



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Land Use Services**  
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner  
Rebecca Esau, Director  
Phone: (503) 823-7300  
Fax: (503) 823-5630  
TTY: (503) 823-6868  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds)

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 6, 2018

**To:** Anne Hill, PBOT, 503-823-7239  
Alex Bejarano, PBOT, 503-823-7575

**From:** Tim Heron, Design Review  
503.823.7726 | [tim.heron@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:tim.heron@portlandoregon.gov)

**Re:** Briefing: Vertical Infrastructure in the ROW  
Summary of March 1, 2018 Hearing

Thank you for taking advantage of the opportunity to hold a voluntary briefing with the Design Commission regarding your project. I hope you find it informative and valuable as you continue with your project development. Below, is a summary of the comments provided by the Design Commission at the March 1, 2018 hearing. This summary was generated from notes taken at the public meeting and a subsequent review of the public meeting recordings. To review those recordings, please visit: <http://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/record/11699558>.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or seek clarification. Thank you.

**Commissioners present:** Commissioner Rodriguez, Commissioner Savinar, Commissioner Vallaster, Commissioner Molinar, Chair Livingston

### **General Comments**

Commission agreed that completing a ROW master plan of the existing infrastructure inventory is critical moving forward. The amount of infrastructure already in the ROW demands this study prior to moving forward in negotiating or redesigning existing or new elements.

Commissioners agreed with the PBOT policy of:

- No monopoles [stand-alone RF/ "small cell" poles],
- No above ground cabinets in the ROW, and
- Collocating well integrated/ stealth antennas on street signal poles.

Commission was strongly opposed to any manipulation of Portland's iconic twin-ornamental light fixtures. Any redesign at a larger scale, or collocating "small cells" on twin-ornamentals [even if it were structurally feasible], takes the "ornamental" out of the twin-ornamentals. Specifically:

- The larger base design to hold supporting small cell technology negatively impacts the public realm and pedestrian scale of the light fixture, and
- The "stealth antenna" top dumbs down the otherwise decorative cap of the iconic twin ornamental.

Commissioners were open to exploring the future of vertical infrastructure in Portland's ROW, specifically with the goal of not just locating small-cell antennas for multiple carriers, but for integrating/ collocating existing free-standing elements in the ROW, such as parking meters, to reduce the amount of furnishing zone clutter.

**Next steps**

Commission recommends that PBOT commission a study, Portland has several capable design firms, to provide design alternatives for a new and improved Portland Central City light pole standard that could eventually replace twin ornamentals if necessary.

- A strategy should be developed for the future of twin-ornamental light pole locations that include how existing twin-ornamentals may be replaced over time, preserved for historic areas or corridors, and/or be reallocated to neighborhoods outside Central City as available or desired by PBOT Planning.

Commissioner Savinar offered to be the Design Commission Liaison to PBOT for vertical infrastructure efforts in ROW.

A return visit to the Design Commission is desired, particularly with a focus on more small cell installation examples in highly dense cities and how they are managing small cell in their jurisdictions.

*Encl:*  
Summary Memo

*Cc:*      *Design Commission*  
            *Respondents*

**Exhibit List**

- A. Applicant's Submittals
  1. February 28, 2018 PBOT Cover Memo
  2. October 2017 PBOT Strategic Plan for Poles in the ROW
  3. Abridged PPT for March 1, 2018 Hearing