



COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Small Cell Overview

John Guinan
Small Cell Project Manager
Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs
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WHAT IS A SMALL CELL (IN AUSTIN, TX.):

*Typical Small Cell Installation
Downtown Austin*



WHAT IS A SMALL CELL (IN AUSTIN, TX.):

- The vast majority are on ATD traffic control signals, and include a base “equipment shroud”, an electric meter and disconnect, a power and fiber riser, and antennas.
- Depending on the carrier, a small cell may be 4G only, 5G only, or both.
- There is no colocation (multiple carriers on the same pole), there are several reasons for this.
- At present, AT&T has more sites activated than any other carrier (15 – all 4G Only) – Concerted 5G push underway. T-Mobile has the most approved applications (48).
- Current projections indicate 550-700 Small Cells in the CBD.
- We are starting to see applications outside the CBD, and on alternative assets (Austin Energy Light and transmission poles).

SMALL CELL PERMIT APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Permit Status Summary – As Of 10/01/2019

Small Cell Permit Status for Node as of August 30, 2019					
Carrier	Approved Nodes	Completeness Check	Formal Review	Awaiting Updates from Carrier	Total Permits Pending Approval
AT&T Cingular	46	0	30	23	53
AT&T Wireline	11	0	3	4	7
Sprint	23	0	0	9	9
T-Mobile	48	4	23	33	60
Verizon	6	0	14	71	85
Crown Castle	11	0	0	4	4
Total	145	4	70	144	218

70	Total applications currently in review by City
144	Total applications pending carrier revisions
145	Total approved Permits
57	Total applications withdrawn
17	Total applications rejected
433	Total applications received

9/21/18 – 24 Approved SC Permits

1/16-19 – 64 Approved SC Permits

SMALL CELL – CURRENT PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- Incorporating COA reviewer and Small Cell applicant's feedback, TARA developed and issued a standard site plan set for use in Small Cell applications. The intent is to streamline the review process by simplifying the document.
- Encouraging industry cooperation in the development of pole standards. This has resulted in the approval of 3 Austin Energy "Drop and Swap" approved poles. We are well down the road with a standard design for an ATD traffic control signal pole as well as a pole for use in ROW adjacent to parkland.
- Initiated informal wireless industry "housekeeping" calls to identify and work through common roadblocks.
- Currently partnering with DSD and ATP to develop a close out process for Small Cell construction.
- Developing mechanisms to evaluate review cycle times and highlight common pitfalls.

SMALL CELL CHALLENGES DOWN THE ROAD

- The ability to deploy: mid-block on Great Streets; effectively in many residential areas comprised largely by single family homes; and inside parkland.
- Volume of construction and impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- Staffing Levels to review applications and attend field meetings will be challenging.
- Reporting – linkage of databases issuing permits.



John Guinan

John.Guinan@austintexas.gov

512.974.2019

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