



Small Cell Wireless Facilities

City Council Update
October 2, 2019

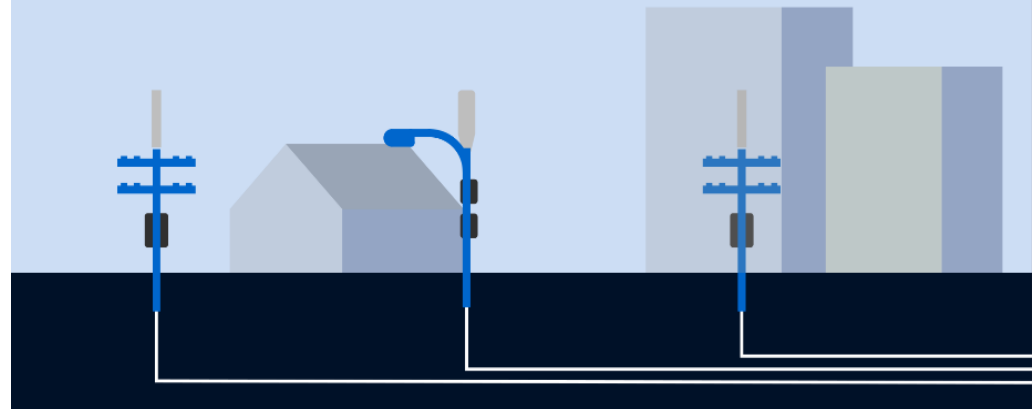


What are Small Cells?

- Small Cells are low power wireless installations.
- Small cell antennas and associated equipment can fit on existing utility or streetlight poles.
- Small cell antennas needed to support existing 4G networks, primarily in dense areas. Needed to support next generation (5G) technology.

SMALL CELL:

- MULTIPLE NODES SPREAD ACROSS CITY
- MOUNTED ON EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE
- CONNECTED BY FIBER



SOURCE: THE CBR GROUP

Federal & State Context

- Virginia General Assembly enacted new statutes governing small cell zoning in 2017 and 2018.
- FCC issued two orders preempting local authority over wireless facilities in 2018.
- Establishes federal safety standards for RF exposure
- Removes local authority to request studies as part of application review/approval process
- Requires administrative approval of applications
- Provides specific deadlines for review
- Provides limitations on aesthetic standards that can be applied





Community Outreach

Meetings

- Public Information Community Meeting – April 2019
- Board of Architectural Review – May 2 & 15, 2019
- Old Town Civic Association – June 2019
- IT Commission – June 2019
- Porto Vecchio – July 2019

Electronic Outreach

- E-News
- FYI Alexandria – Resident Newsletter

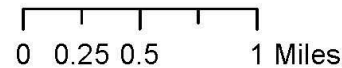


Process Updates

- 50 applications have been submitted and staff has approved 43 this year.
 - 2 located on private property atop gas stations
 - 10 within the historic district, the BAR approved three applications; staff approved three applications
- Interim Aesthetic Guidelines published
- BAR approved an administrative policy for small cell attachments on existing wood poles.
- Staff has updated and formalized a pole replacement height policy for poles within the public ROW consistent with the Aesthetic Guidelines.



Small Cell Applications: Calendar 2019



Disposition

- Approved
- Denied
- Received

This map was produced by the GIS Division, City of Alexandria, Virginia

Mapping Standards:
 Coordinate System - NAD 83 State Plane Virginia North
 Projection - Lambert Conformal Conic
 Map Units - Feet

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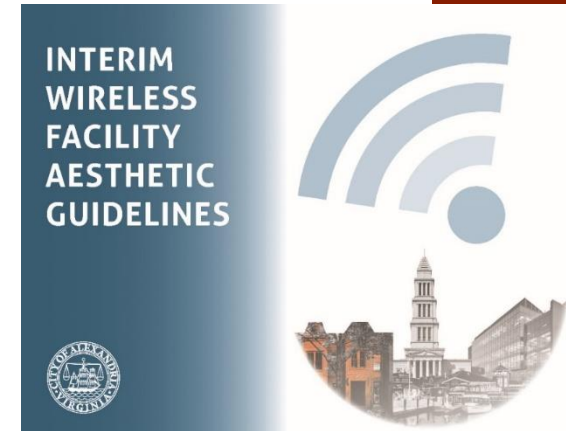
Pursuant to Section 54.1-402 of the Code of Virginia, any determination of topography or contours, or any depiction of physical improvements, property lines or boundaries is for general information only and shall not be used for the design, modification or construction of improvements to real property or for flood plain determination.

Map Produced:
 9-26-2019



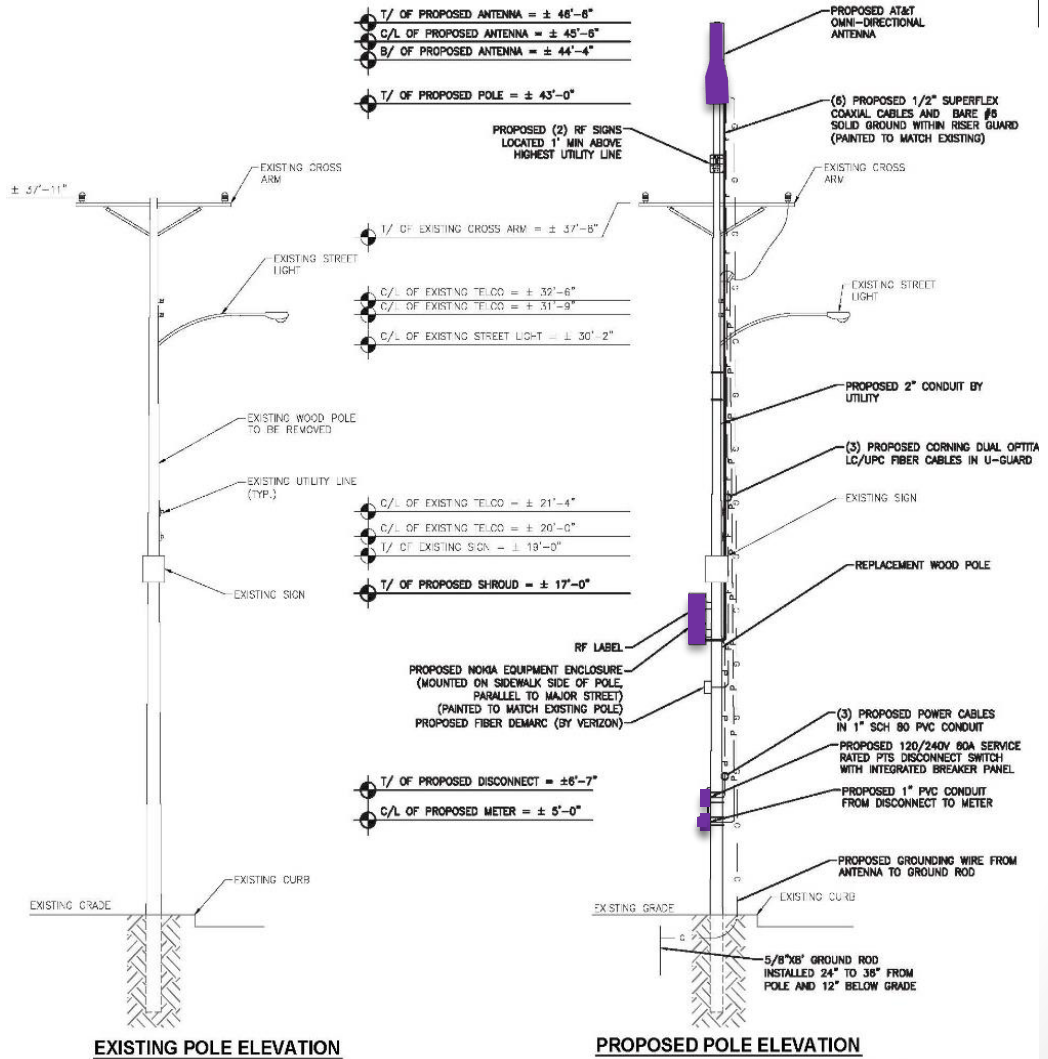
Interim Aesthetic Guidelines

- Published on April 11, 2019
- Primarily addresses location and placement of small cell wireless facilities within and outside of the public right-of-way (ROW)
- Provides guidance for:
 - attachments on existing structures (utility poles and streetlight poles) within the public ROW
 - replacement of existing structures (utility poles and streetlight poles) within the public ROW
 - new standalone structures



View online at www.alexandriava.gov/109058

Small Cell





BAR Administrative Policy for Wood Utility Poles

- BAR grants administrative approval of small cell antennas and associated equipment on replacement wood Dominion Energy utility poles only within the public ROW to P&Z
- Replacement criteria consistent with Interim Aesthetic Design Guidelines
- Allows opportunity for amendment by BAR at any time
- Requests for attachment to any other pole/structure with historic district would require approval by BAR



Pole Replacement Height Policy

- Provides limited allowance for increases in pole height of existing poles in the public ROW
 - If required for maintenance or service upgrades
 - If needed to support small cell antenna installation
- Provides height increase limitations to ensure compliance with safety standards and minimize significant increases.
- Provides oversight regarding utility provider maintenance/service needs on a case by case basis.



Upcoming Staff Work

- Staff is finalizing draft amendments to Zoning Ordinance to respond to Virginia law and FCC regulations – Dec 2019
- Design meetings with BAR, staff, and wireless providers
- Revisions to Aesthetic Guidelines for small cell facilities that complies with regulations
- Exploring development of Smart Technology Framework
- Developing/revising internal staff guidance documents as appropriate



QUESTIONS

Visit the Small Cells webpage for additional information,
www.alexandriava.gov/109058

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