



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 14, 2021

Stan Greenbaum
9 Peace Pipe Lane
Sherman, CT 060784
stan.greenbaum@gmail.com

RE: **DOCKET NO. 499** – Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 16 Coote Hill Road, Sherman, Connecticut.

Dear Stan Greenbaum:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your recent correspondence concerning Docket No. 499.

Please be advised that the schedule developed by the Council for this matter includes the 90-day extension of statutory administrative deadlines associated with this application pursuant to Governor Lamont's Executive Orders, as extended. A copy of the Council's Docket No. 499 schedule is attached for your convenience. The final decision deadline with the 90-day extension is November 7, 2021.

In compliance with Connecticut General Statutes §16-50m and Governor Lamont's Executive Orders, as extended, the Council published notice of the May 25, 2021 public hearing for Docket No. 499 in The Danbury News Times on April 15, 2021. The Council will provide appropriate notice for any continued evidentiary hearing sessions that may be scheduled thereafter.

In reaching a final decision on an application, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the applicant, parties and intervenors in the proceeding, and all of the concerns received from members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

As indicated in the attached schedule, any person seeking to become a party or intervenor to the proceeding may file a written request on or before May 18, 2021.

Please note that you can view documents related to this proceeding on our website at portal.ct.gov/csc under the "Pending Matters" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter. Your letter will be entered in the public comment file related to this matter.



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Sincerely,

s/Melanie A. Bachman

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/lm

c: Council Members
Service List dated March 15, 2021

Enc. Schedule



**9 Peace Pipe Lane
Sherman, Connecticut 06784**

Phone: (860) 354-2454 FAX: (860) 354-0054

Cell: (203) 512-6200

Email: sgreenbaum@uchicago.edu

May 14, 2021

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
siting.council@ct.gov

Dear Ms. Bachman

I am writing to request a 90 day continuance of the hearing on Docket #499, **Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wirelss d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 16 Coote Hill Road, Sherman Connecticut**, scheduled for May 25, 2021, pursuant to Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 9L, that

“all statutory and regulatory administrative time requirements and deadlines under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act and the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, including, but not limited to, final decision deadlines and any other time limitations for applications, petitions, Development & Management Plans, requests for tower sharing and requests for exempt modifications shall be extended for a period not to exceed 90 days.”

On June 12, 2013, AT&T submitted a Technical Report (“AT&T’s 2013 Technical Report”) to the Town of Sherman proposing a wireless telecommunications tower facility at 16 Coote Hill Road. Shortly thereafter, following a Town Meeting to approve the funds, the Town of Sherman engaged RCC Consultants at a cost of almost \$15,000.00 to assist the Town and the previously appointed Public Safety Communications Committee in analyzing Cellular Communications in Sherman. In 2012, they did a similar analysis, also for \$15,000.00 to analyze radio frequency communications to enable improved communications for the emergency services and public works providers in Sherman. Their analysis was reported to the Board of Selectmen on January 24, 2013 by the Public Safety Communications Committee. The cellular communications analysis was reported to the Board of Selectmen on September 26, 2013.

An alternative site was proposed by the Public Safety Communications Committee following the analysis by RCC Consultants. RCC found that a 100' tower at that site would cover 30.85% of the Town whereas the Coote Hill site at 170' only covered 17.8% of the Town. AT&T sent representatives to the site, identified as 26 Wagon Wheel Road, the 8th site they considered in this application. The site was owned, at the time, by the Naromi Land Trust. The 10.47 acres site was part of a 4 lot subdivision with an approved access road design, approved by both the Sherman Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inlands and Wetlands Commission. AT&T felt that a grade of 20% on part of the approved access road was too steep. No adverse or contradictory finding was made by the AT&T Radio Frequency Engineer as alleged in this application. Furthermore, Homeland Towers, LLC was not involved in these discussions.

In the current application, Homeland Towers, LLC and AT&T state that "this parcel was reviewed by the AT&T Radio Frequency Engineer and was rejected as it did not provide adequate coverage to the intended area" directly contradicting the RCC Consultants' analysis. The Town of Sherman paid for a balloon float study at this site. The balloon had to be raised to 120' to clear the top of the tree line at that location, 20' higher than the elevation in the RCC Consultants' analysis.

Homeland Towers, LLC and AT&T also state that they walked the 9th site, identified as 28 Wagon Wheel Road. They incorrectly identify the owner at the time as the Naromi Land Trust. They did not walk that property at that time. It was not owned by the Naromi Land Trust until December 2019, some 6 ½ years later.

With respect to both of these sites, the Homeland Towers, LLC and AT&T application goes on to state that "After further meetings and discussions, the Naromi Board Members voted to not enter into a lease with Homeland Towers on any of Naromi's properties." As a former Vice President of the Naromi Land Trust, present at Naromi Board meetings in 2013 and 2014, I can state that this was not the case at that time. There was no follow-up by AT&T after the site visit in the summer of 2013 other than to say that the section of access road at a 20% grade was steeper than they wanted to develop.

Ray Vergatti of Homeland Towers, LLC engaged with Naromi in 2015. He visited several sites. One promising site would have required a silo and barn structure and Naromi was prepared to consider a lower lease payment in exchange for barn space that could be used by a tenant farmer. Mr. Vergatti did not pursue the matter and Naromi informed him subsequently that they could not consider a cell tower on their property at that time.

The current Homeland Towers, LLC and AT&T application clearly states that AT&T put their 2013 proposal on deferred action status in 2014 for business reasons.

“AT&T completed the municipal consultation process and had intended to file a certificate application for a tower site on the Parcel. In 2014, AT&T made a business decision to simply defer the site and an application was not filed with the Siting Council at that time.” (page 6 of application).

This is a sample of the problems with this application as presented. There are many more environmental, wetland, habitat and issues that have not been adequately addressed in the application.

I and an ad hoc group of other Sherman residents has formed an informal organization that we are calling Sherman Citizens for Responsible Telecommunications Sites. We have raised money and hired the same Radio Frequency Engineer, Richard Tourjounian, that did the analyses for the Town of Sherman in 2012 and 2013. Mr. Tourjounian has previously worked for the Town of New Fairfield as well. His company is Allegiant Wireless. Mr. Tourjounian has suggested that we make an effort to collaborate with Homeland Towers, LLC and AT&T to better understand their objectives in this application and to see if we can collaborate on either modifying the application for this site or finding a more suitable site in the area. Mr. Tourjounian has pointed out that no mention has been made of a tower owned by the Town of New Fairfield (the tower is in Patterson, NY) that is located 2.4 miles west southwest from the proposed location. The Town of Sherman has previously identified that tower as a very good location for emergency services and department of public works radio antenna but was unable to reach a lease agreement with the Town of New Fairfield.

Mr. Tourjounian has further proposed that AT&T give their radio frequency consultants, C², permission to speak with Mr. Tourjounian to answer radio frequency questions that are not supported by data in the application.

Though we know that there are gaps in service, there have been some significant technological improvements that have enabled residents in the southern part of Sherman to be able to use their cell phones. More homes have expanded their broadband wireless networks through the use of mesh network routers that newer cell phones are able to use to complete phone calls.

While Homeland Towers, LLC and AT&T have generously offered to host the two 20' whip antennas for emergency services and the department of public works at no cost to the Town of Sherman, we are of the opinion that there is a more agreeable solution to this problem.

The pandemic has significantly compromised the ability of local residents to communicate and organize to achieve these goals in a manner more satisfactory to all parties concerned.

AT&T put this project on deferred action status in 2014 as a business decision. Engaging with the community for another 90 days ought not to be a significant hardship given the timeframe forecast for this project.

While the Pre-hearing interrogatories, dated April 21, 2021, address some of the concerns that we have, I and the ad hoc members of the Sherman Citizens for Responsible Telecommunications Sites respectfully request that this matter be continued for 90 days to August 24, 2021, pursuant to Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 9L, to enable our radio frequency engineer to communicate with the AT&T engineers, C² or others, to try to collaboratively arrive at a more agreeable solution.

Cordially,

Stan Greenbaum

Stan Greenbaum

ATTACHMENTS:

Sherman Public Safety Communications: Report on Phase 1, January 24, 2013

RCC Consultants' Analysis of Cell Phone Coverage, Town of Sherman: (Report on Phase 2, Board of Selectmen, September 26, 2013

Draft of letter from Public Safety Communications Committee to AT&T, shared at Board of Selectmen's meeting, September 26, 2013

CC:

Lucia Chiocchio, Esq.
Christopher B. Fisher, Esq.
Cuddy & Feder LLP
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601
(914) 761-1300
Attorneys for the Applicants

A copy of all correspondence shall also be sent to:

Homeland Towers, LLC
9 Harmony Street, 2nd Floor
Danbury, CT 06810
Attention: Raymond Vergati
Manuel Vicente

AT&T
84 Deerfield Lane
Meriden, CT 06450
Attention: Brian Leyden \\\nHarry Carey

Don Lowe, First Selectman
Town of Sherman
Mallory Town Hall

Sherman, CT 06784

Public Safety Communications Committee
DRAFT

For: letter to ATT regarding municipal preferences on proposal for cell tower at Coote Hill Road . . . input based on RCC Consultants work . . .

The Town of Sherman has three major objectives in its consideration of cellphone coverage in town:

- that there be a comprehensive plan to provide cellphone coverage in the whole town, rather than a sub-optimal, piece-meal approach that primarily serves the interests of the cell-phone vendors;
- that there be minimal visual impact on this town that is noted for its rural character, its scenery, and its recreational sites and activities;
- that the town's Public Safety Communications system and the cellphone solution share the same infrastructure

The Town's response to the ATT proposal for a tower at Coote Hill is shaped by this thinking.

Regarding the Coote Hill proposal specifically:

RCC analysis of the Coote Hill Road location says that there is very little difference in coverage between a 170' tower (covers 17.8% of the area of the town) and a 120' tower (covers 13.9% of the town); even a 100' tower at that location would cover 12% of the town. The negative visual impact on the surrounding area, especially the scenic/recreation area around Mauweehoo Lake, would be very significantly reduced by lowering the height of the tower.

A 120' tower would provide good coverage for ATT, and allow for other vendors at lower levels who would get almost as good coverage.

The RCC work says that the Tower Hill site in Patterson would serve to provide coverage for the west side of Sherman, along the New York border, from the southern border of the town as far north as Wakeman Hill Road. In conjunction with even a 120' tower at Coote Hill, the coverage figure would be 23.6%, a substantial improvement over the coverage of Coote Hill by

itself, even at 170' (17.8%).

A major element of the visual impact of the tower is the arrays of panel antennas surrounding the pole itself. Given the relatively sparse population in the area, and the fact that road travelers will typically be low-volume users, non-sectorized omni-directional antennas should be sufficient to handle the local communications / data load.

The technical report includes a chart labeled "Population Coverage (2008 Census Block Data)." The town requests that ATT explain how those population estimates were derived, and whether the figures presented represent only permanent residents, or also include the owners of second homes in the area.

A more specific and useful analysis of the effects of the change of coverage would be based on an accounting of the buildings that would have coverage or not. A map exists showing all of the buildings in town as of 2007, digitized in a format that allows it to be added as a map layer on existing digital maps of the town. The town requests that ATT add this layer to their maps, so that a more detailed and better founded analysis can be done. The map / data set is available from the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials organization in Brookfield, Ct.

If the Coote Hill proposal were to be implemented, Sherman prefers that the proposed tower be no more than 120', that it use omni-directional antenna technology rather than the panel antennas, and that it be done with a companion antenna at Tower Hill.

Regarding an alternative site for the southern section of town:

The RCC work says that a tower located on land owned by Naromi Land Trust (NLT) on the top of Mauweehoo Hill would provide very much better coverage than the proposed Coote Hill Site – a 120' tower at that site would cover better than 32% of the area of the town, versus less than 18% for a 170' tower at Coote Hill.

A tower at that site would likely be much less visible, both in the surrounding area and from a distance

The property in question was formerly owned by [Indy Mac Bank??], and is

listed as [# 20?] in the list of Sites Evaluated in the ATT Technical Report. The property is now owned by Naromi Land Trust, who is open to discussion of this project. Access would be from Wagon Wheel Road, and would not be simple, but may compare favorably with the access problems for the Coote Hill site.

Sherman prefers that ATT consider the NLT property on Mauweehoo Hill as an alternative location to the Coote Hill site.

Regarding a comprehensive town-wide plan for cellphone coverage:

RCC has investigated additional sites in Sherman that could be the basis for very much improved cellphone coverage in the whole town:

- a site on land just north of the Fire Department building in the center of town. This site is also owned by Naromi Land Trust. It provides better coverage for the central section of town than either the White Silo location (S2041) or the Happy Acres location (CT5502), and it is heavily wooded so that visual impact would likely be minimal.
- a site at the north end of town, on the top of Evans Hill, off Evans Hill Road. This site would provide both cellphone and fire department communications coverage for much of the north end of town, as well as Routes 39 and 55 in Sherman and Route 7 in Gaylordsville. This site is currently in private hands, but the owners have indicated an interest in preserving the land in general and are open to the idea that a communications facility might help to accomplish that.
- as mentioned above, the Tower Hill site in Patterson, NY adds significantly to the coverage of the town along the NY border in the southern section of town.

Sherman prefers that ATT consider a comprehensive, town-wide solution for cellphone coverage in town.

Regarding the Town's Public Safety Communication system:

The Town of Sherman has invested in work to improve the public safety communications system used by the Volunteer Fire Department and the Emergency Management department of town government. These

improvements are based on the addition of antenna structures at the north and south ends of town, very similar to (but not nearly as intrusive as) that proposed by ATT at the south end of town.

Sherman prefers that any communications infrastructure provide space for both cellphone and public safety communications antennas and equipment on the same site and structures.

Prepared by David Hopkins, Chair, Sherman Public Safety Communications Committee

RCC Consultants' Analysis of Cell Phone Coverage Town of Sherman

Board of Selectmen

September 26, 2013

Presented by David Hopkins

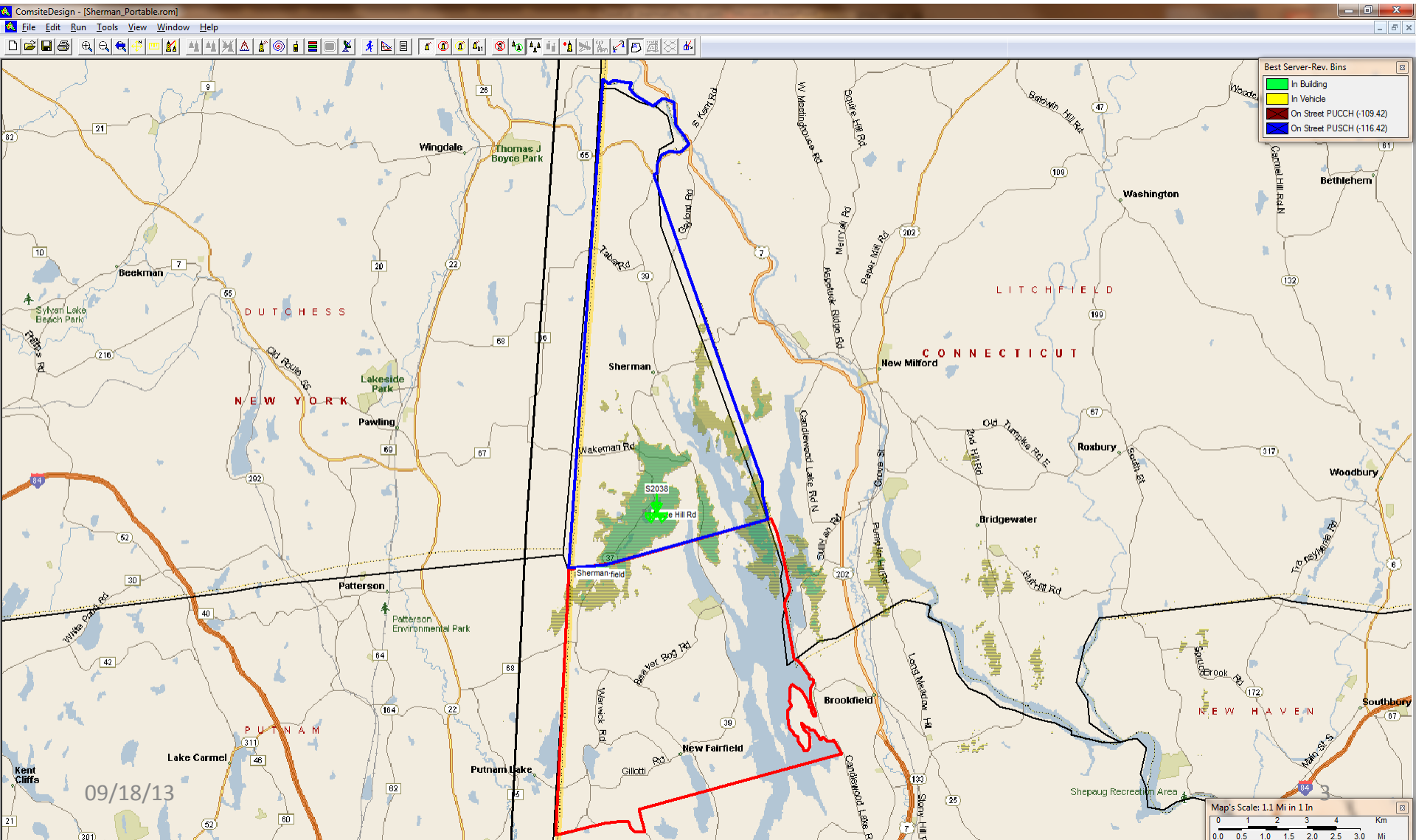
Summary of Contents

- South End of Town
 - Coote Hill Road site (S2038)
 - Mauweehoo Hill site (TOS-S1)
- Center of Town
 - White Silo Farm site (S2041)
 - Town Center site (TOS-C2)
- North End of Town
 - Happy Acres Farm site (CT5502)
 - Evans Hill Road site (TOS-N1)
- Overall Views

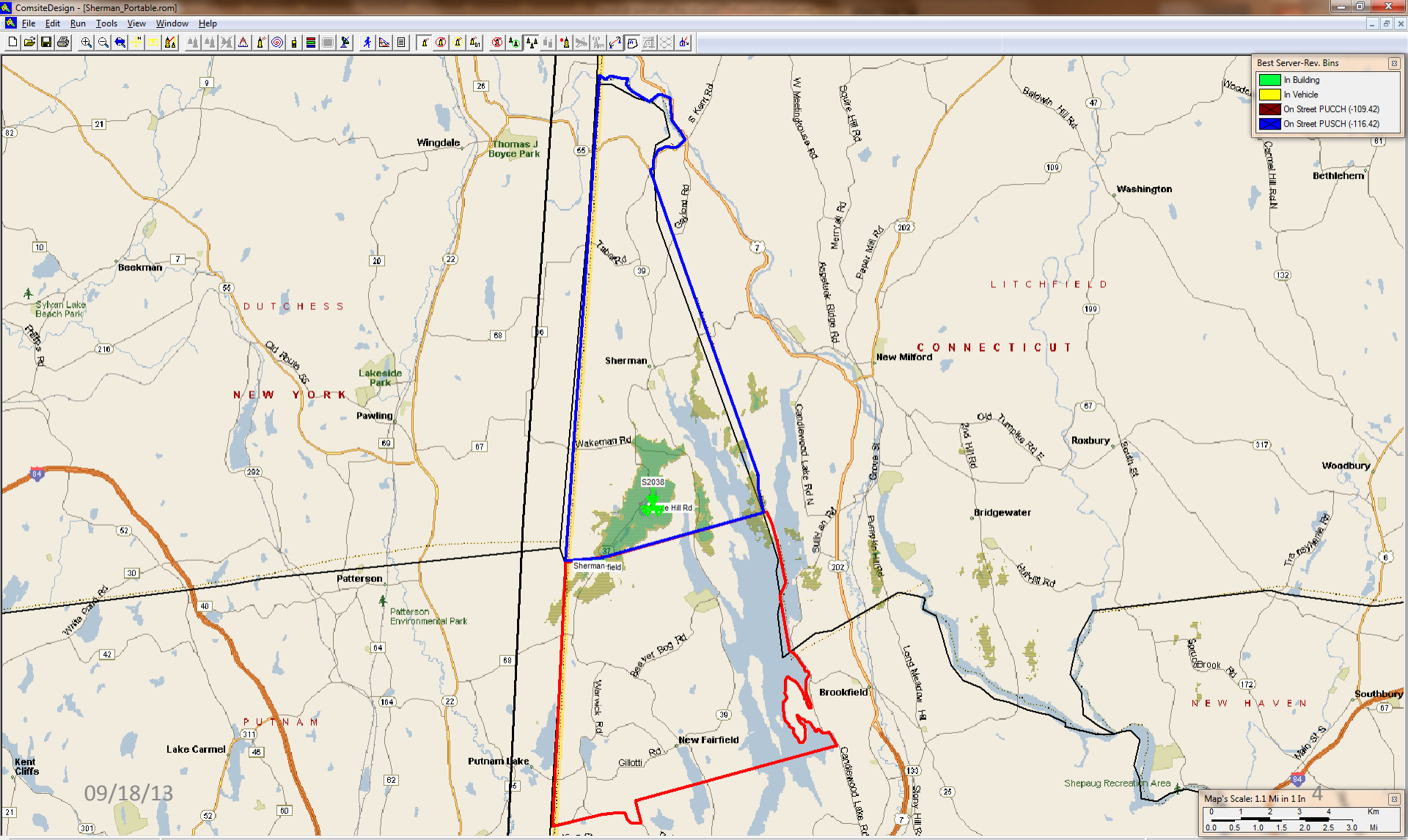
167' Centerline (170' Tower)

Cootte Hill (S2038) at 170 feet

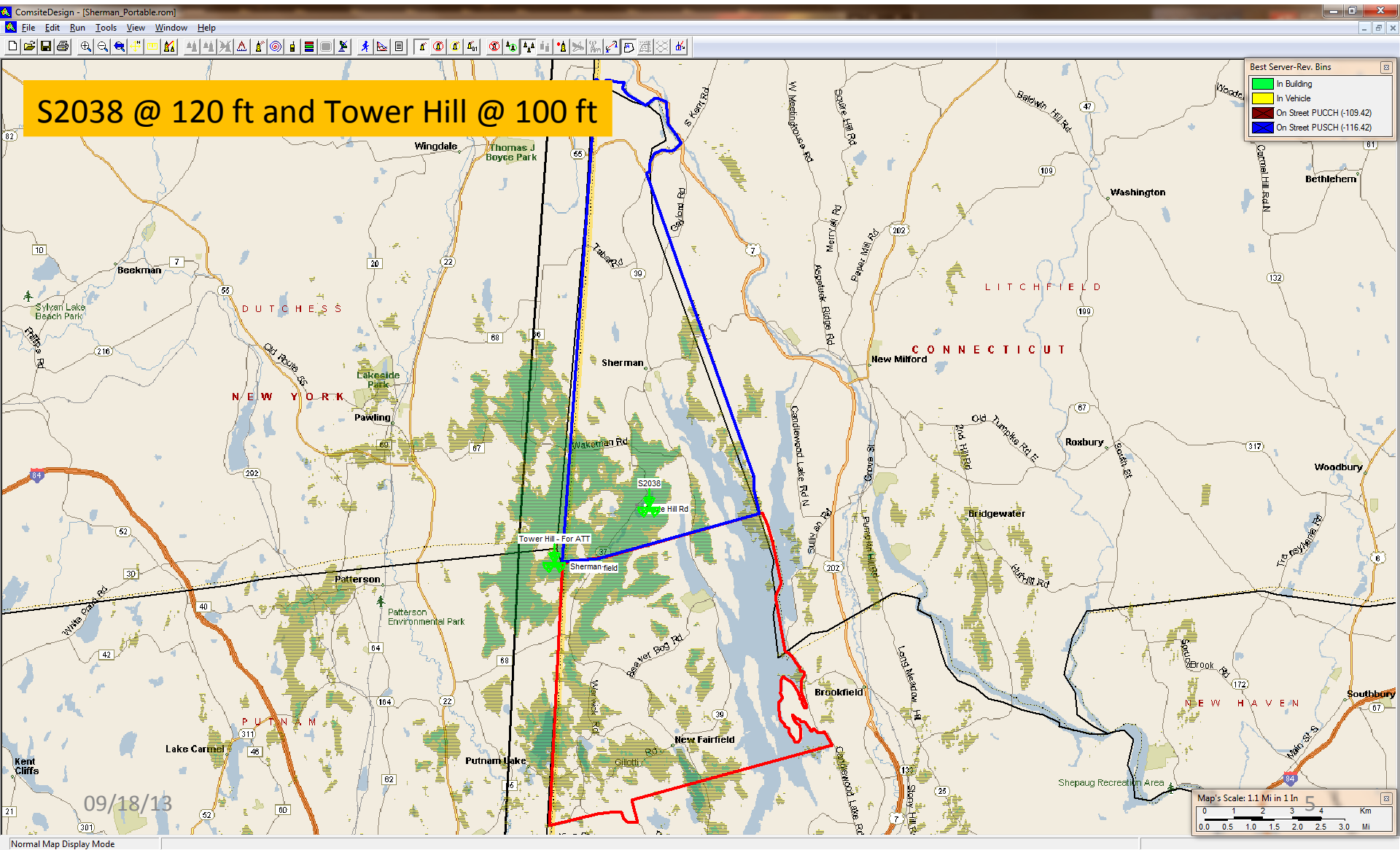
17.80% of town area covered



Cootte Hill (S2038) at 120 feet 13.91% of town area covered

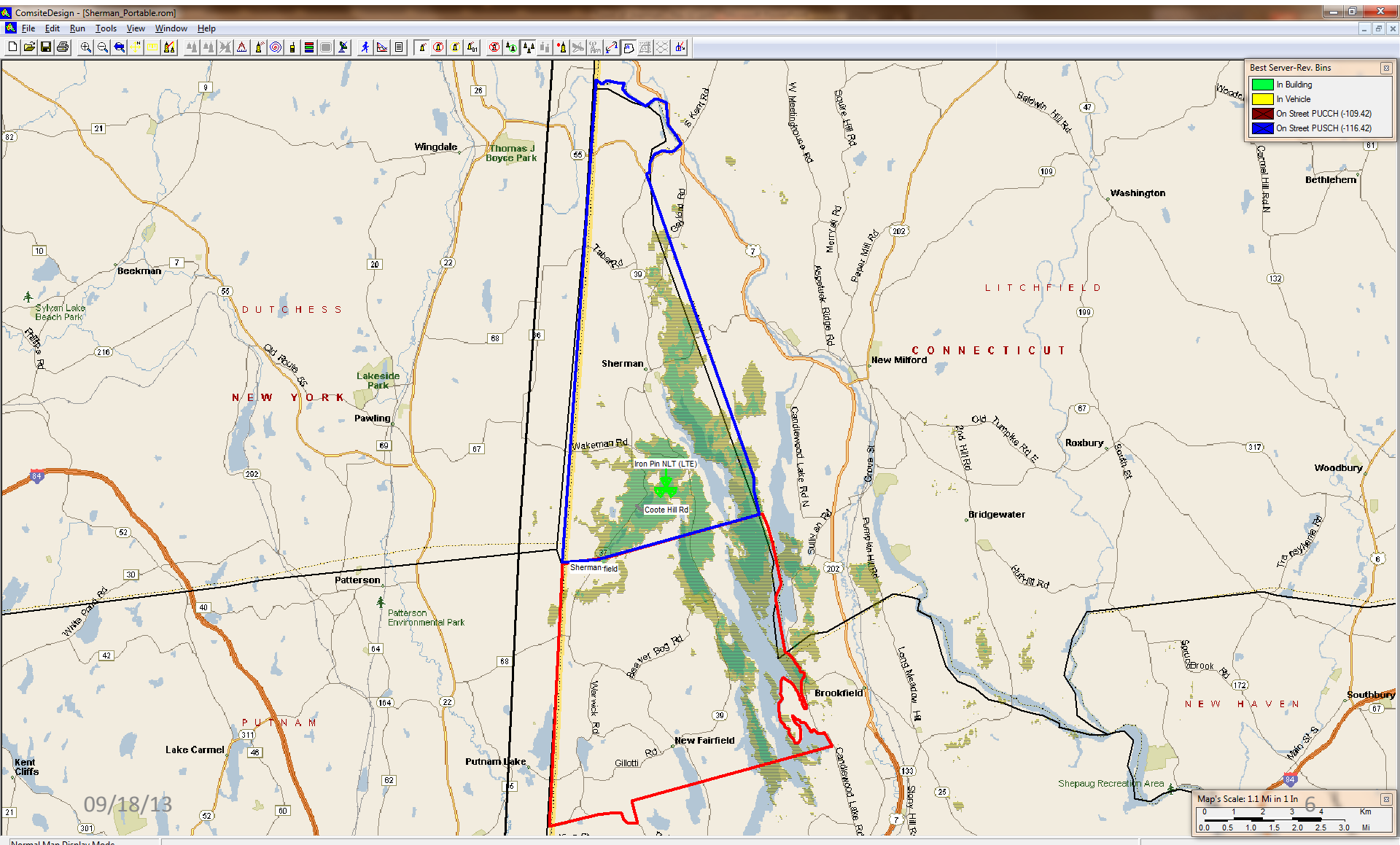


Cootte Hill (S2038) Plus Tower Hill 23.61% of town area covered

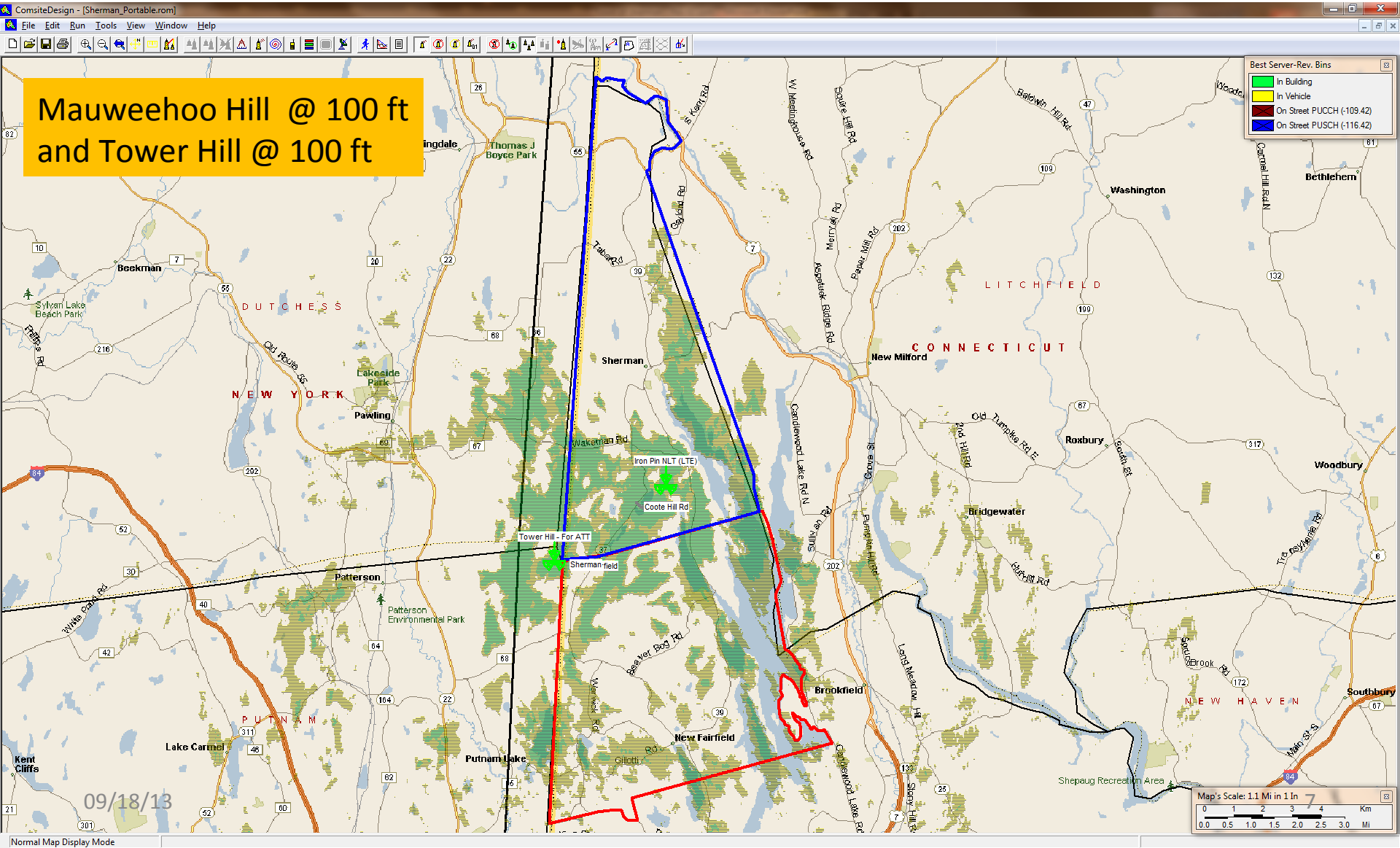


100'

Mauweehoo Hill (TOS-S1) at 100 feet 30.85% of town area covered



Mauweehoo Hill plus Tower Hill 38.73% of town area covered



South End of Town . . .

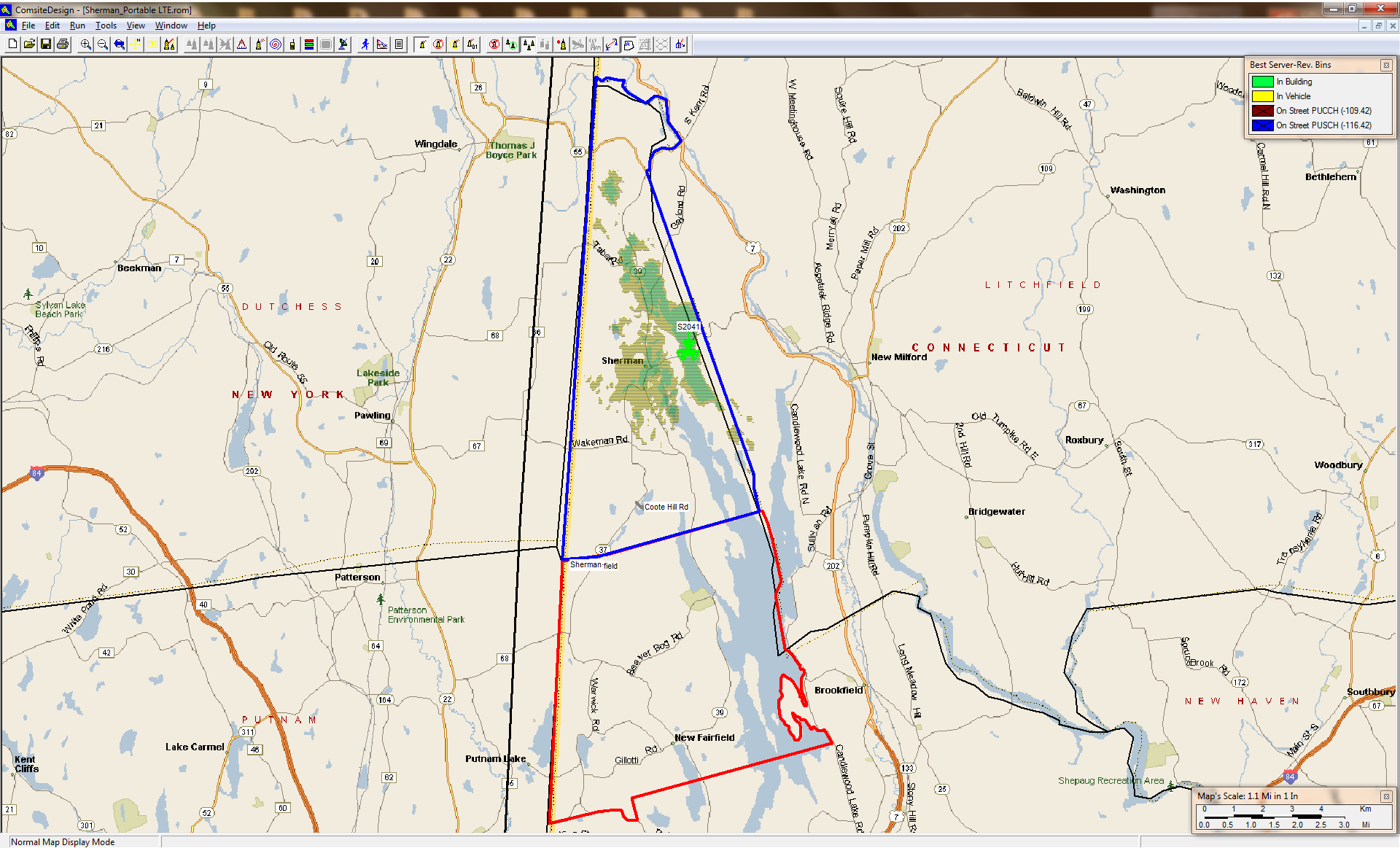
Coote Hill Road tower can be reduced substantially in height without greatly affecting coverage

Mauweehoo Hill site offers much better coverage, with less visibility

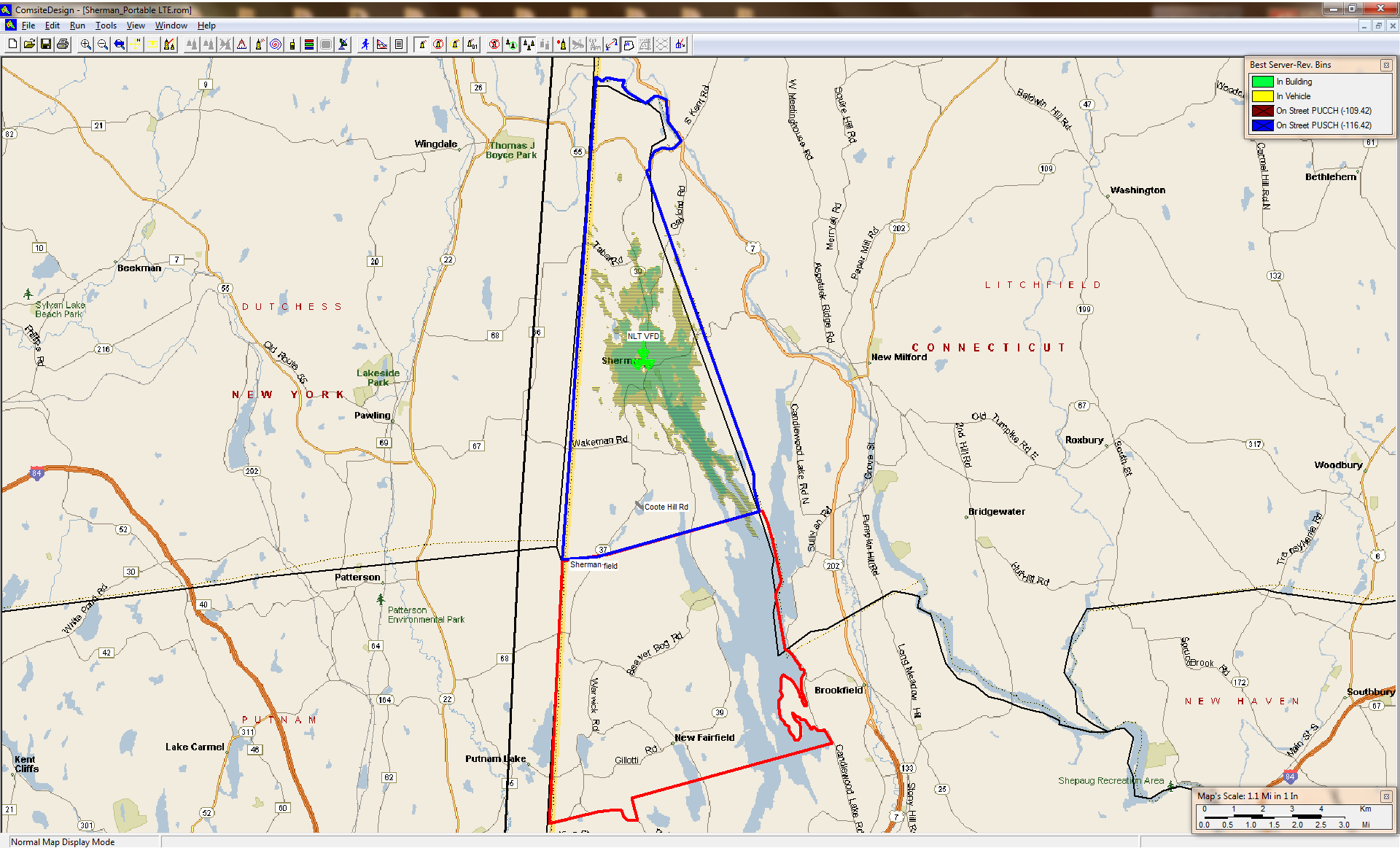
Tower Hill can help fill in coverage on the west side of town

White Silo Farm (S2041)

19.98% of town area covered



Town Center site (TOS-C2) – 100 feet 23.66% of town area covered



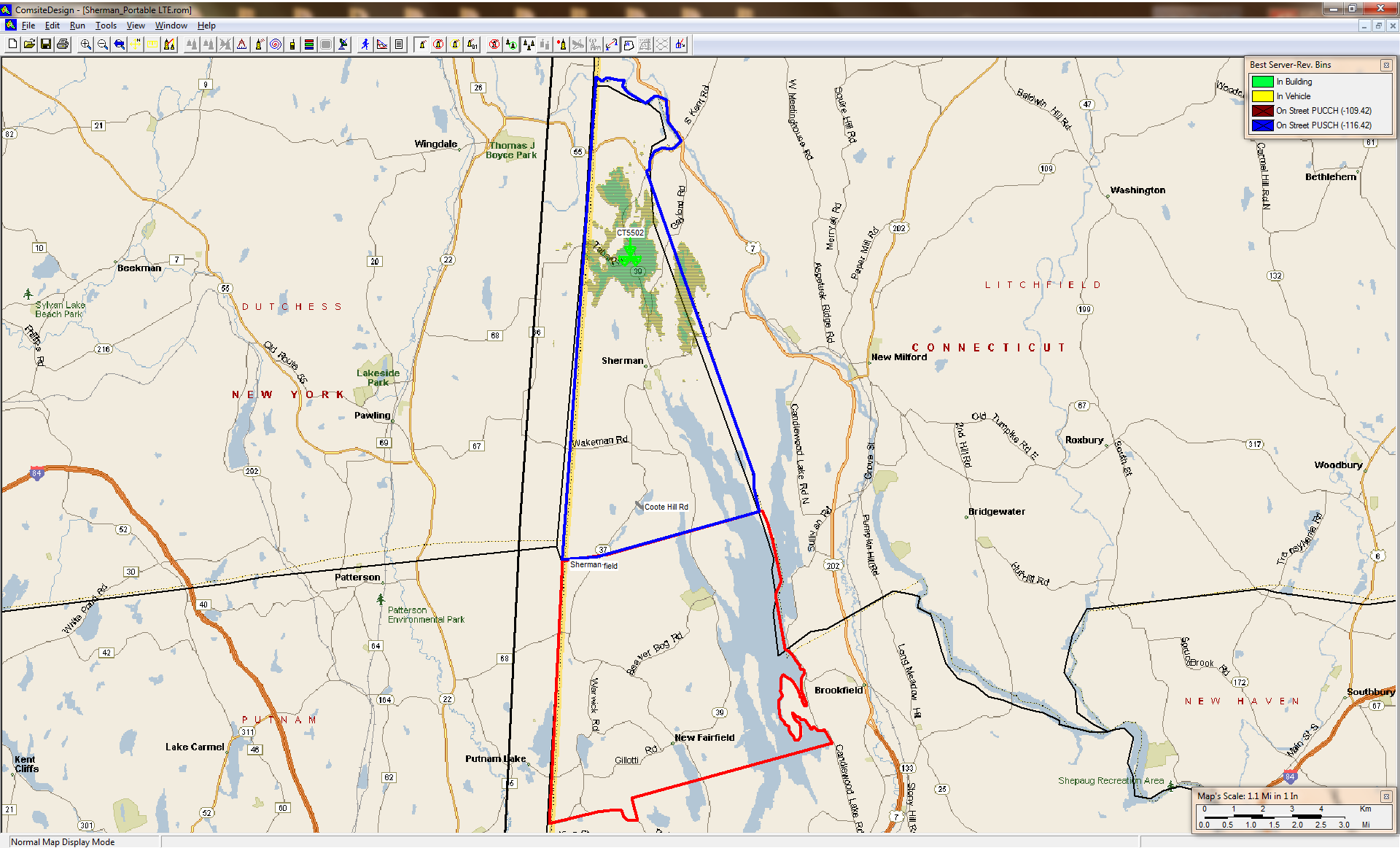
Center Section of Town . . .

The Town Center site offers somewhat broader coverage than the White Silo Farm site, and . . .

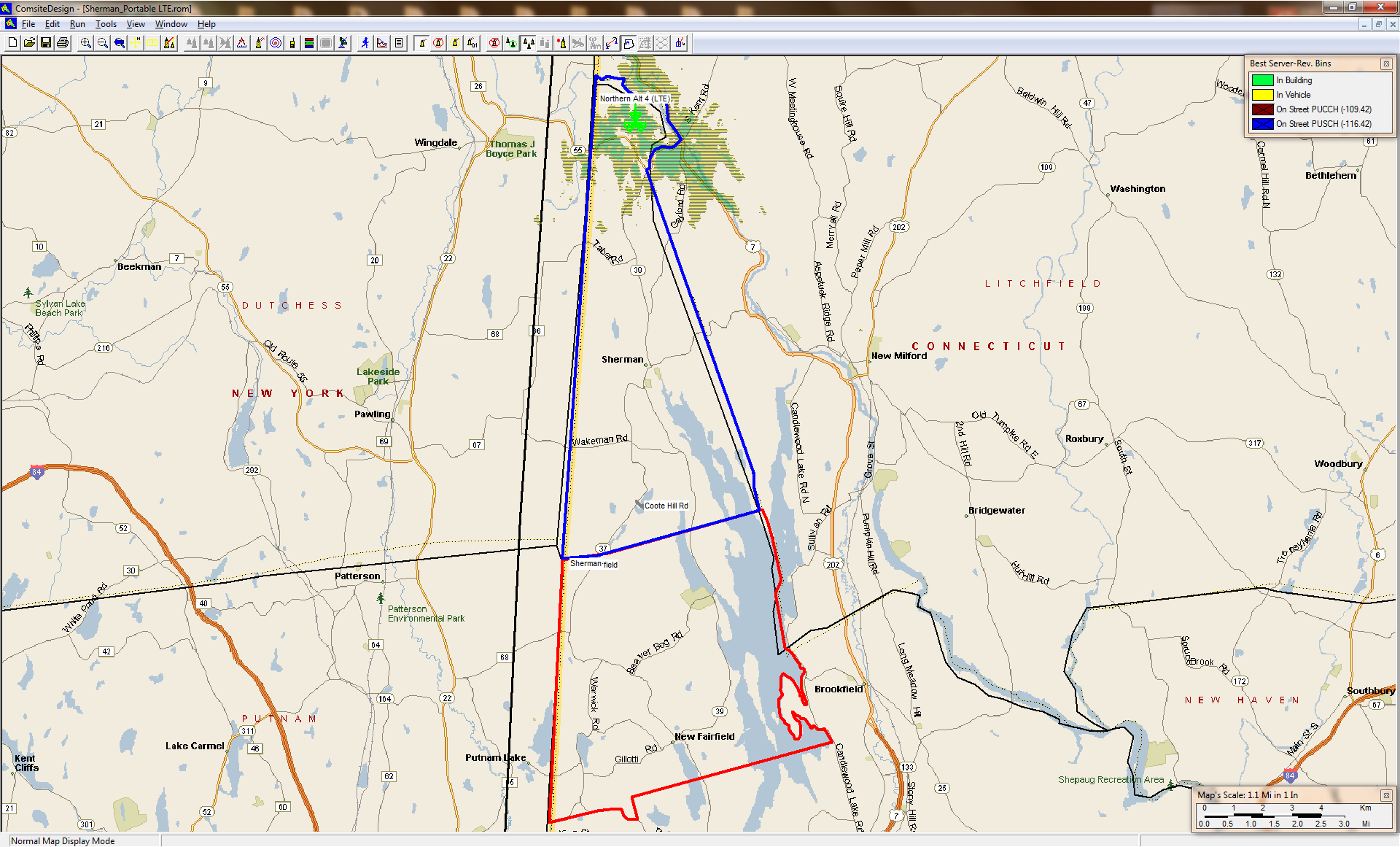
The “in-building” coverage is much better

Happy Acres Farm (CT5502)

13.60% of town area covered



Evans Hill Road (TOS-N1) at 80 feet 8.74% of town area covered



North End of Town . . .

The existing Happy Acres site provides coverage in the northern section of the central valley

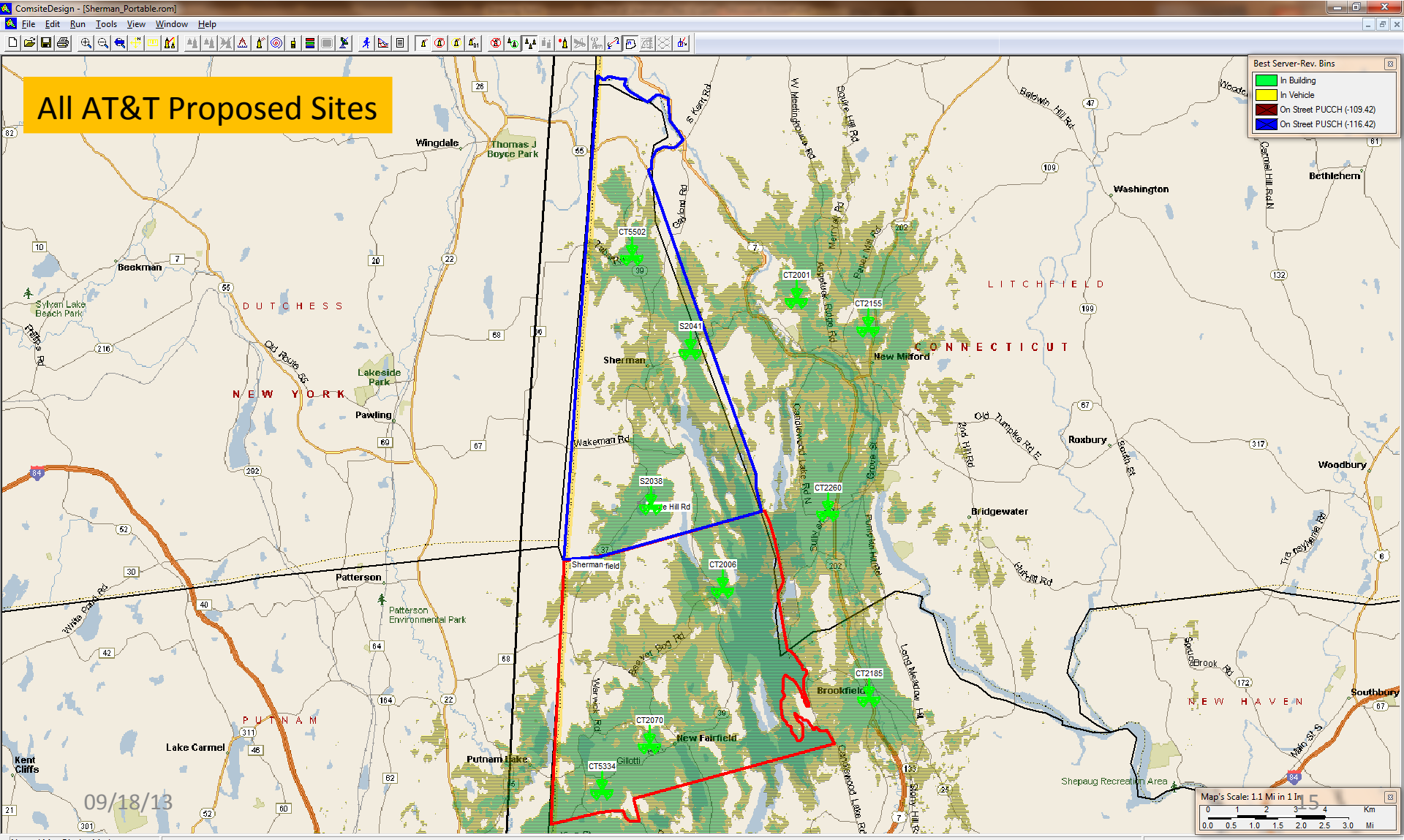
Evans Hill would provide coverage in the north end of town, including along Route 55

The two sites would complement each other well for coverage in the north end

All AT&T sites, existing and proposed

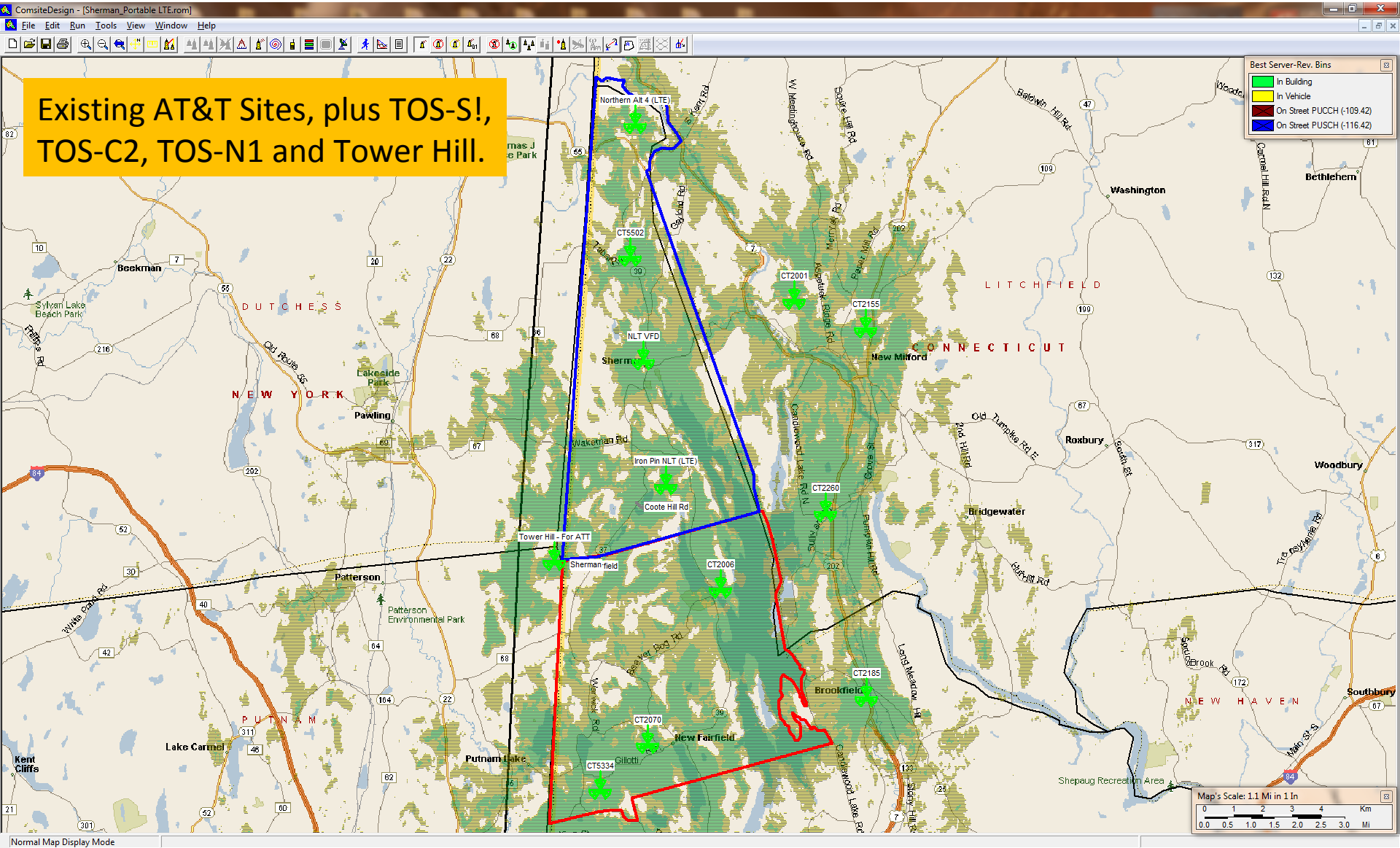
(Cootte Hill, White Silo, Happy Acres)

48.24% of the town area covered



Existing ATT sites, plus likely TOS sites

71.22% of town area covered



Summary

AT&T's proposal for the South end of town can be improved substantially, both as to coverage and as to visible impact

Cell phone coverage for the whole town can be improved far more than is being proposed by AT&T

End of Presentation

**Sherman
Public Safety
Communications**

Report on Phase 1

January 24, 2013

Public Safety Communications Project

- Recap:
 - Phase 1: retain RCC Consultants to
 - Analyze our current situation
 - Consider various possible approaches
 - Develop a high-level concept and cost estimate for the preferred approach
 - Phase 2: develop a detailed project plan and cost estimate, and specs for RFPs
 - Phase 3: implement the plan
- Each phase to be reviewed and approved by the town

RCC Consultants

- In existence since 1987
 - Focus on radio communications problems
 - Nationwide operation
 - HQ in New Jersey
- Rich Touroonian is our prime consultant
 - 30 years experience in this field
 - Led the New Fairfield activity last year

Our Current Situation

- Sherman uses Litchfield County Dispatch to handle its 911 calls for fire, ambulance and other emergencies
 - Private company, HQ in Torrington; handles dispatch function for most towns in northwest Connecticut
 - Worked with SVFD since 2006
 - Was the sponsor of the tower proposal in Sherman two years ago, along with cell-phone companies

How 911 calls are Dispatched

- At a high level the process is:
 - 911 calls are routed to LCD in Torrington
 - LCD sends out an “alert” signal to all SVFD members on their pagers, using the LCD “dispatch” radio channel
 - SVFD responds to the call, and notifies LCD on its “command” radio channel when we are on the scene
 - Then SVFD uses the local Sherman radio system – “Fireground” channel – to communicate among themselves while dealing with the situation

The LCD Radio System

- The LCD “dispatch” radio channel is very good
 - It reaches nearly every part of town to trigger the pagers
- The “command” radio channel is not as good
 - It does not reach some parts of town, especially the southern end
- LCD must take the lead on improvements
 - SVFD is working with LCD to identify and make improvements

Sherman's Radio System

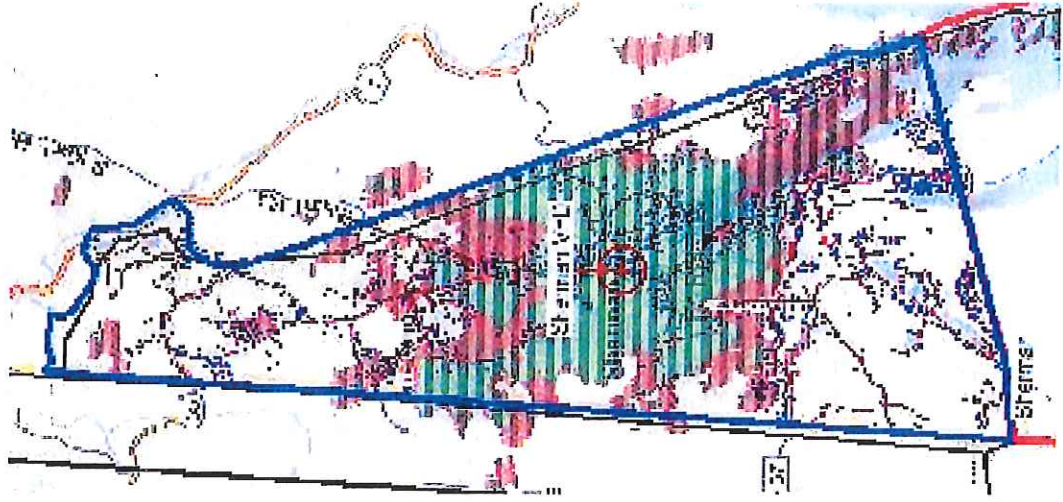
- Sherman uses three types of radios:
 - Pagers, which receive alerts from LCD
 - “Mobile” two-way radios in the vehicles, each about 40 watts power
 - Hand-held “portable” two-way radios for each member, each about 5 watts power
- The SVFD “base” radio at the Fire House is one of the mobile radios, connected to an antenna on the roof
- These radios communicate in-town, and with surrounding towns for mutual aid

Problems with Sherman's System

- RCC has identified two problems with the current operation of Sherman's radio system
 - “Coverage” is poor – the radio signals do not reach to all parts of town
 - There is no “back-up” for the LCD system if it is not available
- We'll look at each problem more closely

Problem 1: Radio Coverage – 1

Broadcast signals from the SVFD building do not reach the north or the south ends of town.



The green color shows where a signal can reach a radio inside a building.

The red color shows where a signal can reach a radio out on the street.

The white area does not receive a signal.

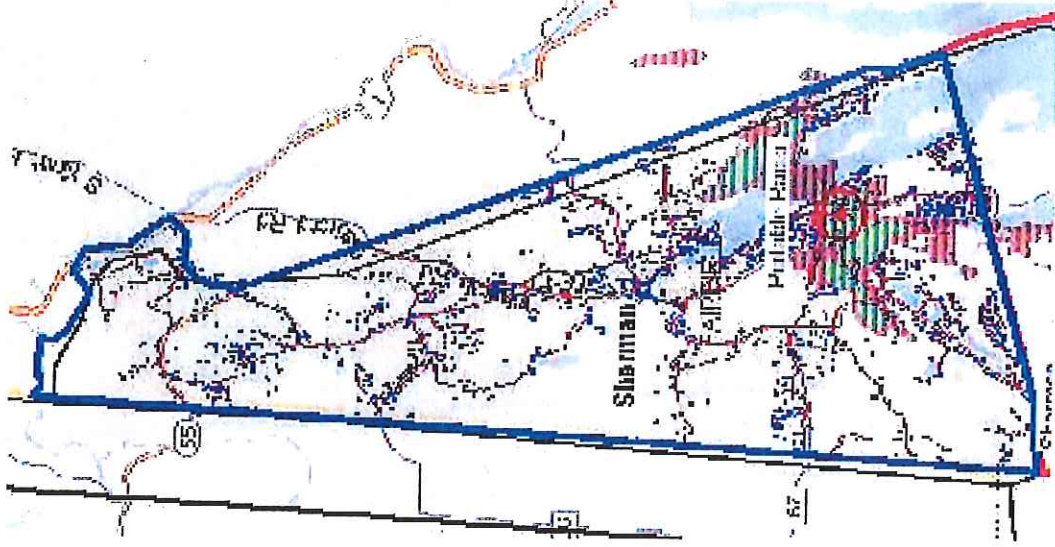
Each of the blue dots is an existing building in Sherman.

Radio Coverage – 2

The signals from the portable radios, depending on where they are in town, often do not reach very far at all.

Here is the “coverage” of a portable radio calling from Leach Hollow Road.

The signal does not reach even back to the Fire House base station.



This situation will vary depending on location.

But in many locations, especially north and south in town, radio communications among the SVFD members is very difficult, or impossible.

Problem 2: System Backup

- In the past 18 months there have been three cases when the LCD service has been reduced, or out altogether
 - Power failures
 - Extra heavy call loads in the whole region
- Also, several instances when Sherman faced extended, multi-day emergency situations
 - Thunderstorms – June, 2011
 - Hurricane Irene – August, 2011
 - Snow storm – October, 2011
 - Hurricane Sandy – October, 2012

System Backup – 2

- Sherman should have a local dispatch capability, tied into its local emergency management function
 - To page individual responders or groups of responders
 - To respond to multiple calls at the same time
 - To direct operations at multiple sites in town over a period of time
 - To manage different crews of responders separately
- Using the current system leads to confusion and “stepped on” communications
 - not to mention the coverage problem

One Other Item

- Rich noted that we have FCC licenses for certain functions that are not being used
- These are scarce resources, and there are those who go trolling for unused licenses, and could request the FCC to transfer them away from us
- We should take steps *right away*, regardless of the rest of this project, to acquire the minimum of equipment needed to establish use of these functions

What can we do about all this?

- RCC considered various possible solutions:
 - One tall tower
 - Ooops, no, they didn't consider that
 - Distributed Antenna System
 - Existing State Dept. of Public Safety Network
 - Future nation-wide network
 - Other technologies
 - Expand the existing system

Distributed Antenna System

- Locate antennas on existing telephone poles throughout the town, connected back to “base” by telephone lines
 - Originally developed for large buildings or campuses
 - Given Sherman's terrain, this would be very expensive, both to install and to maintain
 - Would need strings of antennas along most of the roads in town, especially into each valley
- This could be useful to plug small coverage gaps in other solutions

Existing State radio network

- This system is “as good as it gets” with current technology:
 - State of the art radio features and functions
 - “Hardened,” secure system
 - Interoperability with all State agencies
- Costs would be very high
 - \$500 - \$700K for each of two antenna sites to extend coverage to Sherman
 - Would have to replace all of our radios – ~ \$200K
- Would lose interoperability with surrounding towns (unless they join the State system)
- Would still have to maintain the LCD paging function

Future Nationwide Network

- Nationwide “4G” network for First Responders
- Tremendous potential for new data applications
- Many unanswered questions
 - Will Connecticut participate, and how
 - When will any solutions come into being
 - How good will coverage be in Sherman
 - How much will it cost
- This possible solution is years in the future

Other Technologies

- Various companies are exploring other technologies
 - Integrated 4G / satellite system
 - “tiny” antennas / “femtocells”
- None are available now, or expected to be available soon; costs are unknown
- After “availability” it would take years to complete a roll-out to all the individual municipalities to make a complete solution

RCC Recommends Expanding the Existing System

- In addition to the existing central transmission site, add a “northern site” and a “southern site” in town
- Locate the new sites on high ground, and install a “low profile, telephone-pole type antenna structure” at each site

Wait a minute . . . What does *that* look like??

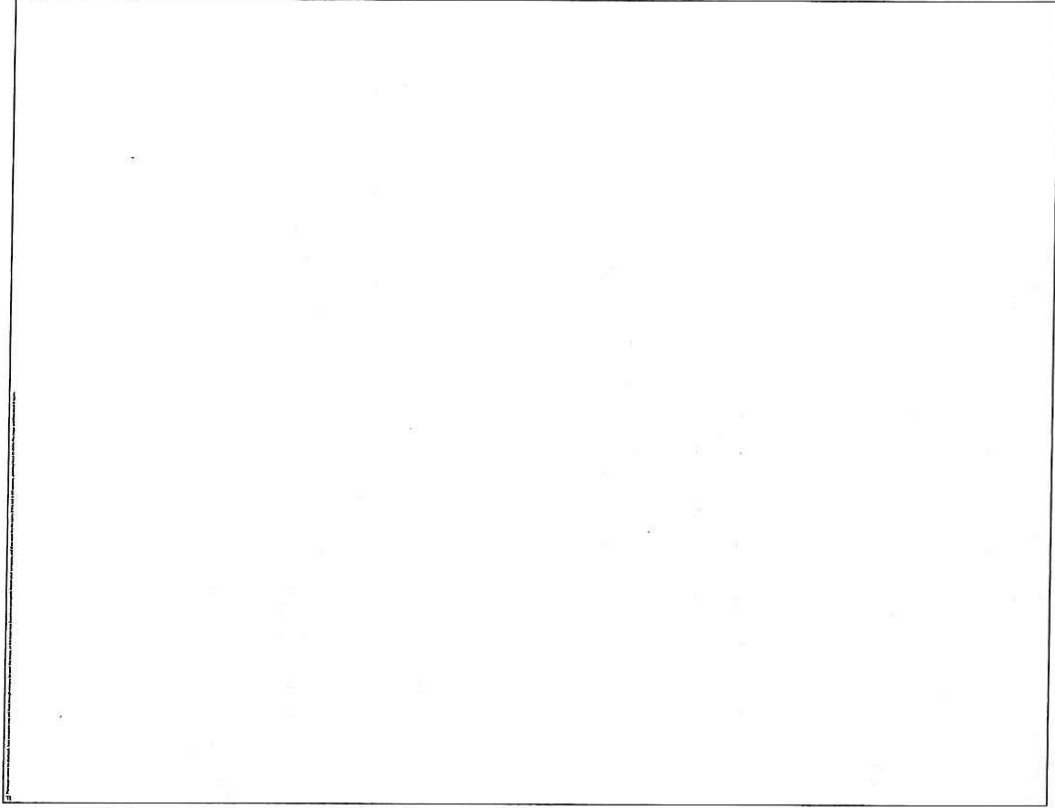
It Looks Like This . . .

This is at the Ball Pond Fire Department in New Fairfield.

It is a “telephone pole” that is 60 feet high. The antenna on top is about 20 feet high.

It is designed to extend just a little bit above the surrounding tree tops.

Depending on the exact location, and the surrounding tree heights, our poles would be 60 – 80 feet high, with antennas above that.



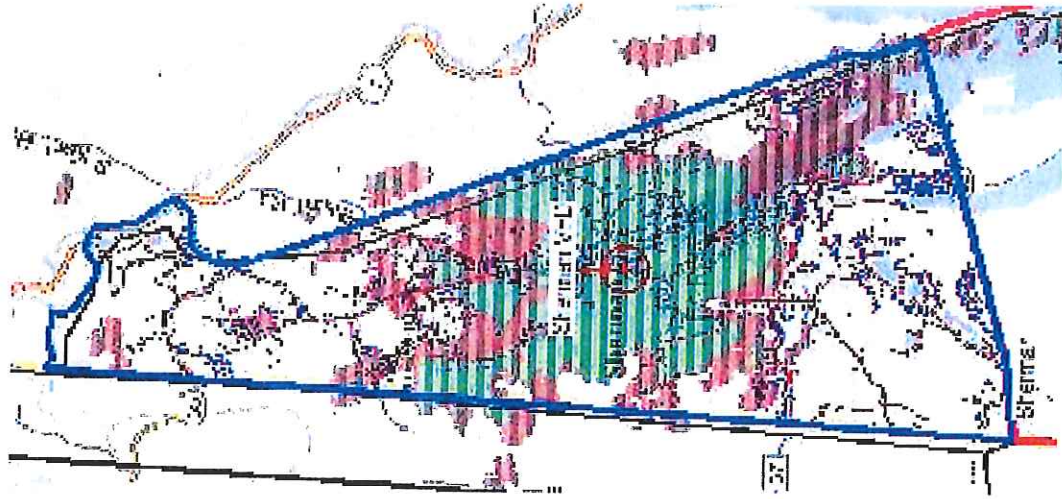
Proposal – continued

- Also, add equipment at each site, and connect the sites, so that every call is “repeated” through-out the town
- Establish a “backup” dispatch function in the SFVD building for when LCD service is limited or out.

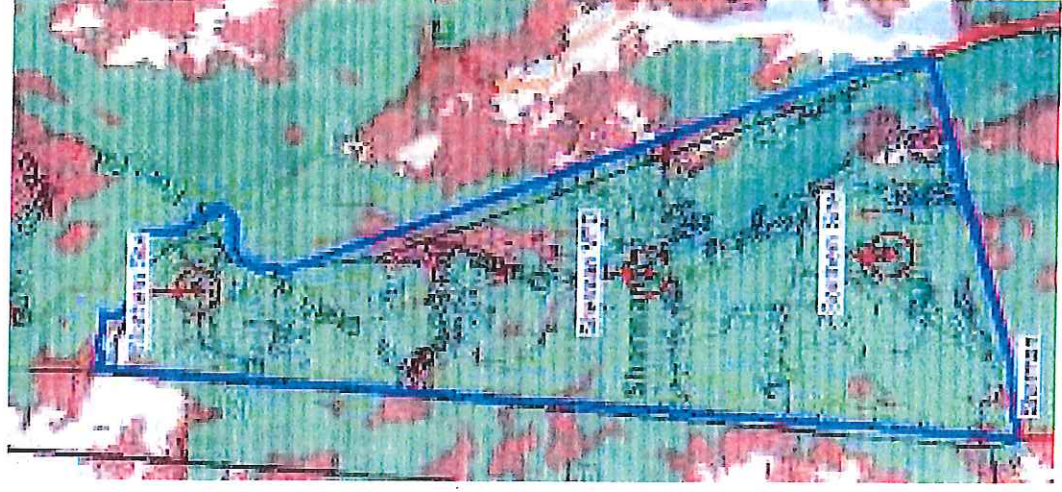
Result

- This would give Sherman at least 95% coverage through-out the town
- It would give Sherman much better ability to deal with LCD outages, to manage multiple calls, and to manage extended local emergency situations
- New Fairfield has done this, and New Milford is in the process of doing it.

Better than 95% coverage



Expanding the existing system in this fashion would provide at least 95% coverage from any SVFD radios in town to any other SVFD radios in town which are out "on the street" (the green and red colors combined), and to most areas of town for radios that are in a building (just the green colored areas).



By the way . . .

- RCC is of the opinion that:

“If the [existing] structure heights at White Silo Farm and Happy Acres Farm are amenable to cellular carriers providing service in Sherman, then it's quite likely that similar structure heights in the North and South of Sherman may also be attractive. This will especially be true in the South end of Sherman, where the population center is greater.”

- In other words, this might help with our cell-phone coverage problems

So, what . . . ?

- The committee took the liberty of concluding that this “expand the current system” approach would be the most desirable approach
- We asked RCC to develop a high-level cost estimate for this conceptual approach

Various Cost Elements – “Ball Park”

- The cost of acquiring land, or acquiring access to land, where the northern and southern sites could be established
 - *This is unknown at this point*
- The cost of establishing the two additional sites, and equipping all three sites to operate as proposed.
 - *This cost is estimated at about \$300,000*
- The cost of annual maintenance and operations
 - *This is estimated at about \$ 30,000*
 - 1-hour response time on equipment service calls 24/7
 - Telephone line costs with high-availability support 24/7
 - Electric power to the antenna facilities

A Number of Open Questions

- Finding specific locations for the northern and southern antenna sites
- Will the Siting Council be involved?
- Does the town wish to explore getting cell phone company participation?
- Local regulations review
- Can we get grants to cover some of the costs?

What's Next . . . ?

- Share the Report with the town
- Get feedback and opinions on proceeding
- Answer the open questions
- If the town wishes to proceed, Phase 2 would likely be along these lines:
 - Retain a consultant to develop a very specific, detailed project plan and cost estimate for acquiring equipment and constructing antenna sites, and specs for RFP's to do that.