

DRAFT

**Petition No. 1512
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)
Manchester Community College campus - off Ramey Drive
Manchester, Connecticut
Small Wireless Facility
Staff Report
July 15, 2022**

Introduction

On May 17, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from New Cingular Wireless, PCS (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 telecommunications facility on a new 37-foot 6-inch state-owned light pole located on the Manchester Community College (MCC) campus off Ramey Drive near the Bicentennial Band Shell entrance, Manchester, Connecticut (Petition or Project).

The small wireless facility would be installed on a new galvanized steel pole that is painted white and will not be used principally for electric distribution service. It would provide additional coverage and capacity relief to the AT&T network on MCC's campus and in the surrounding area.

On May 13, 2022, AT&T provided notice of the proposed small wireless facility to the Town of Manchester (Town), the host property owner and abutting property owners. No comments from the Town, host property owner or abutting property owners were received.

On May 18, 2022, the Council sent correspondence to the Town stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the Town to contact the Council with any questions or comments by June 16, 2022. No comments have been received.

The Council issued interrogatories to AT&T on June 7, and June 23, 2022. AT&T provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on June 21, and July 6, 2022, respectively.

Pursuant to CGS §4-176(e) of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, an administrative agency is required to take action on a petition within 60 days of receipt. On July 7, 2022, pursuant to CGS §4-176(e), the Council voted to set the date by which to render a decision on the Petition as no later than August 15, 2022, which is within the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i) and is the 90-day decision deadline for a small wireless facility on a new structure under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations.

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

The 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 light pole is 50 feet or less in height including the antenna. 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 Manchester in the 1900/2100/5150 MHz frequency range.

The proposed site is located within the southeastern portion of the MCC campus off Ramey Drive near the driveway to the Bicentennial Band Shell. The MCC campus is bounded by Interstate 384 to the north, Hillstown Road to the west, Wetherell Street to the south and an Eversource Energy right-of-way to the east. The site is zoned Rural Residential. Land use surrounding the site is residential, farmland and commercial. The nearest residential property line from the proposed facility is approximately 379 feet to the south.

The proposed pole would have a height of approximately 37 feet 6 inches¹ above ground level (agl). A light fixture will not be installed as the proposed pole would be located adjacent to an existing light pole with a height of approximately 27 feet 10 inches agl. The pole would be galvanized steel and painted white. It would be installed within a grassy area approximately 20 feet south of the edge of the on-campus driveway to the Bicentennial Band Shell.

AT&T would install one square panel antenna measuring 23.3 inches in height by 23.3 inches in width by 6 inches depth, at a centerline height of approximately 36 feet 3 inches agl. A 2-foot 6-inch by 2-foot 6-inch by 4-foot tall equipment enclosure would be beneath the pole. The antenna would be made of white fiberglass to match the proposed pole. The facility would be capable of providing 5G wireless services.

Two remote radio heads and associated equipment would be installed within the equipment enclosure at the base of the tower.

Electrical and telephone service to the facility is in the design phase.

¹ The pole itself would be 33 feet 6 inches and attached to a 4-foot tall enclosure at the base of the pole.

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 FCC. At present, no standards for backup power for CMRS providers have been promulgated by the FCC.

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 9.9 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

The nearest rooftop is approximately 210 feet northwest of the proposed pole.

A radio frequency (RF) safety/caution sign with an emergency contact number visible from the ground would be placed on opposite sides of the pole seven feet below the bottom of the antenna.

The installation will not impact or interfere with any existing public utilities within the MCC campus 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 adjacent to an existing light pole. 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 off-site approximately 600 feet to the south. The site is not within a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Database buffer area.

The proposed pole would not have a significant visual impact on the surrounding area as it would appear similar to the existing adjacent light pole.

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.

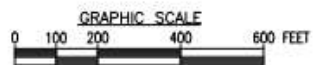
Aerial View



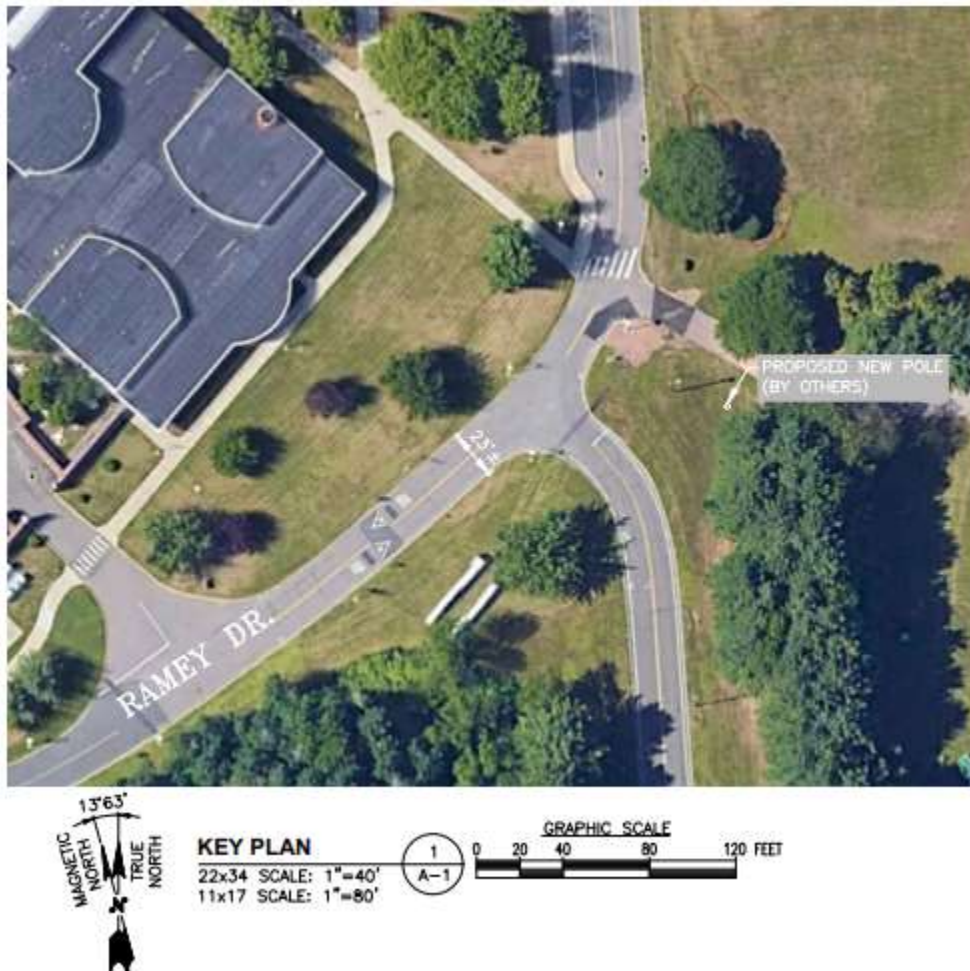
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SITE PLAN

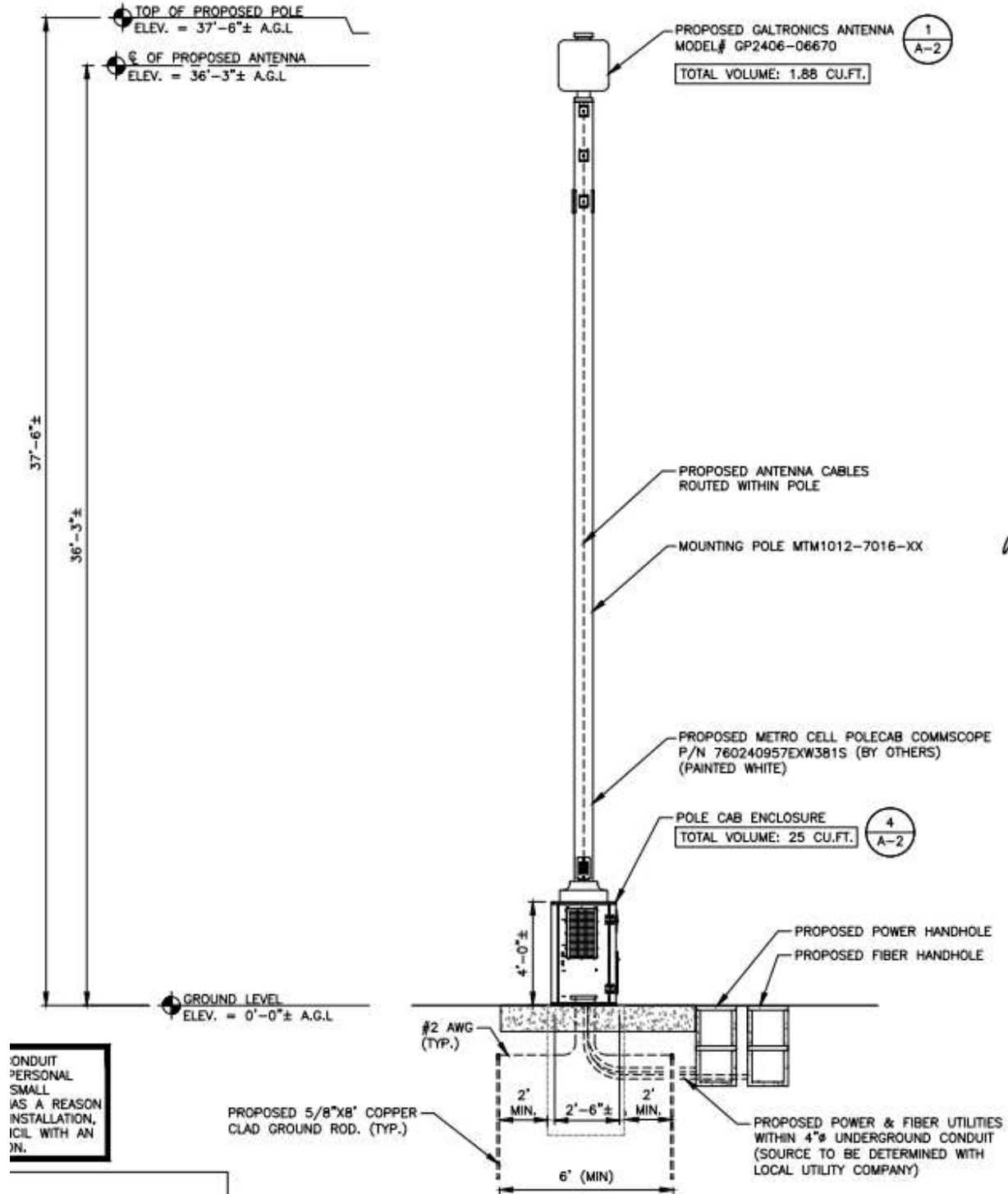
22x34 SCALE: 1"=200'
11x17 SCALE: 1"=400'



Site Location



Site Elevation



Photosimulation of Proposed Facility

