



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

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## Briefing

# MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 23, 2022  
**To:** Portland Design Commission  
**From:** Tim Heron, Design Review/ Historic Resource Review  
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**Re:** Briefing - Vertical Infrastructure in the ROW – South Waterfront  
June 2, 2022 Briefing

Commissioners, please find attached three items for the **South Waterfront Vertical Infrastructure in the ROW** completing a multi-year effort by the Bureau of Development Services [BDS] Staff, the Design Commission, the Portland Bureau of Transportation [PBOT] and Portland City Council to develop stealth small cell antennas and equipment on existing or new Vertical Infrastructure in the Right of Way.

Small cells, or distributed antennae systems (DAS), are short range, low power cellular facilities which allow mobile phone users greater reliability because they provide a density and increased capacity of cell reception in population centers.

A critical aspect of this effort was the development of City level “standards” for integrating DAS technology ahead of an imminent Federal Communication Commission mandates for this infrastructure to be installed without design oversight, if no other design standards are in place. The attached presentation from PBOT, which will be presented at the Briefing, illustrates a few examples of what could occur without design standards [Slide 7].

Most recently, the Design Commission and Historic Landmarks Commission reached a final street light design that integrates a variety of required DAS equipment to increase cell reception throughout the Central City Plan District as a contemporary replacement for the Portland Twin Ornaments. The March 4, 2021 joint Letter of Support is attached for reference.

Continuing this effort into the South Waterfront sub-District of the Central City as a unique street light design exists in this area, Design Commissioner Brian McCarter and BDS Staff worked with PBOT to develop another design that integrates a variety of required DAS equipment to increase cell reception.

PBOT is seeking support from the Design Commission as to the final design of the South Waterfront future street light standard that incorporates a DAS facility.

*Attached:*

- June 2, 2022 PBOT Memo and PBOT PPT Presentation
- March 4, 2021 Joint Letter of Support from the Design Commission and Landmarks Commission for Central City Portland Ornamental stealth poles