SMART COMMUNITIES PLAN FOR MOBILE

Contributing to Economic Opportunity

Wireless Technology: Building Block for Economically Vibrant Communities

Today's mobile technologies provide communication and information access. Dependable access also heightens personal and public safety. As mobile technologies become more ubiquitous, wireless infrastructure must meet residents' and businesses' expectations in the urban core, suburbs, neighborhoods and rural communities. Great infrastructure – roads, sidewalks, sewers, as well as cable and wireless – makes residential neighborhoods accessible and desirable, and allows businesses to flourish.

As demand explodes, mobile networks must expand coverage and capacity, building infrastructure to support 4G and 5G networks. More people, more devices, and more data mean more of the network's radios and antennas must be closer the device users. Network proximity to the mobile consumer enables network performance that meets the highly reliable and fast services expected by America's businesses and consumers.

Attracting Businesses & Creating Jobs

Building next generation network infrastructure will drive local economic development and job creation. The deployment of 5G is expected to help create 2.2 million jobs, and approximately $420 billion in annual GDP, spread across small, medium and large communities in the U.S. *(Accenture, Smart Cities)*.

But even greater economic benefits will result when upgraded, revolutionary wireless communications are approved and deployed in every community. Small businesses, Fortune 500 companies and companies of all sizes require modern communications infrastructure. A robust network allows cities to be even more competitive as they work to attract more business and encourage entrepreneurship.

Fast, reliable internet connections allow people to more easily telecommute or participate in e-learning to build skills and earning power, and wireless technology enables e-commerce, supporting local retailers, restaurants and other businesses.

Creating Opportunities for Underserved Populations

Americans are increasingly connected to the digital world via smartphones and a range of other mobile devices. Just over one in ten American adults are "smartphone-only" internet users, meaning this is the sole device used to connect online. *(Pew Research Center)*

Improvements in wireless infrastructure and 5G networks have the potential to reduce the digital divide and create opportunity by giving all

90% of government decision makers polled believe communication networks are a requirement for attracting new businesses. ***(Center for Digital Government)***

The Digital Divide, as defined by Merriam-Webster: "The economic, educational, and social inequalities between those who have computers and online access and those who do not."

populations access to reliable high-speed broadband and its benefits.

For rural communities, improved connectivity could mean better access to services such as telehealth, distance learning, telecommuting possibilities, connected agriculture, and other online services.

According to a Pew Research Center survey, one in five adults whose annual household income falls below $30,000 are smartphone-only internet users, compared with only 4% of those living in households earning $100,000 or more.

Enhancing Property Values

Real estate agents, discerning homebuyers and renters all know that location matters. Location of wireless coverage also matters. Prospective homebuyers and renters weigh many factors when deciding where to rent or buy: the layout and square feet, the cost—and now, how strong their signal is on their smartphones.

For commercial properties, wireless service has become even more critical. Businesses depend on wireless coverage. A lack of connectivity can lead to tenant turnover and can make it hard to attract new renters or customers. CommScope, Inc. reports that strong indoor wireless coverage can increase a commercial property's value by 28% on average.

"Today, (home) buyers want to know about the home's technology. They want to hear about cell service and Internet, not cable and telephone." *(Michael Estrin, Bankrate.com)*

"Generally speaking, most studies of the issue conclude that proximity to a cell tower has no significant effect on property values.**"** *(Probate and Property)*

Building the Infrastructure Together

Local policies can accelerate or delay the successful build-out of wireless networks. Keeping up with ever growing consumer demand by expanding wireless networks and building the next generation of wireless technologies will require clear policies and regulations from local governments.

To meet the demand for mobile broadband services, address coverage and capacity issues, and take advantage of emerging 5G/IoT technologies, optimizing the network with existing and new macro sites as well as dense smaller cell antennas, often using rights of way and public corridors, is essential.

Achieving this connectivity will require a cooperative effort. Careful consideration must be given to our collective challenges:

- **Streamlined permitting and processes –** Building a network that will depend in part on hundreds of small sites will require updated permitting policies and processes to avoid permitting bottlenecks.
- **Right-of-way applications –** Access to sites such as government-owned utility poles, streetlights and other street fixtures will greatly facilitate 5G network deployment.
- **Fee structures –** A reasonable fee structure scalable for 5G network deployment will take into consideration the need for a large number of small sites, and the significant community benefits of building the infrastructure needed for smart communities to flourish.

Americans are rapidly abandoning landlines in favor of mobile – more than 50% of households are wireless only, while only 6.5% of homes are landline-only. For these households, wireless coverage at home is paramount. ***(National Center for Health Statistics)***

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