

Site Search Process and Selection

Section 16-50j-74(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires the applicant to submit a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” In accordance with this requirement, the description of the general site search process, the identification of the target search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed Facility are provided below.

As an FCC licensed wireless carrier, T-Mobile decides to seek out a site in an area based upon the needs of its wireless infrastructure and extensive research of the subject area. T-Mobile chooses a target area central to the area in which it has identified coverage and/or capacity needs. The area targeted is the geographical location where the installation of a site would, based on general radio frequency engineering and system design standards, likely address the identified problem. T-Mobile’s goal is to locate sites that will remedy coverage or capacity issues, while resulting in the least environmental impact. In this case, T-Mobile has searched for a site in this area for several years, and has identified the Stonybrook Road Site as the best possible location for a wireless facility.

T-Mobile is sensitive to State and local desires to minimize the construction of new towers, and it does not pursue development of a new facility where an acceptable existing structure can be found. In general, T-Mobile’s site acquisition personnel first study the area in and near the search ring to determine whether any suitable structure exists. If T-Mobile cannot find a structure with appropriate height and structural capabilities, it turns to industrial/ commercial areas or individual parcels that have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics. The list of potential locations is limited by the willingness of property owners to make their property available. Radio frequency engineers study potentially suitable and available locations to determine whether the locations will meet the technical requirements for a site in the area. Analysis of potential environmental effects and benefits may further narrow the alternatives. The weight given relevant factors varies for each search, depending on the nature of the area and the availability of potential sites.

In the area of Stratford, which is the subject of this site search, there are no existing towers, transmission line structures or other suitable structures. Moreover, any existing towers are too far from the target area to provide coverage specifically to the target area. The nearest towers and suitable structures are already in use by T-Mobile. There are no large areas of commercial or industrial use in or near the target area, only small pockets of commercial use as the area is primarily residential.

The locations considered and the reasons locations other than the proposed Stonybrook Road Site were not selected are outlined below:

1. 2336 Broadbridge Ave. This small commercial property, which is only .37 acres, is used as a shopping plaza with inadequate space for a tower. The site is directly across street from the proposed Site. The roof of the plaza is approximately 20 feet tall, which is too low to afford adequate coverage.
2. Sikorsky Facility, 3191 Broadbridge Corp Park. This site is located to the north of the target area where T-Mobile currently has an existing rooftop installation (CT11244D).
3. 1700 Broadbridge Ave. This site hosts a 4 story apartment building, which is located approximately .6 miles to the south east. This location is too far from the target area to afford adequate coverage.
4. 55 Singer Court, Stony Brook Gardens. This property would require a tower installation and is too close to an existing T-Mobile facility (CT11244D).
5. Northeast Utility Transmission Tower, Line #1710. This site is .5 miles to the east of the target area, which is too far from target area to afford adequate coverage.

As a result, T-Mobile has determined that the property owned by Stonybrook Management LLC at 23 Stonybrook Road (the "Property") is superior to other properties in the area. The Property is zoned for commercial use and is .73 acres. Access to the Property is across an existing paved parking lot. T-Mobile would not have to engage in any tree removal for the proposed Site. The land to the south of the Property is owned by the Town of Stratford and is used as a park.

The proposed Stonybrook Road site (the "Facility") will enhance wireless service availability to existing and future T-Mobile wireless device users. Enhanced coverage provided by the Facility will allow T-Mobile subscribers to use voice and data services reliably as well as to connect to Emergency 911 services. The intended coverage area of the Facility includes Broadbridge Avenue, Henry Avenue, Franklin Avenue and Route 108 just north of Route 1 in Stratford. Additionally, the Facility will provide capacity relief for the current sites that presently cover this area from outer lying areas.