



Amendment to the BAR Administrative Approval Policy for Small Cell Wireless Facilities in the Right-of-Way

Board of Architectural Review
Electronic Public Hearing
April 22, 2020

Small Cell Facilities

Small cell facility = installation
4G & 5G = technology

- Small cell facilities address increasing usage of wireless devices and increased demand requires reliable highspeed wireless service
- Small cell facilities are needed to support existing networks and fill in areas of missing coverage
- Federal/State law allow for very limited local authority

Existing Policy Background

- BAR approved three small cell installations in June 2019
- BAR adopted Small Cell Facilities administrative policy in June 2019
- BAR staff has approved approximately 10-12 4G installations since June 2019
- No antennas have been installed

BAR administrative policy adopted

6.19.19

BAR POLICY for ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL of SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITIES ON WOOD UTILITY POLES

Adopted 6/19/19

BAR staff may administratively approve small cell antennas and their associated equipment cabinets on replacement wood Dominion Energy utility poles in the right-of-way if they comply with the following criteria:

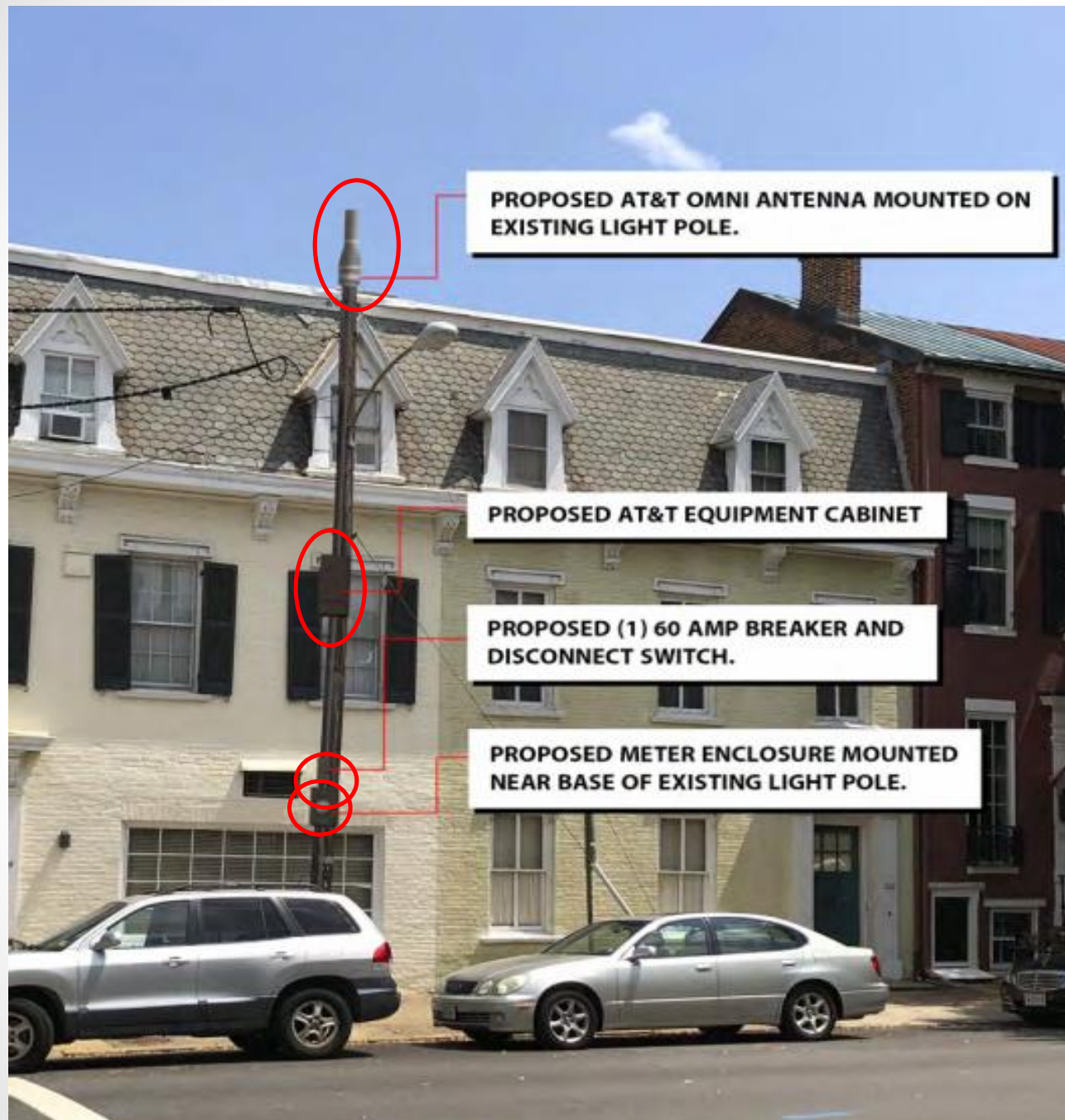


1. The replacement pole height will not increase the existing pole height by more than 10 feet, and the antenna and its enclosure shall be no greater than six cubic feet in volume.
2. The replacement pole will be in the same general location as the existing pole and the existing pole will be removed once the utilities have been relocated.
3. The replacement pole will not cause the removal of an existing tree or cause damaging impacts to trees located in the right-of-way.
4. The wireless facility will be shrouded, enclosing wires and equipment, and no separate ground mounted equipment is proposed.
5. The wireless facility will be painted to match the utility pole.

Wireless facilities must comply with all City codes and ordinances and may require separate approval of permits from other City departments. These policies may be amended by the BAR at any time but will be reviewed and updated at least every five years.

Mock-up showing small cell antenna and equipment cabinet

Small cell (4G) and associated equipment



Approved
administratively

City Council text changes

- On 3.14.20 City Council approved a zoning text amendment to make the ordinance consistent with recent changes to state and federal laws and regulations.
- Details:
 - Clarified that the shot-clock deadline is 60 days
 - Included allowance for creation aesthetic guidelines
 - Set maximum antenna size – no more than 3 cubic feet
 - All other equipment can be more more than 28 cubic feet
 - Set height limits
 - Reiterated that in the historic districts Section 10 applies

Proposed Policy Updates



- Height
- Volume of antennas
- Pole material
- Location in front of important historic buildings
- Retains requirements related to the removal of replaced poles, trees, equipment mounting, and color matching.



BAR POLICY for ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL of SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITIES on UTILITY POLES IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Draft 4/22/2020

BAR staff may administratively approve small cell wireless facilities (antennas and their associated equipment) on existing or replacement wood, metal or composite Dominion Energy or Verizon utility poles in the right-of-way if they comply with the following criteria, consistent with Zoning Ordinance Section 7-1206 through 7-1212:

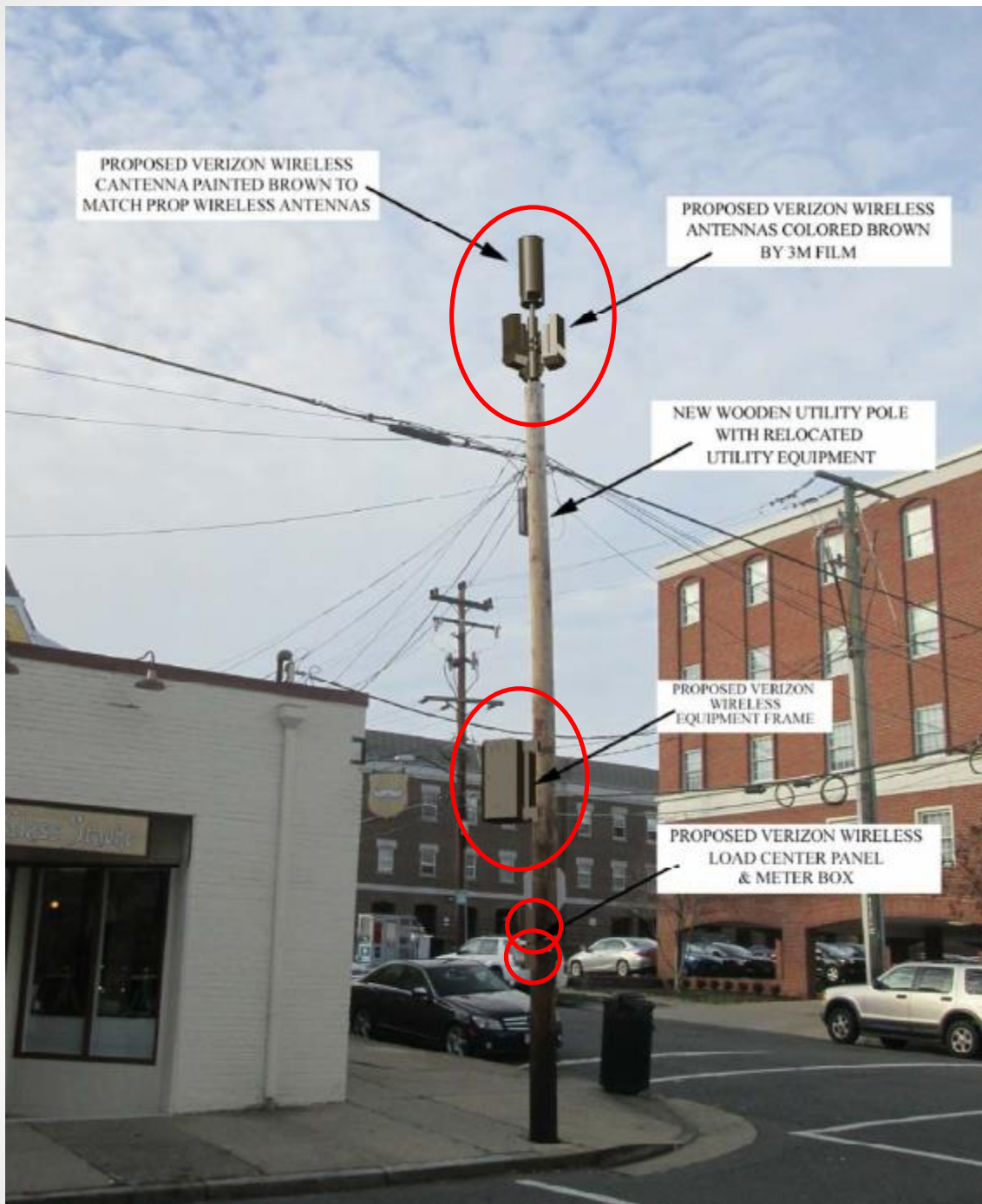
1. Antennas do not exceed 3 cubic feet in volume.
2. All other wireless equipment, including existing equipment on the structure, does not exceed 28 cubic feet in volume.
3. Antennas are painted, coated with film, or otherwise shrouded with a color matching the adjoining pole to mitigate visual clutter.
4. All wireless equipment is painted to match the utility pole.
5. No separate ground mounted equipment is proposed.
6. The pole height does not exceed 50 feet, with a potential increase of 5 feet (55 feet total) in certain limited instances.
7. Any replacement for an existing pole will be in the same general location as the existing pole and the existing pole will be removed once the utilities have been relocated.
8. The replacement of a pole does not cause the removal of an existing tree or cause damaging impacts to trees located in the right-of-way.
9. The wireless facility is not located in front of a parcel containing one of the City's important historic resources.

Wireless facilities must comply with all City codes and ordinances and may require separate approval of permits from other City departments. BAR staff has the discretion to refer siting requests that do not meet the requirements of this policy to the BAR. These policies may be amended by the BAR at any time.

Small cell (5G) and associated equipment



Small cell (4G & 5G) and associated equipment



Next Steps

- Small cell administrative approvals will be listed at the end of the dockets
- Carriers are exploring design alternatives for other facilities in the right-of-way where utilities are underground
- Draft a Design Guideline for Small Cell Facilities
- Create a list of our most important historic buildings where we want to preserve viewsheds



Keystone Gray SW 7504