

### **C. The importance of including opportunity costs**

27. As noted above, a municipality's ROW is a scarce resource in an economic sense. The potential for restricted availability and fewer options in the future is a cost to the municipality for granting access to the ROW today. As such, municipalities must be able to charge for their opportunity cost to achieve an efficient allocation of its ROW. Further, allowing a locality to recover its opportunity costs ensures that users pay the full cost associated with the use of the facility—or ensures that the municipality makes a conscious decision to subsidize certain behaviors. For example, a municipality might have a vested interest in encouraging the deployment of technologies to underserved areas and, to encourage such deployment, the municipality might set a discounted price, or even a zero price, for accessing its ROW in particular areas. Such decisions can be optimal depending on the objective function or strategy of the municipality. As with fixed costs, restricting municipalities from including opportunity costs, either in full or in part, constrains competition across municipalities and inevitably leads to inefficient outcomes.

### **D. The importance of taking negative externalities into account**

28. Decision makers within municipalities must also consider any negative impacts that use of ROW might impose on the community. Such negative impacts are referred to in the economics literature as externalities—an impact, either positive or negative, to an outside party. In the case of access to ROW, a telecommunications company's cell tower might impose a negative externality in the community due to its unsightliness. Municipalities have attempted to mitigate such negative impacts on the community by requiring users to address the negative externalities they impose, for example, by requiring providers to make cell

towers look like trees.<sup>15</sup> In other cases, access to certain locations in or outside of the rights of way (for example, for locations in front of historic structures) may be subject to strict scrutiny.

29. Quantifying the impact of negative externalities on a given community can be complicated, and the challenges in doing so illustrate why it is important to let each municipality decide how to weigh the trade-offs associated with such negative impacts. Some communities might value the impact of a negative externality more so than others, just as some communities might value access to the latest telecommunications technology more than others. Competitive pricing allows municipalities to achieve an allocation of resources that takes these preferences into account. For example, if a locality charges a fee for use that is higher for those who place large facilities in the rights of way, and less for those who do not, the locality will encourage deployment of smaller facilities.
30. A key takeaway is that communities differ in how they view the impacts of negative externalities. Limiting municipalities' ability to set the prices they can charge (as well as limiting authority to mitigate impacts through land use regulation), therefore, will lead to a situation in which communities' preferences toward negative externalities are not taken into account, inevitably resulting in an economically inefficient outcome.

#### **E. The importance of economic factors in assessing nondiscriminatory fees**

31. In an economic sense, a fee is nondiscriminatory if entities pay similar fees for using a ROW in similar ways and under similar circumstances. Uses differ, and not all telecommunications providers use the ROW in the same way. For example, a wireline company may have hundreds or thousands of miles of fiber in a ROW. A wireless company, in contrast, may place only a few facilities in the ROW, but with more substantial negative externalities. One could reasonably distinguish among these types of providers for the purpose of arriving at compensation for access to the ROW.

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<sup>15</sup> Chicklas, D. 2014. "City code required cell phone tower to be disguised as tree." *Fox 17 West Michigan*. July 28. <http://fox17online.com/2014/07/28/city-code-required-cell-phone-tower-to-be-disguised-as-tree/>; Hecht, P. 2015. "Dressed up as trees, cellular towers stir debate." *The Sacramento Bee*. Dec. 5, <http://www.sacbee.com/news/investigations/the-public-eye/article48213030.html>.

32. In addition, economic conditions change over time. All else equal, providers that enter the market at different points in time face different economic conditions. In a competitive market, such providers would likely face different costs for the resources they use. Likewise, it would not necessarily be either discriminatory or non-neutral for the details of the ROW access charges between each of such providers and a city to differ.
33. It follows that there may be many different ways to capture fair market value for property and other resources used. For example, it is common in pricing to include a gross revenues based component. This is a common measure where a ROW grant gives someone a right to place facilities throughout the right of way (cable and telecommunications franchises, for example) but is also common in private markets (shopping centers, for example). Alternatively, an entity can price per site, price based on some measure of area (linear footage, square footage, or cubic footage), or price based on provision of non-monetary benefits that reduce costs to both parties (e.g., installation of excess conduit that reduces the need for future road cuts). Different pricing models may fit some policy goals better than others or some business plans better than others. Just as competition leads to market-based prices and an efficient allocation of scarce resources, competition also leads to an optimal form in which payments are made.
34. Finally, other factors can affect ROW pricing in ways that are non-discriminatory in nature, such as opportunity costs and externalities. Regarding opportunity costs, it would be non-discriminatory from an economic perspective to charge higher ROW fees in highly congested portions of the ROW because congestion in ROW can limit future access for municipal services. Likewise, telecommunications companies may inflict negative externalities on communities by installing unsightly telecommunications equipment in historical districts or in neighborhoods with strict visual standards (e.g., signage limitations and requirements, limited or specified paint colors, period or culturally aesthetic architecture building codes). ROW fees that take these consequences into consideration would not be considered discriminatory in an economic sense.

#### **IV. FACTORS SPECIFIC TO SMALL CELL DEPLOYMENT**

35. Mobilitee notes that access to ROW for the purposes of 5G technology differs from prior cellular technology uses. The technology requires more densely distributed equipment and,

therefore, access to many more ROW points. Mobilitie then argues that these technical requirements somehow imply that the economics of access to ROW should be different. In fact, the economic principles of access to ROW hold no matter what the technology, including 5G and taking Mobilitie’s technical arguments at face value.

36. One of the major differences between the anticipated roll out of small cell and DAS networks from current wireless technology is the number of antenna attachments and deployments that municipalities will process. Mobilitie’s Petition for Declaratory Ruling, states that 200,000 cell towers currently exist in the United States. These towers were not all installed in one year, rather they accumulated over time. In contrast, it is anticipated that one million new small cell and DAS antenna could be deployed in the next five years.<sup>16</sup> On average, municipalities would have to process ROW antenna requests at an annual rate equivalent to all cell towers currently in operation, each year, for the next five years.
37. Mobilitie claims that, due to the large number of expected access requests, a more uniform system of gaining access to ROW might be required. It is beyond the scope of this report to consider the costs associated with imposing a “uniform” permitting scheme on localities across the nation, except to note that it would likely be quite significant, potentially involving changes in ordinances, software systems, forms and the like. But a critical piece of information left out of Mobilitie’s argument is that municipalities have every incentive to work with telecommunications companies and advance 5G technology to the extent that such technology offers value to its constituents. If the value is as alluring as Mobilitie claims it to be, municipalities have every incentive to facilitate its adoption within the community. No declaratory ruling or mandated uniformity would be required.
38. Likewise, market-based pricing mechanisms are consistent with and not in conflict with rapid deployment. As a society, we do not want the most rapid deployment imaginable; we want the speed of deployment that is consistent with the most efficient use of available resources. This rate of deployment leads to intelligent choices among types of properties that may be used to deploy wireless facilities. The methodology Mobilitie proposes will predictably lead to inefficient deployment at substantial social cost.

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<sup>16</sup> Mobilitie, LLC. 2016. *Petition for Declaratory Ruling*. Before the Federal Communications Commission, In the Matter of Promoting Broadband for All Americans by Prohibiting Excessive Charges for Access to Public Rights of Way. Washington, DC. November 15.

39. Moreover, as a basic economic principle, firms will first deploy in the areas that are most profitable. The areas that are most profitable under a system with market-based prices will, when ROW are underpriced, likely remain among the most profitable areas (albeit *more* profitable due to lower costs). The systematic underpricing of access to ROW is unlikely to lead to increased deployment in underserved areas over existing profitable ones.

## V. CONCLUSION

40. An efficient, market-based price to access ROW compensates a municipality for its administrative costs and operations and management costs, its fixed costs of establishing and developing the ROW, its opportunity cost of granting access to the user, and any negative externalities from the user. Restricting fees below the market rate, as proposed by Mobilitie, creates excess demand for the ROW, leading to an overutilization and suboptimal allocation of ROW.
41. Concerns about municipalities extracting rents from potential users of ROW are unwarranted because competitive forces within and across municipalities, and between municipalities and private property owners, discipline such behavior. Municipalities that attempt to extract higher-than-market rates will simply be undercut by other municipalities that do not, or sidestepped by private property owners, and risk falling behind technologically. Leaders who advocate for extracting higher-than-market rates will be forced to explain to voters why their municipality is falling behind technologically, and risk losing their positions. The result is that municipalities and their leaders cannot sustain above-market prices.
42. The most rapid rate of deployment imaginable for 5G technology is not the socially-optimal outcome; rather what is socially optimal is the speed of deployment that is consistent with the most efficient use of available resources. The efficient allocation of ROW is achieved when users pay the full cost of accessing the ROW. The closer the fee is to the market price the closer the allocation of ROW access is to the social optimum.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March 8, 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin E. Cahill, PhD  
Project Director  
ECONorthwest

## VI. APPENDIX A: Curriculum Vitae

### *CURRICULUM VITAE*

**KEVIN E. CAHILL**

#### **Education**

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Ph.D. Economics, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, 2000  
M.A. Economics, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, 1997  
B.A. Mathematics and Economics (with honors), Rutgers College, New Brunswick, NJ, 1993

#### **Professional Experience**

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2012 – present	ECONorthwest: Project Director / Senior Economist
2005 – present	Center on Aging and Work at Boston College: Research Economist
2005 – 2010	Analysis Group, Inc.: Associate (2005 – 2008); Manager (2009 – 2010)
2004 – 2005	Tinari Economics Group: Economist and Expert Witness
2003	Center for Retirement Research at Boston College: Associate Director for Research
2000 – 2002	Abt Associates, Inc.: Associate

#### **Academic Papers and Publications**

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Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. *submitted*. “Is Bridge Job Activity Overstated?” *Monthly Labor Review*.

Quinn, Joseph F. and Kevin E. Cahill. *submitted*. “The Relative Effectiveness of the Minimum Wage and the Earned Income Tax Credit as Anti-Poverty Tools.” *Religions*.

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Principi, Andrea, Sara Santini, Marco Socci, Deborah Smeaton, Kevin E. Cahill, Sandra Vegeris, and Helen Barnes. 2016. “Retirement Plans and Active Aging: Perspectives in Three Countries.” *Ageing & Society*; doi: 10.1017/S0144686x16000866.

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Cahill, Kevin E., Jacquelyn B. James, and Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes. 2015. "The Impact of a Randomly Assigned Time and Place Management Initiative on Work and Retirement Expectations." *Work, Aging and Retirement*, 1(3); doi: 10.1093/worker/wav012.

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Pitt-Catsouphes, Marcie, Jacquelyn B. James, Kevin E. Cahill, and Tay K. McNamara. 2015. "Relationships between Team Performance and Managers Who Are Innovators and Early Adopters of Flexible Work Options." *Journal of Change Management*; doi: 10.1080/14697017.2015.1035665.

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Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2014. "The Impact of Hours Flexibility on Career Employment, Bridge Jobs, and the Timing of Retirement." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 472 (March).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2013. "Are Gender Differences Emerging in the Retirement Patterns of the Early Boomers?" U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 468 (September).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2013. "New Evidence on Self-Employment Transitions among Older Americans with Career Jobs." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 463 (April).

Pitt-Catsouphes, Marcie, Jacquelyn B. James, Stephen Sweet, Kevin E. Cahill, David Snow, Kim DeAngelis, Suzanne Lawler, Maureen O'Keefe, and Danielle Hartmann. 2013. Schedule optimization at the local level. In R. Disselkamp (Ed.), *Workforce asset management book of knowledge*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2013. Bridge employment. In M. Wang (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Retirement*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2012. "The Relationship between Work Decisions and Location Later in Life." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 458 (October).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2012. "Older Workers and Short-term Jobs: Employment Patterns and Determinants." *Monthly Labor Review*, 135(5), 19-32 (May).

Quinn, Joseph F., Kevin E. Cahill, and Michael D. Giandrea. 2011. "Early Retirement: The Dawn of a New Era?" TIAA-CREF Institute *Policy Brief* (July).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2011. "Reentering the Labor Force after Retirement." *Monthly Labor Review*, 134(6), 34-42 (June).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2011. "How Does Occupational Status Impact Bridge Job Prevalence?" U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 447 (July).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2010. "Employment Patterns and Determinants among Older Individuals with a History of Short-Duration Jobs." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 440 (August).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2010. "The Role of Re-entry in the Retirement Process." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 439 (June).

Jaff, Michael R., Kevin E. Cahill, Andrew P. Yu, Howard G. Birnbaum, and Luella M. Engelhart. 2010. "Clinical Outcomes and Medical Care Costs among Medicare Beneficiaries Receiving Therapy for Peripheral Arterial Disease." *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, 24(5), 577-587 (July).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Melissa Brown. 2010. "Stepping Stones and Bridge Jobs: Determinants and Outcomes." Papers and Proceedings of the NAFE Sessions at the AEA/ASSA 2010 Annual Meetings.

Giandrea, Michael D., Kevin E. Cahill, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2009. "Bridge Jobs: A Comparison across Cohorts." *Research on Aging*, 31(5), 549-576.

Duh, Mei Sheng, Kevin E. Cahill, Pierre Emmanuel Paradis, Pierre Y. Cremieux, and Paul E. Greenberg. 2009. "The Economic Implications of Generic Substitution of Antiepileptic Drugs: A Review of Recent Evidence." *Expert Opinion on Pharmacotherapy*, 10(14), 2317-2328.

Wu, Eric Q., Pankaj A. Patel, Reema R. Mody, Andrew P. Yu, Kevin E. Cahill, Jackson Tang, and Eswar Krishnan. 2009. "Frequency, Risk, and Cost of Gout-related Episodes Among the Elderly: Does Serum Uric Acid Level Matter?" *The Journal of Rheumatology*, 36(5), 1032-1040.

Giandrea, Michael D., Kevin E. Cahill, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2008. "Self Employment as a Step in the Retirement Process." Sloan Center on Aging & Work *Issue Brief*, No. 15 (September).

Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2008. "A Micro-Level Analysis of Recent Increases in Labor Force Participation among Older Workers." Center for Retirement Research at Boston College Working Paper, 8 (February).

Giandrea, Michael D., Kevin E. Cahill, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2008. "Self Employment Transitions among Older Workers with Career Jobs." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 418 (May).

Lee, Lauren J., Andrew P. Yu, Kevin E. Cahill, Alan K. Oglesby, Jackson Tang, Ying Qiu, and Howard G. Birnbaum. 2008. "Direct and Indirect Costs among Employees with Diabetic Retinopathy in the United States," *Current Medical Research and Opinion*, 24(5), 1549-1559.

Wu, Eric Q., Pankaj A. Patel, Andrew P. Yu, Reema R. Mody, Kevin E. Cahill, Jackson Tang, and Eswar Krishnan. 2008. "Disease-related and Total Health Care Costs of Elderly Patients with Gout," *Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy*, 14(2), 164-175.

Yu, Andrew P., Kevin E. Cahill, Howard G. Birnbaum, Lauren J. Lee, Alan K. Oglesby, Jackson Tang, and Ying Qiu. 2007. "Direct and Indirect Costs and Resource Utilization Associated with Photocoagulation and Vitrectomy Procedures among Employees with Diabetic Retinopathy" *Value in Health*, 10(3) doi:10.1016/S1098-3015(10)68726-8.

Giandrea, Michael D., Kevin E. Cahill, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2007. "An Update on Bridge Jobs: The HRS War Babies." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 407 (May).

- Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2007. "Down Shifting: The Role of Bridge Jobs After Career Employment." Sloan Center on Aging & Work *Issue Brief*, No. 6 (April).
- Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2006. "Retirement Patterns from Career Employment." *The Gerontologist*, 46(4), 514-523.
- Tinari, Frank D., Kevin E. Cahill, and Elias Grivoyannis. 2006. "Did the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Accurately Assess Economic Losses?" *Topics in Economic Analysis and Policy*, Vol. 6, Issue 1.
- Cahill, Kevin E., Michael D. Giandrea, and Joseph F. Quinn. 2005. "Are Traditional Retirements a Thing of the Past? Recent Evidence on Retirement Patterns and Bridge Jobs." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper, 384 (September).
- Tinari, Frank D., Kevin E. Cahill, and LeeAnn M. Pounds. 2005. "The Effects of a Gender-Neutral Life Expectancy Table in New Jersey Litigation." Tinari Economics Group Working Paper.
- Tinari, Frank D., Kevin E. Cahill, and Elias Grivoyannis. 2005. "A Retrospective Examination of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Awards." Papers and Proceedings of the NAFE Sessions at the Allied Social Science Associations 2005 Annual Meeting.
- Tinari, Frank D., and Kevin E. Cahill. 2004. "A Note on a Perverse Result under New York State's Rule 50-B: The Case of Pensions." Tinari Economics Group Working Paper.
- Cahill, Kevin E., and Robert L. Clark. 2004. Economics of Aging. In L.S. Noelker, K. Rockwood, and R.L. Sprott (Eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Aging*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.
- Cahill, Kevin E., and Alicia H. Munnell. 2004. "The Impact of Raising the Earliest Eligibility Age on Social Security-Dependent Americans." Research funded by the Russell Sage Foundation (unpublished manuscript).
- Munnell, Alicia H., Kevin E. Cahill, Andrew D. Eschtruth, and Steven A. Sass. 2004. "The Graying of Massachusetts: Aging, the New Rules of Retirement, and the Changing Workforce." The Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth (MassINC).
- Munnell, Alicia H., Kevin B. Meme, Natalia A. Jivan, and Kevin E. Cahill. 2004. "Should We Raise Social Security's Earliest Eligibility Age?" Center for Retirement Research *Issue in Brief*, No. 18 (June).
- Cahill, Kevin E., and Sheila Campbell. 2004. "Basic Investment Theory Explained." Center for Retirement Research *Just the Facts*, No. 9 (January).
- Cahill, Kevin E., and Mauricio Soto. 2003. "How Do Cash Balance Plans Affect the Pension Landscape?" Center for Retirement Research *Issue in Brief*, No. 14 (December).
- Munnell, Alicia H., Kevin E. Cahill, and Natalia A. Jivan. 2003. "How Has the Shift to 401(k)s Affected the Retirement Age?" Center for Retirement Research *Issue in Brief*, No. 13 (September).
- Marshall, Nancy L., Cindy L. Creps, Nancy R. Burstein, Kevin E. Cahill, Wendy W. Robeson, Sue Y. Wang, Nancy Keefe, Jennifer Schimmenti, and Frederic B. Glantz. 2003. "Massachusetts Family Child Care Today: A Report on the Findings from the Massachusetts Cost and Quality Study." Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley, MA.
- "401(k) Plans and Retirement Saving: Lessons for Personal Accounts." 2002. Summary document of a presentation by William G. Gale and James M. Poterba prepared for the Social Security Administration (November).
- Becroft, Erik, Kevin E. Cahill and Barbara D. Goodson, 2002. "The Impacts of Welfare Reform on Children: The Indiana Welfare Reform Evaluation." Abt Associates Inc. (December).

Burstein, Nancy, Jean I. Layzer, and Kevin E. Cahill. 2001. "National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families: Patterns of Child Care Use Among Low-Income Families." Abt Associates Inc. (August).

Wrobel, Marian V., and Kevin E. Cahill. 2001. "An Evaluation of the Choosing Health Program." Abt Associates Inc. (April).

Cahill, Kevin E., 2000. "Heterogeneity in the Retirement Process: Patterns and Determinants of Labor Force Withdrawal among Individuals with Low-Wage and Short-Duration Jobs." Boston College Doctoral Dissertation.

Quinn, Joseph F., Richard V. Burkhauser, Kevin E. Cahill, and Robert Weathers. 1998. "Microeconomic Analysis of the Retirement Decision: United States." The OECD Economics Department Working Paper No. 203, Paris.

## **Professional Activities, Honors and Awards**

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Member, Founding Editorial Board of *Work, Aging and Retirement*, 2014 – present.

Member, Editorial Board of *Research on Aging*, 2016 – present.

Member, Editorial Board of *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, 2016 – present.

At-Large Vice President, Board of Directors, National Association of Forensic Economics, 2013 – 2016.

2011 Lawrence R. Klein Award for best *Monthly Labor Review* article by joint BLS and non-BLS authors.

Ad hoc referee, 2000 – 2016, *The Gerontologist*, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Work, Aging and Retirement*, *Demography*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Research on Aging*, *Applied Health Economics and Health Policy*, *Sociology Quarterly*, *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*, *Ageing & Society*, *Atlantic Economic Journal*, *Social Problems*, *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, *Asian Social Science*, *The Journal of Forensic Economics*, *AARP*, *Alfred P. Sloan Foundation*, *Oxford University Press*

American Economics Association, member, 2002 – present.

Gerontological Society of America, member, 2012 – present, investment committee, 2015 – present.

Western Economics Association, member, 2004 – 2008, 2012 – present.

National Association of Forensic Economics (NAFE), member, 2004 – present;

NAFE, organizer of ASSA conference sessions, 2015, 2016 (with Larry Spizman), 2017 (with Scott Gilbert)

Eastern Economics Association, member, 2005 – 2010, 2014

Allied Social Sciences Associations Annual Meeting, Conference Book Cover, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012.

Salmon River Art Guild, Regional Art Show, Other Media: First Place (2014, 2012); Second Place (2016, 2011); Third Place (2016, 2011); Honorable Mention (2016, 2014).

Reviewer of grant proposals, Sandell Grant Program, 2002 – 2003.

Doctoral Fellowship, Social Security Administration, Center for Retirement Research, 1999.

Teaching Excellence Award, Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 1998.

Michael Mann Summer Dissertation Award, Boston College Department of Economics, 1997.

Graduate Student Fellowship, Boston College Department of Economics, 1995 – 1998.

Henry Rutgers Scholar, Rutgers College, Department of Economics, 1993.

## **Presentations and Conferences Attended**

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“Notable Economic Trends in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest.” Invited speaker at the Northwest Credit Union Association’s Governmental Affairs Conference, Boise, ID, January 26, 2017.

“What Determines Gradual Retirement? Differences in the Path to Retirement between Low- and High-Educated Older Workers.” Discussant at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Chicago, IL, January 8, 2017.

“The Impact of Oregon’s Pension Legacy Costs on New Teacher Turnover and Quality” Presentation at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Chicago, IL, January 7, 2017.

“Pension Generosity in Oregon and Its Impact on Mid-Career Teacher Attrition and Older Teachers’ Retirement Decisions.” Presentation at the 2016 Fall Research Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Washington, DC, November 6, 2016.

“How Do You Study the Impact of Immigrant Inclusion? Considerations for Quantitative Research.” Presentation at the Welcoming Economies Global Network Conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 20, 2016.

“Economic Damages in Employment Cases.” Presentation for the Multnomah Bar Association, Portland, OR, September 20, 2016, and the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, Portland, OR, October 5, 2016.

“Pension Generosity in Oregon and its Impact on the K12 Workforce.” Presentation at the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International, Portland, OR, July 1, 2016.

“Measure of Damages for Employer-Paid Health Insurance Denied While Working.” Discussant at the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International, Portland, OR, July 1, 2016.

“Is Bridge Job Activity Overstated?” Presentation at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, San Francisco, CA, January 4, 2016.

“Does the Option of Continued Work Later in Life Result in a More Optimistic View of Retirement?” Presentation at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Orlando, FL, November 22, 2015.

“To What Extent is Gradual Retirement a Product of Financial Necessity?” Presentation at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Orlando, FL, November 21, 2015.

“The Impact of a Time & Place Intervention on Economic Outcomes at a Large Healthcare Organization.” Presentation at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Pre-Conference Workshop: Change in the Meaning and Experience of Work Later in Life, Orlando, FL, November 18, 2015.

“The Economic Dynamics and Fiscal Impacts of an Aging Society.” Invited panelist at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Oregon Oral Health Coalition, Oral Health in the Age of Aging: Perspectives on Epigenetics, Gerontology, and Chronic Diseases, Portland, OR, October 2, 2015.

“Pathways to Retirement in the United States: An Evolving Process.” Invited speaker at the Center for Senior Policy’s Conference on Extending Working Life: The American Experience, Oslo, Norway, September 15, 2015.

“Midyear Commercial Real Estate Economic Forum.” Invited panelist at a forum sponsored by TitleOne Corporation, Boise, ID, June 17, 2015.

“Boomers and the Future of Oregon’s Economy.” Speaker at a jointly-sponsored ECONorthwest–AARP event on leveraging Oregon’s 50-plus population, Portland, OR, March 17, 2015.

“The Impact of a Randomly-Assigned Time & Place Management Initiative on Work and Retirement Expectations.” Presentation at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Boston, MA, January 4, 2015.

“A Balanced Look at Self-Employment Transitions Later in Life.” Presentation at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Policy Series: Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship: The Aging Workforce’s ‘Encore’?, Washington, DC, November 8, 2014.

“How Might the Affordable Care Act Impact Retirement Transitions?” Presentation at the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International, Denver, CO, June 28, 2014.

“Hours Flexibility Preferences and Work/Retirement Decisions.” Presentation at the Work and Family Researchers Network (WFRN) 2014 Conference, New York, NY, June 19, 2014.

“Bridge Jobs and the New Era of Retirement.” Invited speaker at the Sloan Foundation’s Workshop on Measuring, Modeling, and Modifying Late in Life Workplace Dynamics, New York, NY, June 5, 2014.

“The Impact of Hours Flexibility on Retirement Transitions.” Presentation at the Pacific Northwest Regional Economics Conference (PNREC) 2014, Portland, OR, May 8, 2014.

“Job Transitions among Today’s Older Americans: Challenges and Opportunities.” Keynote speaker at AARP’s Finding Work at 50+ Event, Beaverton, OR, April 22, 2014.

“Retirement Communities – the Golden Age of Real Estate.” Invited panelist at a forum sponsored by the Idaho Business Review, Boise, ID, April 1, 2014.

“Transitions into Self-Employment at Older Ages: 1992 to 2012.” Presentation at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Eastern Economics Association, Boston, MA, March 8, 2014.

“What Forensic Economists Need to Know about Societal Aging.” Presentation at the NAFE Sessions of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Eastern Economics Association, Boston, MA, March 8, 2014.

“Preparing for the Aging Boom: Best Practices for Employers.” Invited panelist at a forum sponsored by the Vision Action Network and the Washington County Chamber of Commerce Partnership, Portland, OR, January 29, 2014.

“The New Era of Retirement.” Presentation at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Boise State University, Boise, ID, January 9, 2014.

“The Impact of Hours Flexibility on Career Employment, Bridge Jobs, and the Timing of Retirement.” Presentation at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Philadelphia, PA, January 4, 2014.

“Schedule Matches and Work-life Fit among Older Healthcare Workers.” Presentation at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), New Orleans, LA, November 21, 2013.

“Self-Employment Transitions among Older Americans.” Invited speaker at the AARP Public Policy Institute Roundtable on Crafting a Workforce Development System that Better Meets the Needs of Older Jobseekers and Workers, Washington, DC, November 7, 2013.

“The Uncertainty of Planning for Retirement.” Invited guest on Chicago Public Radio, WBEZ’s “Morning Shift,” Chicago, IL, November 4, 2013.

“The Role of Gender in the Retirement Patterns of Older Americans.” Invited speaker at the U.S. Department of Labor’s Older Women Workers Roundtable, Washington, DC, September 27, 2013.

“Are Gender Differences Emerging in the Retirement Patterns of the Early Boomers?” Presentation at the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International, Seattle, WA, June 30, 2013.

“Getting Older, Getting Hired.” Invited guest on WGBH’s “Boston Public Radio,” Boston, MA, January 22, 2013.

“Employment Experiences of Older Workers in the Context of Shifts in the National Economy.” Presentation at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), San Diego, CA, November 17, 2012.

“Retirement Patterns and the Macroeconomy, 1992 to 2010: The Prevalence and Determinants of Bridge Jobs, Phased Retirement, and Reentry among Different Cohorts of Older Americans.” Presentation at the 2012 Fall Research Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Baltimore, MD, November 9, 2012.

“New Evidence on Self-Employment Transitions among Older Americans with Career Jobs.” Presentation at the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International, San Francisco, CA, June 30, 2012.

“Work after Retirement: Lessons for Employers and Policymakers from the United States.” Invited speaker at Eurofound’s “Income from Work after Retirement” Expert Workshop, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Work Conditions, Brussels, Belgium, June 15, 2012.

“The Relationship between Work Decisions and Location Later in Life.” Presentation at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Chicago, IL, January 7, 2012.

“Building Your Bridge to Retirement’?” Invited guest on AARP’s “Inside E Street” for Public Television, Washington, DC, December 7, 2011.

“How Does Occupational Status Impact Bridge Job Prevalence.” Presentation at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Denver, CO, January 8, 2011.

“Stepping Stones and Bridge Jobs: Determinants and Outcomes.” Presentation at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Atlanta, GA, January 4, 2010.

“Adapting U.S. Retirement Behavior.” Discussant at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, New York, NY, February 27, 2009.

“Retirement Patterns and Determinants among Individuals with a History of Short-Duration Jobs.” Presentation at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, San Francisco, CA, January 4, 2009.

“The Role of Bridge Jobs in the Retirement Process.” Presentation at The Ann Richards Invitational Roundtable on Gender and the Media, Older Workers: Benefits and Obstacles for Women’s and Men’s Continued Employment, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, October 24, 2008.

“The Role of Re-entry in the Retirement Process.” Presentation at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, New Orleans, LA, January 4, 2008.

“A Micro-level Analysis of Recent Increases in Labor Force Participation among Older Workers.” Presentation at the Korea Labor Institute Conference on Panel Data, Seoul, Korea, October 25, 2007.

“Bridge Jobs and Retiree Well-being.” Presentation at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Western Economic Association, Seattle, WA, July 2, 2007.

“Self Employment Transitions among Older Workers with Career Jobs,” Presentation at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, New York, NY, February 24, 2007.

“A Micro-level Analysis of Recent Increases in Labor Force Participation among Older Workers.” Presentation at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Western Economic Association, San Diego, CA, July 2, 2006.

“Retirement Patterns and Bridge Jobs among the HRS War Babies.” Presentation at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Western Economic Association, San Francisco, CA, July 7, 2005.

SEAK Annual National Expert Witness Conference, Hyannis, MA, June 16-17, 2005.

“The Social Security Debate: Why Should I Care about Reforms?” Invited guest for a panel discussion on Social Security Personal Accounts, Drew University Economics Department, Madison, NJ, April 12, 2005.

“The Role of the Economist in Assessing Damages for Defendants.” Presentation at Liberty Mutual Group, Marlton, NJ, March 18, 2005.

“Was the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund a Success? A Forensic Economist’s View.” Presentation at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, New York, NY, March 5, 2005.

“Recent Evidence on Retirement Patterns and Bridge Jobs.” Presentation at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, New York, NY, March 4, 2005.

“A Retrospective Examination of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Awards: Calculated vs. Actual Economic Loss Awards.” Presentation at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations: Expanding the Frontiers of Economics, Philadelphia, PA, January 8, 2005.

“Are Traditional Retirements a Thing of the Past?” Presentation at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC, December 16, 2004.

“How Well Prepared Are Massachusetts Families for Retirement?” Presentation at the New England Study Group, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Boston, MA, October 12, 2004.

Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, San Diego, CA, January 3-5, 2004.

“Securing Retirement Income for Tomorrow’s Retirees.” Session Chair for the Sandell Grant Program Presentations at the Fifth Annual Conference of the Social Security Retirement Research Consortium, Washington, DC, May 15-16, 2003.

“Retirees Back at Work.” Invited guest for “On Point,” *National Public Radio*, Boston, MA, March 12, 2003.

“The Changing Retirement Income Landscape.” Presentation at the Ethics and Aging Seminar Series at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, February 3, 2003.

“Social Security Reform: The Relationship between Today’s Program and Tomorrow’s.” Discussant at the 55th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA, November 26th, 2002.

“Patterns of Child Care Use among Low-Income Families.” Presentation at the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics (NAWRS) 42nd Annual Workshop: Research, Reauthorization, and Beyond, Albuquerque, NM, August 25-28, 2002.

Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Boston, MA, January 7-9, 2000.

“The Outlook for Retirement Income.” Second Annual Conference of the Social Security Retirement Research Consortium, Washington, DC, May 17-18, 2000.

“New Developments in Retirement Research.” First Annual Joint Conference of the Social Security Retirement Research Consortium, Washington, DC, May 20-21, 1999.

“AHEAD (Asset and Health Dynamics Among the Oldest Old) Summer Workshop.” Survey Research Center, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, Summer 1997.

“GSOEP-PSID Summer Workshop.” Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, Summer 1997.

## **Conference Posters**

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Cahill KE, James JB, Pitt-Catsoupes M, “How Do Older Healthcare Workers’ Preferences for Flexibility Affect Work and Retirement Decisions?” Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, November 20-24, 2013.

Wu E, Cahill KE, Bieri C, Ben-Hamadi R, Yu AP, Erder MH, “Comparison of Hospitalization Use and Health Care Costs of Elderly Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) Patients Treated with Escitalopram, Generic SSRIs, and SNRIs,” International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 14<sup>th</sup> Annual International Meeting, May 16-20, 2009.

Cahill, KE, Giandrea MD, Quinn JF, “Retirement Behavior among Individuals with Erratic Work Histories,” Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, November 21-25, 2008.

Jaff MR, Engelhart L, Rosen E, Yu AP, Cahill KE, “Clinical and Economic Outcomes among U.S. Medicare Beneficiaries with Lower Extremity Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD),” International Symposium on Endovascular Therapy (ISET), January 20-24, 2008.

Giandrea MD, Cahill KE, Quinn JF, “Self Employment Transitions among Older Workers with Career Jobs,” Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, November 16-20, 2007.

Lee LJ, Yu AP, Cahill KE, Birnbaum HG, Oglesby AK, Tang J, Qiu Y, “Direct and Indirect Costs among Employees with Diabetic Retinopathy,” American Diabetes Association (ADA) 67<sup>th</sup> Scientific Sessions, June 22-26, 2007.

Yu AP, Cahill KE, Birnbaum HG, Lee LJ, Oglesby AK, Tang J, Qiu, Y, “Direct and Indirect Costs Associated with Photocoagulation and Vitrectomy among Employees with Diabetic Retinopathy,” International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 12<sup>th</sup> International Meeting, May 19-23, 2007.

Wu E, Patel P, Krishnan E, Yu AP, Cahill KE, Tang J, Mody R, “Healthcare Cost of Gout in an Elderly Population: A Claims Database Analysis,” American Geriatrics Society (AGS) 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting, May 2-6, 2007.

Wu E, Mody R, Krishnan E, Yu AP, Cahill KE, Tang J, Patel P, “Tighter Control of Serum Uric Acid in Gout is Associated with Lower Morbidity and Health Care Costs,” American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Annual Scientific Meeting, November 10-15, 2006.

## **Expert Reports, Trial and Deposition Declaration**

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Michael Davis and Julie Davis, et al. vs. Cedar Grove Composting, Inc., loss of use and enjoyment of property proceeding, Superior Court for Snohomish County, State of Washington, opinion as to defendant’s positive economic impacts and achievement of stated public policy goals, declaration taken in deposition, February 13, 2017; Catherine Avila and Dionicio Avila, et al. vs. Cedar Grove Composting, Inc., loss of use and enjoyment of property proceeding, Superior Court for King County, State of Washington, opinion as to defendant’s positive economic impacts and achievement of stated public policy goals, declaration taken in deposition, February 13, 2017.

Application by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for a Permit to Construct Keystone XL Pipeline, Before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of the State of South Dakota, rebuttal declaration on behalf of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe regarding the socioeconomic analysis contained in the U.S. Department of State’s Final Supplemental

Environmental Impact Statement on the Keystone XL Pipeline Project, declaration taken in Pierre, SD in front of the PUC, August 3, 2015.

Multnomah County vs. Conway Construction Company, et al., bridge construction damages proceeding, Multnomah County Circuit Court, Oregon, opinion as to plaintiff's economic damages due to the installation of defective bridge decking, declaration taken in trial, February 25, 2015.

KForce vs. Brett Oxenhandler, et al., business damages proceeding, United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, opinion as to plaintiff's calculation of economic damages, declaration taken in deposition, February 5, 2015.

State of Oregon, ex rel. John Kroger, Attorney General vs. AU Optronics Corporation, et al., TFT-LCD antitrust litigation, United States District Court, Northern District of California at San Francisco, opinion as to the apportionment of damages across purchaser and product groups, declaration taken in deposition, August 11, 2014.

David Sawyer and Joan Sawyer vs. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, et al., personal injury proceeding, Middlesex County Superior Court, Massachusetts, opinion as to plaintiff's lost earning capacity, declaration taken in deposition, April 16, 2013.

Expert Economic Assessment of the USAF Socioeconomic Impact Analysis for Boise AGS, report submitted to the United States Air Force, March 3, 2012.

Council on American Islamic Relations – New Jersey, Inc., et al. vs. Bergman Real Estate Group, et al., business damages proceeding, Essex County Superior Court, New Jersey, opinion as to plaintiff's lost fundraising revenue, declaration taken in deposition, September 21, 2005.

Garfinkel vs. Morristown Obstetrics and Gynecology Associates, et al., Hon. Stephen F. Smith, Morris County Superior Court, New Jersey, opinion as to defendants' lost profits, declaration taken in trial, June 23, 2005.

Edwards vs. City of New York, wrongful termination proceeding, Hon. Fernando Tapia, New York City Civil Court, Bronx County, New York, opinion as to the loss of earnings, fringe benefits, and pension benefits, declaration taken in trial, June 1, 2005.

Allen vs. Euromarket Designs, Inc., wrongful termination proceeding, Hon. Stephen J. Burnstein, Essex County Superior Court, New Jersey, opinion as to the loss of earnings, declaration taken in trial, April 20, 2005.

Ali vs. Cervelli, personal injury proceeding, Hon. Robert P. Contillo, Bergen County Superior Court, New Jersey, opinion as to the loss of income from the family business and the loss of household services, declaration taken in trial, April 13-14, 2005.

Peskin vs. AT&T Corporation, wrongful termination proceeding, Somerset County Superior Court, New Jersey, opinion as to the loss of earnings, declaration taken in deposition, April 8, 2005.

Garfinkel vs. Morristown Obstetrics and Gynecology Associates, et al., wrongful termination proceeding, Morris County Superior Court, New Jersey, opinion as to defendants' lost profits, declaration taken in deposition, March 16, 2005.

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## **Exhibit 3**

# **Report and Declaration of David E Burgoyne for the Smart Communities Siting Coalition**



**BURGOYNE**  
APPRAISAL COMPANY

**DAVID E. BURGOYNE ASA SR/WA**  
*CERTIFIED GENERAL REAL ESTATE APPRAISER*  
*MICHIGAN, INDIANA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA*  
*AQB CERTIFIED USPAP INSTRUCTOR*

**MARK J. ST. DENNIS**  
**BRIAN A. O'NEILL SR/WA RW-AC**  
**SCOTT M. CARLSON**  
**RICHARD J. ANTIO**  
**GOKHAN ANDI**

**BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

STREAMLINING DEPLOYMENT )  
OF SMALL CELL INFRASTRUCTURE )  
BY IMPROVING WIRELESS FACILITIES ) WT Docket No. 16-421  
SITING POLICIES; )  
)  
MOBILITIE, LLC )  
PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**REPORT AND DECLARATION OF DAVID E. BURGOYNE  
FOR THE SMART COMMUNITIES SITING COALITION**



# BURGOYNE

## APPRAISAL COMPANY

**DAVID E. BURGOYNE ASA SR/WA**  
*CERTIFIED GENERAL REAL ESTATE APPRAISER*  
*MICHIGAN, INDIANA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA*  
*AQB CERTIFIED USPAP INSTRUCTOR*

**MARK J. ST. DENNIS**  
**BRIAN A. O'NEILL SR/WA RW-AC**  
**SCOTT M. CARLSON**  
**RICHARD J. ANTIO**  
**GOKHAN ANDI**

Burgoyne Appraisal Company has investigated the impact of communication towers and communication equipment on nearby property values, including residential properties, commercial properties, and properties in historically designated areas. Our report on such impacts is based upon our more than thirty years of professional appraisal experience and drawing upon literature search of other articles and appraisal papers.

Please note that due to the nature of the report our investigation is general in nature and is not specifically related to any given location.

### IMPACT OF COMMUNICATION TOWERS AND EQUIPMENT ON NEARBY PROPERTY VALUES

#### I. Executive Summary

- The Burgoyne Appraisal Company (“Burgoyne”), drawing upon its thirty-two (32) years of experience as a Real Estate Appraiser specializing in detrimental conditions, takings, adverse impacts and right-of-way, finds that:
- As a general matter, assuming two generally comparable areas, aesthetics will have the most significant impact on property values. If, for example, I assume two houses of equal age, size and condition in the same residential area, the relative value of one home will be most affected by the aesthetics in the immediate vicinity of that home.
- As a general matter, visible utility structures do adversely affect property values. This is reflected in the fact that, as a general matter property values are higher in areas where there are no aboveground utility facilities (other than lighting) than in areas where utilities are aboveground.
- The impact will generally be related to the size of the facility, the characteristics of the facility, its location (including proximity), and visibility. That is to say, I would expect a tower or other structure that is larger than existing structures to have a greater impact on property values than a structure that is similarly sized and in keeping with other structures. I would expect that installation of equipment that is widely visible to have a more significant impact than equipment that is not (so, for example, a transformer at the top of a pole would have less of an impact than a box of similar size that is within a normal site line, or on the

ground). The characteristics of the facility are also important. An unorganized conglomeration of various boxes and wires would have a greater impact than a streamlined and contained single cabinet.

The literature does not tell us the impact of various iterations of DAS designs on residential properties; there is more information about towers of the sort imposed by Mobilite. Nonetheless, based on my experience, it would be unwise to assume that the impact of additional ground cabinets, or of structures of the sort that entities would be entitled to install under the FCC's Section 6409 rules is zero or so near to zero. Just looking at the literature on property values in underground v. non-underground areas, there are reasons for concern that justify maintenance of significant latitude at the local level over siting and compensation.

While it is certainly recognized that DAS systems and Cellular antennas are an important part of our nation's infrastructure, and that it is inevitable that new antennas will need to be installed as we move into the future, it is important for municipalities (and property owners, in the case of right-of-way easements) to retain significant control over the size, location, scope, expansion, and characterization of the installations. This is because adverse impacts from negative externalities vary considerably with the size, location, scope, expansion, and characterization of the installations.

Hidden, smaller, and neatly mounted "small cells," will have an impact, but that impact will be lesser than other alternatives. Likewise, there needs to be control over future growth of installed facilities. It is my opinion that the Commission needs to analyze those impacts in detail before considering additional rules. It is also my opinion that municipalities need to retain some regulatory control over these installations in order to minimize impacts and protect the health, welfare, and safety of their residents in the same way that other regulations and the exercise of reasonable police powers do.

## II. Qualifications

David E. Burgoyne, ASA, SR/WA, is a native of Ann Arbor, Michigan and attended Greenhills School in Ann Arbor. He graduated in 1981 from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Physics-Astronomy. He also served as a graduate instructor at the University of Wyoming as a Doctoral Candidate in Astrophysics.

Mr. Burgoyne is an independent fee appraiser currently licensed as a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser by the States of Michigan, Indiana, North and South Carolina. Mr. Burgoyne is a Senior Member of the American Society of Appraisers holding the ASA Designation for Real Property. Mr. Burgoyne is currently re-accredited as an ASA through June 10, 2017. He is also a senior member holding the SR/WA designation and is a Past Chapter President of the International Right of Way Association. Mr. Burgoyne is currently re-certified as an SR/WA through June 15, 2018.

Mr. Burgoyne is an AQB certified USPAP instructor #44603 (expiring March 31, 2018) and is also a CLIMB Certified Instructor of right-of-way appraisal and other courses for IRWA, including courses on the appraisal of partial takings, easement valuation, appraisal review, ethics and standards, USPAP, adult education, and the valuation of contaminated properties. In 2015, Mr. Burgoyne was awarded the 2014 W. Howard Armstrong International Instructor of the Year Award by the International Right of Way Association.

Mr. Burgoyne has qualified as an expert witness in the United States Court of Claims, the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan; the Michigan Circuit Courts of Allegan, Barry, Cass, Eaton, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Leelanau, Lenawee, Macomb, Montmorency, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Tuscola, Washtenaw, Wayne, and Wexford Counties; Hamilton and Marion Counties in Indiana, The Michigan Public Service Commission, and The Michigan Tax Tribunal. He has also been appointed as an independent appraiser by the U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.

## FORMAL EDUCATION

*Greenhills School* - Ann Arbor, Michigan (1976)

*Colgate University* - Hamilton, New York: BA in Liberal Arts - concentrating in Physics-Astronomy (1981)

Courses included Architecture, Economics, Mathematics, Statistics and Economic Geography.

*University of Wyoming* - Laramie, Wyoming: Ph.D. candidate in Astrophysics. (1981-1982)

### III. Introduction

Our analysis and the literature we reviewed is focused on single family residential units, and does not take into account any location-specific analysis. For example, we do not consider whether there are special impacts of an installation on particular historic properties, or commercial properties. Burgoyne understands that this report will be contained in a filing by Smart Communities Siting Coalition in response to the Federal Communications Wireless Telecommunications Bureau request for public input<sup>1</sup> including, but not limited to suggestions offered by Mobilitie in its Petition for Declaratory Ruling.<sup>2</sup>

Burgoyne provides the following analysis following a literature scan on appraiser research on communications towers impact and on Mr. Burgoyne's more than 32 years in business.

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<sup>1</sup> Public Notice, *Comment Sought on Streamlining Deployment of Small Cell Infrastructure by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies; Mobilitie, LLC Petition for Declaratory Ruling*, WT Docket No. 16-421 (released Dec. 22, 2016)("Public Notice").

<sup>2</sup> See Mobilitie, LLC Petition for Declaratory Ruling, *Promoting Broadband for All Americans by Prohibiting Excessive Charges for Access to Public Rights of Way* (filed Nov. 15, 2016)(Mobilitie Petition).  
DET02:2350248.1

#### IV. Background

The FCC Notice focuses on small cells and DAS systems. It is our understanding that the placement of these systems could involve:

- Erection of a new tower or monopole 100 to 120 feet in height in public right-of-way. This in fact appears to be proposed by applicant Mobilitie.
- Placement of new base station equipment on existing utility poles in the rights of way, which may involve an initial extension of anywhere between 3-15 feet to that pole for placement of an antenna at the top of the pole, and addition of equipment cabinets, plus additional utility infrastructure (meters and disconnect boxes). It is our understanding that the wireless industry is seeking authority in several states to place equipment cabinets as large as 28 cubic feet on the poles, which could then be expanded significantly as of right under the FCC's Section 6409 rules. In addition, there may be ground cabinets for back-up power or for equipment that might otherwise be placed on the poles of up to 50 cubic feet. Under Section 6409, the placement of these facilities could result in up to three additional ground cabinets being added in the right of way in front of a residential unit.
- Erection of new utility poles, sometimes exceeding 40 feet in height, in the public right-of-way for placement of the above referenced equipment
- Please note that public road rights-of-way are often owned in fee by the municipality but are also not uncommonly easements over private property owned in fee by a private citizen or company. This can be common in areas served by the Government Survey System (outside of the original 13 colonies as well as portions of Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee). As a result, in these cases, neither the municipality, nor the utility, have complete authority to dictate what is permitted within the right of way.<sup>3</sup>
- From the point of view of sound appraisal practice, it is necessary to presume and consider full utilization of rights granted by virtue of a particular authorization. That is, one must consider the impact of a 120 foot pole if a 120 foot is allowed as of right (even if only a 100 foot pole is installed in the instant case at this time). Likewise, in assessing whether the impact of the authorization of a DAS in a residential neighborhood, one would consider the additions and expansions that would be permitted as of right under the Commission's Section 6409 rules.

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<sup>3</sup> "... [a]ctivities by the owner of the dominant estate [easement holder] that go beyond the reasonable exercise of the use granted by the easement may constitute a trespass to the owner of the servient estate." *Schadewald v Brule*, 225 Mich App 26, 40; 570 NW2d 788 (1997)... p.2

...we decline to infringe on the private property rights of a landowner through unsupported implication, particularly when there is a complete absence of any legislative intent in the LDA to give a public utility free reign to build on an easement as it pleases. ... AT&T provided no legal basis, facts, or documentary evidence to establish that the city or county has the legal authority to decide on the nature, size, or scope of equipment a utility may install in a utility easement or whether the city or county actually considers said questions when they issue a building permit...p.3. 289 Mich App 70 (2010)

Thus, unless a provider can agree otherwise, if a DAS cabinet is not subject to concealment elements, it appears an appurtenance up to 6 feet could be attached horizontally to the same pole, and that appurtenance would only be subject to the limits that might be imposed by the owner of the pole.

- In this case, I have attempted to consider the impacts of various “small cell” and “DAS” installations by Mobilitie and others, both in light of, and without considering the impact of the FCC Section 6409 rules. I have also looked at state legislation and considered possible impacts if facilities of the permitted size were installed.

## V. Areas of Concern

The following areas of concern have been considered and investigated. The most significant are discussed in the following sections.

- Market resistance (or stigma) in general.
- Aesthetics.
- Underground Utilities.
- Changes in the highest and best use of properties.
- Wireless infrastructure and service providers’ history of paying for the right to place towers on private property.
- Perceived safety risks from potential failure of a structure.
- Right of way easements

### A. Market Resistance

Market resistance (or stigma) in general is quantified in scholarly articles and peer-reviewed journal publications as it relates to the impact of communication towers and equipment on nearby property values. Hedonic studies and surveys generally address market resistance to the placement of new towers or equipment without regard to the cause of said market resistance.

There has been significant research regarding the question of the impact on residential property values from construction of cell phone towers in neighborhoods. The results of these studies vary but they commonly indicate that there is a significant impact. While the magnitude of the impact varies, the studies uniformly indicate that there is a significant impact on residential property values from installation of cell phone towers. Not surprisingly, the studies that show little or no impact are universally commissioned by and paid for by the telecommunications industry.

Most studies have dealt with more conventional, larger towers and not DAS installations. These studies would nevertheless be directly applicable to the proposed 100 to 120 foot monopole referenced on the previous page. As to “small cell” and DAS

installations, it should be noted that “small cell” references the size of the coverage area and not necessarily the size of the equipment. Furthermore, small cell and DAS installations will generally be located much closer to nearby properties and they will be installed in hundreds of locations ubiquitously. The FCC Public Notice dated December 22, 2106 states “Although the facilities used in these networks are smaller and less obtrusive than traditional cell towers and antennas, they must be deployed more densely – *i.e.*, in many more location – to function effectively (Page 1).

In addition, to numbers that exceed the location of larger towers by orders of magnitude, small cell and DAS installations are often directly within the line of site (midway up a 40 foot pole, for example) and even include ground cabinets, which are particularly egregious. Even if the individual impact of small cells is lesser than for larger towers (which is by no means a given), this may be offset or partially offset by the location, closer proximity and the numbers that exceed tower installations by orders of magnitude. Some of the studies are briefly discussed below.

Sandy Bond and Ko-Kang Wang performed a 2005 study in New Zealand where they support a 15% diminution in residential property value within 300 Meters of communication antennas. Their Summer 2005 publication in the *Appraisal Journal* (as published by the Appraisal Institute, Summer 2005, Pages 256 – 277) summarizes this study. They indicate survey results ranging from 10% to over 20% diminution, which is supported by multiple regression analysis (a hedonic study) indicating 21% diminution in residential property values.

Sandy Bond also performed and presented a study from December 2003 in Florida that supported just over 2% diminution.

Stephen L. Locke and Glenn C. Blomquist published “The Cost of Convenience: Estimating the Impact of Communication Antennas on Residential Property Values” in *Land Economics* in February 2106. This is the most current study. They conclude that a visible antenna up to 1,000 feet away (vs 4,500 feet as the control) results in a market diminution of 1.82% for residential homes (\$3,342 per home in the market studied). While this seems like a relatively small percentage, they correlate this to an Aggregate impact of a reduction of market value of Ten Million Dollars when applied to all of the homes around a single tower in their study area.

While there have not been any scientific studies of the impact on property values from small cell and DAS deployments, there are many anecdotal examples indicating both a negative market perception and adverse impacts on property values. (Of course, negative market perception is precisely what causes an adverse impact on property values). These include published articles and petitions from Real Estate Professionals ranging from Manhattan to Burbank indicating negative impact, reduced property value, and market resistance. From an August 10, 2010 article in the New York Times...

*“TINA CANARIS, an associate broker and a co-owner of RE/MAX Hearthstone in Merrick, has a \$999,000 listing for a high ranch on the water in South Merrick, one of a handful of homes on the block on the market. But her listing has what some consider a disadvantage: a cell antenna poking from the top of a telephone pole at the front of the 65-by-100-foot lot. “Even houses where there are transformers in front” make “people shy away,” Ms. Canaris said. “If they have the opportunity to buy another home, they*

*do.” She said cell antennas and towers near homes affected property values, adding, “You can see a buyer’s dismay over the sight of a cell tower near a home just by their expression, even if they don’t say anything.”*

## B. Aesthetics and Underground Utilities

In 32 years of experience as a Real Estate Appraiser specializing in detrimental conditions, takings, adverse impacts and right-of-way, I have found that aesthetics (or rather the adverse impact on aesthetics) of externalities routinely has the largest impact on property values. As a result, proximity to towers of all types (cell, wind turbine, and electric transmission) has an impact on property values. The same is true with all sorts of surface installations such as pump stations and communication equipment boxes. This would apply to new small cell and DAS equipment, although again, one would expect that the less intrusive the facility, the less significant the impact. Small cell and DAS installations can be unsightly, bulky, inconsistent, and even noisy. A few demonstrative photos are included on Page 10.

While it is certainly recognized that DAS systems and Cellular antennas are an important part of our nation’s infrastructure, and that it is inevitable that new antennas will need to be installed as we move into the future, it is important for municipalities (and property owners, in the case of right-of-way easements) to retain some control over the size, location, scope, expansion, and characterization of the installations. This is because adverse impacts from negative externalities vary considerably with the size, location, scope, expansion, and characterization of the installations.

All things being otherwise equal...

- Larger facilities have a greater impact than smaller facilities.
- Facilities on the ground and located closer to common sight lines have a greater impact than those that are less visible.
- Underground facilities have a lesser impact than above-ground facilities in most instances (although there are cases where the structures required for vaulting may be as intrusive as the above-ground facilities).
- Streamlined and contained facilities have a lesser impact than unorganized conglomerations of diverse elements.
- Impact tends to lessen over time as a facility remains unchanged so that changes and expansions have an additional negative impact.
- Facilities that are designed to be in balance with existing utility structures have a lesser impact than less harmonious installations. For example, an above ground facility will have a greater impact in an area with existing underground utilities. And a new pole that is three times higher than existing poles will have a greater impact than a new pole that is the same height as existing poles. Please reference the proposed Tx 120 (120 foot) Mobilite tower shown below (particularly as compared to the existing wood utility poles).



Likewise, please compare this set of examples of unorganized and uncontrolled conglomerations of diverse elements with more streamlined installations.



It is not an accident that the articles, cases, and publications of the wireless industry often address circumstances that involve *hiding* wireless facilities, or show pictures of physically small “small cells” neatly mounted. Hidden, smaller, and neatly mounted “small cells,” will have an impact, but that impact will be lesser than other alternatives. Likewise, there needs to be control over future growth of installed facilities.

It is my opinion that the Federal Communications Commission should analyze the potential impact of small cell and DAS deployments in detail before considering additional rules. It is important for the Commission to have information as to which installations may have *De Minimis* impacts and which may have significant impacts before establishing national rules.

It is also my opinion that municipalities need to retain significant regulatory control over these installations in public rights-of-way in order to minimize impacts and protect the health, welfare, and safety of their residences in the same way that other regulations and the reasonable exercise of police powers have over the last hundred years.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on March 7, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David E. Burgoyne', with a long, sweeping underline.

David E. Burgoyne, ASA, SRWA  
Certified General Real Estate Appraiser  
(Indiana, Michigan, North and South Carolina)

## **Exhibit 4**

# **Report and Declaration of Steven M. Puuri for the Smart Communities Siting Coalition**

6480 Zeeb Road, Dexter, MI 48130

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of )  
  
COMMENT SOUGHT ON STREAMLINING ) WT Docket No. 16-421  
DEPLOYMENT OF SMALL CELL )  
INFRASTRUCTURE BY IMPROVING WIRELESS )  
FACILITIES SITING POLICIES; )  
)  
MOBILITIE, LLC )  
PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING )

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**REPORT AND DECLARATION OF STEVEN M. PUURI  
FOR THE SMART COMMUNITIES SITING COALITION**

**About the Author**

I have been involved in road design safety issues for 25 years on behalf of Washtenaw County Road Commission, Michigan, and most recently as a consultant to the County Road Association of Michigan. My formal education includes an engineering bachelor of science degree in 1978 from Michigan State University, as well as various continuing education workshops and seminars on road safety and operation. The commentary and opinions I offer below are based upon this education and experience dedicated to keeping roadways safe for the motoring public as well as other users of the rights of way. See my CV attached as **Exhibit A**.

**Background**

Road agencies across the State of Michigan and the rest of the United States, have recognized for years that roadsides should be maintained as near free of obstacles as possible. A roadside obstacle is defined as any object that projects above the ground more than 4 inches and which is rigid or non-forgiving when struck by a vehicle. A considerable amount of effort has been invested in Michigan to maintain the roadsides clear of non-critical obstacles that can be hazardous to drivers and passengers if their vehicle leaves the improved portion of the roadway or road surface.

**Nationally Recognized Road Safety Guidelines**

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is the primary source of guidance on road and road right of way safety design and has established guidelines for state and

6480 Zeeb Road, Dexter, MI 48130

local agencies in the United States. AASHTO has created various standing committees that review transportation research studies and promulgate guidelines on specific areas of road safety. The AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Design developed the roadside design guidelines, which in my opinion specifically apply to those Communication Service Providers (CSP) installations recently being proposed along roadways. This committee developed guidelines that establish nationally recognized best practices for safe roadside design which are published in the AASHTO Roadside Design Guidelines.

### **Roadside Design Guidelines**

The AASHTO Roadside Design Guidelines 4<sup>th</sup> edition was published in October 2011 and has been updated most recently as of 2015. Typically, the Michigan Department of Transportation adopts the guidelines for use in Michigan and then each road agency can and typically does adopt the guidelines for use on their particular road system. These guidelines include recommended best safe design practices to assure that roadsides are free of obstacles or, if an obstacle must be placed within the clear zone, it recommends that a crash tested barrier system should also be installed to minimize the injuries to drivers and passengers should an errant vehicle collide with the roadside obstacle. The reason that these are treated as guidelines, rather than adopted as strict code requirements, is that there are enough locally unique variations in roadways (as a result of the historical evolution of particular roadways, as well as conditions and uses of surrounding property) that states and localities require latitude in the application of the guidelines. Nonetheless, these guidelines reflect practices developed over years of experience and the accumulation of extensive accident statistics to ensure that roadways are as safe as possible. Safety encompasses immediate concerns (will a structure add to the risk of death or injury to those using the roadway; will it interfere with uses of the roadbed by other utilities) but also longer term concerns: (for example, will the road be more vulnerable to collapse risks, will the road be more likely to crack or buckle, will the underpavement structure of the road be adversely affected?).

### **Documents Reviewed**

In addition to reviewing certain of the AASHTO Guidelines, some of which are discussed herein and attached as Exhibit B,<sup>1</sup> I have reviewed several other documents including:

- a. The attached Mobilitie, LLC Site Plan proposed in Leelanau County, Michigan and attached here as Exhibit C as well as other Mobilitie site plans and drawings.
- b. A photograph and the related accident report pertaining to a vehicle/CSP crash that occurred with an improperly located DAS related pole located in the right of way in Genesee County, Michigan, attached here as Exhibit D.

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<sup>1</sup> Some of the other sections of the AASHTO guidelines that also warrant consideration, but not specifically addressed here in an attempt at some level of brevity, include Sections 4.8, discussing technical specifications in detail and the risks associated with utility poles and which includes a discussion for example, of breakaway standards regarding same. See also Section 10.2.2.3.1 discussing similar technical aspects of utility pole placement and guarding considerations in urban areas. Copies of these sections are attached to the AASHTO excerpts at Exh B.

6480 Zeeb Road, Dexter, MI 48130

### **Opinions**

The addition of structures in the right of way such as those proposed by Mobilitie and other similar entities, create immediate hazards to travelers. This hazard can be mitigated but not eliminated, and it is serious, as records of highway accidents suggest. The hazard exists in urban, suburban and rural areas where structures are placed in the rights of way. Further, the placement of roadside barriers themselves, as protective installations and as discussed, are themselves also a form of a hazard.

The addition of structures in the rights of way create immediate issues for maintenance of the rights of way, and to the extent that the structures must be maintained and modified over time, can interfere with traffic flow at significant cost to the public.

The addition of structures complicates planning, installation, modification and maintenance for other utilities, including storm water drainage and other systems. Moreover, every aboveground structure presents a potential hazard for other systems (e.g. if a pole is of a height that a falling pole may knock out electrical and other communications lines).

The addition of structures may affect emergency responses. Utility poles do fail during storms, and it is often up to the governmental entity that manages the roadway to clear the road of hazards so that rescue vehicles and repairs can begin. If facilities like the 120 foot Mobilitie tower are placed in the right of way, it may exceed the emergency response capabilities of many entities to remove it. And of course, if it cannot be cleared using standard equipment, then Mobilitie must have the equipment and response teams in place to respond very quickly.

The cost of planning, emergency response, and of reviewing proposed facilities is expensive and can be time-consuming depending on the complexity of the roadway and the systems surrounding it. See estimates of local government materials costs of providing a safe roadside both initially and annually thereafter attached as Exhibit E.

Conditions may vary from location to location, so submission of information in batches may simplify some reviews but not site specific location-related reviews.

### **Basis of Opinions**

In addition to the AASHTO guidelines referenced, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway safety, about 20 percent of motor vehicle crash deaths “result from a vehicle leaving the roadway and hitting a fixed object alongside the road. Trees, utility poles, and traffic barriers are the most common objects struck. AASHTO data reflects 12% of these, attributable to collisions with utility poles. Almost half of the deaths in fixed object crashes occur at night. Alcohol is a frequent contributing factor. Motorists also run off the road because of excessive speeds, falling asleep, inattention or poor visibility. Efforts to reduce these driver errors are only somewhat effective, so it's important to remove fixed objects or avoid putting them along roads in the first place if feasible, especially on roads where vehicles are more likely to leave the pavement. Less preferred options include using breakaway objects, shielding objects and increasing the visibility of objects.” <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/roadway-and-environment/fatalityfacts/fixed-object-crashes> NHTSA's study

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"The Economic and Society Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2010," suggests that automobile accidents impose a staggering cost on the economy – about \$891 billion in damage annually.

While my opinions recognize that under AASHTO guidelines, a rigid pole can be in the road right of way if it is protected by a crash tested barrier system (AASHTO Section 5.1.1; Section 5.1.2; Table 5-3); it should be recognized, the crash tested barrier systems themselves constitute a roadside hazard (AASHTO Figure 1-2, page 1-3). So placement of these systems should be limited to only those roadside hazards or obstacles that must be placed within the roadside clear zone.

To begin to understand some of the costs and risks created by placement of facilities that could be placed elsewhere, on rights of way, it is important to understand the complexity of the design of rights of way. I focus here on examples rights of way in rural areas in Michigan, but equally and more complex issues arise with respect to placement in suburban and urban areas, where designs accommodate increased overall traffic as well as foot and bicycle use and multiple utilities.

Attached as Exhibits F and G are representative diagrams of a typical rural (open ditch) roadside where a barrier system is placed to protect the vehicles from a roadside non-breakaway pole, such as the 120 foot towers proposed by Mobilitie, LLC ( Exh C). These sketches also depict placement of a culvert/storm sewer system to provide unimpeded storm water flow with an appropriate culvert end protection (AASHTO Figure 3-12, page 3-18). Also displayed is an appropriately designed guardrail system, which is crash tested to protect a vehicle occupant from crashing into the proposed 120-foot steel tower or the foundation which obviously projects above the ground by more than 4 inches.

### **Clear Zone**

In Michigan, a typical 66-foot wide rural road right of way includes a roadbed, shoulders, steep front slopes (steeper than 3 on 1 are considered non-recoverable; AASHTO Figure 3-2) and roadside ditches to accommodate storm runoff. These road features typically encompass the entire 66-foot width of the right of way. Also, the established speed limit in Michigan for these rural roads is 55 mph. The AASHTO Roadside Design guideline has established a method to determine the recommended clear zone that should be provided along rural roads (AASHTO Section 3.3).

The AASHTO roadside clear zone width for rural roads is based on the speed limit, traffic volume, and roadside recovery width which include traversable slopes (recoverable slopes flatter than 4 on 1). Typically, rural roads in Michigan do not include recoverable front slopes so the clear zone is extended beyond the bottom of the ditch (AASHTO Table 3-1).

Additionally, the roadside ditch slopes are often too steep to be included in the clear zone calculation, therefore the clear zone often extends partially up the ditch backslope (AASHTO Section 3.3.2). The typical clear zone along rural roads would extend beyond the near edge of a 6-foot diameter foundation assuming this foundation is placed one foot inside the right of way.

### **Typical Cross Section Sketch**

Exhibit F depicts a cross section of a typical rural roadside in Michigan, where a fixed obstacle is placed within the clear zone. This sketch includes a non-recoverable side slope (steeper than 4 on

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1) that warrants a barrier system. Additionally, Exhibit F depicts the additional features required to maintain a reasonably safe roadside, if a tower and foundation is placed within an established clear zone. This sketch demonstrates the need to modify the roadside ditches to be enclosed in storm sewers and the need to install a crash tested barrier system to shield the fixed objects from traffic.

### Typical Plan View Sketch

Exhibit G depicts a plan view of a typical rural roadside in Michigan, where a fixed obstacle is placed within the clear zone. This sketch illustrates the typical length of modifications along the roadside, as well as the typical placement of road drainage and barriers in relation to the road edge. The actual lengths and placement would be dependent on the unique and specific road parameters and detail design calculations.

Additionally, Exhibit G depicts the additional features required to maintain a reasonably safe roadside, if a tower and foundation is placed within an established clear zone. This sketch demonstrates the need to modify the roadside ditches to be enclosed in storm sewers with protected end treatments; and the need to install a sufficient amount of crash tested barrier system to shield the fixed objects from traffic approaching from both directions of travel, including barrier end treatments. Once again, the actual placement, size and type of features would be dependent on the specific road parameters.

### Conclusion

Note that not only does the placement of these facilities create unnecessary hazards in and of themselves, they lead to other modifications which themselves impact roadway safety. Moreover, the placement of foundations and supporting structures may affect drainage, and undermine the roadway itself in the short term and over the long term. The risks and harms are not speculative, as the statistics and the photograph of the destroyed DAS pole suggests (Exh D). Nor are these concerns addressed by application of generalized building or electrical codes to a proposed structure.

From the stand point of both safety design for the sake of the public, and bearing cost in mind, these proposed and installed communications related structures represent very significant concerns to all rights of way responsible agencies. Accordingly, such installation proposals must be very carefully addressed, viable alternative off right of way sites closely considered and where approved, proper preparation and guarding utilized, in order to reduce the risk of harm to the public as much as possible.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 3-7-17.

Steven M Puuri, P.E.

Digitally signed by Steven M Puuri, P.E.  
DN: cn=Steven M Puuri, P.E., o=Puuri  
Engineering, LLC, ou,  
email=spuuri@gmail.com, c=US  
Date: 2017.03.08 09:24:52 -0500

Steven Puuri, P.E.

6480 Zeeb Road, Dexter, MI 48130

## Exhibit A

### Steven M. Puuri, P.E.

6480 Zeeb Road  
Dexter, MI 48130

734-426-3097  
spuuri@gmail.com

#### Career Summary

A proficient transportation infrastructure chief executive with an impressive background of building partnerships, securing innovative funding and delivering context sensitive solutions. An accomplished engineering director with an established track record of accomplishing projects on time and on budget. Mentored technical staff to handle challenges associated with rapid growth and workload expansion. An assertive public relations leader who successfully engaged stakeholders from US Congress, State Legislators, Local Officials as well as project stakeholders in a progressive university community.

#### Areas of Expertise/Core Competency

Extensive executive level expertise in Road Construction, Design, Traffic Operations, Routine

Maintenance, Construction Contracts, Transportation Funding, Legal Issues, Property Acquisition, Board Relations, Government Relations, Employee and Public Relations

Extensive experience in Michigan County Road Law, Tort Liability, Road Construction, Road Maintenance, Traffic Operation, Riparian Rights, Storm Water Management, Wetland Mitigation, Organizational Policies, Management Dashboards, Information Technology and Computer Networks.

Extensive working knowledge of American Association of State Highways and Transportation

Officials Guidelines; Michigan Department of Transportation Guidelines and Specifications; Michigan Vehicle Code; Michigan Manual For Uniform Traffic Control; Federal NEPA Guidelines and Federal Relocation & Assistance Guidelines.

#### Work Experience

Puuri Engineering LLC

2014 - Present

##### **Engineering Specialist**

Serves as an engineering consultant to advise the County Road Association, Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Department of Transportation on technical matters related to local road agencies. Provides the Road Commissions and Michigan Municipal League with an experienced road engineering resource to assist with road maintenance and

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construction initiatives related to legislation, policy development, rule writing and dispute resolutions.

Puuri Engineering LLC

2012 - Present

**Managing Director**

Owner and lead engineer of a consulting engineering practice which provides technical advice on legislative and policy development related to local road agencies. Provides planning, design and construction engineering services for transportation projects. Serving a variety of Municipal and private clients to assist with advancing infrastructure improvements. I have also provided expert witness services for many years on road liability cases, including cases where I have been qualified and testified in several Michigan Courts as a road design, drainage and maintenance expert. Also I have never been rejected by a court to testify as an expert.

Washtenaw County Road Commission

1987 - 2011

**Managing Director**

2003 - 2011

As the Chief Executive Officer provided direction and leadership for the Board of Directors and 156 employees. Led a \$70 million organization recognized as a progressive trendsetter in management practices. Successfully administered an autonomous organization requiring transparent Board Meetings, Audited Financial Statements, Tort Liability, Self Funded Insurance programs, fleet acquisition and maintenance for 150 licensed vehicles, property management of 25 building and 300 acres, public relations, extensive construction and maintenance programs for 1650 miles of roads, 111 bridges and 150 traffic signals.

In this capacity key accomplishments included:

- Established a 5 Year Capital Improvement Program which dramatically improved the coordination of all projects in the region
- Established a multi-year budgeting process creating consistently increasing reserves
- Recognized innovative project funding leader who delivered results
- Established design, construction and maintenance standards that lead to high quality projects, cost effective maintenance practices and improved road safety.
- Established a model partnership program that successfully collaborated with private developers resulting in over \$100 million of private investment in public infrastructure projects
- Transformed accounting methods to fully recognize unfunded liabilities
- Successfully negotiated benefit reductions to sustainable levels
- Established Planning and Public Relations programs leading to enhance stakeholder involvement and documented improvements in public perception
- Modernized stormwater management and environmental programs earning recognition from community environmental leaders as an outstanding example for maintenance practices and environmental stewardship

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- Conducted organization assessments implemented cultural transforming strategies earning recognition from local officials for improvements in performance
- Lead an innovative public agency initiative obtaining recognition for Best Management Practices International Standards Organization 9001-2008

**Director of Engineering**

1990 - 2003

Engineer responsible for providing technical leadership for a rapidly developing community while modernizing construction practices, rigorously enforcing contractual and permit compliance. Supervised a department of 56 engineers, professional specialist and administrative staff. Established a quality based consultant selection program leading to improved consultant performance and financial accountability. Successfully completed hundreds of major infrastructure projects totaling over \$200 million. Administered a state of the art traffic operations program including construction and maintenance of integrated operations center for 150 signals, 30,000 signs and 800 miles of pavement markings. Successfully served as Project Engineer on planning, design, property acquisition and construction projects often handling numerous concurrent projects in various stages of development. Served as the Contract Administrator on numerous construction and consultant contracts involving preparation of contract documents, advertising, awarding, claims resolution and legal disputes. Successfully served as an expert witness for numerous tort liability cases.

Key accomplishments in this capacity:

- Jackson Road \$50 million multi-phase boulevard construction and research project
- Dixboro Road bridge \$20 million 550 ft. long multi-lane multi-modal bridge
- US 23, Geddes Rd, Dixboro Rd. and Huron River Dr. \$5 million corridor expansion project
- Earhart Road \$3 million new road enabling 100-acre medical & commercial development
- Ellsworth Road \$8 million realignment & corridor expansion project
- Served as the local catalyst for \$50 million in state interchange expansion projects
- Served as the Project Engineer on 8 Federal NEPA clearance projects involving interchanges, new road alignments, capacity projects, wetland mitigation, new and historic bridges
- Served as Project Manager for 27,000 sf. new office building construction project involving architectural design, interior planning, access roads, parking areas, landscaping, relocation coordinator and building demolition
- Served as the Lead Engineer who successfully collaborated with hundreds of Residential and Commercial Developers to assure that the new developments were completed with appropriate public infrastructure investments

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**Assistant Director of Engineering** 1987 - 1990

Provided direction and leadership for design, construction, survey and traffic services. Transformed the culture of a 23 member engineering staff by successfully solving low morale, improving quality and increasing productivity. Developed a staffing plan to address rapid population growth challenges, secured Management endorsement, leading to increasing staff capabilities, increased project output and improved project quality.

USDA Soil Conservation Service 1978 - 1987

**Area Engineer** 1983 - 1987

Provided design and field engineering services for stream and shoreline stabilization, flood control and storm water management projects for several counties in Northwest Michigan. Ensured prompt delivery of project services including land surveys, design, contract documents, construction administration and claims resolution. Successfully worked with public officials and private landowner to accomplish a variety of clients in a positive work relationship. Supervised technicians and clerical staff in regional office locations. Key accomplishments:

- Rouge River Flood Control Projects Design and Construction
- Numerous Private Landowner drainage systems design and construction

**Civil Engineer** 1978 – 1983

Assisted the State Office Hydraulic Engineer and Other Professional Staff Specialists to develop watershed hydraulic analysis and flood plain mapping projects.

- Petoskey Winter Sports Park Drainage Construction
- Woolsey Airport Tile Drainage Construction

**Education**

B.S. Civil Engineering Michigan State University 1978

Extensive Continuing Education Credits and training programs in water resources and transportation related areas

**Professional Associations & Boards**

Professional Engineering License in Michigan No. 29798

National Association County Engineers

County Road Association of Michigan

County Road Association Engineering Committee Chair

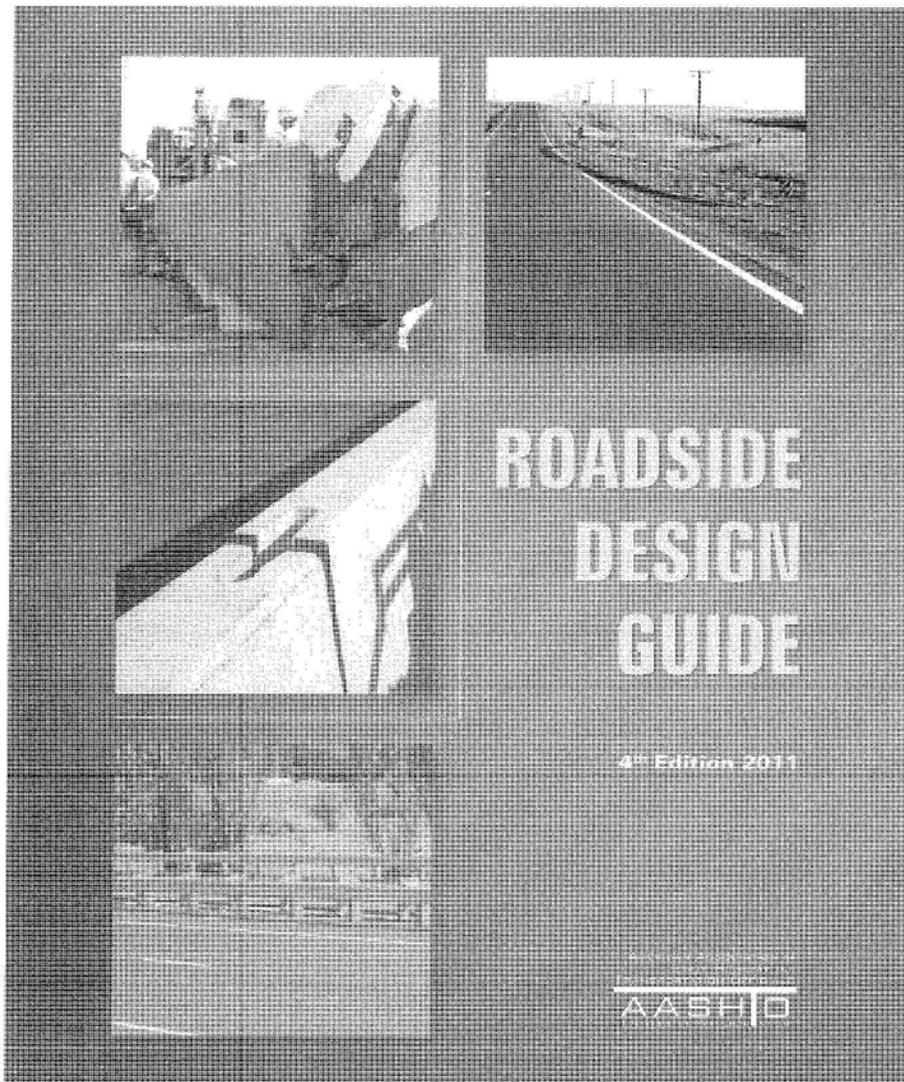
Governors Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

Michigan County Road Association Self-Insurance Pool Board

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## Exhibit B

### AASHTO Citations



This reprint of the book incorporates errata changes through February 2012.



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ONTARIO, Joe Bucik

SASKATCHEWAN, Sukhy Kent

### 5.2.3 Bystanders, Pedestrians, and Bicyclists

The conventional criteria presented in the previous sections cannot be used to establish barrier needs for pedestrians or bicyclists. For example, a major roadway may be relatively close to a schoolyard, but the boundaries are beyond the clear distance. There are no criteria that would require that a barrier be installed. If, however, a barrier is installed, it could be placed near the school boundary to minimize the potential for vehicle impacts. Reference should be made to Section 5.6.1 for lateral placement criteria. Consideration might also be given to installing a barrier to shield businesses and residences that are near the right-of-way, particularly at locations having a history of run-off-the-road crashes. Occasional functions that use, or are adjacent to, public right-of-way with concentrated pedestrian activity such as farmer's markets and street fairs may be considered for temporary barriers or delineation.

Pedestrians and cyclists along a route are a concern that might be given design consideration. Depending on the route type, traffic volumes, number of bicyclists and pedestrians, and traffic speed, a possible solution might be to separate them from vehicular traffic. Since this solution is not always practical, alternate means of separating them from vehicular traffic are sometimes necessary. Currently there are no objective criteria to draw on for pedestrian and cyclist barrier recommendations.

On low-speed streets, the practice generally is to separate pedestrians from traffic by a sidewalk separated from the roadway by a raised curb. However, at speeds of over 40 km/h [25 mph] a vehicle may mount the curb for relatively flat approach angles. Furthermore, it is generally impractical to separate pedestrians from the roadway with a longitudinal roadside barrier. Thus, for streets with speeds of over 40 km/h [25 mph], separating the sidewalk from the edge of the roadway with a buffer space is encouraged. See Chapter 10 for more information.

When sidewalks or multi-use paths are adjacent to the traveled way of high-speed facilities, some provision might be made to shield the sidewalk or path from vehicular traffic on the roadway. Factors to consider for barrier protection include traffic and pedestrian volumes, roadway geometry, sidewalk/path offset, and cross-section features.

### 5.2.4 Motorcycles and Barrier Design

Nationwide, there have been some instances where roadside barriers have contributed to the severity of crashes involving motorcycles. Motorcyclists have a higher risk of being seriously injured or killed in a crash as compared to occupants in automobiles. This is mostly due to the higher level of occupant safety provided in modern automobiles. It has been noted that motorcyclists involved in crashes with some types of open-faced traffic barriers have sustained serious to fatal injuries, particularly after contacting the edges of steel guardrail posts or the tops of these posts where they project above the rail element. Some European countries have attempted to address these concerns at locations having both high motorcycle use and a high number of crashes by adding a lower rubrail to the design or by padding the posts with expanded foam. However, no systematic approach toward this issue has been developed because of the random nature of motorcycle crashes and the questionable effectiveness of modifications to existing barriers. Based on the experience of other countries and the lack of any system-wide, cost-effective countermeasures or barrier designs, there appears to be little basis for developing guardrails designed for motorcyclists for all barrier installations. There is some perception that a smooth, solid-faced barrier such as a concrete safety shape may be less likely to cause traumatic injuries to motorcyclists upon contact. Additional research is being conducted regarding motorcycle interaction with barriers.

## 5.3 TEST LEVEL SELECTION FACTORS

Many barriers have been developed to accommodate both small cars and pickup trucks in accordance with NCHRP Report 350 and MASH testing criteria. Properly designed and installed barrier systems have proven to be very effective in reducing the amount of damage and lessening the severity of personal injuries. However, in certain locations it may be appropriate to utilize a higher performance barrier capable of redirecting large vehicles such as tractor-trailer combination trucks. Although objective warrants for the use of higher performance traffic barriers do not presently exist, subjective factors most often considered for new construction or safety upgrading include:

- High percentage of heavy vehicles in the traffic stream or a high concentration of trucks at an interchange
- Hazardous materials routes

- Adverse geometrics, such as sharp curvature, which are often combined with limited sight distance, or long downhill grades combined with horizontal curvature
- Severe consequences associated with penetration of a barrier by a large vehicle, such as multi-level interchange ramps, highly sensitive environmental areas, or critical highway components (nationally significant bridges or tunnels).

Some of the above-listed factors become worthy of more consideration when they occur in combination with other factors. For example, a moderate length bridge over a portion of a reservoir may be at low risk for environmental consequences unless combined with geometric factors that increase the likelihood of truck impact with the rail.

These same factors also apply to reconstruction or rehabilitation projects. However, in these cases, the designer will usually have the added benefit of past crash history, the past performance of the system, and maintenance costs associated with the existing barrier. In addition, a higher performance barrier is likely to lessen the severity of future crashes or reduce maintenance costs significantly. Section 5.4 includes information on the size of vehicle for which each system has been successfully crash tested.

**5.4 STRUCTURAL AND SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS OF ROADSIDE BARRIERS**

This section includes information on the most commonly used roadside barriers. Separate subsections address standard sections of roadside barriers and transition sections. Figure 5-4 graphically depicts each of these elements for typical installations. Information on the structural and safety characteristics of each system is presented in narrative format. Refer to Section 5.1 for additional information on FHWA acceptance letters and individual barrier systems.

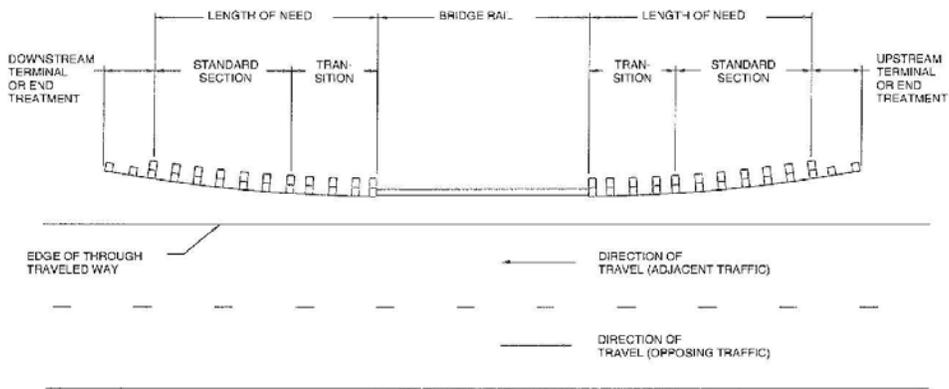


Figure 5-4. Definition of Roadside Barriers

**5.4.1 Standard Sections of Roadside Barriers**

Roadside barriers are usually categorized as flexible, semi-rigid, or rigid, depending on their deflection characteristics resulting from an impact. Flexible systems are generally more forgiving than the other categories since much of the impact energy is dissipated by the deflection of the barrier and lower impact forces are imposed upon the vehicle. This section is not intended to be all-inclusive, but to cover the most widely used roadside barriers. The barriers and approved test levels included in the following subsections are listed in Table 5-3.

For additional barrier systems, including barriers tested to meet MASH criteria, please refer to the FHWA for acceptance letters and the AASHTO Task Force 13 website for design details, as mentioned previously in Sections 5.1.1 and 5.1.2.

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Unfortunately, roadside crashes still account for far too great a portion of the total fatal highway crashes. In 2008, 23.1 percent of the fatal crashes were single-vehicle, run-off-the-road crashes. These figures mean that the roadside environment comes into play in a very significant percentage of fatal and serious-injury crashes.

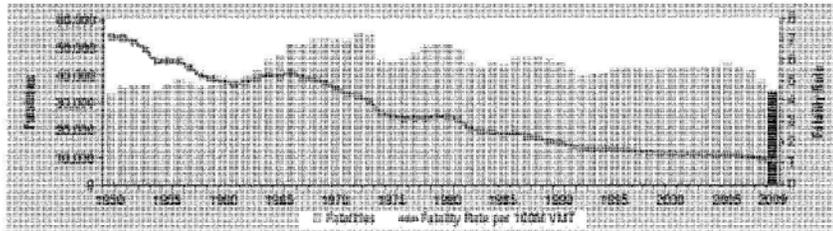


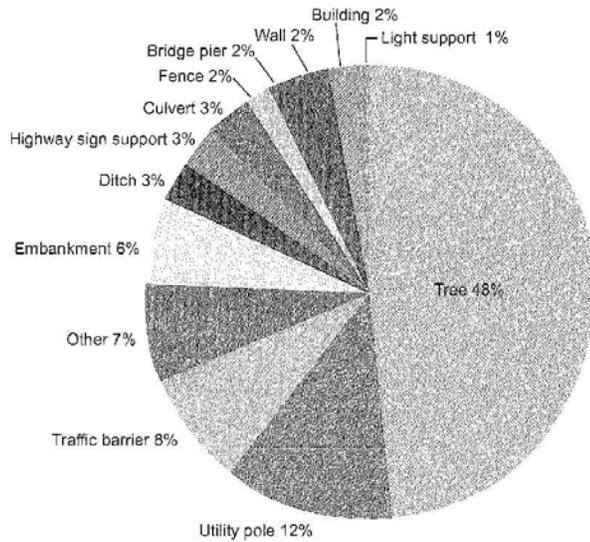
Figure 1-1. Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths and Deaths Per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled, 1950–2008 (6)

### 1.2 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROVING ROADSIDE SAFETY

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI), the proportion of motor vehicle deaths involving collisions with fixed objects has fluctuated between 19 and 23 percent since 1979 (4). Almost all fixed-object crashes involve only one vehicle and occur in both urban and rural areas. Figure 1-2 shows the percentage distribution of fixed-object fatalities by the object struck in 2008. Trees were by far the most common object struck, accounting for approximately half of all fixed-object fatal crashes. Utility poles were the second most common objects struck, accounting for 12 percent of all fixed object crashes, followed by traffic barriers with 8 percent. Furthermore, for 2008, 18 percent of fixed-object crashes involved vehicles that rolled over, while 18 percent involved occupant ejection. More detailed crash statistics are available from the following website at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS>.

In 1967, the American Association for State Highway Officials (AASHO; currently the American Association for State Highway and Transportation Officials [AASHTO]) released its *Highway Design and Operational Practices Related to Highway Safety (1)*, the first official report that focused attention on hazardous roadside elements and suggested appropriate treatment for many of them. This guide, also known as the AASHTO “Yellow Book,” was revised and updated in 1974 with the introduction of the forgiving roadside concept. In 1989, AASHTO published the first edition of the *Roadside Design Guide*.

In 1998, AASHTO approved their Strategic Highway Safety Plan (3), which provides objectives and strategies for keeping vehicles on the roadway and for minimizing the consequences when a vehicle does encroach on the roadside. The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) also has published a series of guides, called the NCHRP Report 500 (9), to assist state and local agencies in their efforts to reduce injuries and fatalities in targeted emphasis areas. These guides correspond to the emphasis areas outlined in AASHTO’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The Strategic Highway Safety Plan and associated NCHRP Report 500 guides are available from the AASHTO website at <http://safety.transportation.org/guides.aspx>.



**Figure 1-2. Percent Distribution of Fixed-Object Fatalities by Object Struck, 2008 (4)**

For roadside design, Volumes 3, 6, and 8 of NCHRP Report 500 address collisions with trees in hazardous locations, run-off-the-road collisions, and the reduction of collisions involving utility poles.

A vehicle will leave the roadway and encroach on the roadside for many reasons, including the following:

- Driver fatigue
- Driver distractions or inattention
- Excessive speed
- Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Crash avoidance
- Adverse roadway conditions, such as ice, snow, or rain
- Vehicle component failure
- Poor visibility

Regardless of the reason for a vehicle leaving the roadway, a roadside environment free of fixed objects and with stable, flattened slopes enhances the opportunity for motorists to regain control of their vehicles and reduce crash severity. The forgiving roadside concept allows for errant vehicles leaving the roadway and supports a roadside design in which the serious consequences of such incidents are reduced.

Through decades of experience and research, the application of the forgiving roadside concept has been refined to the point where roadside design is an integral part of the transportation design process. Design options for reducing roadside obstacles, in order of preference, are as follows:

equal to that of a standard headwall design as a result of decreased entrance turbulence. In those locations where headwater depth is critical, a larger pipe should be used or the parallel drainage structure may be positioned outside the clear zone, as discussed in the following section.

**3.4.3.3 Relocate the Structure**

Some parallel drainage structures can be moved laterally farther from the through traveled way. This treatment often affords the designer the opportunity to flatten the transverse slope within the selected clear-zone distance of the roadway under design. If the embankment at the new culvert locations is traversable and likely to be encroached upon by traffic from either the main road or side road, safety treatment should be considered. It is suggested that the inlet or outlet match the transverse slope regardless of whether additional safety treatment is deemed necessary. Figure 3-11 shows a suggested design treatment, while Figure 3-12 shows a recommended safety treatment for parallel drainage pipes.

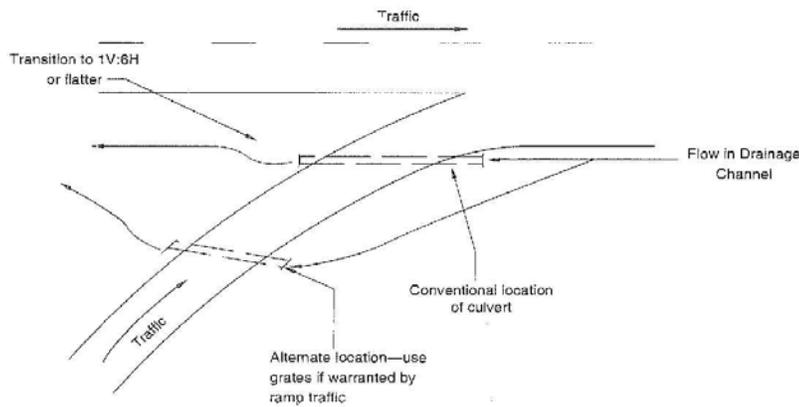


Figure 3-11. Alternate Location for a Parallel Drainage Culvert

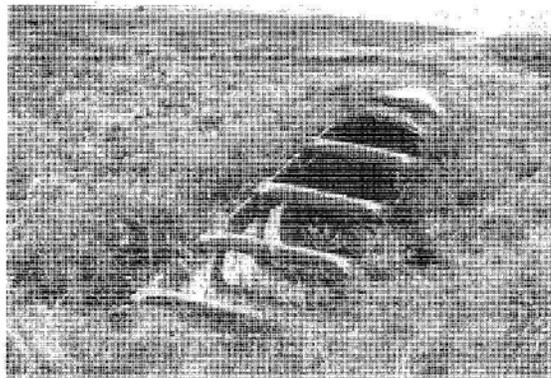


Figure 3-12. Safety Treatment for Parallel Drainage Pipe

**3.4.3.4 Shielding**

In cases in which the transverse slope cannot be made traversable, the structure is too large to be safely treated effectively, and relocation is not feasible, shielding the obstacle with a traffic barrier may be necessary. Specific information on the selection, location, and design of an appropriate barrier system is in Chapter 5.

**3.4.4 Drop Inlets**

Drop inlets can be classified as on-roadway or off-roadway structures. On-roadway inlets are usually located on or alongside the shoulder of a street or highway and are designed to intercept runoff from the road surface. These include curb opening inlets, grated inlets, slotted drain inlets, or combinations of these three basic designs. Because they are installed flush with the pavement surface, they do not constitute a significant safety problem to errant motorists. However, they should be selected and sized to accommodate design water runoff. In addition, they should be capable of supporting vehicle wheel loads and should be pedestrian and bicycle compatible.

Off-roadway drop inlets are used in medians of divided roadways and sometimes in roadside ditches. Although their purpose is to collect runoff, they should be designed and located to present a minimal obstacle to errant motorists. This goal can be accomplished by building these features flush with the channel bottom or slope on which they are located. No portion of the drop inlet should project more than 100 mm [4 in.] above the ground line (10). The opening should be treated to prevent a vehicle wheel from dropping into it; however, unless pedestrians are a consideration, grates with openings as small as those used for pavement drainage are not necessary. Neither is it necessary to design for a smooth ride over the inlet; it is sufficient to prevent wheel snagging and the resultant sudden deceleration or loss of control.

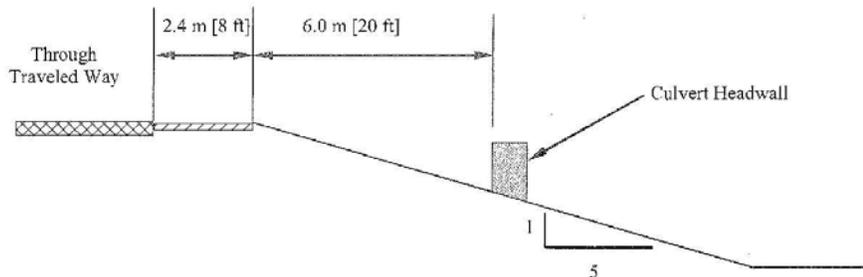
**3.5 EXAMPLES OF THE CLEAR-ZONE CONCEPT TO RECOVERABLE FORESLOPES**

**EXAMPLE 3-A**

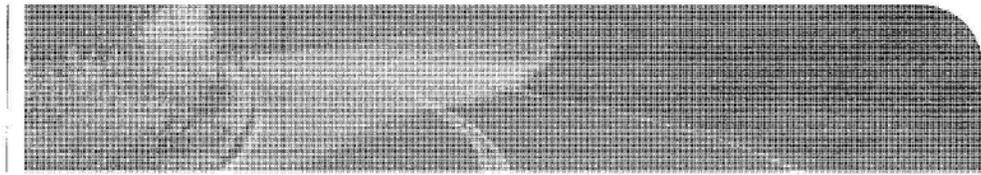
Design ADT: 4000

Design Speed: 100 km/h [60 mph]

Suggested clear-zone distance for 1V:5H foreslope: 10 to 12 m [32 to 40 ft] (from Table 3-1)



**Discussion**—The available recovery area of 8.4 m [28 ft] is 1.6 m to 3.6 m [4 to 12 ft] less than the suggested clear-zone distance. If the culvert headwall is greater than 100 mm [4 in.] in height and is the only obstruction on an otherwise traversable foreslope, it should be removed and the inlet modified to match the 1V:5H foreslope. If the foreslope contains rough outcroppings or boulders and the headwall does not significantly increase the obstruction to a motorist, the decision to do nothing may be appropriate. A review of the highway’s crash history, if available, may be made to determine the nature and extent of vehicle encroachments and to identify any specific locations that may require special treatment.



## Chapter 3

# Roadside Topography and Drainage Features

### 3.0 OVERVIEW

This chapter discusses the development and evaluation of the forgiving roadside concept and its application to roadside design and clear zones. It also discusses embankment slopes and ditches and how these features influence roadside features such as curbs, culverts, and drop inlets, whose purpose is to provide adequate roadway drainage. The designer is presented with several options that enhance safety without affecting the capabilities of these elements to drain the highway.

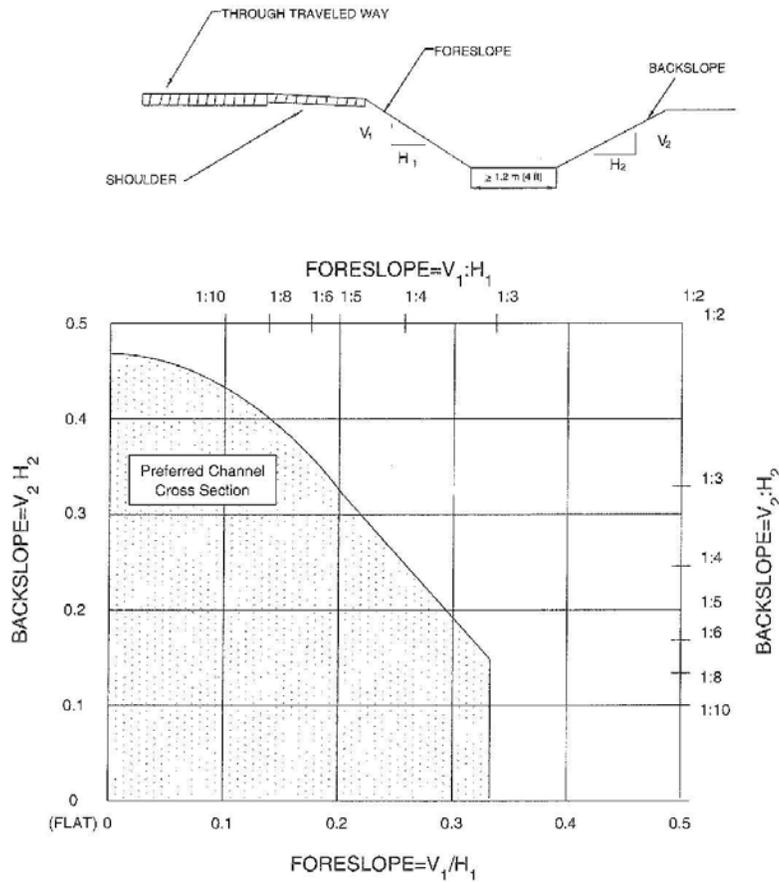
Most of the forgiving roadside design principles discussed in this chapter have been practiced to varying degrees for several years. This chapter attempts to reemphasize and collect the currently accepted design principles to provide guidance in the area of roadside design. However, to include every recommendation or design value in this chapter on every future highway project is neither feasible nor possible. Engineering judgment will have to play a part in determining the extent to which improvements reasonably can be made with the limited resources available.

As the designer studies the options available, some consideration should be given to the future maintenance of drainage facilities and roadside topography. Ongoing repair and upkeep will be necessary to ensure the continued function and safety of various roadside drainage features. Personnel, materials, equipment, and cost are some of the considerations in every maintenance program. The designer should take into account the exposure of crews to traffic conditions while completing repairs. Also, maintenance activities can cause various levels of disruption in the traffic flow, which may increase the potential for crashes.

### 3.1 THE CLEAR-ZONE CONCEPT

Beginning in the early 1960s, as more Interstate highways and other freeways were opened to traffic, the nature and characteristics of the typical rural highway crashes began to change. Instead of head-on crashes with other vehicles or crashes involving trees immediately adjacent to the roadway, many drivers were running off the new freeways and colliding with man-made objects, such as bridge piers, sign supports, culverts, ditches, and other design features of the roadside. In 1967, the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHO) Traffic Safety Committee (currently the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials [AASHTO] Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety) issued a report entitled, *Highway Design and Operational Practices Related to Highway Safety (2)*. This document became known as the "Yellow Book," and its principles were widely applied to highway construction projects, particularly high-speed, controlled-access facilities. A second edition of the Yellow Book, published by AASHTO in 1974, stated that "for adequate safety, it is desirable to provide an unencumbered roadside recovery area that is as wide as practical on a specific highway section. Studies have indicated that on high-speed highways, a width of 9 m [30 ft] or more from the edge of the through traveled way permits about 80 percent of the errant vehicles leaving the roadway to recover"*(6)*.

Subsequently, most highway agencies began to try to provide a 9-m [30-ft] clear zone, particularly on high-volume, high-speed, rural roadways. A clear zone is the unobstructed, traversable area provided beyond the edge of the through traveled way for the recovery



\*This chart is applicable to rounded channels with bottom widths of 2.4 m [8 ft] or more and to trapezoidal channels with bottom widths equal to or greater than 1.2 m [4 ft].

Figure 3-7. Preferred Cross Sections for Channels with Gradual Slope Changes

If practical, drainage channels with cross sections outside the shaded regions and located in vulnerable areas may be reshaped and converted to a closed system (culvert or pipe) or, in some cases, shielded by a traffic barrier. Information from various jurisdictions for the use of roadside barrier to shield non-traversable channels within the clear zone is included in Chapter 5.

### 3.3 APPLICATION OF THE CLEAR-ZONE CONCEPT

A basic understanding of the clear-zone concept is critical to its proper application. The suggested clear-zone distances in Table 3-1 are based on limited empirical data that then were extrapolated to provide data for a wide range of conditions. Thus, the distances

obtained from these tables represent a reasonable measure of the degree of safety suggested for a particular roadside, but they are neither absolute nor precise. In some cases, it is reasonable to leave a fixed object within the clear zone; in other instances, an object beyond the clear-zone distance may require removal or shielding. Use of an appropriate clear-zone distance amounts to a compromise between maximizing safety and minimizing construction costs. Appropriate application of the clear-zone concept often will result in more than one possible solution. The following sections intend to illustrate a process that may be used to determine if a fixed object or non-traversable terrain feature should be relocated, modified, removed, shielded, or remain in place.

The guidelines in this chapter may be most applicable to new construction or major reconstruction. On 3R projects, the primary emphasis is placed on the roadway itself. The actual performance of an existing facility may be evaluated through an analysis of crash records and on-site inspections as part of the design effort or in response to public input from road users and other stakeholders. It may not be cost-effective or practical to bring a 3R project into full compliance with all of the clear-zone width recommendations provided in this Guide because of environmental effects or limited right-of-way. Because of the scope of such projects and the limited funding available, emphasis should be placed on correcting or shielding areas in the project with identifiable safety problems related to clear-zone widths. Bodies of water and steep cliffs are the types of areas that may be considered for special emphasis.

### 3.3.1 Recoverable Foreslopes

The suggested clear-zone distance for recoverable foreslopes of 1V:4H or flatter may be obtained directly from Table 3-1. On new construction or major reconstruction, smooth slopes with no significant discontinuities and no protruding fixed objects are desirable from a safety standpoint. It also is desirable to have the top of the slope rounded so an encroaching vehicle remains in contact with the ground (14). It also is desirable for the toe of the slope to be rounded to improve traversability by an errant vehicle. The flatter the selected slope, the easier it is to mow or otherwise maintain and the safer it becomes to negotiate. Examples at the end of this chapter illustrate the application of the clear-zone concept to recoverable foreslopes.

### 3.3.2 Non-Recoverable Foreslopes

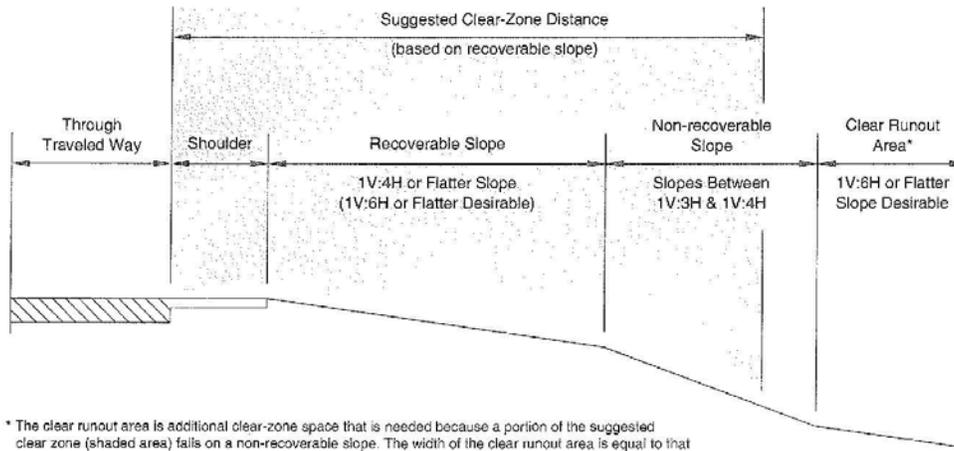
Foreslopes from 1V:3H up to 1V:4H are considered traversable if they are smooth and free of fixed objects (14). However, a clear runoff area beyond the toe of the non-recoverable foreslope is desirable because many vehicles on slopes this steep will continue on to the bottom. The extent of this clear runoff area could be determined by first finding the available distance between the edge of the through traveled way and the breakpoint of the recoverable foreslope to the non-recoverable foreslope, as previously shown in Figure 3-2. This distance then is subtracted from the suggested clear-zone distance based on the steepest recoverable foreslope before or after the non-recoverable foreslope and should be at least 3 m [10 ft] if practicable. The result is the desirable clear runoff area that should be provided beyond the non-recoverable foreslope if practical. Such a variable sloped typical section often is used as a compromise between roadside safety and economics. By providing a relatively flat recovery area immediately adjacent to the roadway, most errant motorists can recover before reaching the steeper foreslope beyond. The foreslope break may be liberally rounded so that an encroaching vehicle does not become airborne. The steeper slope also may be made as smooth as practical and rounded at the bottom. Figure 3-2 illustrates a recoverable foreslope followed by a non-recoverable foreslope. Example 3-C demonstrates the method for calculating the desirable runoff area.

### 3.3.3 Critical Foreslopes

Critical foreslopes are those steeper than 1V:3H (5). These slopes create a higher propensity for an errant vehicle to overturn and should be treated if they begin within the clear-zone distance of a particular highway and meet the suggested barrier recommendations for shielding contained in Chapter 5. Examples 3-C, 3-D, and 3-E illustrate the application of the clear-zone concept to critical foreslopes.

### 3.3.4 Examples of Clear-Zone Application on Variable Slopes

A variable foreslope often is specified on new construction to provide a relatively flat recovery area immediately adjacent to the roadway followed by a steeper foreslope. This design requires less right-of-way and embankment material than a continuous, relatively



\* The clear runout area is additional clear-zone space that is needed because a portion of the suggested clear zone (shaded area) falls on a non-recoverable slope. The width of the clear runout area is equal to that portion of the clear-zone distance that is located on the non-recoverable slope.

Figure 3-2. Clear Zone for Non-Recoverable Parallel Foreslope

### 3.2.2 Backslopes

When a highway is located in a cut section, the backslope may be traversable depending on its relative smoothness and the presence of fixed obstacles. If the foreslope between the roadway and the base of the backslope is traversable (1V:3H or flatter) and the backslope is obstacle-free, it may not be a significant obstacle, regardless of its distance from the roadway. On the other hand, a steep, rough-sided rock cut normally should begin outside the clear zone or be shielded. A rock cut normally is considered to be rough-sided when the face will cause excessive vehicle snagging rather than provide relatively smooth redirection.

### 3.2.3 Transverse Slopes

A common obstacle on roadsides are transverse slopes created by median crossovers, berms, driveways, or intersecting side roads. Although the exposure for transverse slopes is less than that for foreslopes or backslopes, they generally are more critical to errant motorists because run-off-the-road vehicles typically strike them head-on.

Transverse slopes of 1V:10H are desirable (7); however, their practicality may be limited by width restrictions and the maintenance problems associated with the long tapered ends of pipes or culverts. Transverse slopes of 1V:6H or flatter are suggested for high-speed roadways, particularly for the section of the transverse slope that is located immediately adjacent to traffic (3). This slope then can be transitioned to a steeper slope as the distance from the edge of the through traveled way increases. Transverse slopes steeper than 1V:6H may be considered for urban areas or for low-speed facilities. Figures 3-3 and 3-4 show suggested designs for these slopes, while Section 3.4.3 discusses safety treatments for parallel drainage structures.

Figure 3-5 shows some alternative designs for drains at median openings. The water flows into a grated drop inlet in the median to a cross-drainage structure or directly underneath the travel lanes to an outside channel. This eliminates the two pipe ends that would be exposed to traffic in the median. The transverse slopes of the median opening then would be desirably sloped at 1V:10H or flatter.

of errant vehicles. The clear zone includes shoulders, bike lanes, and auxiliary lanes, except those auxiliary lanes that function like through lanes. Many obstacles located within this clear-zone distance were removed, relocated, redesigned, or shielded by traffic barriers or crash cushions. It soon became apparent, however, that in some limited situations in which the embankment sloped significantly downward, a vehicle could encroach farther from the through traveled way and a 9-m [30-ft] clear zone might not be adequate. Conversely, on most low-volume, urban, or low-speed facilities, a 9-m [30-ft] clear-zone distance was considered excessive and seldom could be justified for engineering, environmental, or economic reasons.

The 1977 AASHTO *Guide for Selecting, Locating, and Designing Traffic Barriers (1)* modified the earlier clear-zone concept by introducing variable clear-zone distances based on traffic volumes, speeds, and roadside geometry. Table 3-1 can be used to determine the suggested clear-zone distance for selected traffic volumes and speeds. However, Table 3-1 provides only a general approximation of the needed clear-zone distance. These data are based on limited empirical data that were extrapolated to provide information for a wide range of conditions. The designer should keep in mind site-specific conditions, design speeds, rural versus urban locations, and practicality. The distances obtained from Table 3-1 should suggest only the approximate center of a range to be considered and not a precise distance to be held as absolute. For roadways with low traffic volumes, it may not be practical to apply even the minimum values found in Table 3-1. Refer to Chapter 12 for additional considerations for low-volume roadways and Chapter 10 for additional guidance for urban applications.

**Table 3-1. Suggested Clear-Zone Distances in Meters (Feet) from Edge of Through Traveled Lane (6)**

		Metric Units					
Design Speed (km/h)	Design ADT	Foreslopes			Backslopes		
		1V:6H or flatter	1V:5H to 1V:4H	1V:3H	1V:3H	1V:5H to 1V:4H	1V:6H or flatter
≤60	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0	<sup>a</sup>	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0
	750-1500	3.0-3.5	3.5-4.5	<sup>a</sup>	3.0-3.5	3.0-3.5	3.0-3.5
	1500-6000	3.5-4.5	4.5-5.0	<sup>a</sup>	3.5-4.5	3.5-4.5	3.5-4.5
	OVER 6000	4.5-5.0	5.0-5.5	<sup>a</sup>	4.5-5.0	4.5-5.0	4.5-5.0
70-80	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	3.0-3.5	3.5-4.5	<sup>b</sup>	2.5-3.0	2.5-3.0	3.0-3.5
	750-1500	4.5-5.0	5.0-6.0	<sup>b</sup>	3.0-3.5	3.5-4.5	4.5-5.0
	1500-6000	5.0-5.5	6.0-8.0	<sup>b</sup>	3.5-4.5	4.5-5.0	5.0-5.5
	OVER 6000	6.0-6.5	7.5-8.5	<sup>b</sup>	4.5-5.0	5.5-6.0	6.0-6.5
90	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	3.5-4.5	4.5-5.5	<sup>c</sup>	2.5-3.0	3.0-3.5	3.0-3.5
	750-1500	5.0-5.5	6.0-7.5	<sup>c</sup>	3.0-3.5	4.5-5.0	5.0-5.5
	1500-6000	6.0-6.5	7.5-9.0	<sup>c</sup>	4.5-5.0	5.0-5.5	6.0-6.5
	OVER 6000	6.5-7.5	8.0-10.0 <sup>a</sup>	<sup>c</sup>	5.0-5.5	6.0-6.5	6.5-7.5
100	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	5.0-6.5	6.0-7.5	<sup>d</sup>	3.0-3.5	3.5-4.5	4.5-5.0
	750-1500	6.0-7.5	8.0-10.0 <sup>a</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	3.5-4.5	5.0-5.5	6.0-6.5
	1500-6000	8.0-9.0	10.0-12.0 <sup>a</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	4.5-5.5	5.5-6.5	7.5-8.0
	OVER 6000	9.0-10.0 <sup>a</sup>	11.0-13.5 <sup>a</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	6.0-6.5	7.5-8.0	8.0-8.5
110 <sup>a</sup>	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	5.5-6.0	6.0-8.0	<sup>d</sup>	3.0-3.5	4.5-5.0	4.5-5.0
	750-1500	7.5-8.0	8.5-11.0 <sup>a</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	3.5-5.0	5.5-6.0	6.0-6.5
	1500-6000	8.5-10.0 <sup>a</sup>	10.5-13.0 <sup>a</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	5.0-6.0	6.5-7.5	8.0-8.5
	OVER 6000	9.0-10.5 <sup>a</sup>	11.5-14.0 <sup>a</sup>	<sup>d</sup>	6.5-7.5	8.0-9.0	8.5-9.0

Notes:

- a) When a site-specific investigation indicates a high probability of continuing crashes or when such occurrences are indicated by crash history, the designer may provide clear-zone distances greater than the clear zone shown in Table 3-1. Clear zones may be limited to 9 m for practicality and to provide a consistent roadway template if previous experience with similar projects or designs indicates satisfactory performance.
- b) Because recovery is less likely on the unshielded, traversable 1V:3H foreslope on a fill section, fixed objects should not be present in the vicinity of the toe of these slopes. Recovery of high-speed vehicles that encroach beyond the edge of the shoulder may be expected to occur beyond the toe of slope. Determination of the width of the recovery area at the toe of slope should consider right-of-way availability, environmental concerns, economic factors, safety needs, and crash histories. Also, the distance between the edge of the through traveled lane and the beginning of the 1V:3H slope should influence the recovery area provided at the toe of slope. While the application may be limited by several factors, the foreslope parameters that may enter into determining a maximum desirable recovery area are illustrated in Figure 3-2. A 3-m recovery area at the toe of slope should be provided for all traversable, non-recoverable fill slopes.

July 2015 Errata

- c) For roadways with low volumes, it may not be practical to apply even the minimum values found in Table 3-1. Refer to Chapter 12 for additional considerations for low-volume roadways and Chapter 10 for additional guidance for urban applications.
- d) When design speeds are greater than the values provided, the designer may provide clear-zone distances greater than those shown in Table 3-1.

U.S. Customary Units

Design Speed (mph)	Design ADT	Foreslopes			Backslopes		
		1V:8H or flatter	1V:5H to 1V:4H	1V:3H	1V:3H	1V:5H to 1V:4H	1V:6H or flatter
≤40	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	7-10	7-10	a	7-10	7-10	7-10
	750-1500	10-12	12-14	b	10-12	10-12	10-12
	1500-6000	12-14	14-16	b	12-14	12-14	12-14
	OVER 6000	14-16	16-18	b	14-16	14-16	14-16
45-50	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	10-12	12-14	b	8-10	8-10	10-12
	750-1500	14-16	16-20	b	10-12	12-14	14-16
	1500-6000	16-18	20-26	b	12-14	14-16	16-18
	OVER 6000	20-22	24-28	b	14-16	18-20	20-22
55	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	12-14	14-18	b	8-10	10-12	10-12
	750-1500	16-18	20-24	b	10-12	14-16	16-18
	1500-6000	20-22	24-30	b	14-16	16-18	20-22
	OVER 6000	22-24	26-32 <sup>c</sup>	b	16-18	20-22	22-24
60	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	16-18	20-24	b	10-12	12-14	14-16
	750-1500	20-24	26-32 <sup>c</sup>	b	12-14	16-18	20-22
	1500-6000	26-30	32-40 <sup>c</sup>	b	14-18	18-22	24-26
	OVER 6000	30-32 <sup>c</sup>	36-44 <sup>c</sup>	b	20-22	24-26	26-28
65-70 <sup>d</sup>	UNDER 750 <sup>a</sup>	18-20	20-26	c	10-12	14-16	14-16
	750-1500	24-26	28-36 <sup>c</sup>	c	12-16	18-20	20-22
	1500-6000	28-32 <sup>c</sup>	34-42 <sup>c</sup>	b	16-20	22-24	26-28
	OVER 6000	30-34 <sup>c</sup>	38-46 <sup>c</sup>	b	22-24	26-30	28-30

Notes:

- a) When a site-specific investigation indicates a high probability of continuing crashes or when such occurrences are indicated by crash history, the designer may provide clear-zone distances greater than the clear zone shown in Table 3-1. Clear zones may be limited to 30 ft for practicality and to provide a consistent roadway template if previous experience with similar projects or designs indicates satisfactory performance.
- b) Because recovery is less likely on the unshielded, traversable 1V:3H fill slopes, fixed objects should not be present in the vicinity of the toe of these slopes. Recovery of high-speed vehicles that encroach beyond the edge of the shoulder may be expected to occur beyond the toe of slope. Determination of the width of the recovery area at the toe of slope should consider right-of-way availability, environmental concerns, economic factors, safety needs, and crash histories. Also, the distance between the edge of the through traveled lane and the beginning of the 1V:3H slope should influence the recovery area provided at the toe of slope. While the application may be limited by several factors, the foreslope parameters that may enter into determining a maximum desirable recovery area are illustrated in Figure 3-2. A 10-ft recovery area at the toe of slope should be provided for all traversable, non recoverable fill slopes.
- c) For roadways with low volumes it may not be practical to apply even the minimum values found in Table 3-1. Refer to Chapter 12 for additional considerations for low-volume roadways and Chapter 10 for additional guidance for urban applications.
- d) When design speeds are greater than the values provided, the designer may provide clear-zone distances greater than those shown in Table 3-1.

The designer may choose to modify the clear-zone distances in Table 3-1 with adjustment factors to account for horizontal curvature, as shown in Table 3-2. These modifications normally are considered only when crash histories indicate such a need, when a specific site investigation shows a definitive crash potential that could be significantly lessened by increasing the clear zone width, and when such increases are cost-effective. Horizontal curves, particularly for high-speed facilities, are usually superelevated to increase safety and provide a more comfortable ride. Increased banking on curves where the superelevation is inadequate is an alternate method of increasing roadway safety within a horizontal curve, except where snow and ice conditions limit the use of increased superelevation.

Traffic signal supports present a special situation where a breakaway support may not be practical or desirable. As with luminaire supports, a fallen signal post support may become an obstruction. However, the potential risks associated with the temporary loss of full signalization at the intersection should be considered.

When traffic signals are installed on high-speed facilities (generally defined as those having speed limits of 80 km/h [50 mph] or greater), the signal supports and, if not mounted on one of the signal support poles, the signal support box, should be placed as far away from the roadway as practicable. Shielding these supports can be considered if they are within the clear zone for that particular roadway. Traffic signal supports with mast arms, or those that have a support on both sides of the roadway and a wire (span wire) or other components (overhead) that spans the facility, normally are not provided with a breakaway device. Post-mounted signals are commonly installed in close proximity to traffic lanes or in wide medians; therefore, consideration should be given to using breakaway devices for these supports.

#### **4.7 SUPPORTS FOR MISCELLANEOUS DEVICES**

Other relatively narrow objects that are usually located adjacent to the roadway include intelligent transportation systems, railroad warning devices, fire hydrants, and mailboxes. These devices are discussed in the following sections.

##### **4.7.1 Railroad Crossing Warning Devices**

Highway and railroad officials should cooperatively decide on the type of warning device needed at a particular crossing (e.g., crossbucks, flashing light signals, or gates). As a minimum, crossbucks are required and should be installed on an acceptable support. Other warning device supports, such as signals or gates, can cause an increase in the severity of injuries to vehicle occupants if struck at high speeds. In these cases, if the support is located in the clear zone, consideration should be given to shielding the support with a crash cushion. A longitudinal barrier often is not used because there is seldom sufficient space for a proper downstream end treatment, a longer obstacle is created by installing a guardrail, and a vehicle striking a longitudinal barrier when a train is occupying the crossing may be redirected into the train. The designer also should be aware of the immediate risk to other motorists just after the devices are knocked down by impacting vehicles.

##### **4.7.2 Fire Hydrants**

Fire hydrants are another type of roadside feature that may be an obstacle. While most fire hydrants are made of cast iron and could be expected to fracture upon impact, crash testing meeting current testing procedures has not been done to verify that designs meet breakaway criteria. However, at least one fire hydrant stem and coupling design that provides for immediate water shutoff if struck by a vehicle is available.

Whenever possible, fire hydrants should be located sufficiently far away from the roadway so that they do not become obstructions for the motorist, yet are still readily accessible to and usable by emergency personnel. Any portion of the hydrant not designed to break away should be within 100 mm [4 in.] of the ground.

##### **4.7.3 Mailbox Supports**

Mailbox supports are addressed in Chapter 11.

#### **4.8 UTILITY POLES**

Motor vehicle crashes with utility poles account for approximately 12 percent of all fixed-object fatal crashes annually. This degree of involvement is related to the number of poles in use, their proximity to the traveled way, and their unyielding nature.

As with sign and luminaire supports, the most desirable solution is to locate utility poles where they are least likely to be struck. One alternative unique to power and telephone lines is to bury them, thereby eliminating the obstacles. For poles that cannot be eliminated or relocated, breakaway designs have been developed and successfully crash tested. This alternative is briefly discussed in this sec-

tion. Because utility poles are generally privately owned and installed devices permitted on publicly owned rights-of-way, they are not under the direct control of a highway agency. This dual responsibility sometimes complicates the implementation of effective countermeasures.

For new construction or major reconstruction, every effort should be made to install or relocate utility poles as far from the traveled way as practical. Two AASHTO publications—*A Policy on the Accommodation of Utilities within Freeway Right-of-Way (1)* and *A Guide for Accommodating Utilities within Highway Right-of-Way (2)*—provide more detailed information on locating utility facilities within highway rights-of-way.

For existing utility pole installations, a concentration of crashes at a site or a certain type of crash that seems to occur frequently in a given jurisdiction may indicate that the highway or utility system is contributing to the crash potential. Utility pole crashes are subject to the same patterns as other types of roadway crashes; thus, they are subject to traditional highway crash study procedures. A detailed study of crash records may identify high-frequency crash locations and point out improvements that will reduce the number and severity of future crashes. Road users (the public and utility firms) also can provide input into the nature and causes of highway and utility crashes. The steps that are normally included in a comprehensive crash-reduction program are the following:

- Setting up a traffic records system
- Identifying high-frequency crash locations
- Analyzing high-frequency crash locations
- Correcting the high-frequency crash locations
- Reviewing the results of the program

Identification and analysis programs of high-frequency crash locations can vary from simple to complex depending on the size and resources of the agency. The *NCHRP Report 500: Guidance for Implementation of the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan (8)* includes Volume 8: *A Guide for Reducing Collisions Involving Utility Poles*. This report suggests objectives and strategies for reducing the consequences and frequency of utility pole crashes. Table 4-1 suggests strategies in response to specific objectives.

The use of breakaway poles is intended to reduce the severity of an accident rather than its frequency. The designs shown in Figure 4-14, consisting of ground-level slip base and upper hinge assembly, have been successfully crash tested. These designs may be considered for poles in vulnerable locations that cannot be economically removed or relocated, such as gore areas, the outside of sharp curves, and opposite the intersecting roadway at T-intersections. Several variations of the breakaway utility pole are available and have demonstrated satisfactory in-service performance in the limited field trials to date.

**Table 4-1. Objectives and Strategies for Reducing Utility Pole Crashes**

Objectives		Strategies
A	Treat specific utility poles in high-crash and high-risk spot locations.	A1 Remove poles in hazardous locations.
		A2 Relocate poles in hazardous locations further from the roadway or to a less vulnerable location.
		A3 Use breakaway poles.
		A4 Shield drivers from poles in a hazardous location.
		A5 Improve the drivers' ability to see poles in a hazardous location.
		A6 Apply traffic-calming measures to reduce speeds on high-risk sections.
B	Prevent placing utility poles in high-risk locations.	B1 Develop, revise, and implement policies to prevent placing or replacing poles within the recovery area.
C	Treat several utility poles along a corridor to minimize the likelihood of crashing into a utility pole if a vehicle runs off the road.	C1 Place utilities underground.
		C2 Relocate poles along the corridor farther from the roadway and/or to less vulnerable locations.
		C3 Decrease the number of poles along the corridor.

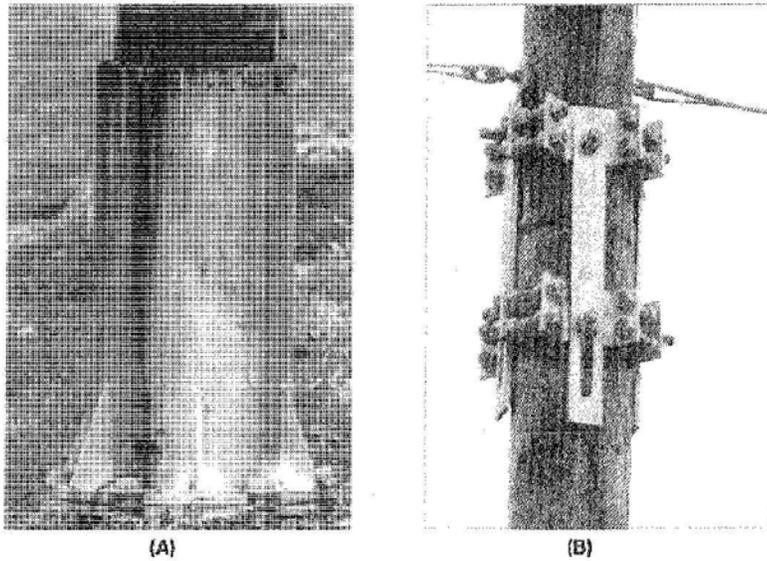


Figure 4-14. Prototype Breakaway Design for Utility Poles

#### 4.9 TREES

Single vehicle crashes with trees account for more than 50 percent of all fixed-object fatal crashes annually and result in the deaths of approximately 4,550 persons each year. Unlike the roadside hardware previously addressed in this chapter, trees are not generally a design element over which highway designers have direct control. With the exception of landscaping projects in which the types and locations of trees and other vegetation can be carefully chosen, the problem most often faced by designers is the treatment of existing trees that are likely to be impacted by an errant vehicle. To promote consistency within a state, each highway agency should develop a formal policy to provide guidance to design, landscape, construction, and maintenance personnel for this situation. The concept of context-sensitive design has been embraced in much of the country and is endorsed by AASHTO. Policies that focus solely on the safety aspects of trees and promote tree removal over other measures may not be acceptable to all involved parties. This section is intended to provide general guidelines from which a specific policy on trees may be developed.

Trees are potential obstructions by virtue of their size and their location in relation to vehicular traffic. Generally, an existing tree with an expected mature size greater than 100 mm [4 in.] at stub height is considered a fixed object. When trees or shrubs with multiple trunks or groups of small trees are close together, they may be considered as having the effect of a single tree with their combined cross-sectional area. Maintenance forces can minimize future problems by mowing clear zones to prevent seedlings from becoming established. The location factor is more difficult to address than tree size. Typically, large trees should be removed from within the selected clear zone for new construction and for reconstruction. As noted in Chapter 3, the extent of the clear zone depends on several variables, including highway speeds, traffic volumes, and roadside slopes. Segments of a highway can be analyzed to identify individual trees or groups of trees that are candidates for corrective measures. County and township roads, which generally have restrictive geometric designs and narrow off-road recovery areas, account for a large percentage of the annual tree-related fatal crashes, followed by state and U.S. numbered highways on curved alignment. Fatal crashes involving trees along Interstate highways are relatively rare in most states.

The NCHRP REPORT 500: *Guidance for Implementation of the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan (8)* includes Volume 3: *A Guide for Addressing Collisions with Trees in Hazardous Locations*. This guide provides objectives and strategies that can be employed to reduce the number and severity of run-off-the-road crashes with trees. Table 4-2 suggests strategies in response to specific objectives.

**Table 4-2. Objectives and Strategies for Reducing Crashes with Trees**

Objectives		Strategies
A	Prevent trees from growing in hazardous locations.	A1 Develop, revise, and implement planting guidelines to prevent placing trees in hazardous location.
		A2 Develop mowing and vegetation control guidelines.
B	Eliminate the hazardous condition and/or reduce the severity of the crash.	B1 Remove trees in hazardous locations.
		B2 Shield motorists from striking trees.
		B3 Modify roadside clear zone in the vicinity of trees.
		B4 Delineate trees in hazardous locations.

Following several years of research by the Michigan Department of Transportation, a *Guide to Management of Roadside Trees (5)* was distributed nationally by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as Report No. FHWA-IP-86-17. This document contains detailed information on identifying and evaluating higher risk roadside environments and provides guidance for implementing roadside tree removal. It also addresses environmental issues, alternative treatments, mitigation efforts, and maintenance practices. The remainder of this section is basically a summary of the information and recommendations included in that report.

Essentially, there are two methods for addressing the issue of roadside trees. The first is to keep the motorist on the road whenever possible, while the second is to mitigate the danger inherent in leaving a roadway with trees along it.

On-roadway treatments include

- Pavement marking,
- Rumble strips,
- Signs,
- Delineators, and
- Roadway improvements.

Pavement markings are one of the most effective and least costly improvements that can be made to a roadway. Centerline and edge line markings are particularly effective for roads with heavy nighttime traffic, frequent fog, and narrow lanes. Shoulder rumble strips also can be used to warn motorists that their vehicles have crossed the edgeline and may run off the road.

The installation of advance warning signs and roadway delineators also can be used to notify motorists of sections of roadway where extra caution is advised. Typically, these will be used in advance of curves that are noticeably sharper than those immediately preceding it.

Roadway improvements such as curve reconstruction to provide increased superelevation, shoulder widening, and paving are relatively expensive countermeasures that may not be cost-effective in all cases.

Off-roadway treatments consist primarily of two options:

- Tree removal
- Shielding

The removal of individual trees should be considered when those trees are determined to be both obstructions and in a location where they are likely to be hit. Such trees often can be identified by past crash histories at similar sites, by scars indicating previous crashes, or by field reviews. Removal of individual trees will not reduce the probability that a vehicle will leave the roadway at that point, but it should reduce the severity of any resulting crash. For example, 1V:31H and flatter slopes may be traversable, but a vehicle on a 1V:3H slope usually will reach the bottom. If numerous trees are at the toe of the slope, removal of isolated trees on the slope will not significantly reduce the risk of a crash. Similarly, if the recommended clear zone for a particular roadway is 7 m [23 ft], including the shoulder, removal of trees 6 to 7 m [20 to 23 ft] from the road will not materially change the risk to motorists if an unbroken tree line remains at 8 m [26 ft] and beyond. However, isolated trees noticeably closer to the roadway may be candidates for removal. If a tree or group of trees is in a vulnerable location but cannot be removed, a properly designed and installed traffic barrier can be used to shield them. Roadside barriers should be used only when the severity of striking the tree is greater than striking the barrier. Specific information on the selection, location, and design of roadside barriers is in Chapter 5.

## REFERENCES

1. AASHTO. *A Policy on the Accommodation of Utilities within Freeway Right-of-Way*. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, DC, 2005.
2. AASHTO. *A Guide for Accommodating Utilities within Highway Right-of-Way*. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, DC, 2005.
3. AASHTO. *Standard Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals*. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, DC, 2009.
4. AASHTO. *Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH)*. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington DC, 2009.
5. FHWA. *Guide to Management of Roadside Trees*. Report No. FHWA-IP-86-17. Federal Highway Administration, Washington, DC, December 1986.
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7. IIHS and HLDI. *Fatality Facts 2006: Fixed Object Crashes*. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and Highway Loss Data Institute, Washington, DC, 2007 [cited December 21, 2010]. Available from [http://www.iihs.org/research/fatality\\_facts\\_2006/roadsidehazards.html](http://www.iihs.org/research/fatality_facts_2006/roadsidehazards.html).
8. NCHRP. *National Cooperative Highway Research Report 500: Guidance for Implementation of the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan*. NCHRP, Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC, 2003.
9. Ross, H. E., Jr., D. L. Sicking, and R. A. Zimmer. *National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 350: Recommended Procedures for the Safety Evaluation of Highway Features*. NCHRP, Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC, 1993.
10. TRB. *Safety Appurtenances and Utility Accommodation*. In *Transportation Research Record 970*. Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, Washington, DC, 1984.

#### 10.2.2.3.1 Utility Poles

Utility poles are prevalent in urban environments and can pose a substantial hazard to errant vehicles and motorists. The frequency of utility pole crashes increases with daily traffic volume and the number of poles adjacent to the traveled way (17). Utility poles are adjacent to urban roadways more than rural highways, and demands for operational improvements coupled with limited street right-of-ways often lead to the placement of these poles proximate to the roadway edge. In fact, utility poles are second only to trees as the object associated with the greatest number of fixed-object fatalities (15). Though utility poles often are impacted directly, guy wires that stabilize the pole also can pose a hazard because vehicles can impact them directly as well.

In general, utility pole-related crashes are considered to be principally an urban hazard, with urban areas experiencing 36.9 pole crashes per 100 miles of roadway, while rural areas experience 5.2 pole crashes per 100 miles (11). One study determined that the variable with the greatest ability to explain utility pole-related crashes was the average daily traffic (ADT) along the roadway (17). ADT as the critical variable explains the importance of vehicle exposure in understanding run-off-the-road crashes with utility poles.

A common recommendation for addressing the utility pole safety issue is to place utilities underground and thereby remove the hazardous poles. The removal of all poles in the urban roadside environment is not practical; these poles often function as the supports for street lights and other shared utilities. However, several known utility pole hazardous locations should be avoided when feasible. Generally, utility poles should be located (6, 10)

- As far as possible from the active travel lanes,
- Away from access points where the pole may restrict sight distance,
- Inside a sharp horizontal curve (because errant vehicles tend to continue straight towards the outside of curves), and
- On only one side of the road.

#### 10.2.2.3.2 Lighting and Visibility

An important issue in addressing roadside safety is the role of lighting in making potentially hazardous roadside environments visible to the road users (i.e. motor vehicle drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians), particularly during night-time hours.

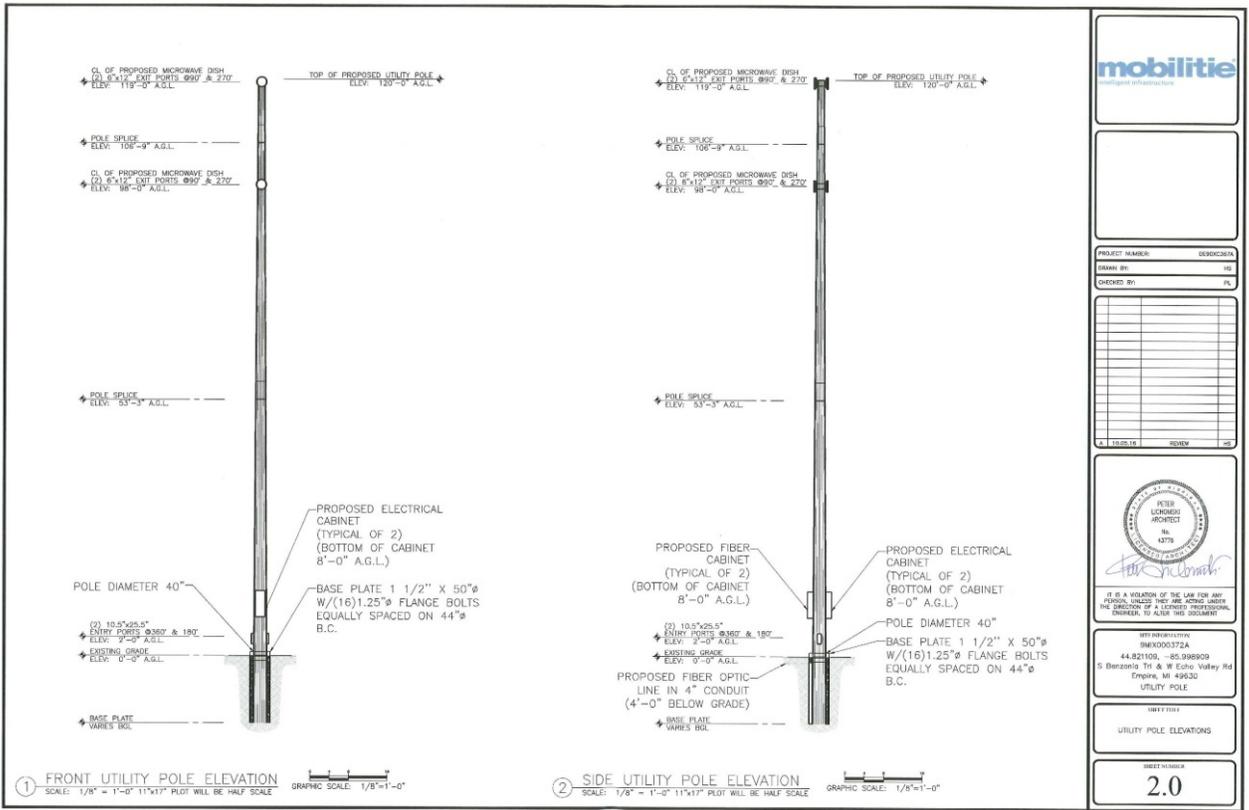
The North Carolina Department of Transportation's *Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Guidelines* (12) recommends that for a TND designed to accommodate "a human scale, walkable community with moderate to high residential densities and a mixed use core," more and shorter lights should be used rather than less frequent, tall, high-intensity street lights. This closer light spacing will provide adequate coverage for both pedestrian and vehicular activity. Chapter 4 briefly describes the various recommended luminaire supports.

#### 10.2.2.3.3 Sign Posts and Roadside Hardware

The design of crashworthy sign posts is directed by AASHTO's *Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH)* (3) and *NCHRP Report 350: Recommended Procedures for the Safety Performance Evaluation of Highway Features* (14), and substantial research has been devoted to designing these features to be crashworthy. Multiple designs for these features are included in the this edition of the *Roadside Design Guide*, and specifications for evaluating these features are contained in AASHTO's *Standard Specification and Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals* (2). Table 10-10 describes roadside safety strategies for utility poles, light poles, and street sign posts.







**mobilitie**  
engineered infrastructure

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CHECKED BY: PL

DATE: 10/25/16 SHEET: 02

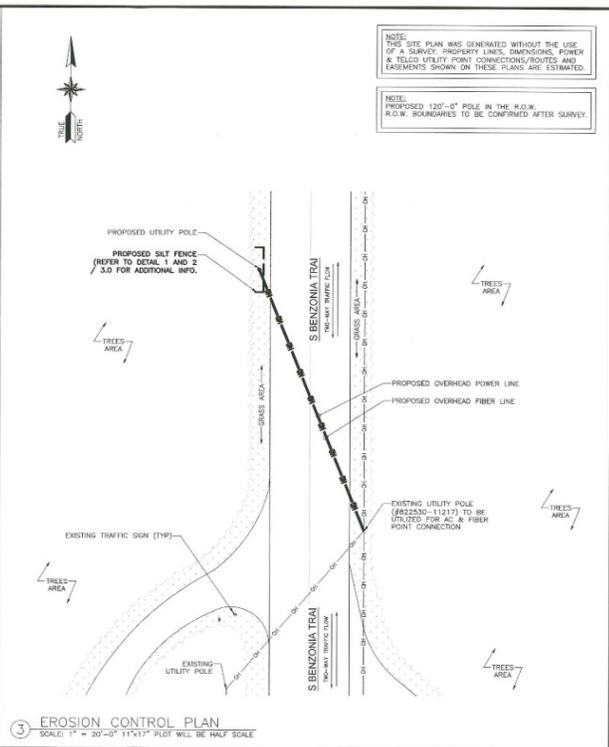
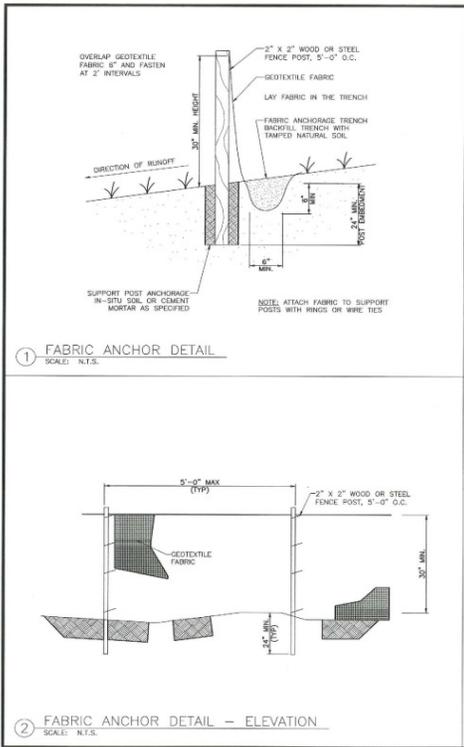
PETER LORBERG ARCHITECT  
No. 4375

IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW FOR ANY PERSON UNLESS THEY ARE ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, TO ALTER THIS DOCUMENT.

REV INFORMATION  
REVNO:00372A  
44.821109 - 85.998909  
S Benzonia Trl & W Echo Valley Rd  
Empire, MI 49630  
UTILITY POLE

SHEET TITLE  
UTILITY POLE ELEVATIONS

SHEET NUMBER  
2.0



**mobilitie**  
engineered infrastructure

PROJECT NUMBER: DEBOCCA  
DRAWN BY: JS  
CHECKED BY: PL

DATE: 10/25/16 SHEET: 02

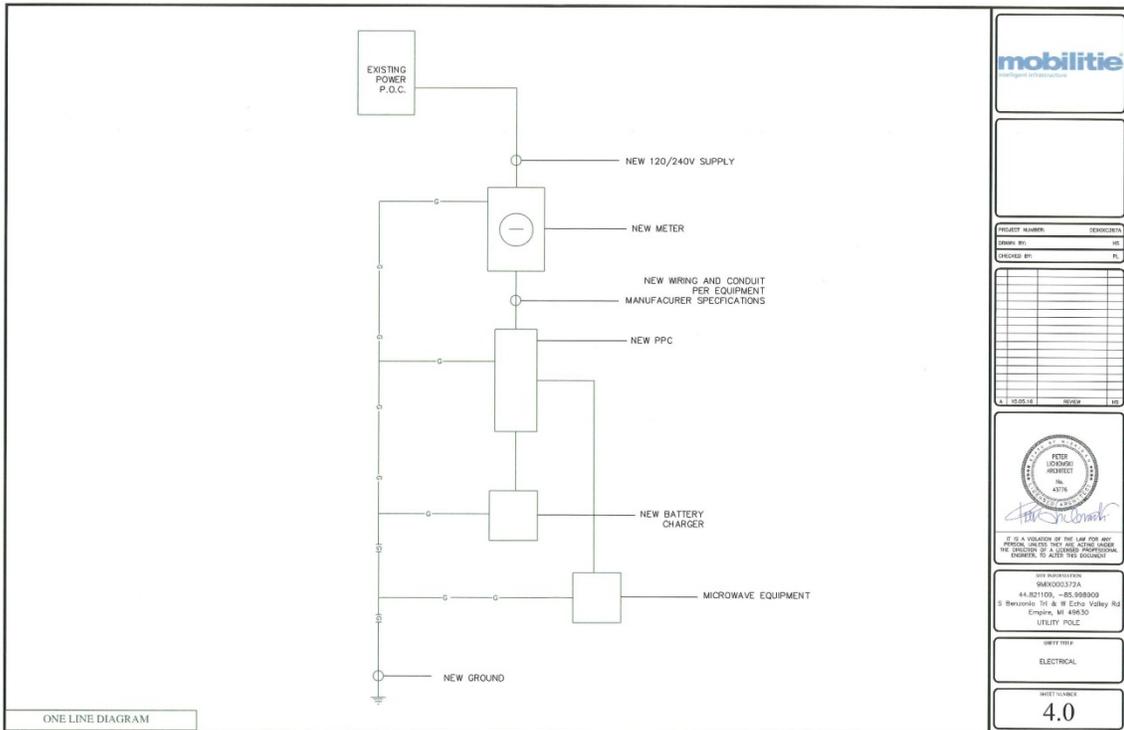
PETER LORBERG ARCHITECT  
No. 4375

IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW FOR ANY PERSON UNLESS THEY ARE ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, TO ALTER THIS DOCUMENT.

REV INFORMATION  
REVNO:00372A  
44.821109 - 85.998909  
S Benzonia Trl & W Echo Valley Rd  
Empire, MI 49630  
UTILITY POLE

SHEET TITLE  
EROSION CONTROL PLAN

SHEET NUMBER  
3.0



**mobilite**  
Intelligent Infrastructure

PROJECT NUMBER: 20200007A  
DRAWN BY: MS  
CHECKED BY: PL

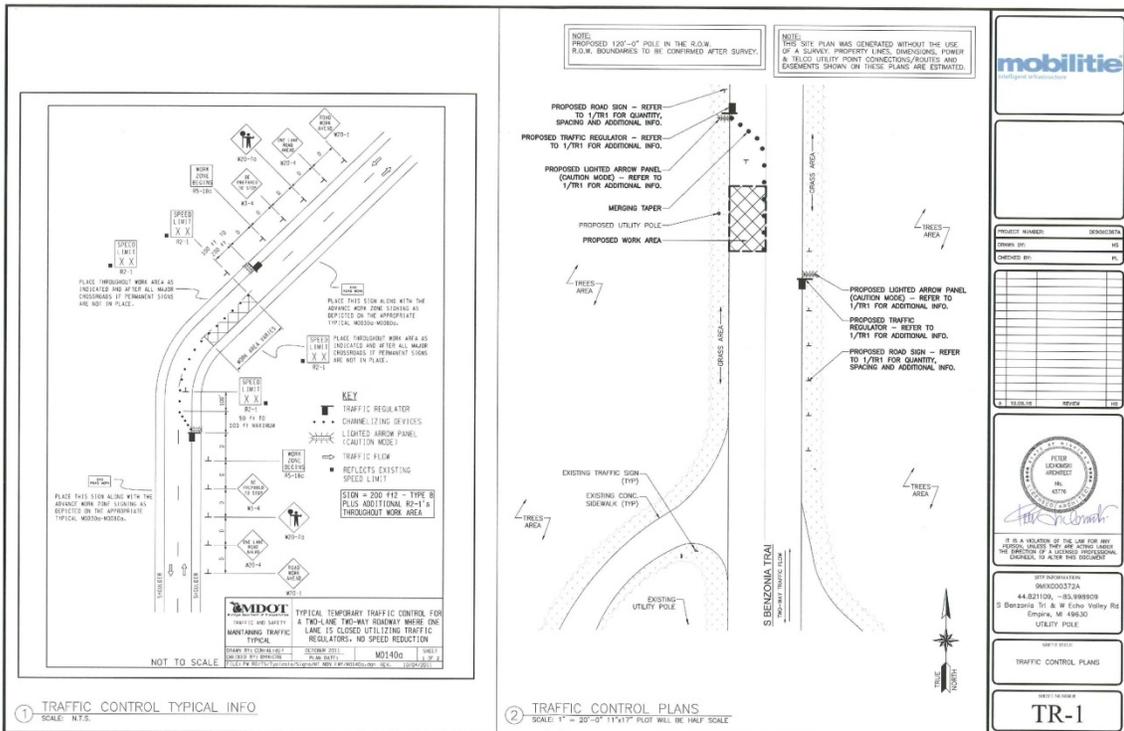
DATE: 10/05/16 REVIEW: JTB

PETER LOUGHAN  
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER  
No. 4378

301 BROADVIEW  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203  
44.82110N, -85.99800W  
S Benzonia 1st & W Echo Valley Rd  
Empire, MI 48130  
UTILITY POLE

SHEET TITLE: ELECTRICAL

SHEET NUMBER: 4.0



**mobilite**  
Intelligent Infrastructure

PROJECT NUMBER: 20200007A  
DRAWN BY: MS  
CHECKED BY: PL

DATE: 10/05/16 REVIEW: JTB

PETER LOUGHAN  
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER  
No. 4378

301 BROADVIEW  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203  
44.82110N, -85.99800W  
S Benzonia 1st & W Echo Valley Rd  
Empire, MI 48130  
UTILITY POLE

SHEET TITLE: TRAFFIC CONTROL PLANS

SHEET NUMBER: TR-1



6480 Zeeb Road, Dexter, MI 48130

## Exhibit D

### Genesee County Crash with ACD.Net Pole Photographs

These design criteria are important because in real world experience, we know that accidents do happen which involve collisions with these roadside obstacles. Many produce fatal results, particularly with unguarded or improperly guarded obstacles in the right of way. Below are photographs and the accident report of just such an accident involving a communication pole placed in violation of the specific permit siting authorization granted by the Genesee County Road Commission and, subsequently revoked as a result of such violations.



6480 Zeeb Road, Dexter, MI 48130

Authority: 1949 PA 300, Sec. 257.622 Compliance: Required MSP UD-10E Penalty: \$100 and/or 90 days (Rev. 01/2016)		Extensl # <b>75663</b>		Crash ID		Page 1 File Class - 93601 Incident # <b>1685203218</b> Reviewer <b>Sgt. Scott Theede (197)</b>				
<b>STATE OF MICHIGAN TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT</b>										
ORI: <b>M12585200</b>		Department Name <b>Grand Blanc Township Police Department</b>								
Crash Date <b>07/31/2016</b>	Crash Time <b>00:25</b>	No. of Units <b>01</b>	Crash Type <b>Single</b>	Special Circumstances <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Flaring Police <input type="checkbox"/> Hit and Run <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> School Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Admit		Special Checks <input type="checkbox"/> Fatal <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Traffic Area <input type="checkbox"/> ORV/Snowmobile				
County <b>25 - GENESEE</b>	Traffic Control <b>Signal</b>	Relation to Roadway <b>Outside of Shoulder/Curb</b>		Weather <b>Cloudy</b>		Area <b>Within Intersection</b>				
City/Twp <b>12 - GRAND BLANC TWP</b>	Contributing Circumstances 1st <b>Other</b>	2nd	Light <b>Dark-Unlighted</b>	Road Surface Condition <b>Wet</b>	Total Lanes <b>05</b>	Speed Limit <b>45</b>	Posted <b>Yes</b>			
Work Zone (if applicable) Type: <b>No</b> Workers Present: <b>No</b> Activity: Location:										
LOCATION	Prefix Primary Road Name <b>HOLLY</b>		Road Type <b>RD</b>		Suffix		Divided Roadway			
	Distance/Direction <b>45.0 Feet N</b>		Trafficway <b>Not Physically Divided</b>							
	Prefix Intersecting Road Name <b>E COOK</b>		Road Type <b>RD</b>		Suffix		Divided Roadway			
Unit Number <b>01</b>	Unit Known <b>Yes</b>	State <b>MI</b>	Driver License Number [REDACTED]	Date of Birth (Age) <b>04/16/1999 (17)</b>	License Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operator <input type="checkbox"/> Chauffeur <input type="checkbox"/> Moped	Endorsements <input type="checkbox"/> Cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational	Sex <b>M</b>	Total Occupants <b>01</b>	Hazardous Action <b>None</b>	
Unit Type <b>MV</b>	Drive Information <b>GRAND BLANC MI 48439</b>			Driver's Owner <b>No</b>	Injury <b>O</b>	Position <b>Front - Left</b>	Restraint <b>Shoulder &amp; Lap Belt</b>			
Driver Condition at Time of Crash 1st <b>Fatigued or Asleep</b>				2nd	Driver Distracted By <b>Not Distracted</b>		Ejected <b>No</b>	Trapped <b>No</b>	Airbag Deployed <b>Deployed-Front</b>	
Hospital <b>None</b>				Ambulance <b>None</b>						
Alcohol Suspected <b>No</b>	Contributing Factor <b>No</b>	Alcohol Test Type <input type="checkbox"/> Breath <input type="checkbox"/> Blood <input type="checkbox"/> Field <input type="checkbox"/> Urine <input type="checkbox"/> PBT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Offered		Alcohol Test Results <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Test Results:		Interlock Device <b>No</b>				
Drug Suspected <b>No</b>	Contributing Factor <b>No</b>	Drug Test Type <input type="checkbox"/> Blood <input type="checkbox"/> Urine <input type="checkbox"/> Field <input type="checkbox"/> Refused <input type="checkbox"/> Not Offered		Drug Test Results <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Test Results:		Citation Issued <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous <input type="checkbox"/> Other				
Vehicle Registration <b>DJS2353</b>	State <b>MI</b>	Vehicle Description <b>Passenger Car, SUV, Van</b>	Year <b>2001</b>	Make <b>FORD</b>	Model <b>ESCAPE</b>	Color <b>BLK</b>				
VIN <b>1FMYU01101KB14001</b>		Special Vehicles <b>None</b>		Private Trailer Type		Vehicle Defect				
Insurance Company <b>MEEMIC</b>			Insurance Policy # <b>PAP0791250</b>		Towed By <b>CJ'S TOWING</b>		Towed To <b>US-23 TOWING</b>			
Location of Greatest Damage <b>02</b>		First Impact <b>02</b>	Extent of Damage (Power Unit and/or Trailers) <b>Disabling Damage</b>		Vehicle Direction <b>S</b>	Vehicle Use <b>Private</b>	Action Prior <b>Going Straight Ahead</b>			
Sequence of Events First <b>03 - Ran Off Roadway-Left</b>				Second <b>00 - Utility Pole/Light Support</b>	Third <b>06 - Overtum</b>	Fourth <b>45 - Other Fixed Object</b>				
PASSENGERS	Passenger Information			Date of Birth (Age)	Sex	Position	Restraint			
	Hospital			Ambulance						
	Passenger Information			Date of Birth (Age)	Sex	Position	Restraint			
	Hospital			Ambulance						
	Passenger Information			Date of Birth (Age)	Sex	Position	Restraint			
	Hospital			Ambulance						
	Carrier Information			USDOT		MC	MPSC			
	Driver's CDL Type			Endorsements <input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> X		CDL Exempt <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Other				
	GVWR/GCWR <input type="checkbox"/> 10,000 lbs. or Less <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 - 26,000 lbs. <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than 28,000 lbs.		Vehicle Configuration	Cargo Body Type	Medical Card	Hazardous Material <input type="checkbox"/> Placard <input type="checkbox"/> Cargo Spill	ID #	Class #		
	Owner Information				Owner Information					
	Damaged Property <b>ADVERTISEMENT SIGN</b>				Public <b>No</b>	Owner's Phone <b>DOCTOR SWAMY                  Phone: (810)771-7754</b>				

6480 Zeeb Road, Dexter, MI 48130

Unit Number	Unit Known	State	Driver License Number	Date of Birth(Age)	License Type <input type="checkbox"/> Operator <input type="checkbox"/> Challenger <input type="checkbox"/> Moped	Endorsements <input type="checkbox"/> Cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational	Sex	Total Occupants	Hazardous Action
Unit Type	Driver Information			Driver Is Owner	Injury	Position	Restraint		
Driver Condition at Time of Crash 1st 2nd				Driver Distracted By			Ejected	Trapped	Airbag Deployed
Hospital						Ambulance			
Alcohol Suspected	Contributing Factor	Alcohol Test Type Breath Field Blood PBT Urine Refused Not Offered	Alcohol Test Results Pending Test Results:		Interlock Device				
Drug Suspected	Contributing Factor	Drug Test Type Blood Field Urine Refused Not Offered	Drug Test Results Pending Test Results:		Citation Issued Hazardous Other				
Vehicle Registration	State	Vehicle Description	Year	Make	Model		Color		
VIN	Vehicle Type	Special Vehicles	Private Trailer Type		Vehicle Defect				
Insurance Company		Insurance Policy #		Towed By		Towed To			
Location of Greatest Damage	First Impact	Extent of Damage (Power Unit and/or Trailers)		Vehicle Direction	Vehicle Use	Action Prior			
Sequence of Events (# indicates MOST harmful event)			First	Second	Third	Fourth			

PASSENGERS	Passenger Information			Date of Birth (Age)	Sex	Position	Restraint
				Injury	Ejected	Trapped	Airbag Deployed
	Hospital			Ambulance			
	Passenger Information			Date of Birth (Age)	Sex	Position	Restraint
			Injury	Ejected	Trapped	Airbag Deployed	
Hospital			Ambulance				
Passenger Information			Date of Birth (Age)	Sex	Position	Restraint	
			Injury	Ejected	Trapped	Airbag Deployed	
Hospital			Ambulance				

Carrier Information	USDOT	MC	MPSC
Driver's CDL Type	Endorsements OH OP OT ON OS OX	CDL Exempt <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
GWR/GCWR <input type="checkbox"/> 10,000 lbs. or Less <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 - 26,000 lbs. <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than 26,000 lbs.	Vehicle Configuration	Cargo Body Type	Medical Card
		Hazardous Material <input type="checkbox"/> Placard <input type="checkbox"/> Cargo Spill	ID # Class #

Owner Information	Owner Information
Witness Information	Witness Information

Investigated at Scene: <b>Yes</b>	Reported Date (Time): <b>07/31/2016 (00:28)</b>	1st Investigator Name (Badge): <b>Off. Bill Kilbourn (204)</b>	2nd Investigator Name (Badge):	Photos: <b>No</b>
-----------------------------------	---	--	--------------------------------	-------------------

<p>Narrative</p> <p>VEH #1 WAS TRAVELING S/B ON HOLLY RD NEAR COOK RD. DRIVER #1 SAID THAT HE FELL ASLEEP AND THE NEXT THING HE KNEW, HE WAS OFF THE ROAD FLIPPING OVER. VEH #1 LEFT THE ROADWAY TO THE LEFT HIT A UTILITY POLE, FLIPPED OVER AND HIT AN ADVERTISEMENT SIGN.</p> <p>OFFICER NOTE: I WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE OWNER OF UTILITY POLE. CONSUMERS WAS CALLED TO SCENE AND WAS ALSO UNABLE TO ID UTILITY POLE.</p>	<p>Diagram</p>
---	----------------

6480 Zeeb Road, Dexter, MI 48130

**Exhibit E**

**Costs of Providing and Maintaining a Safe Roadside with CSP Tower**

Estimated Installation and Maintenance Costs  
To Provide a safe Roadside with a CSP Tower

**Estimated Cost of Providing a Safe Roadside with a CSP Tower**

Work Item	Estimated Quantity	Units	Cost
Storm Sewer Elliptical	80	feet	\$1,200
Manhole	1	each	\$2,000
Manhole Cover & Frame	1	each	\$1,000
Culvert End Protection	2	each	\$4,000
Rock Riprap w/Fabric	60	sq. yds.	\$3,600
Edge Drain	200	feet	\$2,000
Sand Backfill, CIP	30	cu. yds.	\$600
Embankment, CIP	200	cu.yds.	\$4,000
Guardrail	200	feet	\$5,000
Guardrail Endings	2	each	\$6,000
Topsoil	400	sq. yds.	\$4,000
Seeding	40	lbs.	\$200
Fertilizer	400	lbs.	\$400
Mulch	2000	lbs.	\$400
Traffic Control	1	Lump Sum	\$5,000
Project Cleanup	1	Lump Sum	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$41,400</b>

**Estimated Increased Annual Maintenance Cost (20% of Installation)**

Work Item	Estimated Quantity	Units
Guardrail Repairs	1	once per year
Guardrail weed spraying	1	once per year
Storm Sewer Cleanout	1	once per year
Manhole Cleanout	1	once per year
Boom Arm Mowing	1	twice per year
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$8,280.0</b>

S. Puuri  
3/6/2017

**NOTES**

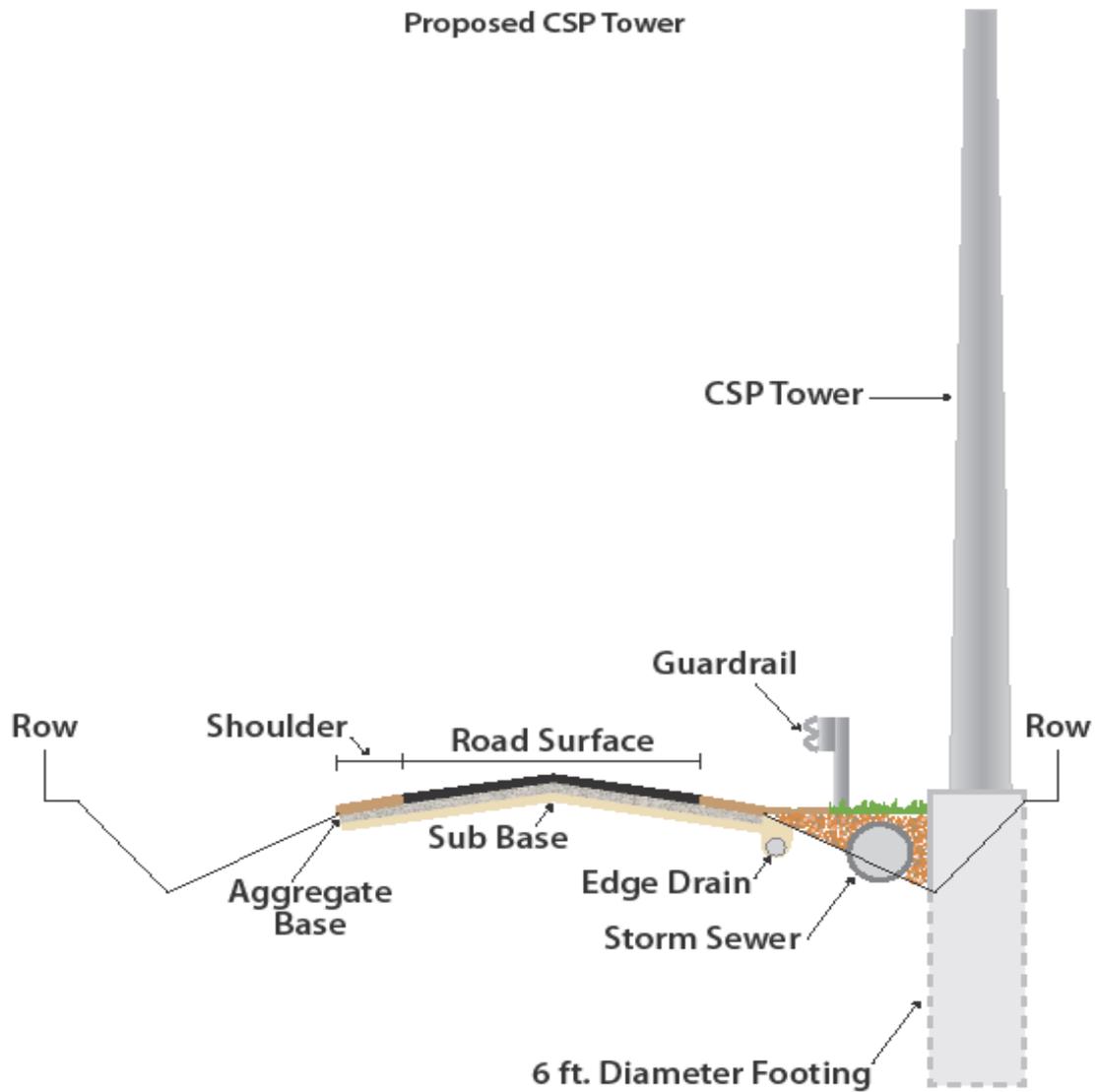
- All of these costs **should** be borne by the applicant including the maintenance costs.
- These costs do not reflect the inspection costs during and post **construction or the annual** inspection costs to assure that the drainage and guardrail systems are performing as planned. These costs reflect only the average bid prices based on MDOT average unit prices during 2015, these would be typical small project unit prices for materials and installation of the work listed.
- The maintenance costs are a rough approximation of typical extra **repair and maintenance** work that a road agency would anticipate to assure that these additional structures (not including the tower) in the ROW are performing as planned. No cost has been included for use of the road right of way. Also every guardrail crash would need to be repaired, I estimate one/year just to show this should be an anticipated regular cost.

## Exhibit F

### Rural Road Cross Section



## RURAL ROAD TYPICAL CROSS SECTION



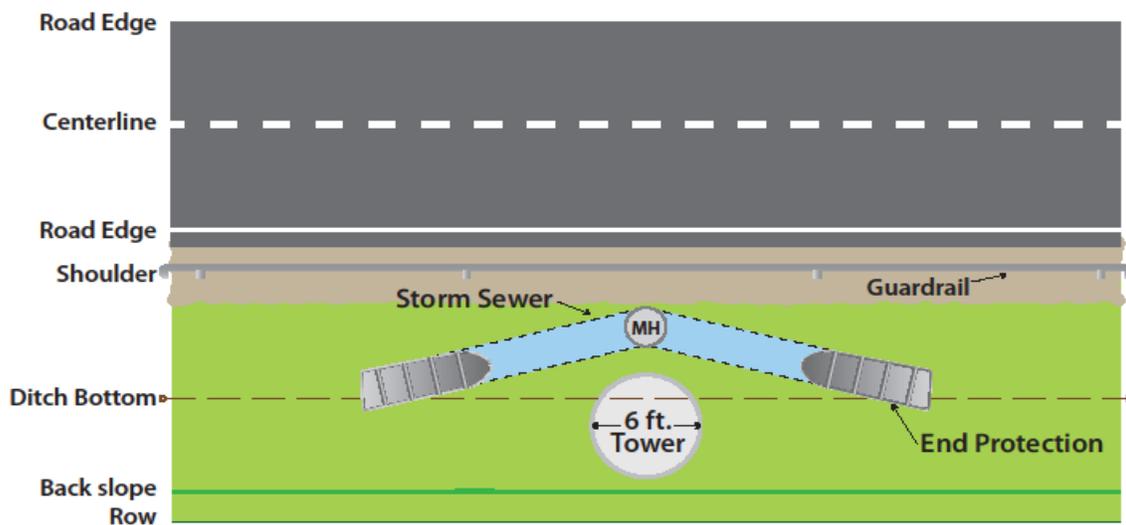
### Exhibit G

### Rural Road Plan View



### RURAL ROAD TYPICAL PLAN VIEW

Proposed CSP Tower



3-1-17

## **Exhibit 5**

# **Proposal for Tower from Mobilitie to Monroe, MI, and Response of City**

June 24, 2016

Monroe City Engineering Dept.  
Patrick Lewis  
Engineering Director  
120 E. 1st St.  
Monroe, MI 48161

RE: Mobilitie, LLC's Permit Application Submission

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Please find enclosed Mobilitie, LLC's ("Mobilitie") Right of Way Permit Application (the "application") for its proposed new utility infrastructure facility in the City of Monroe (the "City"). Along with the attached Application, please also find construction drawings, insurance certificate, and traffic plans.

Mobilitie is a limited liability company that is registered by the Michigan Public Service Commission. To meet the growing demand for connectivity, Mobilitie is deploying a hybrid transport network that provides high-speed, high-capacity bandwidth in order to facilitate the next generation of devices and data-driven services. This network can support a variety of technologies and services that require connectivity to the internet, including, but not limited to, driverless and connected vehicles (commercial, personal and agricultural), remote weather stations and mobile service providers. These transport utility poles and facilities are not dedicated to any particular customer, and, to the extent capacity on the structures is available, are available to be used by other entities, including the City.

Based on our initial research, Applicant is submitting the Applications in accordance with Chapter 625-24 of Monroe City's Municipal Code. For the benefit of both parties, Applicant formally requests the City to identify a single point of contact to streamline the application communications.

We are excited to work with the City. If you have questions please contact me at (312) 638-5301. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Deering  
Network Real Estate Specialist

Enclosures:    1. Application  
                     2. Copy of CAP Registration  
                     3. Set of Drawings  
                     4. Certificate of Insurance

**CITY OF MONROE  
Engineering Department**

APPLICATION AND PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, USE AND/OR MAINTAIN CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OTHER PUBLICLY-OWNED PLACES UNDER CITY CONTROL

If a contractor is to perform the construction entailed in this permit and is supplying the deposit, he will fill out the information block provided, and thereby assumes responsibility, along with the applicant, for any provisions this application and permit which apply to him.

Fee Amount	App. No.
Cash/Check	Permit No.
Receipt No.	Issuance Date

Mobilitie, LLC / Mark Deering 5/3/16

Applicant's Name (Property Owner, Corp., Utility Co., Etc.) Date

120 S. Riverside, Ste 1800

Applicant's Mailing Address

Chicago IL 60606 312-638-5301

City State ZIP Phone

Mark Deering  
Applicant's Signature (If other than Property Owner, give title)

Faith Technologies 5/3/2016

Contractor's Name (Individual, Company, Etc.) Date

11086 Strang Line Road

Contractor's Mailing Address

Lenexa KS 66215 913-281-0841

City State ZIP Phone

S. Miller Project Manager  
Contractor's Signature (If other than Contractor, give title)

The above-named applicant hereby makes application for a permit to Construct, Operate, Use, and/or Maintain certain improvements within a public place.

The exact location is as follows: Latitude: 41.912787, Longitude -83.402015

Northern side of West 5th Street. Near the intersection of Cass St & W. 5th St.

For a period commencing 12/1/2016 and ending 12/31/2016: detailed description of the desired facility and/or activity is as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Install a transport utility pole in the public right-of-way. See construction drawings.

The above-stated intentions are to be carried out in the manner applied for and in accordance with plans, specifications, and statements attached hereto and filed with the **City of Monroe Engineering Department** hereinafter referred to as the DEPARTMENT.

**THIS PERMIT OBLIGATES THE APPLICANT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give telephone or written notice to the Engineering Department of the City of Monroe at least 48 hours prior to commencement of operations covered by this permit.</li> <li>2. In any and all operations under this permit, meet all applicable requirements of the City of Monroe as set forth in Monroe Code Chapter 625.</li> <li>3. Take, provide and maintain all necessary precautions to prevent injury or damage to persons and property from operations covered by this permit and use safety devices which are in accordance with applicable Federal and State requirements.</li> <li>4. Save harmless the City of Monroe against any and all claims for damages and losses of any kind, including actual attorney fees arising from operations covered by this permit, and, upon request, furnish proof of insurance coverage naming the City of Monroe as an additional insured for the term of this permit for \$1,000,000 personal injury and \$500,000 property damage for operations covered by this permit.</li> <li>5. Upon request of the Department, immediately remove, cease operation and surrender this permit or alter or relocate, at applicant's expense, the</li> </ol> | <p>facility for which this permit is granted. Upon failure to do so, the Department shall take the necessary action and the applicant shall reimburse the City for its costs in doing same.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to grant any right whatsoever to any public utilities whatsoever except as to the consent herein specifically given, not to impair anyway any existing rights granted in accordance with the constitution or laws of this State.</li> <li>7. Give notice to public utilities in accordance with Act 53, PA 1974 and comply with all other provisions of said act. Call "MISS DIG" at least 72 hours before excavating by dialing 1-800-482-7171.</li> <li>8. Promptly reimburse the City of Monroe for any inspection costs incurred as a result of activities covered by this permit.</li> <li>9. At the option of the Department, deposit cash, performance bond, or a check in the sum of _____ acceptable to the Department to guarantee the faithful performance of the conditions of the permit.</li> <li>10. Comply with the requirements of Act 347, PA 1972 controlling soil erosion and sedimentation.</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

Attached to Application:	
Plans _____	Bond _____
Proof of _____	
Insurance _____	Other _____

<b>APPROVED</b>	
By: _____	Authorized Signature

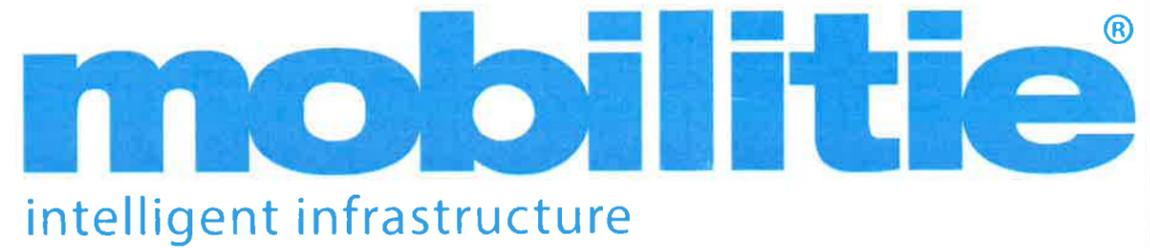
NOTE: This permit does not relieve applicant from meeting any applicable requirements of law or of other public bodies or agencies.

## Regulated Telephone Interexchange Carriers and Competitive Access Providers Operating in Michigan as of August 19, 2015

Note: If your company's email address is not listed or corrections need to be made to this list, please contact Julie Ginevan at: [ginevanj@michigan.gov](mailto:ginevanj@michigan.gov)

Company Name and Address	Contact Information	CAP	IXC
LakeNet LLC 21713 Roosevelt Rd.	Christopher Fabien Phone: Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:chris@lakenetmi.com">chris@lakenetmi.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Level 3 Communications, LLC 4625 W. 86th St Suite 500 Indianapolis, IN 46268	Pamela Hollick Phone: (317) 713-8977 Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:Pamela.Hollick@level3.com">Pamela.Hollick@level3.com</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lightspeed Communications LLC 4942 Dawn Avenue East Lansing, MI 48823	Jason Schreiber Phone: (517) 252-4341 Fax: Email:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ManagedWay Company 24275 Northwestern Hwy Ste 100 Southfield, MI 48075	Reese Serra Phone: (888) 745-6948 Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:rserra@managedway.com">rserra@managedway.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrix Telecom, Inc., dba Trinsic Communications 433 East Las Colinas Blvd Ste. 400 Irving, TX 75039	Leslie Ellis Phone: (972) 910-1411 Fax: (866) 418-9750 Email: <a href="mailto:regulatory@matrixbt.com">regulatory@matrixbt.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MCI Communications Services, Inc., dba Verizon Busine 3939 Blue Spruce Dr. Dewitt, MI 48820	David Vehslage Phone: (517) 668-0626 Fax: (517) 668-1018 Email: <a href="mailto:david.vehslage@verizon.com">david.vehslage@verizon.com</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC, dba Veriz 3939 Blue Spruce Dr. Dewitt, MI 48820	David Vehslage Phone: (517) 668-0626 Fax: (517) 668-1018 Email: <a href="mailto:david.vehslage@verizon.com">david.vehslage@verizon.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan Network Services LLC 1677 W. Hamlin Rd. Rochester Hills, MI 48309	Amanda Robinson Phone: Fax: Email:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midwest Communications Services, Inc. 7255 Tower Road Battle Creek, MI 49014	Larry Powell Phone: (269) 963-7173 Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:larrymcs@voyager.net">larrymcs@voyager.net</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobilitie, LLC 660 Newport Center Dr. Ste. 200 Newport Beach, CA 92660	Mark Askelson Phone: (949) 999-4545 Fax: (989) 266-8905 Email:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neo Network Development Inc. 1547 Palos Verdes #298 Walnut Creek, CA 94597	Anita Taff-Rice Phone: (415) 699-7885 Fax: (925) 274-0988 Email:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





9MIX000133A

41.912765, -83.402014

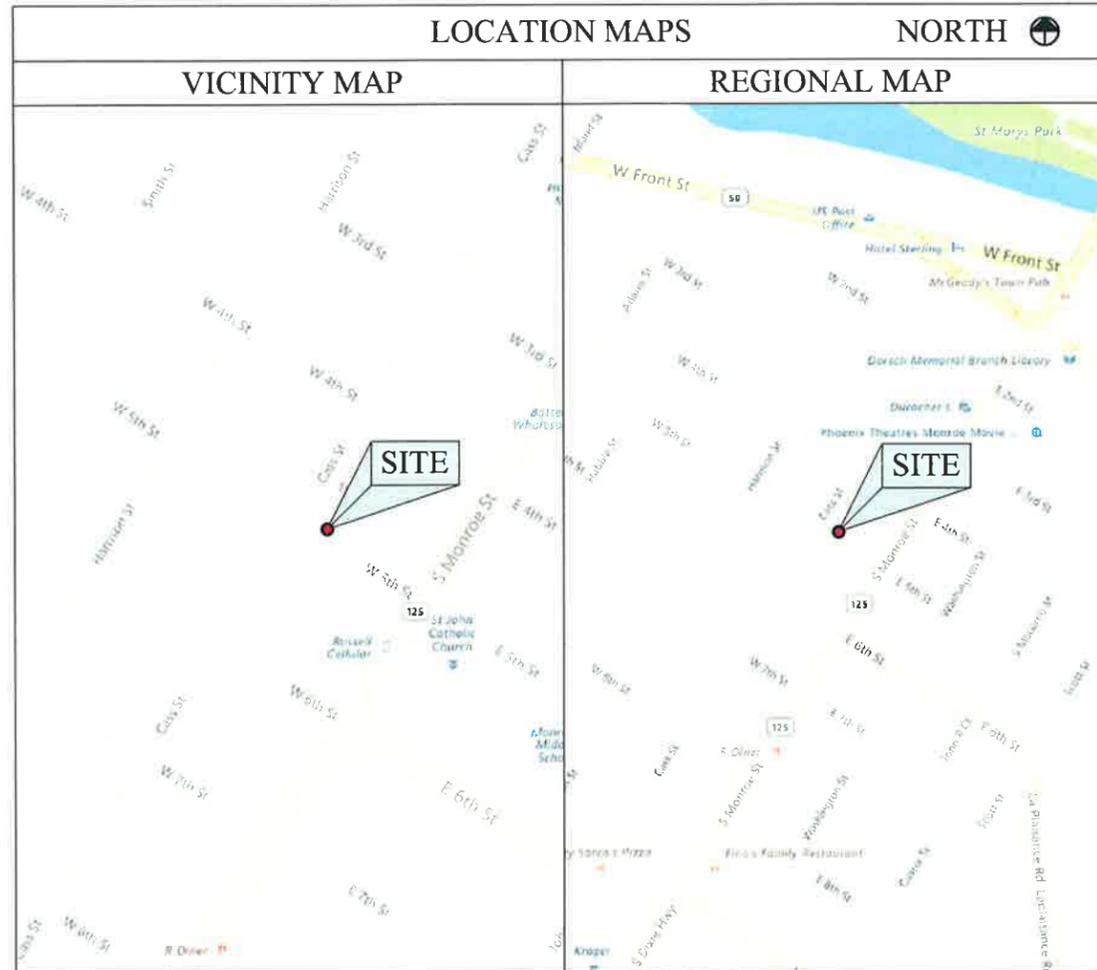
W 5th St & Cass St

Monroe, MI 48161



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

GENERAL NOTES	
THE FACILITY IS UNMANNED AND NOT FOR HUMAN HABITATION. A TECHNICIAN WILL VISIT THE SITE AS REQUIRED FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE. THE PROJECT WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT DISTURBANCE OF EFFECT ON DRAINAGE; NO SANITARY SEWER SERVICE, POTABLE WATER OR TRASH DISPOSAL IS REQUIRED AND NO COMMERCIAL SIGNAGE IS PROPOSED.	
SITE INFORMATION	
POLE ID:	9MIX000133A
LATITUDE:	41.912765
LONGITUDE:	-83.402014
ADDRESS/CROSS STREET:	W 5th St & Cass St
CITY, STATE ZIP:	Monroe, MI 48161
PROPERTY OWNER	PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY
APPLICANT	MOBILITIE
Applicant Address	120 S RIVERSIDE PLAZA, SUITE 1800 CHICAGO, IL 60606
DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS	
CONTRACTORS SHALL VERIFY ALL PLANS, EXISTING DIMENSIONS & FIELD CONDITIONS ON THE JOB SITE & SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE ARCHITECT/ENGINEER IN WRITING OF ANY DISCREPANCIES BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE WORK OR BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAME.	



PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
END USER PROPOSES TO INSTALL A NEW 100'-0" UTILITY POLE WITHIN AN EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY. THE SCOPE WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: 1. INSTALL PROPOSED 100'-0" UTILITY POLE	
CODES	
BUILDING CODES: 2012 MICHIGAN BUILDING CODE USE GROUP U CONSTRUCTION TYPE 1B 2014 NEC CODE & PART 8 RULES	
SHEET INDEX	
SHEET #	SHEET DESCRIPTION
0.0	TITLE SHEET
1.0	EXHIBIT PHOTO & SITE PLAN
2.0	UTILITY POLE ELEVATIONS
3.0	EROSION CONTROL PLAN
4.0	ELECTRICAL
TR-1	TRAFFIC CONTROL PLANS
TR-2	TRAFFIC PLAN AND DETAILS
TR-3	TRAFFIC PLAN NOTES
ARCHITECT / ENGINEER	
PETER LICHOMSKI, ARCHITECT 6720 LEYTONSTONE BLVD. WEST BLOOMFIELD, MI 48322 248-705-9212 PETERLICHOMSKI@LABARCHITECTSLLC.COM	

<b>mobilitie</b> intelligent infrastructure		
PROJECT NUMBER:	DE90XC128A	
DRAWN BY:	TOM	
CHECKED BY:	PL	
A	08.16.16	REVIEW TOM

PETER LICHOMSKI  
ARCHITECT  
No. 43776

*Peter Lichomski*

IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW FOR ANY PERSON, UNLESS THEY ARE ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, TO ALTER THIS DOCUMENT

SITE INFORMATION  
9MIX000133A  
41.912765, -83.402014  
W 5th St & Cass St  
Monroe, MI 48161  
UTILITY POLE

SHEET TITLE  
TITLE SHEET

SHEET NUMBER  
**0.0**









IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW FOR ANY PERSON, UNLESS THEY ARE ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, TO ALTER THIS DOCUMENT

SITE INFORMATION  
TRAFFIC CONTROL PLANS  
41.912765, -83.402014  
W 5th St & Cass St  
Monroe, MI 48161  
UTILITY POLE

SHEET TITLE

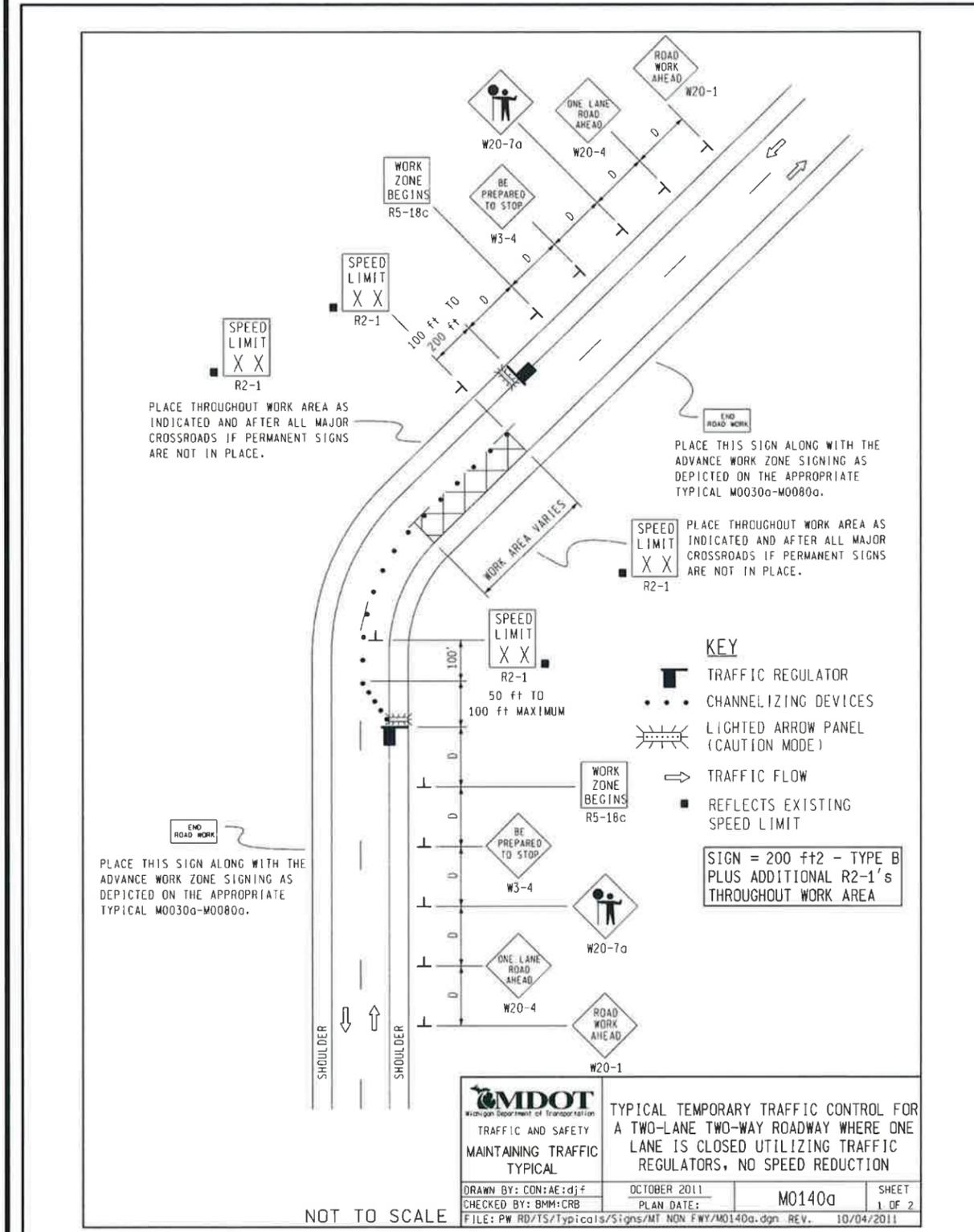
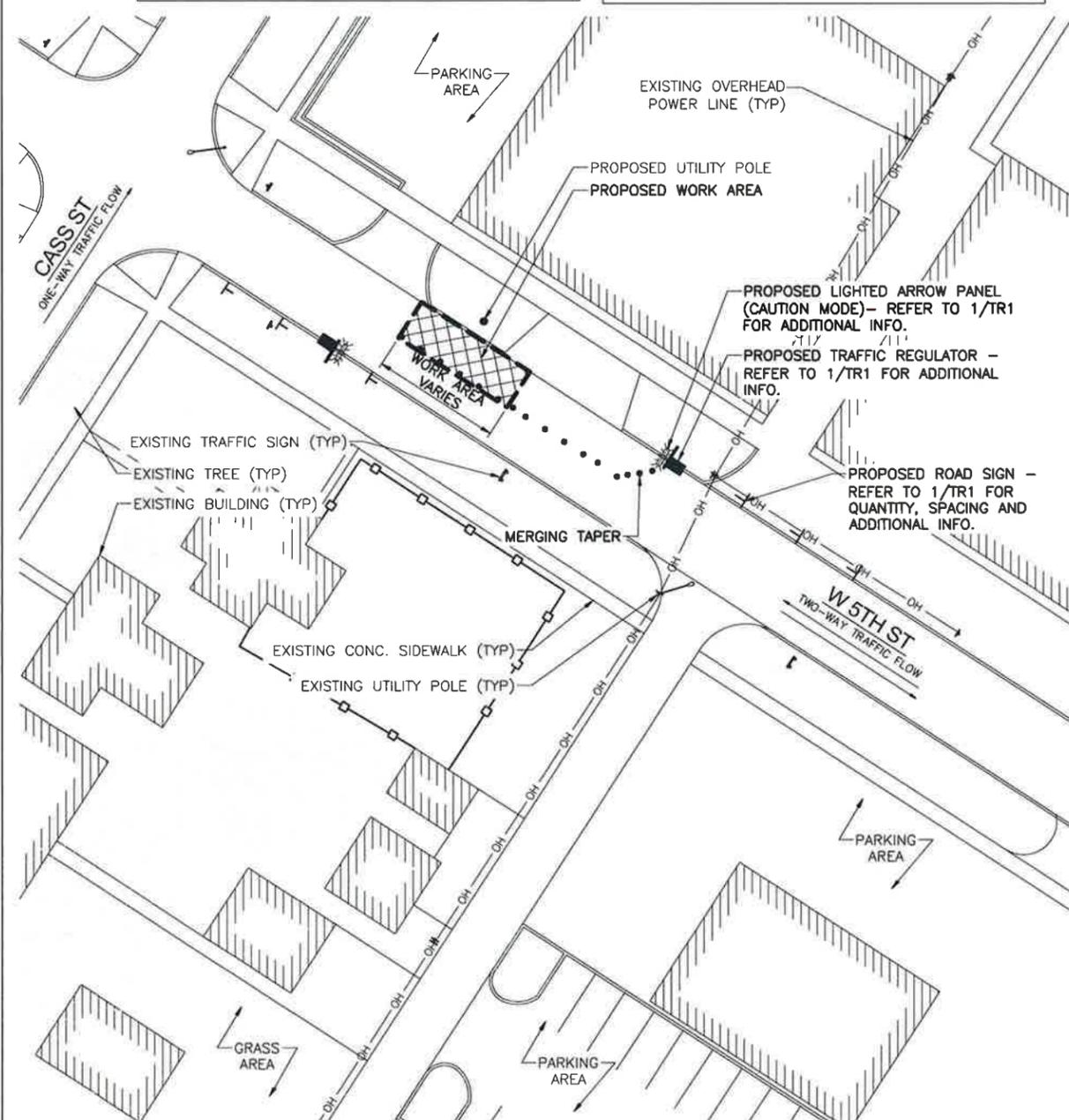
TRAFFIC CONTROL PLANS

SHEET NUMBER

TR-1

NOTE:  
PROPOSED 100'-0" POLE IN THE R.O.W.  
R.O.W. BOUNDARIES TO BE CONFIRMED AFTER SURVEY

NOTE:  
THIS SITE PLAN WAS GENERATED WITHOUT THE USE OF A SURVEY. PROPERTY LINES, POWER & TELCO UTILITY PINT CONNECTIONS/ROUTES AND EASEMENTS SHOWN ON THESE PLANS ARE ESTIMATED.



1 TRAFFIC CONTROL TYPICAL INFO  
SCALE: N.T.S.

2 TRAFFIC CONTROL PLANS  
SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"





# KITCH DRUTCHAS WAGNER VALITUTTI & SHERBROOK

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

ONE WOODWARD AVENUE, SUITE 2400  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-5485

(313) 965-7900

FAX (313) 965-7403

INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www.kitch.com>

## PRINCIPALS

RICHARD A. KITCH  
GREGORY G. DRUTCHAS  
RONALD E. WAGNER  
RALPH F. VALITUTTI, JR.  
HARRY J. SHERBROOK  
CHARLES W. FISHER (1)  
JOHN P. RYAN  
WILLIAM D. CHAKLOS  
STEVE N. CHEOLAS  
SUSAN H. ZITTELMAN (1)(7)  
JOHN S. WASUNG (1)  
JOHN PAUL HESSBURG (3)  
KAREN B. BERKERY (4)  
DANIEL R. SHIREY (5)  
JOHN M. SIER (6)  
STEPHEN R. BRZEZINSKI  
THOMAS R. SHIMMEL  
MICHAEL J. WATZA  
MARK A. WISNIEWSKI  
RICHARD J. JOPICH  
BARBARA A. MARTIN  
JULIA K. MCNELIS  
DEAN A. ETSIOS  
CHERYL A. CARDELLI  
LAURA L. WITTY  
DONALD B. LENDERMAN (7)  
RICHARD J. SUHRHEINRICH  
R. LISA PANAH (7)

TIMOTHY S. GROUSTRA (8)  
MARY CATHERINE STOREN  
SUSAN D. MACGREGOR  
R. SCOTT GLOVER  
DAVID C. WIEGEL  
MARGARET A. CHAMBERLAIN  
JENNA WRIGHT GREENMAN  
CHRISTINA A. GINTER  
MARK M. SESI  
RYAN D. EWLES  
MICHAEL T. WALSH (11)  
MARCY A. TAYLER  
TERENCE P. DURKIN  
GENEVIEVE E. DELONIS  
CHRISTINA A. DOYLE  
ANDREW M. HARRIS  
PATRICK M. FISHMAN  
BETH A. WITTMANN (1)  
RICK J. WITTMER (2)  
LINDSAY C. KELLEY-BLIVEN

## ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS

STEVEN P. MCCAUSLIN  
ANNE M. BROSSIA (9)  
PATRICK B. CAVANAUGH (1)  
DAVID T. HENDERSON (1)  
MICHAEL E. GERAGHTY  
AMY L. CARRIVEAU  
A. GABE SYBESMA

2379 WOODLAKE DRIVE, SUITE 400  
OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-6032  
(517) 381-4426  
FAX: (517) 381-4427

TOWNE SQUARE DEVELOPMENT  
10 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 200  
MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN 48043-7903  
(586) 463-9770  
FAX: (586) 463-8994

OLD CITY HALL  
220 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE 500  
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855-4344  
(906) 228-0001  
FAX: (906) 228-0003

405 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 1500  
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604-1235  
(419) 243-4006  
FAX: (419) 243-7333

20 N. CLARK ST., SUITE 600  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602-4252  
(312) 332-7901  
FAX: (312) 332-7903

THOMAS P. SULLIVAN (1)  
RYAN M. DEMPSEY  
SHEREEN L. SILVER  
MARGARET M. PHILPOT  
JOSLYN R. MULLER  
JENNIFER M. JENKINS  
ELISHA ("ELI") S. ROSENBLUM (2)  
KRISTEN L. COOK (7)  
KALLY L. GOODWIN  
DANIEL A. POLLARD  
VICTOR A. MCCOY  
MEGHAN KENNEDY RIORDAN (13)  
MARIO CUSUMANO (2)  
LAURIE A. TANNOUS (14) (15)

## SENIOR ASSOCIATES

RITA ARABO  
CATHERINE M. HART (12)  
LINDSAY E. ROSE  
ADAM C. ZWICKER

## ASSOCIATES

SAMIA ABBAS  
ELISE J. ARSENAULT  
KIEL A. CHAMBERLAIN  
ERIN N. DANNE  
ANTON A. DIRNBERGER II  
MATTHEW H. FAIVER  
ZETH D. HEARLD  
AMANDA S. KAKOS

ALLEGRA M. LANNI  
SAM S. MATE JR.  
REBECCA M. MCLAUGHLIN  
YASIR MUHAMMAD  
KLAUDIA NIKOLLI PSARI  
BRAD R. PERO  
JASON C. PROCTOR  
EVA SOSNOWSKA (2)

## OF COUNSEL

WILLIAM D. HODGMAN  
SUZANNE D. NOLAN  
WILLIAM D. SERWER  
ABRAHAM SINGER  
STUART TRAGER (10)

- (1) ALSO ADMITTED IN OHIO
- (2) ONLY ADMITTED IN ILLINOIS
- (3) ALSO ADMITTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
- (4) ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK
- (5) ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA
- (6) ALSO ADMITTED IN IOWA
- (7) ALSO ADMITTED IN ILLINOIS
- (8) ALSO ADMITTED IN ARKANSAS
- (9) ONLY ADMITTED IN OHIO
- (10) MTT JUDGE RETIRED
- (11) ADMITTED IN ILLINOIS & INDIANA
- (12) ALSO ADMITTED IN INDIANA
- (13) ALSO LICENSED AS A FOREIGN LEGAL CONSULATANT IN CANADA
- (14) ONLY ADMITTED IN CANADA
- (15) ALSO LICENSED AS A FOREIGN LEGAL CONSULATANT IN MICHIGAN

August 8, 2016

Mark Deering  
Mobilitie, LLC  
120 S. Riverside Plaza, Ste. 1800  
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Mobilitie LLC's Right of Way Submission

Dear Mr. Deering:

Please be advised that the undersigned is special counsel for the City of Monroe.

The City of Monroe is in possession of your submitted documents purporting to seek permission to install a 100' "transport utility pole in the public right of way." Based on the longitude and latitude provided on the application, the pole would be located in front of 60 W. 5th St in Monroe.

The documents submitted are not consistent, accurate or complete. The materials you submitted (at Sheet 0.0) include a "Project Description" that describes the scope of work as only involving installation of a 100' utility pole. Sheet 2.0 is consistent with that description, as it includes no pole attachments or any engineering that would suggest

Re: Mobilitie LLC's Right of Way Submission  
August 8, 2016  
Page 2

that overhead wiring will be associated with what you call a utility pole; the Exhibit photo on Sheet 1.0 also shows no overhead wiring. However, Sheet 1.0 suggests that overhead fiber optics will run from the pole along an existing pole line and that an overhead power line will be placed on what you describe as the "access road." None of the sheets other than 0.0 appear to have been reviewed by an engineer, and none purports to be based on an actual site inspection or a review of the right of way boundaries. The inconsistency in the documents makes it difficult to provide a response, but we will do our best, reserving the right to raise additional issues should you choose to pursue these applications.

Your cover letter says that the application was submitted pursuant to Section 625.24 of the Monroe City Code, which addresses excavations in the rights of way. You did not submit the application pursuant to Michigan's Metro Act, which is addressed in Section 651-1 of the Monroe City Code, nor did you submit an application for placement of a wireless facility under applicable federal, state or local law. The Monroe City Code contains provisions applicable to placement of wireless facilities in Section 720-78.

Access to the rights of way for placement of telecommunications wires, if allowed at all, would either require a Metro Act Application or a local franchise. You would need to submit an application under the Metro Act or seek other authorizations if (as the plans suggest) you do intend to install overhead wires. In addition, a local franchise would at least be required for anything not covered by the Metro Act, which would include any wireless facility (wireless facilities are not covered by the Metro Act) and other related structures. The proposed "utility pole" appears to be a wireless facility not unlike wireless DAS or Small Cell networks and facilities related thereto. The supporting structure would be a tower under applicable FCC rules. Therefore, in addition to complying with Section 625.24, you actually would need to submit an application for a wireless facility following the requirements of the City Code.

Taking your submission at face value, it is therefore not possible for us to further process your submission as it is **incomplete** due to the absence of the applicable submissions required under the City Code and Charter, or to the extent it applies, the Metro Act and implementing provisions of the City Code.

In addition, even if you could submit an application for the work without the materials described above, the company's submission would be incomplete for reasons including but not limited to the following: a lack of detail on the project description (and inconsistencies between the description and the drawings); the absence of engineering, including the absence of drawings based on actual surveys showing property boundaries and utility lines; and the absence of submissions based on the facility that is proposed, as opposed to submissions that contain generic photos that are not site specific (we note that the photo on Sheet 1.0 is the same photo used by Mobilitie to seek authorization for 120' poles in other communities, so the picture is not only not site

Re: Mobilitie LLC's Right of Way Submission  
August 8, 2016  
Page 3

specific – it is a misrepresentation of the proposed facility). If, as some sheets suggest, wiring will be placed underground, information about trenching and restoration will need to be provided, and if, as would appear you must cut a driveway, additional information will also be required. Each of the sheets should be signed and sealed appropriately; the sheets you submitted are not. The submission did not include required fees.

Given the ambiguous nature of the information provided in your submission, in addition to not being able to discern the physical details of what is proposed, nor the precise proposed locations, we also cannot determine with any exactitude, the applicable regulatory requirements that may apply. The following engineering requirements appear to apply. You should submit:

1. Topographic survey including dimensions of right-of-way width, locations of existing utilities, dimensions of proposed facilities from adjacent utilities, curb lines, and other appropriate features that can be used as reference points. Any proposed facilities must be located a minimum of 3 feet horizontally from existing utilities, or greater depending on the relative depths.
2. Profile view indicating the depth of existing utilities, any crossings, etc. Minimum 18" vertical separation from any existing utilities will be required.
3. Foundation details must be provided of the pole and associated structures to determine any potential conflicts with existing utilities and / or roadway features.

Of course, the drawings should be consistent. We would of course expect to review the safety of the proposed structure as part of the permitting or at the time of construction.

The foregoing would apply without regard to the location of the tower proposed. However, the proposed site is located within the Old Village Historic District (#82002854) in the National Register of Historic Places, and in front of an historically significant structure. A document showing the boundaries of the district is attached.

Listed in 1982, the district includes residential and commercial architecture dating from the mid-19th that is representative of all major architectural styles constructed in Michigan from that point through the 20th century. The Old Village nomination contained one of the largest groupings of historic resources submitted for designation in the state of Michigan. In addition to its impacts on the structures on property immediately adjoining the proposed tower, the proposed tower will be in direct line of sight with St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. The church was constructed in the Romanesque Revival style prevalent during the second half of the 19th century. Completed in 1874, St. John's was listed on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites in 1998. Within a little more than a block's distance is Memorial Place. Located on Monroe Street, the park commemorates the Kentucky soldiers that fought and died at the Battle of the River Raisin in January 1813. We suspect that the tower, which is extraordinarily tall

Re: Mobilitie LLC's Right of Way Submission  
August 8, 2016  
Page 4

and unlike other facilities in the rights of way, will be visible from many locations within the district.

Work in this area on wireless facilities necessarily implicates Section 106 review under guidelines established in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA); and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It may also implicate the Historic Sites Act of 1935; archaeological monitoring for inadvertent finds during excavation projects; and the requirements and obligations established and delineated by the Antiquities Act of 1906; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, as amended (1960); the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; and the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (1990). You have also chosen to place the structure near a roadway that is designated as a state historic heritage route, and that will implicate duties of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

We believe it highly likely that the proposed placement would require a full environmental impact report, but there is no indication that Mobilitie, or the architect who reviewed the plans, has taken any steps to comply with, or even identify the company's obligations under federal or state laws. This is of grave concern: we fear the submission was designed to ignore the requirements applicable to wireless facilities in the rights of way within or affecting historical districts. In addition, the City is very likely to exercise its authority under Section 383 of the City Code should you opt to pursue placement of the tower as proposed.

In summary, the submission under Section 625 is incomplete, for reasons stated above. It is, in fact, so defective and raises such significant issues, that we believe the best course for Mobilitie is to withdraw the submission.

Please let us know if you intend to withdraw the application within five business days of the date of this letter. If you do not do so, the City will need to take appropriate steps to protect itself. This may include, but is not limited to, filing a complaint at the Federal Communications Commission that will show what you submitted, and its impacts on a district listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Should you choose to pursue the application under Section 625, you also would need to file additional materials and pay the fees required under that section. In addition to the applicability of Monroe Code Section 625, Article (Excavations), the City of Monroe, as appropriate, will be reviewing future submittals for consistency also with Chapter 651 (Telecommunications) and Chapter 720 (Zoning), Section 78 (Wireless telecommunications towers and antennas). While these sections may not apply in their entirety given the type of facility being contemplated, some additional provisions may also govern, as suggested above. We would expect to receive these materials promptly, along with applicable fees. As indicated above, you will also need to seek a franchise from the City.

Re: Mobilitie LLC's Right of Way Submission  
August 8, 2016  
Page 5

Out of an abundance of caution, to the extent that Mobilitie contends that the application was submitted pursuant to the Metro Act, we hereby determine that it does not comply with the requirements of that Act, and indeed, that the Act is not applicable to all or most of the installations – and certainly not the “utility pole” set out in the Project Description.

Further, to the extent that Mobilitie contends that it has submitted this application under Section 332(c)(7) or state law governing placement of new wireless facilities, it should provide all the materials identified in this letter along with the materials required in the City Code provisions cited above, so that the City is in a position to comply with any deadlines Mobilitie may believe applies. We would need that material within 21 days of the date of this letter.

After withdrawal, or after disposition of the submission, the City is also happy to discuss other alternative sites that do not impact the rights of way, and do not raise the same safety and other concerns. There may be other municipal properties in the immediate area that may fulfill Mobilitie's needs.

On behalf of the City of Monroe,

KITCH DRUTCHAS WAGNER  
VALITUTTI & SHERBROOK

---

Michael J. Watza  
(313) 965-7983  
mike.watza@kitch.com

## **Exhibit 6**

# **Proposal for Tower from Mobilitie to Centerville, GA., and Response of City**

# Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC

March 8, 2016

Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC  
Interstate Transport and Broadband, LLC  
925B Peachtree St. NE Suite 710  
Atlanta, GA 30309



CITY OF DUBLIN  
Engineering Department  
Attention: Royce J. Hall  
100 S Church St  
Dublin, GA 31040  
Phone Number: 478-277-503

**RE: Application of Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC to Construct, Maintain, and Operate its Lines and Facilities in Dublin, GA, Lauren County – #9GAX001111**

**PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF SUBSECTION (b) OF CODE SECTION 46-5-1- OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED, THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY SLAUREN NOTIFY THE APPLIANT OF ANY DEFICIENCIES IN THIS APPLIATION WITHIN 15 BUSINESS DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION; SUCH NOTICE SLAUREN SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFY ALL APPLICATION DEFICIENCIES. IF NO SUCH NOTIFICATION IS GIVEN WITHIN 15 BUSINESS DAYS OF THE RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION, SUCH APPLICATION SLAUREN BE DEEMED COMPLETE**

Dear To Whom It May Concern:

**Principal Office:**

Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC  
925B Peachtree St. NE Suite 710  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

**Local Agent:**

Chad Caudill  
Interstate Transport and Broadband, LLC  
925B Peachtree St. NE Suite 710  
Atlanta, GA 30309

**Certification of Authority:**

Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC has certification from the Georgia Public Service Commission that it is authorized to provide backhaul transport services in Georgia pursuant to CLEC Certificate L-0493 and IXC Certificate X-1101, copies of which are forthcoming.

**Proof of Insurance:**

Copies of which are forthcoming.

**Description of Service Area:**

Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC service area is the Lauren County. If Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC or Interstate Transport and Broadband, LLC modifies its service area as identified in this application it sLauren notify Lauren County of such changes at least 20 days prior to the effective date of such change. Such notification sLauren contain a geographic description of the new service area to be provided within the Lauren County of the Lauren County.

**Description of Services to be Provided:**

Under its CLEC and IXC certificates, Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC is a backhaul transport provider. If Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC modifies its provisioned services identified in this application it sLauren notify the Lauren County of such changes at least 20 days prior to the effective date of such change. Such notification sLauren contain a description of the new services to be provided within the Lauren County of the Lauren County.

**Compliance Agreement:**

Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC sLauren comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including municipal ordinances and regulations, regarding the placement and maintenance of facilities in the public rights of way that are reasonable, nondiscriminatory, and applicable to all users of the public rights of way, including the requirements of Chapter 9 of Title 25, the "Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act."

**Statement Concerning Payment of Compensation to the Lauren County:**

Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC acknowledges that the payment of due compensation to the Lauren County as defined in O.C.G.A. § 46-5-1(b)(9) would be required for Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC to have the right to construct, maintain, and operate its lines upon the right of way of the Lauren County. In filing this application Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC seeks to provide the Lauren County with the information necessary to determine the amount of due compensation that would have to be paid and represents to the Lauren County that O.C.G.A. § 46-5-1 does not prevent the filing of an application.

Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC agrees that its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including municipal ordinances and regulations, regarding the placement and maintenance of facilities in the public rights of way that are reasonable, nondiscriminatory, and applicable to all users of the public rights of way, including the requirements of Chapter 9 of Title 25, the "Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act" would cause the due compensation to become payable once the Lauren County has made a determination of the amount that complies with O.C.G.A. § 46-5-1.

**Facilities to be Installed:**

The facilities to be installed in the right of way of the Lauren County are as set forth in Exhibit "B."

Please find the enclosed Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC's ("NUTG") application for right of way use agreement and building permit application for the proposed new utility infrastructure facility in your Lauren County. Along with the attached permit application, you will also find construction drawings and photo simulations for each facility.

NUTG is a public utility company regulated by the Georgia Public Service Commission to provide telephone related services, such as facilities based competitive local exchange and interexchange services. To meet the growing demand for connectivity, NUTG is deploying a hybrid transport network that provides high-speed, high-capacity bandwidth in order to facilitate the next generation of devices and data-driven services. This network can support a variety of technologies and services that require connectivity to the internet, including, but not limited to, driverless and

connected vehicles (commercial, personal and agricultural), remote weather stations and mobile service providers. These transport utility poles and facilities are not dedicated to any particular customer, and, to the extent capacity on the structures is available, are available to be used by other entities.

Based on our initial research, NUTG is submitting the application in accordance with the Lauren County. NUTG plans to construct the applied for utility infrastructure within the next 18 months and formally requests the County to identify a single point of contact to streamline the application communications for the benefit of both parties.

NUTG's hybrid transport network is an industry changing approach that seeks to improve backhaul connectivity for the County's residents. We are excited to work with Lauren County and are available to answer questions. If you have questions please contact me at (678) 778 – 6505.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Application made on this 8 day of March, 2016,

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Heick  
Network Real Estate Permitting Manager

Chad Caudill  
Agent for Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC

Date Submitted		Submitted By	Thomas Heick
----------------	--	--------------	--------------

JURISDICTION INFORMATION							
Jurisdiction Name	Laurens County						
Address	32.537216, -82.908211	City	Dublin	State	GA	Zip Code	31021
Jurisdiction Contact				Phone Number			

APPLICANT INFORMATION							
Applicant Name	Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC				Utility ID		
Address	925 B Peachtree St. NE, Suite 710						
City	Atlanta	State	GA	Zip Code	30309		
Applicant Contact	Thomas Heick	Phone Number	678-778-6505	Email	thomas.heick@nutility.com		

Name		Phone Number	
------	--	--------------	--

SITE INFORMATION							
Cascade ID	AT90XCAVB			Interstate Transport and Broadband, LLC ID			
Latitude	32.537216	Longitude	-82.908211	Site Type (Urban, Rural, etc.)			
Address		City	Dublin	State	GA	Zip Code	31021

End user proposes to install a new 120' Utility Pole within an existing Right-Of-Way. The scope will consist of the following- Install proposed 120' utility pole							
Est. Cost of Work	\$4,050						

GENERAL CONTRACTOR							
Contractor Name	TBD				License Number		
Contact Name		Phone Number		Email			
Address							
City		State		Zip Code			

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR							
Contractor Name	TBS				License Number		
Contact Name		Phone Number		Email			
Address							
City		State		Zip Code			

ARCHITECTURE / ENGINEERING							
Contractor Name	JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC				License Number		
Contact Name	KARL KRATINA	Phone Number	678-469-1416	Email			
Address							
City		State		Zip Code			

POWER AND BACKHAUL							
Power Provided By	UTILITY CO. DIRECT <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> AERIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRENCHING <input type="checkbox"/> BORE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>						
Utility Provider							
Address				City		State	Zip Code
Telco/Interconnect Requirements	V/E <input type="checkbox"/> MICRO/WAVE <input type="checkbox"/> FIBER OPTICS <input type="checkbox"/> LICENSED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>						
Provider							

PERMIT ISSUANCE							
Permit Number				Permit Number			
Permit Fee				Permit Fee			











\* \* \* \*

# CITY OF CENTERVILLE

300 East Church Street  
Centerville, Georgia 31028-1099  
Phone: (478) 953-4734 Fax: (478) 953-4797

**JOHN R. HARLEY**  
MAYOR

Chad Caudill, Local Agent  
Interstate Transport and Broadband, LLC  
925B Peachtree St. NE, Suite 710  
Atlanta, GA 30309

**Mike Brumfield**  
Dir of Operations

Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, LLC  
Interstate Transport and Broadband, LLC  
925B Peachtree St., NE, Suite 710  
Atlanta, GA 30309

**Krista Bedingfield**  
City Clerk

**Rebecca L. Tydings**  
City Attorney

March 14, 2016 sent via overnight delivery, signature required

Dear Mr. Caudill:

**Members  
Of  
Council**

### Rejection of application and Notice of Incompleteness

**Cameron W. Andrews**  
Post 1

On March 7, 2016, the City of Centerville responded to a letter from Network Utility Technologies of Georgia, Inc. (hereinafter "NUTG") dated February 26, 2016. That letter purported to be an application demanding rights in public property. The City of Centerville requested that you withdraw the improperly submitted document by March 10, 2016.

**Randall Wright**  
Post 2

**J. Micheal Evans**  
Post 3

Having received no further correspondence from NUTG, the City of Centerville hereby rejects the purported application since it is not a proper application submitted under Georgia law. Those application provisions are only available to "[a]ny telephone company chartered by the law of this or any other state . . ."

**Edward D. Armijo**  
Post 4

To the extent that the City is required by Georgia law to respond to an application, even if submitted with false information as part of a demand for property, this letter also serves as a Notice of Incompleteness both because NUTG and the proposed facilities are not eligible for consent, and for the reasons specified in the attachment.

Finally, the City of Centerville would alert you that there are other issues created by your application both as to compensation and to placement that are not part of the completeness assessment. Should NUTG ever submit a complete and proper application, we would be happy to discuss those issues with you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Tydings, City Attorney



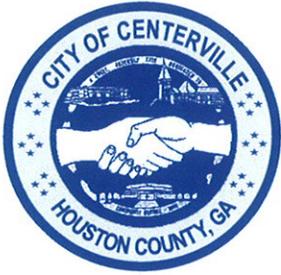
\* \* \* \*

# CITY OF CENTERVILLE

300 East Church Street  
 Centerville, Georgia 31028-1099  
 Phone: (478) 953-4734 Fax: (478) 953-4797

**JOHN R. HARLEY**  
**MAYOR**

<p><b>Mike Brumfield</b>          Dir of Operations</p>	<p>(A) The name, address, and telephone number of a principal office and local agent of such telegraph or telephone company;</p>	<p>Incomplete. We note that while an entity is listed as an agent, that entity was not registered with the State and therefore could not be the agent.</p>
<p><b>Krista Bedingfield</b>          City Clerk</p> <p><b>Rebecca L. Tydings</b>          City Attorney</p>		<p>Likewise, no telephone company had been registered to do business in the state, and therefore the application failed to include a proper identification of a company that may apply.</p>
<p>-----</p> <p><b>Members</b>  <b>Of</b>  <b>Council</b></p>	<p>(B) Proof of certification from the Georgia Public Service Commission of such telegraph or telephone company to provide telecommunications services in this state;</p>	<p>Incomplete. No proof provided</p>
<p><b>Cameron W. Andrews</b>          Post 1</p> <p><b>Randall Wright</b>          Post 2</p> <p><b>J. Micheal Evans</b>          Post 3</p>	<p>(C) Proof of insurance or self-insurance of such telegraph or telephone company adequate to defend and cover claims of third parties and of municipal authorities;</p>	<p>Incomplete. No proof provided.</p>
<p><b>Edward D. Armijo</b>          Post 4</p>	<p>(D) A description of the telegraph or telephone company's service area, which description shall be sufficiently detailed so as to allow a municipal authority to respond to subscriber inquiries. For the purposes of this paragraph, a telegraph or telephone company may, in lieu of or as supplement to a written description, provide a map on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper that is clear and legible and that fairly depicts the service area within the boundaries of the municipal authority. If such service area is less than the boundaries of an entire municipal authority, the map shall describe the boundaries of the geographic area to be served in clear and concise terms;</p>	<p>Incomplete. We note that description lacks sufficient detail to allow response to subscriber inquiries, and does not otherwise comply with the requirements of the law.</p>



\* \* \* \*

# CITY OF CENTERVILLE

300 East Church Street  
 Centerville, Georgia 31028-1099  
 Phone: (478) 953-4734 Fax: (478) 953-4797

**JOHN R. HARLEY**  
**MAYOR**

<p><b>Mike Brumfield</b>  <b>Dir of Operations</b></p>	<p>(E) A description of the services to be provided;</p>	<p>Incomplete. We note the description is insufficiently vague, for example, appearing to suggest applicant will provide services that would require DSRC licenses that there is no indication it would possess.</p>
<p><b>Krista Bedingfield</b>  <b>City Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Rebecca L. Tydings</b>  <b>City Attorney</b></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Members</b>  <b>Of</b>  <b>Council</b></p> <p><b>Cameron W. Andrews</b>  <b>Post 1</b></p> <p><b>Randall Wright</b>  <b>Post 2</b></p>	<p>(F) An affirmative declaration that the telegraph or telephone company shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including municipal ordinances and regulations, regarding the placement and maintenance of facilities in the public rights of way that are reasonable, nondiscriminatory, and applicable to all users of the public rights of way, including the requirements of Chapter 9 of Title 25, the "Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act"; and</p>	<p>Complete, except (as noted above) company had not complied with law requiring it to obtain authorizations, statement was false; see also last paragraph of cover letter, which notes that different compensation than is proposed appears to be required given the materials in the purported application.</p>
<p><b>J. Micheal Evans</b>  <b>Post 3</b></p> <p><b>Edward D. Armijo</b>  <b>Post 4</b></p>	<p>(G) A statement in bold type at the top of the application as follows: "Pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 46-5-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the municipal authority shall notify the applicant of any deficiencies in this application within 15 business days of receipt of this application."</p>	<p>Incomplete. Statement appears on first page of cover letter, not on the purported application.</p>
	<p>(If an application is incomplete, the municipal authority shall notify the telegraph or telephone company within 15 business days of the receipt of such application; such notice shall specifically identify all application deficiencies. If no such notification is given within 15 business days of the receipt of an application, such application shall be deemed complete.</p>	<p>Purported application received by City of Centerville on 03/02/2016. City's initial response letter dated 03/07/16; received by NUTG on 03/08/2016. City's rejection letter and notice of incompleteness dated 03/14/2016; sent UPS overnight for delivery on 03/15/2016.</p>

## **Exhibit 7**

# **Proposal for Tower from Mobilitie to Laurel, MD.**

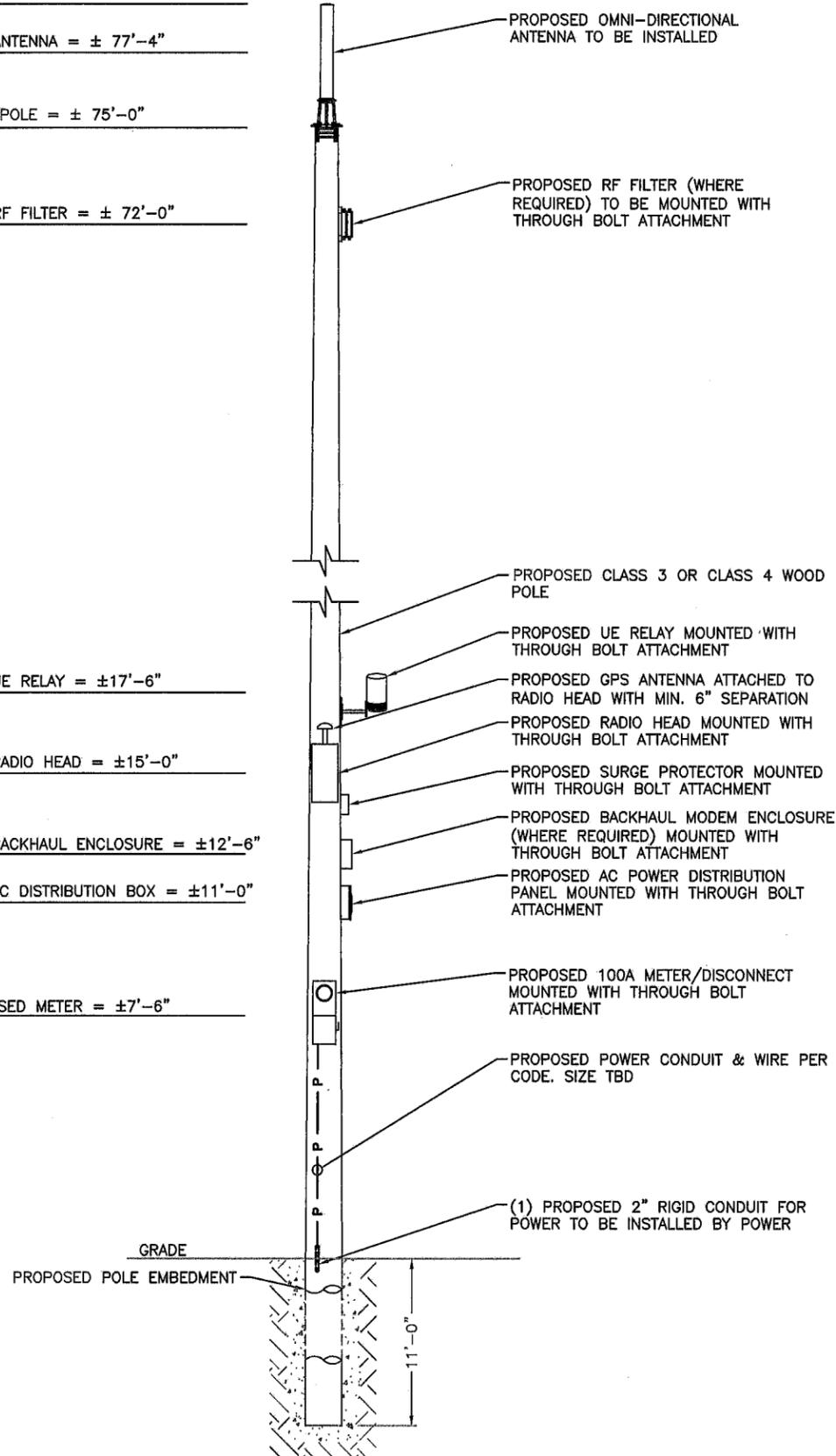






T/ OF PROPOSED ANTENNA = ± 78'-10"  
 C/ OF PROPOSED ANTENNA = ± 77'-4"  
 T/ OF PROPOSED POLE = ± 75'-0"  
 C/ OF PROPOSED RF FILTER = ± 72'-0"

C/ OF PROPOSED UE RELAY = ± 17'-6"  
 C/ OF PROPOSED RADIO HEAD = ± 15'-0"  
 C/ OF PROPOSED BACKHAUL ENCLOSURE = ± 12'-6"  
 C/ OF PROPOSED AC DISTRIBUTION BOX = ± 11'-0"  
 BOTTOM OF PROPOSED METER = ± 7'-6"



**NOTE:**  
 PROJECT SCOPE OF WORK DOES NOT INCLUDE A STRUCTURAL EVALUATION OF THIS POLE OR STRUCTURE. NEW EQUIPMENT SHOWN ON THIS PLAN HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED TO VERIFY THE POLE OR STRUCTURE HAS THE CAPACITY TO ADEQUATELY SUPPORT THE EQUIPMENT. PRIOR TO ANY INSTALLATION, A STRUCTURAL EVALUATION OF THE POLE OR STRUCTURE SHOULD BE PERFORMED.

- NOTES:**
1. ALL HARDWARE SHALL BE STAINLESS STEEL.
  2. ALL CABLES SHALL BE SECURED TO POLE EVERY 36" OR LESS.
  3. LIGHTNING RODS SHALL BE INCLUDED AS REQUIRED.
  4. STRUCTURAL BACKFILL TO BE COMPACTED IN 8" MAXIMUM LAYERS TO 95% OF CONTENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASTM D698. ADDITIONALLY, STRUCTURAL BACKFILL MUST HAVE A MINIMUM COMPACTED UNIT WEIGHT OF 100 POUNDS PER CUBIC FOOT (16kN/m<sup>3</sup>)

BAND 41 (2500MHz) EQUIPMENT CHART			
QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS (HxWxD)	WEIGHT
1	MOUNTED ANTENNA	35.4" X 4.7" DIAMETER	11 LBS
1	MOUNTED RADIO	20.1" X 9.1" X 8.9"	55.1 LBS
1	GPS ANTENNA	0.8" X 2.6" DIAMETER	0.3 LBS
1	AC DISTRIBUTION	9.25" X 9.5" X 3.81"	14 LBS
1	MOUNTED RELAY	13.0" X 7.9" DIAMETER	9.9 LBS
1	SURGE PROTECTOR	6.44" X 4.69" X 3.5"	TBD
1	REJECT FILTER	13.6" X 8.1" X 2.4"	7.7 LBS

TECHNOLOGY MD NETWORK COMPANY, LLC



PROJECT NO: ER600201  
 DRAWN BY: M. DULLATE  
 CHECKED BY: L. BUCK

A	06.23.16	FOR REVIEW
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PRELIMINARY

IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW FOR ANY PERSON, UNLESS THEY ARE ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, TO ALTER THIS DOCUMENT

WA90XSDB5B  
 9MDB001751  
 MAIN ST &  
 4TH ST  
 LAUREL, MD 20707  
 UTILITY POLE

SHEET TITLE  
**POLE ELEVATIONS**

SHEET NUMBER  
**2.1**

**PROPOSED SIDE POLE ELEVATIONS**  
 SCALE: 1" = 5'

















# **Exhibit 8**

## **Deposition of Crown Castle Representative**

SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-3891  
PUC DOCKET NO. 45470

COMPLAINT OF CROWN CASTLE ) BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE  
NG CENTRAL LLC AGAINST )  
THE CITY OF DALLAS FOR )  
IMPOSITION OF A LICENSE )  
AGREEMENT AND FEES FOR USE )  
OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY IN ) OF  
VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 283 )  
OF THE TEXAS LOCAL )  
GOVERNMENT CODE AND P.U.C.)  
SUBST. R. 26.461, 26.465 )  
AND 26.467 ) ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

ORAL DEPOSITION OF

MARK REUDINK, *Crown Castle  
employee*

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

*page 60  
line 6*

*Crown Castle  
is a "real estate  
company."*

ORAL DEPOSITION of MARK REUDINK, produced as a

witness at the instance of the City of Dallas and duly sworn, was taken in the above-styled and numbered cause on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, from 9:56 a.m. to 2:19 p.m., before Lorrie A. Schnoor, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, Registered Diplomat Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter, reported by computerized stenotype machine at the offices of Enoch Keever, PLLC, 5918 W. Courtyard Drive, Suite 500, Austin, Texas 78730, pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the provisions stated on the record or attached hereto.

KENNEDY REPORTING SERVICE, INC.  
512.474.2233 order@kennedyreporting.com

1 spectrum.

2 Q Does Crown Castle consider itself to be in the  
3 wireless industry?

4 A No.

5 Q What industry are you in?

6 A We're a real estate company.

7 Q Explain that to me.

8 A We own fiber assets and also the enclosures,  
9 antennas, and coax that are used to support the wireless  
10 carriers.

11 Q And what part of that is real estate?

12 A Real estate would be the fiber assets.

13 Q I want to make sure I understand.

14 A Sure. And, additionally, just --

15 Q I'm sorry, go ahead.

16 A -- for clarification, you mentioned previously  
17 if Crown Castle deploy or install their own poles, in  
18 that case that would be part of our real estate  
19 holdings, too.

20 Q Okay. When you refer to the telecom  
21 industry -- again, clarify for me what you mean by the  
22 "telecommunications industry"?

23 MS. SABERIAN: Objection, form.

24 A What I'm referring to in this case are entities  
25 that own spectrum purchased from the FCC.

**Exhibit 9**  
**Crown Castle Right of Way Use Agreement**

*Village of Wesley Hills*

**RIGHT-OF-WAY USE AGREEMENT**

**T**HIS RIGHT-OF-WAY USE AGREEMENT (this "Use Agreement") is dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 (the "Effective Date"), and entered into by and between the VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS, a New York municipal corporation (the "Village"), and CROWN CASTLE NG EAST LLC ("Crown Castle") a Delaware limited liability company.

**RECITALS**

A. Crown Castle owns, maintains, operates and controls, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission and the New York State Public Service Commission, a fiber-based telecommunications Network or Networks (as defined below) serving Crown Castle's wireless carrier customers and utilizing microcellular optical converter Equipment (as defined below) certified by the Federal Communications Commission.

B. For purpose of operating the Network, Crown Castle wishes to locate, place, attach, install, operate, control, maintain, upgrade and enhance Equipment in the Public Way (as defined below) on facilities owned by the Village, as well as on facilities owned by third parties therein.

**AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree to the following covenants, terms, and conditions:

1 **DEFINITIONS.** The following definitions shall apply generally to the provisions of this Use Agreement

1.1 *Village.* ("Village") shall mean the Village of Wesley Hills, New York.

1.2 *Crown Castle.* "Crown Castle" shall mean Crown Castle NG East LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and its lawful successors, assigns, and transferees.

1.3 *Decorative Streetlight Pole.* "Decorative Streetlight Pole" shall mean any streetlight pole that incorporates artistic design elements not typically found in standard steel or aluminum streetlight poles.

1.4 *Equipment.* "Equipment" means the optical converters, DWDM and CWDM multiplexers, antennae, fiber optic cables, wires, and related equipment, whether referred to singly or collectively, to be installed and operated by Crown Castle hereunder.

1.5 *Fee.* "Fee" means any assessment, license, charge, fee, imposition, tax, or levy of general application to entities doing business in the Village lawfully imposed by any governmental body (but excluding any utility users' tax, franchise fees, communications tax, or similar tax or fee).

1.6 *Gross Revenue.* "Gross Revenue" shall mean and include all recurring revenues received by Crown Castle for the provision of RF telecommunications transport services, either directly by Crown Castle or indirectly through a reseller, if any, to customers of such services wholly consummated within the Village. Gross Revenue shall not include any revenues received by Crown Castle for the construction of network facilities in the Village. "Adjusted Gross Revenue" shall include offset for

(a) sales, ad valorem, or other types of "add-on" taxes, levies, or fees calculated by gross receipts or gross revenues which might have to be paid to or collected for federal, state, or local government (exclusive of the Right-of-Way Use Fee paid to the Village provided herein); (b) retail discounts or other promotions; (c) non-collectable amounts due Crown Castle or its customers; (d) refunds or rebates; and (e) non-operating revenues such as interest income or gain from the sale of an asset.

1.7 *ILEC*. "ILEC" means the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier that provides basic telephone services, among other telecommunications services, to the residents of the Village.

1.8 *Installation Date*. "Installation Date" shall mean the date that the first Equipment is installed by Crown Castle pursuant to this Use Agreement.

1.9 *Laws*. "Laws" means any and all statutes, constitutions, ordinances, resolutions, regulations, judicial decisions, rules, tariffs, administrative orders, certificates, orders, or other requirements of the Village or other governmental agency having joint or several jurisdiction over the parties to this Use Agreement.

1.10 *Municipal Facilities*. "Municipal Facilities" means Village-owned Streetlight Poles, Decorative Streetlight Poles, lighting fixtures, electroliers, or other Village-owned structures located within the Public Way and may refer to such facilities in the singular or plural, as appropriate to the context in which used.

1.11 *Network*. "Network" or collectively "Networks" means one or more of the neutral-host, protocol-agnostic, fiber-based optical converter networks operated by Crown Castle to serve its wireless carrier customers in the Village.

1.12 *Public Way*. "Public Way" means the space in, upon, above, along, across, and over the public streets, roads, highways, lanes, courts, ways, alleys, boulevards, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and places, including all public utility easements and public service easements as the same now or may hereafter exist, that are under the jurisdiction of the Village. This term shall not include state, county or federal rights of way or any property owned by any person or entity other than the Village, except as provided by applicable Laws or pursuant to an agreement between the Village and any such person or entity.

1.13 *PSC*. "PSC" means the New York State Public Service Commission.

1.14 *Services*. "Services" means the RF transport and other telecommunications services provided through the Network by Crown Castle to its wireless carrier customers pursuant to one or more tariffs filed with and regulated by the PSC.

1.15 *Streetlight Pole*. "Streetlight Pole" shall mean any standard-design concrete, fiberglass, metal, or wooden pole used for street lighting purposes.

2 **TERM**. This Use Agreement shall be effective as of the Effective Date and shall extend for a term of ten (10) years commencing on the Effective Date, unless it is earlier terminated by either party in accordance with the provisions herein. The term of this Use Agreement shall be renewed automatically for three (3) successive terms of five (5) years each on the same terms and conditions as set forth herein, unless Crown Castle notifies the Village of its intention not to renew not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to commencement of the relevant renewal term.

3 **SCOPE OF USE AGREEMENT**. Any and all rights expressly granted to Crown Castle under this Use Agreement, which shall be exercised at Crown Castle's sole cost and expense, shall be subject to the prior and continuing right of the Village under applicable Laws to use any and all parts of the Public Way exclusively or concurrently with any other person or entity and shall be further subject to all deeds,

easements, dedications, conditions, covenants, restrictions, encumbrances, and claims of title of record which may affect the Public Way. Nothing in this Use Agreement shall be deemed to grant, convey, create, or vest in Crown Castle a real property interest in land, including any fee, leasehold interest, or easement. Any work performed pursuant to the rights granted under this Use Agreement shall be subject to the reasonable prior review and approval of the Village except that it is agreed that no zoning or planning board permit, variance, conditional use permit or site plan permit, or their equivalent under the City's ordinances, codes or laws, shall be required for the installation of Crown Castle's Equipment installed in the Public Way and/or on Municipal Facilities, unless such a process has been required for the placement of all communications facilities and equipment in the Public Way by all other telecommunications providers, including but not limited to the ILEC and local cable provider(s).

**3.1 Attachment to Municipal Facilities.** The Village hereby authorizes and permits Crown Castle to enter upon the Public Way and to locate, place, attach, install, operate, maintain, control, remove, reattach, reinstall, relocate, and replace Equipment in or on Municipal Facilities for the purposes of operating the Network and providing Services. In addition, subject to the provisions of § 4.5 below, Crown Castle shall have the right to draw electricity for the operation of the Equipment from the power source associated with each such attachment to Municipal Facilities.

**3.2 Attachment to Third-Party Property.** Subject to obtaining the permission of the owner(s) of the affected property, the Village hereby authorizes and permits Crown Castle to enter upon the Public Way and to attach, install, operate, maintain, remove, reattach, reinstall, relocate, and replace such number of Equipment in or on poles or other structures owned by public utility companies or other property owners located within the Public Way as may be permitted by the public utility company or property owner, as the case may be. Where third-party property is not available for attachment of Equipment, Crown Castle may install its own utility poles in the Public Way, consistent with the requirements that the Village imposes on similar installations made by other utilities that use and occupy the Public Way.

**3.3 Preference for Municipal Facilities.** In any situation where Crown Castle has a choice of attaching its Equipment to either Municipal Facilities or on Municipal Property or third-party-owned property in the Public Way, Crown Castle agrees to attach to the Municipal Facilities, provided that (i) such Municipal Facilities are at least equally suitable functionally for the operation of the Network and (ii) the rental fee and installation costs associated with such attachment over the length of the term are equal to or less than the fee or cost to Crown Castle of attaching to the alternative third-party-owned property.

**3.4 No Interference.** Crown Castle in the performance and exercise of its rights and obligations under this Use Agreement shall not interfere in any manner with the existence and operation of any and all public and private rights of way, sanitary sewers, water mains, storm drains, gas mains, poles, aerial and underground electrical and telephone wires, electroliers, cable television, and other telecommunications, utility, or municipal property, without the express written approval of the owner or owners of the affected property or properties, except as permitted by applicable Laws or this Use Agreement. The Village agrees to require the inclusion of the same or a similar prohibition on interference as that stated above in all agreements and franchises the Village may enter into after the Effective Date with other information or communications providers and carriers.

**3.5 Compliance with Laws.** Crown Castle shall comply with all applicable Laws in the exercise and performance of its rights and obligations under this Use Agreement.

4 COMPENSATION; UTILITY CHARGES. Crown Castle shall be solely responsible for the payment of all lawful Fees in connection with Crown Castle's performance under this Use Agreement, including those set forth below.

**4.1 Annual Fee.** In order to compensate the Village for Crown Castle's entry upon and deployment within the Public Way and as compensation for the use of Municipal Facilities, Crown Castle shall pay to the Village an annual fee (the "Annual Fee") in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for the use of each Municipal Facility, if any, upon which Equipment has been installed pursuant to this Use Agreement. The aggregate Annual Fee with respect to each year of the term shall be an amount equal to the number of Municipal Facilities upon which Equipment is installed during the preceding twelve (12) months multiplied by the Annual Fee, prorated as appropriate, and shall be due and payable not later than forty-five (45) days after each anniversary of the Effective Date. The Village represents and covenants that the Village owns all Municipal Facilities for the use of which it is collecting from Crown Castle the Annual Fee pursuant to this § 4.1.

**4.1.1 CPI Adjustment.** Effective commencing on the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the Installation Date and continuing on each fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) anniversary thereafter during the term, the Annual Fee with respect to the ensuing five-year period shall be adjusted by a percentage amount equal to the percentage change in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (All Items, All Urban Consumers, 1982-1984=100) which occurred during the previous five-year period for the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

**4.2 Right-of-Way Use Fee.** In order to compensate the Village for Crown Castle's entry upon and deployment of Equipment within the Public Way and on Village-owned Property, Crown Castle shall pay to the Village, on an annual basis, an amount equal to five percent (5%) of Adjusted Gross Revenues (the "Right-of-Way Fee"). The Right-of-Way Fee shall be payable for the period commencing with the Effective Date and ending on the date of termination of this Use Agreement. Crown Castle shall make any payment of the Right-of-Way Fee that may be due and owing within forty-five (45) days after the first anniversary of the Effective Date and within the same period after each subsequent anniversary of the Effective Date. Within forty-five (45) days after the termination of this Use Agreement, the Right-of-Way Fees shall be paid for the period elapsing since the end of the last calendar year for which the Right-of-Way Fee has been paid. Crown Castle shall furnish to the Village with each payment of the Right-of-Way Fee a statement, executed by an authorized officer of Crown Castle or his or her designee, showing the amount of Adjusted Gross Revenues for the period covered by the payment. If Crown Castle discovers any error in the amount of compensation due, the Village shall be paid within thirty (30) days of discovery of the error or determination of the correct amount. Any overpayment to the Village through error or otherwise shall be refunded or offset against the next payment due. Acceptance by the Village of any payment of the Right-of-Way Fee shall not be deemed to be a waiver by the Village of any breach of this Use Agreement occurring prior thereto, nor shall the acceptance by the Village of any such payments preclude the Village from later establishing that a larger amount was actually due or from collecting any balance due to the Village.

**4.3 Accounting Matters.** Crown Castle shall keep accurate books of account at its principal office in Canonsburg, PA, or such other location of its choosing for the purpose of determining the amounts due to the Village under §§ 4.1 and 4.2 above. The Village may inspect Crown Castle's books of account relative to the Village at any Crown Castle office within 50 miles of the Village at any time during regular business hours on thirty (30) days' prior written notice and may audit the books from time to time at the Village's sole expense, but in each case only to the extent necessary to confirm the accuracy of payments due under § 4.1 above. The Village agrees to hold in confidence any non-public information it learns from Crown Castle to the fullest extent permitted by Law.

**4.4 Most-Favored Municipality.** Should Crown after the parties' execution and delivery of this Agreement enter into an attachment or franchise agreement with another municipality of the same size or smaller than the Village in the same County, which agreement contains financial benefits for such municipality which, taken as a whole and balanced with the other terms of such agreement, are in the Village's opinion substantially superior to those in this Agreement, the Village shall have the right to require that Crown modify this Use Agreement to incorporate the same or substantially similar superior benefits and such other terms and burdens by substitution, *mutatis mutandis*, of such other agreement or otherwise.

**4.5 Electricity Charges.** Crown Castle shall be solely responsible for the payment of all electrical utility charges to the applicable utility company based upon the Equipment' usage of electricity and applicable tariffs.

**5 CONSTRUCTION.** Crown Castle shall comply with all applicable federal, State, and Village codes, specifications, and requirements, if any, related to the construction, installation, operation, maintenance, and control of Crown Castle's Equipment installed in the Public Way and on Municipal Facilities in the Village. Crown Castle shall not attach, install, maintain, or operate any Equipment in or on the Public Way and/or on Municipal Facilities without the prior approval of the Village for each location.

**5.1 Obtaining Required Permits.** If the attachment, installation, operation, maintenance, or location of the Equipment in the Public Way shall require any permits, Crown Castle shall, if required under applicable Village ordinances, apply for the appropriate permits and pay any standard and customary permit fees, so long as the permit fees and process that the Village requests of Crown Castle are functionally equivalent to the fees and the process that are applied to the ILEC and/or the cable provider(s). In addition, the Village agrees to process applications, if required, pursuant to the terms of and within the timeframes provided by the FCC's Declaratory Ruling, WT Docket No. 08-165, FCC 09-99, November 18, 2009.

**5.1.1 Modifications and Colocations.** The Village agrees to process applications for upgrades, modifications, colocations and other applicable requests, if application is required, pursuant to the terms of Section 6409 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (the "Spectrum Act") and the terms and timeframes provided by the FCC's Report and Order, WT Docket No. 13-238, FCC 14-153, October 17, 2014, as respectively applicable.

**5.2 Relocation and Displacement of Equipment.** Crown Castle understands and acknowledges that the Village may require Crown Castle to relocate one or more of its Equipment installations. Crown Castle shall at the Village's direction relocate such Equipment at Crown Castle's sole cost and expense, whenever the Village reasonably determines that the relocation is needed for any of the following purposes: (a) if required for the construction, completion, repair, relocation, or maintenance of a Village project; (b) because the Equipment is interfering with or adversely affecting proper operation of Village-owned light poles, traffic signals, or other Municipal Facilities; or (c) to protect or preserve the public health or safety. In any such case, the Village shall use its best efforts to afford Crown Castle a reasonably equivalent alternate location. If Crown Castle shall fail to relocate any Equipment as requested by the Village within a reasonable time under the circumstances in accordance with the foregoing provision, the Village shall be entitled to relocate the Equipment at Crown Castle's sole cost and expense, without further notice to Crown Castle. To the extent the Village has actual knowledge thereof, the Village will attempt promptly to inform Crown Castle of the displacement or removal of any pole on which any Equipment is located.

**5.3 Damage to Public Way.** Whenever the removal or relocation of Equipment is required or permitted under this Use Agreement, and such removal or relocation shall cause the Public Way to be

damaged, Crown Castle, at its sole cost and expense, shall promptly repair and return the Public Way in which the Equipment are located to a safe and satisfactory condition in accordance with applicable Laws, normal wear and tear excepted. If Crown Castle does not repair the site as just described, then the Village shall have the option, upon fifteen (15) days' prior written notice to Crown Castle, to perform or cause to be performed such reasonable and necessary work on behalf of Crown Castle and to charge Crown Castle for the proposed costs to be incurred or the actual costs incurred by the Village at the Village's standard rates. Upon the receipt of a demand for payment by the Village, Crown Castle shall promptly reimburse the Village for such costs.

**6 INDEMNIFICATION AND WAIVER.** Crown Castle agrees to indemnify, defend, protect, and hold harmless the Village, its Board of Trustees, officers, and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, liabilities, fines, charges, penalties, administrative and judicial proceedings and orders, judgments, and all costs and expenses incurred in connection therewith, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs of defense (collectively, the "Losses") directly or proximately resulting from Crown Castle's activities undertaken pursuant to this Use Agreement, except to the extent arising from or caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the Village, its Board of Trustees or board members, officers, elected trustees, employees, agents, or contractors.

**6.1 Waiver of Claims.** Crown Castle waives any and all claims, demands, causes of action, and rights it may assert against the Village on account of any loss, damage, or injury to any Equipment or any loss or degradation of the Services as a result of any event or occurrence which is beyond the reasonable control of the Village.

**6.2 Limitation of the Village's Liability.** Except as provided for above, the Village shall be liable only for the cost of repair to damaged Equipment arising from the negligence or willful misconduct of the Village, its employees, agents, or contractors

**6.3 Waiver of Punitive and Consequential Damages.** Both parties hereby waive the right to recover punitive or consequential damages from the other party.

**7 INSURANCE.** Crown Castle shall obtain and maintain at all times during the term of this Use Agreement Commercial General Liability insurance protecting Crown Castle in an amount not less than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) per occurrence (combined single limit), including bodily injury and property damage, and in an amount not less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) general annual aggregate and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) products-completed operations aggregate and Commercial Automobile Liability insurance in an amount not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence (combined single limit), including bodily injury and property damage. The required limits may be met by a combination of primary and excess or umbrella insurance. The Commercial General Liability insurance policy shall name the Village, its elected officials, officers, and employees as additional insureds as respects any covered liability arising out of Crown Castle's performance of work under this Use Agreement. Coverages shall be in an occurrence form and in accordance with the limits and provisions specified herein. Claims-made policies are not acceptable. Crown Castle shall be responsible for notifying the Village in writing of any cancellation, except for non-payment of premium, or changes in the occurrence or aggregate limits set forth above at least ten (10) days' prior to such change or cancellation.

**7.1 Filing of Certificates and Endorsements.** Prior to the commencement of any work pursuant to this Use Agreement, Crown Castle shall file with the Village the required original certificate(s) of insurance with endorsements, which shall state the following:

(a) the policy number; name of insurance company; name and address of the agent or authorized representative; name and address of insured; project name; policy expiration date; and specific coverage amounts;

(b) that Crown Castle's Commercial General Liability insurance policy is primary as respects any other valid or collectible insurance that the Village may possess, including any self-insured retentions the Village may have; and any other insurance the Village does possess shall be considered excess insurance only and shall not be required to contribute with this insurance; and

(c) that Crown Castle's Commercial General Liability insurance policy waives any right of recovery the insurance company may have against the Village.

The certificate(s) of insurance with notices shall be mailed to the Village at the address specified in § 8 below.

**7.2 Workers' Compensation Insurance.** Crown Castle shall obtain and maintain at all times during the term of this Use Agreement statutory workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance in an amount not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) and shall furnish the Village with a certificate showing proof of such coverage.

**7.3 Insurer Criteria.** Any insurance provider of Crown Castle shall be admitted and authorized to do business in the State of New York and shall carry a minimum rating assigned by *A.M. Best & Company's Key Rating Guide* of "A" Overall and a Financial Size Category of "X" (*i.e.*, a size of \$500,000,000 to \$750,000,000 based on capital, surplus, and conditional reserves). Insurance policies and certificates issued by non-admitted insurance companies are not acceptable.

**7.4 Severability of Interest.** Any self-insured retentions must be stated on the certificate(s) of insurance, which shall be sent to and approved by the Village. "Severability of interest" or "separation of insureds" clauses shall be made a part of the Commercial General Liability and Commercial Automobile Liability policies.

**8 NOTICES.** All notices which shall or may be given pursuant to this Use Agreement shall be in writing and delivered personally or transmitted (a) through the United States mail, by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid; (b) by means of prepaid overnight delivery service; or (c) by facsimile or email transmission, if a hard copy of the same is followed by delivery through the U. S. mail or by overnight delivery service as just described, addressed as follows:

*if to the Village:*

VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS  
Attn: Mayor's Office  
432 Route 306  
Wesley Hills, NY 10952

*if to Crown Castle:*

CROWN CASTLE NG EAST LLC  
c/o Crown Castle USA Inc.  
2000 Corporate Drive

Canonsburg, PA 15317-8564  
Attn: General Counsel, Legal Department

*with a copy which shall not constitute legal notice to:*

CROWN CASTLE NG EAST LLC  
2000 Corporate Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317-8564  
Attn: SCN Contracts Management

**8.1 Date of Notices; Changing Notice Address.** Notices shall be deemed given upon receipt in the case of personal delivery, three (3) days after deposit in the mail, or the next business day in the case of facsimile, email, or overnight delivery. Either party may from time to time designate any other address for this purpose by written notice to the other party delivered in the manner set forth above.

**9 TERMINATION.** This Use Agreement may be terminated by either party upon forty five (45) days' prior written notice to the other party upon a default of any material covenant or term hereof by the other party, which default is not cured within forty-five (45) days of receipt of written notice of default (or, if such default is not curable within forty-five (45) days, if the defaulting party fails to commence such cure within forty-five (45) days or fails thereafter diligently to prosecute such cure to completion), provided that the grace period for any monetary default shall be ten (10) days from receipt of notice. Except as expressly provided herein, the rights granted under this Use Agreement are irrevocable during the term.

**10 ASSIGNMENT.** This Use Agreement shall not be assigned by Crown Castle without the express written consent of the Village, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the transfer of the rights and obligations of Crown Castle to a parent, subsidiary, or other affiliate of Crown Castle or to any successor in interest or entity acquiring fifty-one percent (51%) or more of Crown Castle's stock or assets (collectively "Exempted Transfers") shall not be deemed an assignment for the purposes of this Use Agreement and therefore shall not require the consent of the Village, provided that Crown Castle reasonably demonstrates to the Village's lawfully empowered designee the following criteria (collectively the "Exempted Transfer Criteria"): (i) such transferee will have a financial strength after the proposed transfer at least equal to that of Crown Castle immediately prior to the transfer; (ii) any such transferee assumes all of Crown Castle's obligations hereunder; and (iii) the experience and technical qualifications of the proposed transferee, either alone or together with Crown Castle's management team, in the provision of telecommunications or similar services, evidences an ability to operate the Network. Crown Castle shall give at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice (the "Exempted Transfer Notice") to the Village of any such proposed Exempted Transfer and shall set forth with specificity in such Exempted Transfer Notice the reasons why Crown Castle believes the Exempted Transfer Criteria have been satisfied. The Village shall have a period of thirty (30) days (the "Exempted Transfer Evaluation Period") from the date that Crown Castle gives the Village its Exempted Transfer Notice to object in writing to the adequacy of the evidence contained therein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Exempted Transfer Evaluation Period shall not be deemed to have commenced until the Village has received from Crown Castle any and all additional information the Village may reasonably require in connection with its evaluation of the Exempted Transfer Criteria as set forth in the Exempted Transfer Notice, so long as the Village gives Crown Castle notice in writing of the additional information the Village requires within fifteen (15) days after the Village's receipt of the original Exempted Transfer Notice. If the Village fails to act upon Crown Castle's Exempted Transfer Notice within the Exempted Transfer Evaluation Period (as the same may be extended in accordance with the foregoing provisions), such failure shall be deemed an affirmation by the Village that Crown Castle has in fact established compliance with the Exempted Transfer Criteria to the Village's satisfaction.

**11 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.** The provisions which follow shall apply generally to the obligations of the parties under this Use Agreement.

**11.1 *Nonexclusive Use.*** Crown Castle understands that this Use Agreement does not provide Crown Castle with exclusive use of the Public Way and that the Village shall have the right to permit other providers of communications services to install equipment or devices in the Public Way

**11.2 *Waiver of Breach.*** The waiver by either party of any breach or violation of any provision of this Use Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver or a continuing waiver of any subsequent breach or violation of the same or any other provision of this Use Agreement.

**11.3 *Severability of Provisions.*** If any one or more of the provisions of this Use Agreement shall be held by court of competent jurisdiction in a final judicial action to be void, voidable, or unenforceable, such provision(s) shall be deemed severable from the remaining provisions of this Use Agreement and shall not affect the legality, validity, or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this Use Agreement. Each party hereby declares that it would have entered into this Use Agreement and each provision hereof regardless of whether any one or more provisions may be declared illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional.

**11.4 *Contacting Crown Castle.*** Crown Castle shall be available to the staff employees of any Village department having jurisdiction over Crown Castle's activities twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, regarding problems or complaints resulting from the attachment, installation, operation, maintenance, or removal of the Equipment. The Village may contact by telephone the network control center operator at telephone number (888) 632-0931 regarding such problems or complaints.

**11.5 *Governing Law; Jurisdiction.*** This Use Agreement shall be governed and construed by and in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without reference to its conflicts of law principles. If suit is brought by a party to this Use Agreement, the parties agree that trial of such action shall be vested exclusively in the state courts of New York, in the County where the Village is located or in the United States District Court for the ~~SOUTHERN~~ District of New York.

**11.6 *Attorneys' Fees.*** Should any dispute arising out of this Use Agreement lead to litigation, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its costs of suit, including (with out limitation) reasonable attorneys' fees.

**11.7 *Consent Criteria.*** In any case where the approval or consent of one party hereto is required, requested or otherwise to be given under this Use Agreement, such party shall not unreasonably delay, condition, or withhold its approval or consent.

**11.8 *Representations and Warranties.*** Each of the parties to this Use Agreement represents and warrants that it has the full right, power, legal capacity, and authority to enter into and perform the parties' respective obligations hereunder and that such obligations shall be binding upon such party without the requirement of the approval or consent of any other person or entity in connection herewith, except as provided in § 3.2 above.

**11.9 *Amendment of Use Agreement.*** This Use Agreement may not be amended except pursuant to a written instrument signed by both parties.

**11.10 *Entire Agreement.*** This Use Agreement contains the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter herein. There are no representations, agreements, or understandings (whether oral or written) between or among the parties relating to the subject matter of this Use Agreement which are not fully expressed herein.

In witness whereof, and in order to bind themselves legally to the terms and conditions of this Use Agreement, the duly authorized representatives of the parties have executed this Use Agreement as of the Effective Date.

*Village:* THE VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS, a New York municipal corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[name typed]*

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

*Crown Castle:* CROWN CASTLE NG EAST LLC, a Delaware limited liability company

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Lewis Kessler

Its: Vice President - DAS and Small Cell Networks

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2016