



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Gail Roper
Chief Information Officer

August 4, 2021

MINUTES OF TFCG MEETING

To: Distribution

From: TFCG Staff (CTC Technology & Energy)

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on August 4, 2021. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams	(via video)	TFCG Chair
Patricia Wolford	(via video)	DPS
Boyd Lawrence	(via video)	MCPS
Thomas Williamson	(via video)	DGS
Daryl Braithwaite	(via video)	Takoma Park
Martin Rookard	(via video)	WSSC
Michelle Grace	(via video)	M-NCPPC
Benjamin Berbert	(via video)	M-NCPPC

STAFF

Shawn Thompson	(via video)	CTC
Julie Elias	(via video)	CTC
Heather Elliot	(via video)	DTS
Zeena Oduro	(via video)	DTS

OTHER ATTENDEES

Javad Shayan	(via video)	DPS
Debbie Spielberg	(via video)	Office of the County Executive

Action Item: Meeting Minutes July 7th:

Motion: *Martin Rookard moved that the July minutes be approved as written. Benjamin Berbert noted that his name had been left off the attendee list accidentally. Michelle Grace seconded the motion with the revision to the attendee list. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Action Item: Consent Agenda
Consent Agenda

1. **Application Number:** 2021021378 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 2/3/2021

Revised: 5/6/2021

Revised: 7/20/2021

Revised: 7/28/2021

Applicant: Smartlink LLC on behalf of AT&T Wireless

Full Corporate Name of the Facility Owner: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Site Name/Location: Rockville Measuring Station/ 15030 Frederick Rd, Rockville

Zoning Standard: IM-2.5 **Property Owner:** Atlantic Seaboard Corp

Description: AT&T proposes to REMOVE (6) existing antennas and (9) existing RRHs and INSTALL (6) new antennas and (9) new RRHs.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021021378+Application.pdf>

2. **Application Number:** 2021041430 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 4/19/2021

Revised: 7/22/2021

Revised: 7/28/2021

Applicant: MasTec Network Solutions on behalf of Verizon Wireless

Site Name/Location: Damascus VFD 13/ 26332 Ridge Rd, Damascus

Zoning Standard: CRT-1.75 **Property Owner:** Damascus VFD

Description: Remove and replace existing antenna with the same model, installed 4" higher.

Remove current Nokia Radio Head and bracket. Install a new pole mounted equipment cabinet for Samsung Radio Head equipment.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021041430+Application.pdf>

3. **Application Number:** 2021051454 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 5/11/2021

Revised: 5/26/2021

Revised: 7/27/2021

Applicant: NB+C on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: Pepco 683-E/ 18300B Bowie Mill Road, Olney

Zoning Standard: RE-1 **Property Owner:** Pepco

Description: T-Mobile proposes removing and replacing (3) mounts, removing (3) antennas, removing (6) TMAs, (3) ground mounted RRHs, (1) cabinet, and installing (6) antennas, (6) RRHs, and (2) cabinets at the existing telecommunications facility.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021051454+Application.pdf>

4. **Application Number:** 2021071498 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 7/8/2021
Revised: 7/23/2021

Applicant: Smartlink Group on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: University Manor Apartments/ 820 University Blvd East, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: R-10 **Property Owner:** University Manor Apartments

Description: T-Mobile proposes to remove (6) existing panel antennas; Install (9) new panel antennas; remove (3) existing RRUs; install (6) new RRUs; install (1) new electrical panel board at an existing telecommunications facility. T-Mobile will also install (2) new equipment cabinets on a new steel platform located in the existing equipment compound on the ground level.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021071498+Application.pdf>

5. **Application Number:** 2021071508 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 7/15/2021
Revised: 7/27/2021

Applicant: Advantage Engineers on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: Pepco 655-N/ 8406 Postoak Rd, Potomac

Zoning Standard: R-90 **Property Owner:** Pepco

Description: Remove (3) & add (6) antennas (3 APXVAALL24 43-U-NA20 & 3 AIR6449 B41), remove (3) & add (6) RRUs (3 4460 B25+B66 & 3 4480 B71+B85), remove (1) & add 6160 (1) equipment cabinet and B160 (1) battery cabinet, and other associated equipment on existing utility tower.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021071508+Application.pdf>

Marjorie Williams noted that agenda item #2 (application 2021041430) was tabled by the applicant prior to the meeting.

Boyd Lawrence motioned to recommend the rest of the consent agenda excluding item #2 which was tabled. Patricia Wolford seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Regular Agenda

1. **Application Number:** 2021041428 **Type:** Colocation **Received (date):** 4/15/2021

Revised: 4/28/2021

Revised: 5/25/2021

Revised: 6/8/2021

Revised: 7/23/2021

Applicant: Crown Castle Fiber LLC on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: PEPCO 788430-060600/ Woodland Dr & Forest Glen Rd, Silver Spring
Zoning Standard: R-60 **Property Owner:** Montgomery County
Description: Proposed installation of strand node MNG-397m1 on existing PEPCO pole 788430-060600. Strand Node Equipment to be installed:
-Strand Cable
-Ericsson 6523 semi-integrated panel antenna
-Ericsson Diplex Filter B2+B66/B30 (4-2) Diplexer (2)
-Ericsson 4402 Radio (2)
-Bracket Mount
-Splice Box
-Converter unit (Alpha Model #LPR48-IP68)
-Disconnect Switch (Alpha Model EP0/D-2-PR)
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended on the condition the antenna and equipment be installed closest to the pole referenced in the PEPCO NTP than any adjacent pole. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021041428+Application+and+Report.pdf>

2. **Application Number:** 2021051447 **Type:** Colocation **Received (date):** 5/1/2021
Revised: 7/20/2021

Applicant: Crown Castle Fiber LLC on behalf of T-Mobile
Site Name/Location: Pepco 806428-0869/ 9609 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring
Zoning Standard: R-90 **Property Owner:** SHA
Description: Proposed installation of strand node MNG-386 on existing PEPCO pole 806428-0869. Strand Node Equipment to be installed:
-Strand Cable
-Ericsson 6523 semi-integrated panel antenna (1)
-Ericsson Diplex Filter B2+B66/B30 (4-2) Diplexer (2)
-Ericsson 4402 Radio (2)
-Bracket Mount
-Splice Box
-Converter unit (Alpha Model #LPR48-IP68)
-Disconnect Switch (Alpha Model EP0/D-2-PR)
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended on the condition the antenna and equipment be installed closest to the pole referenced in the PEPCO NTP than any adjacent pole. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021051447+Application+and+Report.pdf>

3. **Application Number:** 2021051449 **Type:** Colocation **Received (date):** 5/1/2021
Revised: 7/20/2021

Applicant: Crown Castle Fiber LLC on behalf of T-Mobile
Site Name/Location: PEPCO 787430-990520/ 2119-2199 Forest Glen Rd, Silver Spring
Zoning Standard: CRT-2.5, C-2.5 **Property Owner:** Montgomery County
Description: Proposed installation of strand node MNG-398 on existing PEPCO pole 787430-990520. Strand Node Equipment to be installed:

- Strand Cable
- Ericsson 6523 semi-integrated panel antenna (1)
- Ericsson Diplex Filter B2+B66/B30 (4-2) Diplexer (2)
- Ericsson 4402 Radio (2)
- Bracket Mount
- Splice Box
- Converter unit (Alpha Model #LPR48-IP68)
- Disconnect Switch (Alpha Model EP0/D-2-PR)

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended on the condition the antenna and equipment be installed closest to the pole referenced in the PEPCO NTP than any adjacent pole. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021051449+Application+and+Report.pdf>

4. ***Application Number:*** 2021061489 ***Type:*** Colocation ***Received (date):*** 6/30/2021

Revised: 7/9/2021

Applicant: Crown Castle Fiber LLC on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: PEPCO 803418-060250/ 7308 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: R-60 ***Property Owner:*** SHA

Description: Proposed installation of strand node MNG-549m1 on existing PEPCO pole 803419-060250. Strand Node Equipment to be installed:

- Strand Cable
- Ericsson 6523 semi-integrated panel antenna (1)
- Ericsson Diplex Filter B2+B66/B30 (4-2) Diplexer (2)
- Ericsson 4402 Radio (2)
- Bracket Mount
- Splice Box
- Converter unit (Alpha Model #LPR48-IP68)
- Disconnect Switch (Alpha Model EP0/D-2-PR)

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended on the condition the antenna and equipment be installed closest to the pole referenced in the PEPCO NTP than any adjacent pole. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2021061489+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Marjorie Williams noted that the county had received comments from the public concerning the zoning recommendation for these applications. She spoke with DPS who confirmed that the TFCG is intended to be the initial reviewer of the application, and the engineering review of applications is sufficient. Following the TFCG's recommendation, an application will move on to OZAH or DPS who are the zoning experts. They do not want the TFCG to be making zoning assessments, nor to be making recommendations with zoning comments. DPS wants to do their own thorough review, and want to receive a recommendation from the committee based on our engineering review.

Debbie Spielberg asked who verifies the zoning requirements for an application? Patricia Wolford explained that when the application comes to DPS anything that would fall under zoning or is zoning related is reviewed during the zoning review at permitting. Debbie Spielberg

asked if DPS does check all setbacks and things on the application forms. Patricia Wolford confirmed that DPS will check the full application that it meets all the requirements of the zoning ordinance, before issuing a permit. After installation, DPS is not verifying again post-installation. If a member of the community is concerned, or thinks something is wrong or was installed incorrectly, they can call the county to report a zoning violation. The complaint would go to code enforcement, an inspector would be sent out and not the violation if there is one. The violation would be filed, and the owner would be responsible for fixing the violation.

Marjorie Williams reminded the committee that ZTA 19-07 was passed by the council the previous week and would go into effect on August 16th, 2021. She noted it was possible but unlikely that the committee would see applications under the new ZTA by the September meeting but would anticipate there being some on the agenda by October or November.

Benjamin Berbert asked for clarity on behalf of the committee concerning the procedure to review and vote on applications, especially if they are submitted in batches. Would the committee be reviewing individually each application, or would the committee vote on a community's worth of poles at one time? Marjorie Williams noted that she was working on scheduling a meeting between TFCG, DPS, and OZAH for defining the process for these installation applications. She reminded the committee that the shot clock to process applications applies to the *full* process, from initial application, TFCG review, and DPS/OZAH review until the permit is issued, not only the TFCG review process. As such, there is a strong need to define a clear procedure for processing these applications that will fit within the shot clock time allowed.

Julie Elias summarized the applications on the regular agenda. As was the case for last month's strand mounted applications, these would all be mounted to existing utility poles that would not be replaced. A strand would be hung on which the antenna and equipment would be mounted. Setbacks are measured per DPS from the one pole the antenna is mounted closest to. For all 4 applications, the setbacks exceed the zoning code minimum distances.

Javad Shayan noted that for regular agenda item #4 (2021061489), the location was along the State Highway, and the pole appeared to have been installed in the middle of the sidewalk – approved by SHA, not Montgomery County. Daryl Braithwaite confirmed the pole was located in Takoma Park and that this median strip is not a pedestrian sidewalk, but an island and the pole was not in the middle of a pedestrian crossing area or anything. It was discussed if the application should be recommended with additional conditions for further review by DPS into this issue. Patricia Wolford noted on behalf of DPS that looking into this like this is exactly what DPS does as normal part of their review process, and that adding further conditions would be redundant and unnecessary.

Patricia Wolford made a motion to recommend all four applications on the regular agenda. Michelle Grace seconded the motion, and the motion to recommend was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next TFCG meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2021, at 2 p.m.