



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

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Briefing

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 15, 2021
To: Portland Design Commission
Portland Historic Landmarks Commission
From: Tim Heron, Design Review/ Historic Resource Review
503.823.7726 | tim.heron@portlandoregon.gov
Re: Briefing - Vertical Infrastructure in the ROW
January 25, 2021 Joint Briefing

Commissioners, please find attached five items documenting a multi-year effort by the Bureau of Development Services [BDS] Staff, the Design Commission and the Historic Landmarks Commission with 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 [Slides 8-10].

Since the initial PBOT Briefings in 2018 to the Design Commission and Historic Landmarks Commission, BDS Staff and appointed Design and Landmarks Commissioner representatives have held numerous meetings with PBOT in developing two alternative street light designs that integrate a variety of required DAS equipment to increase cell reception throughout the Central City Plan District.

Design Commissioner Brian McCarter and Historic Landmarks Commissioner Maya Foty will provide additional comments at the Briefing of the process and development of these two final designs:
1) a twin-ornamental street light adaptation, and 2) a contemporary streetlight design [Slides 18 & 22].

PBOT is seeking support from both the Design Commission and the Historic Landmarks Commission as to which one of the two final designs best represents a future street light standard that incorporates a DAS facility.

Attached:

- *January 11, 2021 PBOT Memo and PPT Presentation*
- *March 2018 Summary Memos from Design Commission [4-6-18] and Landmarks Commission [4-30-18]*
- *April 23, 2019 Joint Design and Landmarks Commission Letter to Portland City Council*