

Subject: Antenna Siting Protocol Update

Antenna Siting Protocol Update

Community Planning has identified a need to update the telecommunication antenna siting protocols to address a change in technology approach in deploying the 5G cellular network. As this change is happening Citywide, Community Planning would like to inform the communities of this upcoming change being considered through the September 1 meeting of the Planning and Urban Development Committee.

OVERVIEW:

The Telecommunications Antenna Structures Siting Protocols have been in place since 2011, with the last update done in 2014. With changing technology approaches in the deployment of a 5G network, there is an emerging need to respond with updates to the protocols. This review is not intended to change the current process for large tower or antenna submissions and circulation though we are considering adding the option for public consultation to take place virtually in addition to the in-person format.

City of Calgary Administration, Wireless Service Providers (WSP), members of Council and Community Associations have a long history of working collaboratively to provide a local perspective on the design and location of telecommunications antenna structures. In 2011 Council adopted the “Telecommunications Antenna Structures Siting Protocols” to guide and provide transparency to this collaboration. The protocols have remained unchanged since 2014, yet there have been significant changes to telecommunications technologies.

While The City can advise on the placement and impact of wireless infrastructure installation and provide letters of concurrence or non-concurrence, the Federal Government is the approver of antenna structures. 5G network deployment is dependent on small cell antennas located within of street level. The update would allow The City to provide an appropriate level of review on small cells that aligns with federal guidance and guide urban design for best visual outcomes. This review is not intended to change the current process for large tower or antenna submissions and circulation though we are considering adding the option for public consultation to take place virtually in addition to the in-person format.

Information regarding the project, including potential amendments to the protocols which guide this process, can be viewed at calgary.ca/antennasubmissions.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this proposal further, please contact Wid@calgary.ca