



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Alisoun K. Moore
Chief Information Officer

MINUTES OF TFCG MEETING

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on February 7, 2007. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams	OCCS	(240) 777-3724
Helen Xu	DTS	(240) 777-2804
Mary Pat Wilson	MCPS	(240) 314-4707
Carlton Gilbert	M-NCPPC	(301) 495-5476
Martin Rookard	WSSC	(301) 206-8979
David Niblock	DPS	(240) 777-6252
Steve Batterden	DPWT	(240) 777-6063

STAFF

Casey Clark	CTC	(410) 964-5700
Carol Watson	CTC	(410) 964-5700
Donna Keating	OCCS	(240) 777-3668

OTHER ATTENDEES

Mike Budde	Network Building Consultants for T-Mobile
Carmen Charalambous	SiteLink for Sprint/Nextel

Discussion Item – Introductions: Margie Williams introduced Casey Clark of Columbia Telecommunications, who was attending the meeting in Bob Hunnicutt's absence.

Discussion Item – Meeting Minutes: Dave Niblock asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that he was affiliated with DPS – not MCPS. Helen Xu asked that the second sentence in the motion on page 11 be corrected to read “...such as the height of the structure, number of poles, community opposition, and lease issues.”

Motion: Martin Rookard moved the minutes be approved as amended. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as amended.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to replace an existing 25' PEPCO wood pole #795458-3173 with a new 70' PEPCO wood pole and attach three 54" antennas at the 67' level of the pole located at Bonifant Road & Notley Road in Colesville (Application #200610-04).

Carol Watson summarized the application and noted that it was similar to the Galway pole application reviewed by the group last month, in which T-Mobile proposed to replace a 35' pole with a new 70' pole in the County right-of-way.

Ms. Watson said she had asked T-Mobile about possible attachment to the Verizon monopole to be constructed on M-NCPPC property at the Trolley Museum. She said T-Mobile had replied that they were unable to reach a lease agreement with M-NCPPC due to the need to lease additional ground space and the lease rates.

Ms. Watson said she had requested RF maps from T-Mobile that showed the expected coverage with antennas at 50', 60', and 70' above ground level. Her analysis of those maps shows that antennas at 50' did not appear to cover some of the residential areas desired by T-Mobile. She noted that coverage with antennas at the 60' and 70' level appeared to be very similar; therefore, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation was conditioned on T-Mobile reducing the height of the pole to the 60' level. She also noted that this attachment would require T-Mobile to obtain a telecommunications franchise agreement with the County.

Mary Pat Wilson asked who would own the pole. Mike Budde stated Pepco would remain the pole owner. Ms. Wilson noted that the Recommendation form should be corrected to reflect that the County is the property owner. Casey Clark agreed to make that revision.

Ms. Wilson asked about the security of the equipment cabinets, which would be attached to the pole only 5' above the ground. Mr. Budde replied that the cabinets would be locked and were of sufficient height above ground to avoid traffic and tampering. He noted that these cabinets would be attached at a height similar to that used by Verizon for its pole-mounted equipment. Ms. Wilson said she still thought 5' was low for equipment attachment and asked where on the property the pole was located. Mr. Budde noted that the pole was in a grassy area parallel to the road, and that he believed there was a sidewalk along the area. Margie Williams concurred with Mr. Budde regarding the similarity to Verizon's equipment attachment height.

Ms. Wilson asked if the pole was subject to Mandatory Referral review. Carlton Gilbert stated it would not require Mandatory Referral because it was in the County right-of-way, but said it would require a franchise agreement.

Ms. Williams asked Mr. Budde to explain why T-Mobile could not attach to the Verizon monopole to be built at the Trolley Museum. Mr. Budde stated that T-Mobile had worked with M-NCPPC for over two years to attach to the monopole proposed for the Wheaton Park property but T-Mobile had finally abandoned the siting due to high rent costs and the M-NCPPC's policy that required each carrier to separately negotiate ground space for equipment. Mr. Budde said these were the same issues for not using the Trolley Museum site. He noted that Verizon still had not filed for a Special Exception for the Trolley Museum monopole, and presumed it was

because they still had not reached final terms with the M-NCPPC, who would be co-applicant on the Special Exception. Mr. Budde noted that M-NCPPC lease terms have been an unresolved issue for T-Mobile at all proposed M-NCPPC sites.

Mr. Budde asked if the TFCG would recommend a 65' pole instead of a 60' pole, and explained that the additional 5' in height might enable T-Mobile to reach one or two additional residences targeted in the Bonifant area.

Ms. Wilson asked if T-Mobile was required to notify adjacent land owners about the new pole. Mr. Budde replied they were not. Ms. Williams noted that public comment would be permitted at the public hearing to be held by the County Council to review T-Mobile's franchise agreement application.

Ms. Wilson asked about the size of the equipment cabinets. Mr. Budde stated the cabinets were 17" x 9" x 24".

Motion: Martin Rookard moved the application be recommended conditioned on (1) T-Mobile obtaining a telecommunications franchise agreement with the County, and (2) lowering the pole to a height not-to-exceed 65' above ground level. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was approved by majority rule, with Mary Pat Wilson voting to oppose.

Discussion Item – Next Meeting: The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.