

DRAFT

Petition No. 1526
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
1300 Hall Boulevard, Bloomfield, Connecticut
Rooftop Wireless Telecommunications Facility

Staff Report
August 12, 2022

Introduction

On June 30, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a wireless telecommunications facility on the roof of a building at 1300 Hall Boulevard in Bloomfield, Connecticut (Petition or Project).

The purpose of the proposed facility is to provide coverage and capacity relief to the Cellco network along Route 218 to the north and Route 185 to the south of the proposed site, and to partially replace service provided by another existing site located at the University of Hartford approximately 1.7 miles to the southeast that will be decommissioned due to the lease expiration. The proposed facility will also increase network capacity needed to serve existing Cellco customers in the office building on the host property.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40, on or about June 29, 2022, Cellco notified the Town of Bloomfield, the Town of West Hartford¹, the host property owner, and abutting property owners of the proposed Project. No comments from the municipalities, host property owner or abutting property owners were received.

On July 1, 2022, the Council sent correspondence to the municipalities stating the Council has received the Petition and invited the municipalities to contact the Council with any questions or comments by July 30, 2022. No comments have been received.

The Council issued interrogatories to Cellco on July 20, 2022. Cellco provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on August 3, 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:

¹ The Town of West Hartford is located within 2,500 feet of the proposed facility site.

- 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 rooftop tower has a height greater than its diameter. It will be used principally to support Cellco antennas. It would be owned and operated by Cellco, a certified telecommunications provider. Thus, the Council has jurisdiction over the proposed rooftop telecommunications facility.

Proposed Telecommunications Facility

Cellco's proposed facility would provide wireless service to the surrounding area in the 700 MHz, 850 MHz, 1900 MHz, 2100 MHz, 3730 MHz and 3625 MHz frequency range.

The proposed site is on the roof of a four-story office building located on a commercially-zoned 37-acre parcel. The highest part of the building roof (penthouse) extends to a height of 76.2 feet above ground level (agl). A dipole antenna, used by the building owner, is located on the penthouse roof, extending to a height of 93.8 feet agl.

The proposed facility consists of a 12.5-foot tall steel lattice tower installed on top of the penthouse roof, extending to a height of 88.3 feet agl. Cellco would install 9 panel antennas and 9 remote radio heads at the 85.5-foot agl level of the tower. The facility would be capable of providing 5G wireless services.

Cellco would install a 210 square foot metal frame on the main building roof below the penthouse to support an equipment cabinet and battery cabinet. A cable tray and cable covers would protect fiber lines connecting the equipment area to the tower.

Electrical and telephone service would extend down the exterior side of the building within a utility shaft to connection points at ground level.

Emergency backup power would be supplied from a battery cabinet located on Cellco's rooftop equipment platform. The batteries would provide power to the facility for 4-8 hours depending upon site loading. 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.

The estimated cost of the Project is \$350,000.

Environmental

Project construction will occur within and on the existing building and no ground disturbance is necessary. Access to the proposed facility would be through the existing building.

Surrounding land use consists of commercial and a golf course to the north of the host parcel. Visibility of the proposed facility would generally occur on the property in the areas surrounding the four-story building. Limited visibility of the facility would occur from the golf course.

Facility Construction

Construction would occur over a 4 to 6 week period. Typical construction hours and workdays of the week are as follows: Monday – Saturday, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Public Safety

Cellco's proposed equipment installation would be capable of supporting text-to-911 service and would comply with federal E911 requirements and the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006.

The installation would not be a hazard to air navigation and no registration to the Federal Aviation Administration is required.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the tower, metal frame mounting structure and building is adequate to support the proposed loading (to a design speed of 105 mph). The design standards are protective of the adjacent glass atrium roof. The proposed facility is not designed to support additional carriers.

The highest calculated power density level for Cellco's proposed antennas would be 23.9 percent of the applicable exposure limit established by the Federal Communications Commission at ground level with a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

Conclusion

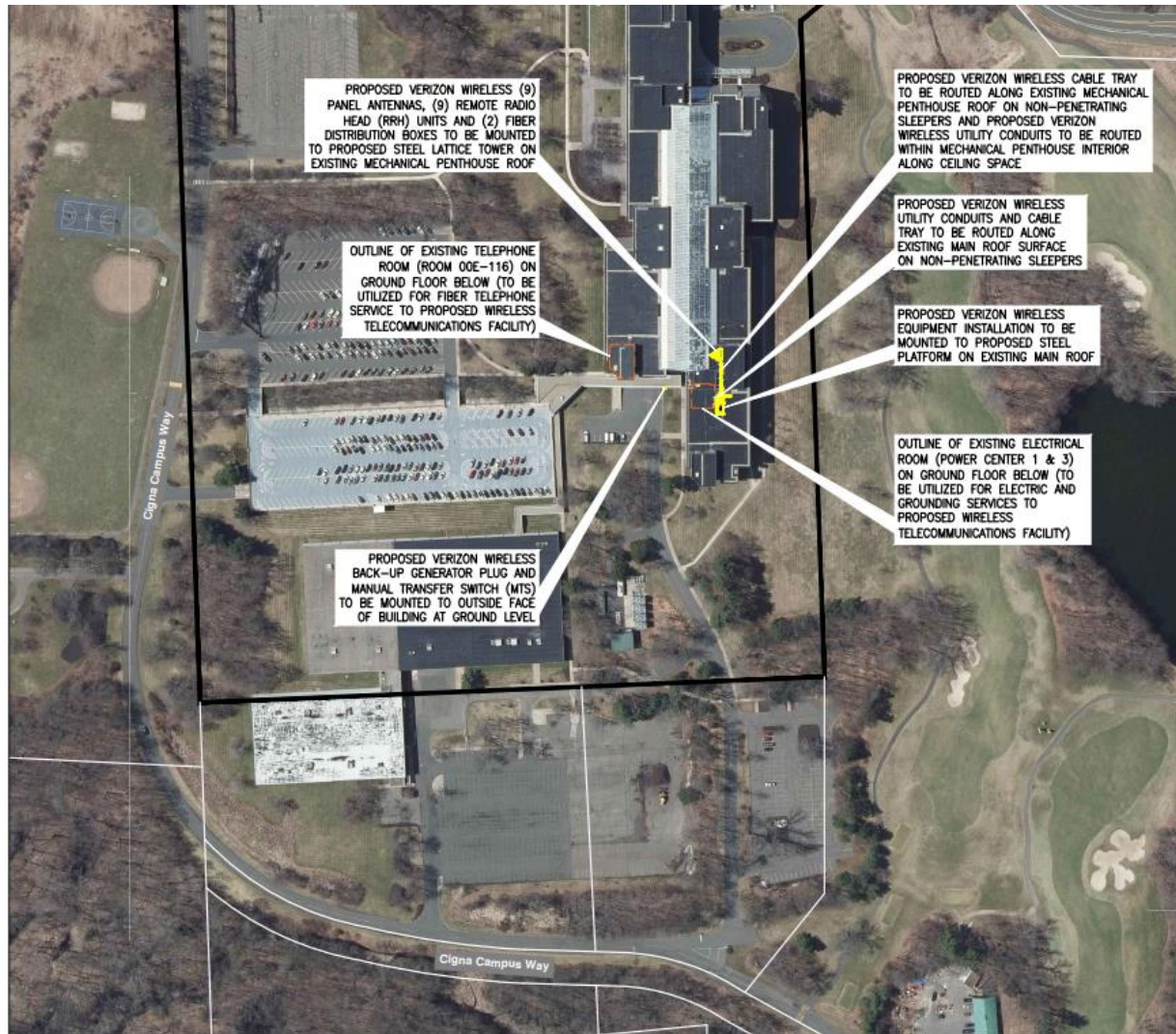
If approved, staff recommends the following condition:

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

Site Location



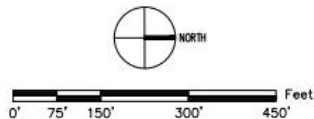
Proposed Facility on Building



LEGEND

- Proposed Verizon Wireless Equipment
- Proposed Verizon Wireless Conduit and/or Cable Tray
- Existing Ground Floor Utility Rooms
- Subject Property
- Approximate Parcel Boundary (Town Of Bloomfield, CT GIS)

Map Notes:
Base Map Source: 2019 CT ECO Imagery
Map Scale: 1 inch = 300 Feet
Map Date: Spring 2019



Site Schematic

Proposed Wireless
Telecommunications Facility
Bloomfield 4 CT
1300 Hall Boulevard
Bloomfield, CT 06002



Building Elevation Plan

