

DRAFT

**Petition No. 1511
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
80 Allings Crossing Road
West Haven, Connecticut
Small Wireless Facility
Staff Report
June 17, 2022**

Introduction

On May 12, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a small wireless facility on a new 43-foot AT&T-owned utility pole to be located within the public right-of-way (ROW) across from 80 Allings Crossing Road, West Haven, Connecticut (Petition or Project).

The small wireless facility would be installed on a new wood utility pole that will not be used principally for electric distribution service. It would provide additional coverage and capacity relief to the AT&T network in the surrounding area.

On May 10, 2022, AT&T provided notice of the proposed small wireless facility to the City of West Haven (City), the host property owner and abutting property owners. No comments from the City, host property owner or abutting property owners were received.

On May 13, 2022, the Council sent correspondence to the City stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the City to contact the Council with any questions or comments by June 11, 2022. No comments were received.

The Council issued interrogatories to AT&T on May 31, 2022. AT&T provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on June 9, 2022.

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

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) specifically defined “small wireless facility” in its 2018 Report and Order as facilities that meet any of the following conditions:

1. Mounted on structures 50 feet or less in height including their antennas; or
2. Mounted on structures no more than 10 percent taller than other adjacent structures; or
3. Do not extend existing structures on which they are located to a height of more than 50 feet or by more than 10 percent, whichever is greater.

The proposed utility pole is 50 feet or less in height including the antennas. It is a “small wireless facility” under the FCC definition.

Proposed Small Wireless Facility

AT&T’s proposed facility would provide network coverage and/or capacity relief in this area of West Haven, and along the Metro-North Railroad (MNR) and Interstate-95 in the 700/1900/2100 MHz frequency range.

The proposed site is located within the public ROW adjacent to the east side of Allings Crossing Road, southeast of the bridge over the MNR. The site is bounded by undeveloped land to the north and a residential property to the southwest. The site is zoned LM Light Manufacturing. Land use surrounding the site beyond the public ROW is MNR and I-95 to the north and west and residential areas to the east and south. The nearest residential property line from the proposed facility is approximately 57 feet to the southwest, across Allings Crossing Road.

The proposed utility pole would have a height of approximately 43 feet¹ above ground level (agl) and would be located in the public ROW about 13 feet south of the ROW boundary and about 6 feet north of Allings Crossing Road. AT&T would install two square panel antennas measuring 23.3 inches in height by 23.3 inches in width by 6 inches in depth, side-mounted at the top of the pole at a centerline height of approximately 44.5 feet agl. An equipment cabinet would be mounted on the side of the pole. The bottom of the equipment cabinet would be approximately 8 feet agl. The facility would be capable of providing 5G wireless services.

Two remote radio heads would be installed within the equipment cabinet. A service disconnect box would be attached to the pole at approximately 13.5 feet agl.

Electrical and telephone service would run overhead from a nearby existing utility pole located across Allings Crossing Road southeast of the proposed facility.

No backup power is proposed for this small wireless 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.

¹ The proposed wood utility pole would be approximately 50 feet in length. Approximately 7 feet would be buried.

The estimated cost of the facility is \$50,000.

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 41.0 percent of the applicable limit at the base of the pole using a - 10 dB off-beam adjustment. The maximum power density at the level of the nearest utility lines to the AT&T antennas would be approximately 16.9 percent of the FCC's occupational limit.

A radio frequency (RF) safety/caution sign with an emergency contact number visible from the ground would be placed on opposite sides of the equipment cabinet.

The installation will not impact or interfere with any of the existing public utilities within the ROW and Project area. AT&T will contact Call Before You Dig prior to any excavation activities to confirm the proposed installation will not impact any existing underground utilities.

Environmental

The site is located in a public ROW among existing utility structures. Development of the facility would not require tree removal and would result in minimal ground disturbance.

The site is not located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency- designated flood zone. The nearest wetland is approximately 0.6 miles to the east of the site. The site is not within a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Database buffer area.

The proposed utility pole would not have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area due to existing utility poles in the immediate area. Existing vegetation would screen the facility from some views.

Facility Construction

The construction of the small wireless facility is anticipated to take 90 days working Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Conclusion

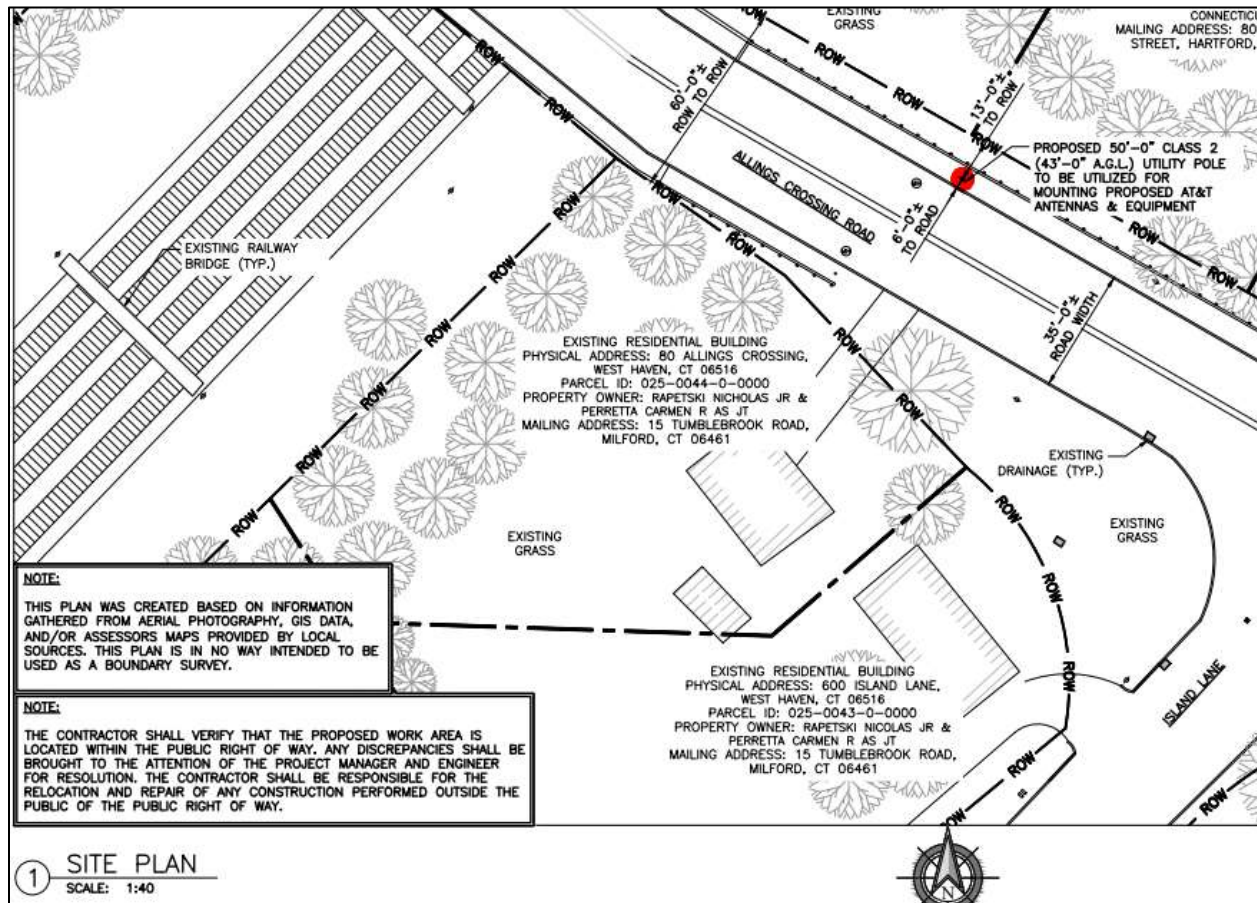
If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities; and
3. Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable.

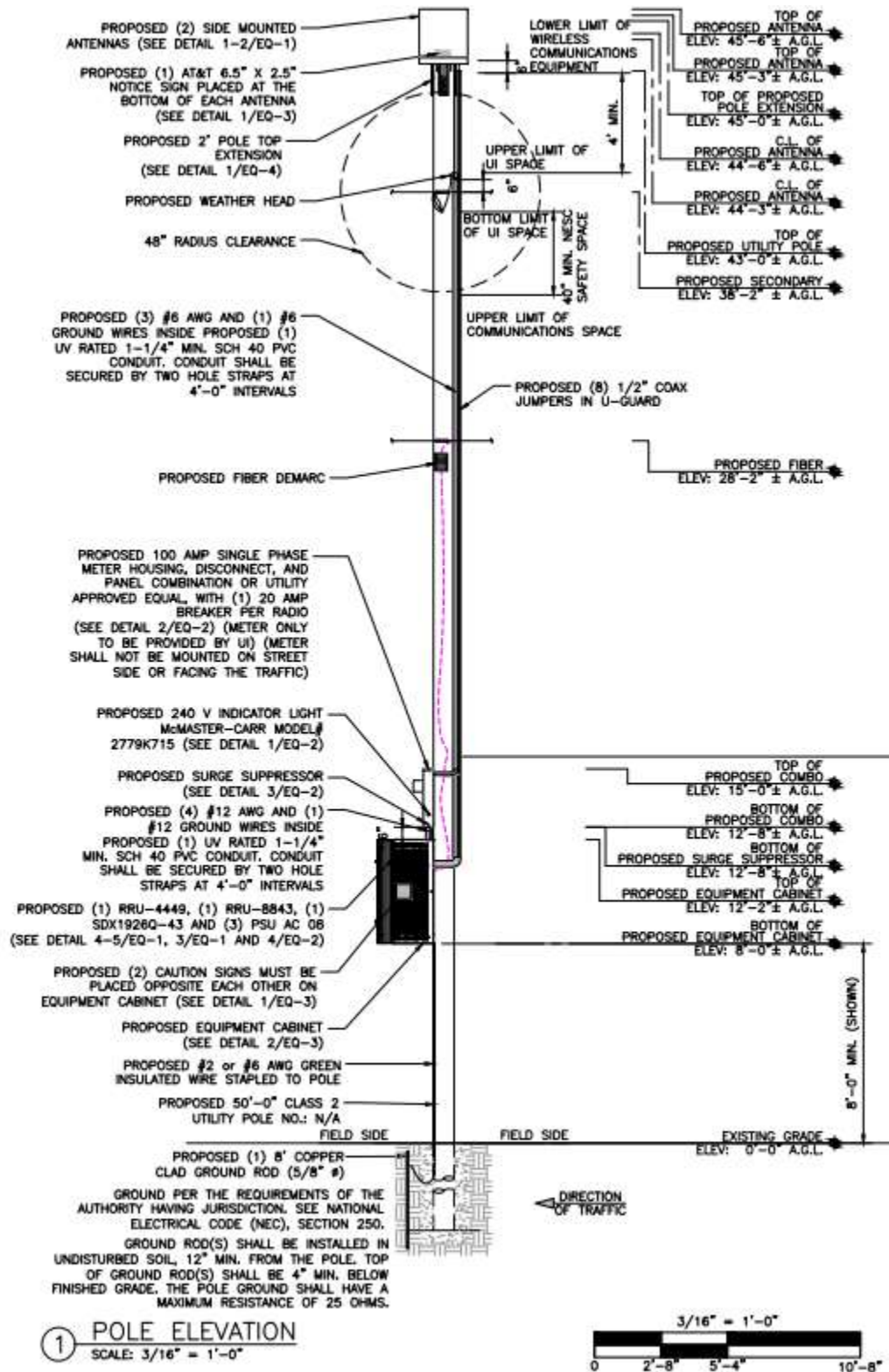
Aerial View



Site Plan



Site Elevation



Photosimulation of Proposed Facility

