

## **DRAFT**

### **Petition No. 1409 New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) Small Cell Facility**

**880 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford  
Staff Report  
August 7, 2020**

#### **Introduction**

On June 3, 2020, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a small cell wireless telecommunications facility at 880 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford. The small cell installation would be installed on a new metal pole in the parking lot of a commercial property. It would provide reliable wireless service to AT&T customers and emergency service providers in the surrounding area.

On June 1, 2020, AT&T provided notice of the project to abutting property owners, City of Hartford officials, Town of Wethersfield officials (within 2500 feet) and state and federal agencies.

On June 4, 2020, the Council sent correspondence to the City of Hartford (City) and the Town of Wethersfield (Town) stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the City and Town to contact the Council with any questions or comments by July 3, 2020. The Council has not received any comments to date.

The Council issued interrogatories to AT&T on June 22, 2020. AT&T provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on July 9, 2020.

#### **Jurisdiction**

Pursuant to CGS §16-50i(a)(6), the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over telecommunications towers, including associated equipment, owned or operated by the state, a public service company or a certified telecommunications provider or used in a cellular system.

Under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-2a (30), "Tower" means a structure, whether free standing or attached to a building or another structure, that has a height greater than its diameter and that is high relative to its surroundings, or that is used to support antennas for sending or receiving radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, which is or is to be:

- (A) **used principally to support one or more antennas** for receiving or sending radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, and
- (B) owned or operated by the state, a public service company as defined in Section 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or a certified telecommunications provider, or used in a cellular system, as defined in Section 16-50i(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes. (Emphasis added).

The proposed metal pole will be used principally to support the proposed small cell facility. It will be owned and operated by AT&T, a certified telecommunications provider. Thus, the Council has jurisdiction over the proposed small cell facility.

## **Proposed Small Cell Facility**

AT&T proposes to provide coverage and capacity relief in its network by establishing a new small cell wireless facility along Wethersfield Avenue. The proposed facility would provide wireless service in AT&T's 1900/2100/5200 MHz LTE frequency range.

The site is located on a 0.32 acre developed commercial property within Hartford's commercial (MS-3) zone. The host parcel is used as an automotive dealership.

AT&T's proposed metal pole would have a height of approximately 30 feet above ground level (agl) and a diameter of eight inches supported by a pier foundation at the western edge of the parking lot. A canister antenna would be installed at the top of the metal pole and the top of the canister antenna would reach a height of approximately 32 feet 6 inches agl. Associated equipment would be installed in a 2.5-foot wide, 4.6-foot high vented enclosure at the base of the pole. Electrical and telephone service would run underground and be routed to the nearest local utility company's service box. The utility meter for the proposed facility would be mounted at the power source location. A light fixture would be installed on the pole at a height of 27 feet agl that would serve to illuminate the parking lot.

No backup power is proposed for this small cell facility. Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers are licensed by and are under the jurisdiction and authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). At present, no standards for backup power for CMRS providers have been promulgated by the FCC. Every year since 2006, AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon have certified their compliance with the CTIA Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Program and the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council standards and best practices to ensure network reliability during power outages.

## **Public Safety**

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the proposed pole would be structurally adequate to support the proposed loading.

The calculated power density would be 0.8 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

A radio frequency safety sign with an emergency contact number would be placed at the bottom of the pole. A second warning sign would be placed below the canister antenna.

## **Environmental**

The surrounding land use is a mixture of commercial and residential. The nearest residence is approximately 315 feet west of the proposed facility site. The project is located in a previously disturbed area and consists of paved areas. No environmental impact is anticipated.

The visual impact of the pole is not expected to be significant due to the numerous wood utility poles in the immediate area. The property owner reviewed design options and preferred a metal pole over the wood utility pole due to aesthetics and because they can benefit from an additional light in the parking lot.

### **Facility Construction**

The construction of the proposed small cell facility is anticipated to take eight days working eight hours each day. Construction will be conducted in accordance with the City of Hartford regulations between the hours of 7 am and 6 pm weekdays and Saturdays.

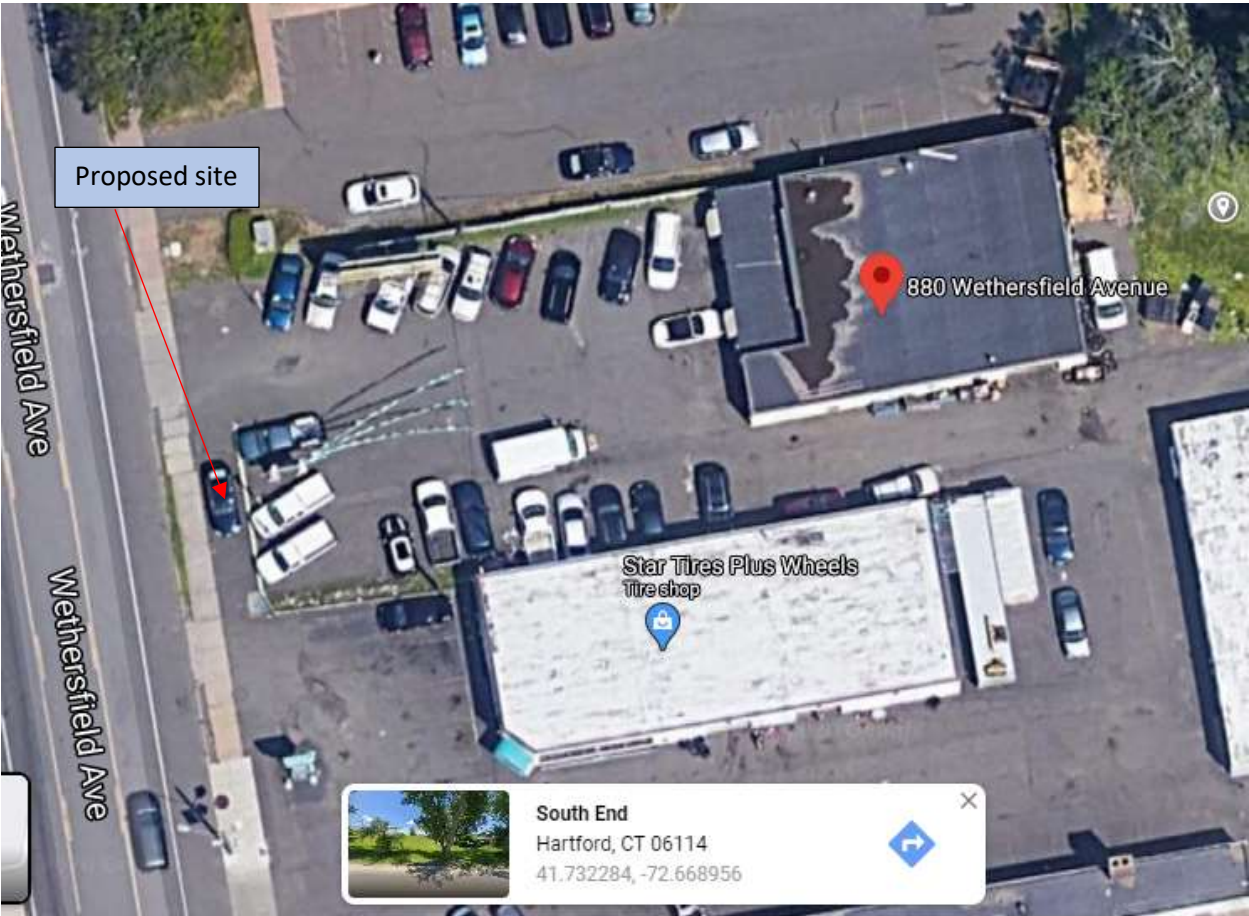
### **Conclusion**

AT&T contends that this proposed project would not have a substantial adverse environmental impact.

If approved, staff recommends the following condition:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff.

Figure 1. Proposed Site Location



**Figure 2. Proposed Small Cell Facility Simulation**



Figure 3. Facility Elevation Site Plan

