

# SMALL CELL DESIGN GUIDELINES

THIRD VERSION  
MARCH 21, 2019

The guidelines have been drafted with input from the following:



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

**SMALL CELL DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
**3/21/2019**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 1. Background**
- 2. Adoption**
- 3. Purpose**
  - 3.1. Goals of the Guidelines
  - 3.2. Areas of Special Interest
- 4. Review Process**
  - 4.1. Master License Agreement
  - 4.2. Public Space Permits
- 5. General Guidelines**
  - 5.1. General limits: Locations
  - 5.2. General limits: Preference for Locations and Methods
  - 5.3. General limits: Appearance
  - 5.4. General limits: Adherence to Other Applicable Standards
  - 5.5. General Parameters on Installations: Types, Locations, and Frequency
- 6. Guidelines regarding Areas of Special Interest**
  - 6.1. Historic Districts and Landmarked Properties
  - 6.2. Areas of Federal Interest
- 7. Guidelines regarding DDOT Streetlights**
- 8. Guidelines regarding New Standalone Poles**
  - 8.1. Appearance
  - 8.2. Pedestrian Path and Amenity zone
  - 8.3. Access, Circulation, and Sight Distances
  - 8.4. Spacing among Streetscape Elements
- 9. Guidelines regarding Existing Utility Poles**
- 10. Glossary**

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Washington, DC has a history spanning more than two centuries establishing a unique streetscape that sets it apart from any other city in the world. A crucial component of that streetscape is its extensive network of public space. The public space enhances the quality of life for our residents and visitors, and ensures that the city has the foundation to become a more walkable and sustainable city. It also serves as the city's civic, cultural, and physical framework of important views and vistas and provides the opportunity for public assembly. **Washington, DC's public space is a valuable and intentional asset that requires careful stewardship to maintain its integrity and safeguard it as a legacy to future generations.** This heritage is safeguarded through the work of many local and federal government agencies. Any new use made of that public space must be cognizant of and adapted to the special characteristics of Washington, DC.
- 1.2. To address the growing demand for wireless technology across the United States, cellular providers propose to increase the capacity of their networks by deploying small cell infrastructure (Small Cell), a new lower-powered antenna technology, to reduce data traffic load on roof mounted equipment and larger cell towers. This new technology requires infrastructure to be installed in closer proximity to the users on the ground
- 1.3. Small Cell infrastructure consists of antennas and related power equipment that transmits wireless signals to improve reliable data streaming. This infrastructure will provide cellular and data coverage to smaller geographic areas. New Small Cell facilities will improve the provider's ability to meet the public's current 4G (LTE) voice and data demands and the future 5th generation cellular needs for interconnected devices to operate at high speeds to access data.
- 1.4. Small Cell infrastructure will affect the function and aesthetics of public spaces. Cities across the nation are beginning to address the issue of balancing the need to accommodate the increased cellular demand with their community's public space character and function.
- 1.5. To provide the necessary coverage, each cellular provider will install infrastructure to serve their individual needs; additionally, some companies serve as an infrastructure provider, or hotelier, installing equipment that will house infrastructure for multiple cellular providers. Like other utilities, federal law allows Small Cell infrastructure equipment in the public right-of-way.

## 2. Adoption

- 2.1. These guidelines are intended to cover the general standards and aesthetics for the design and installation of Small Cell technology in public space across Washington, DC. They are comprehensive in nature while recognizing the unique characteristics and history of Washington, DC. The guidelines cover the different areas of Washington, DC while keeping generally applicable standards based on the type of infrastructure installed.
- 2.2. As a result of this comprehensive approach, the guidelines have been drafted with input from a variety of stakeholders, including advisory neighborhood commissions, other community, civic and citizen associations, and members of the public.

- 2.3. Input was also received from staff of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Office of Planning (OP), the Historic Preservation Office (HPO), the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
- 2.4. Based on the input received, a general consensus identifying the need for an independent design process to present options for the appearance of freestanding poles and at-grade cabinetry was articulated. As a result, additional guidance will be provided for cabinetry and freestanding poles for the final approval of the PSC.
- 2.5. The guidelines are also the result of the review of information shared by telecommunication providers, technical limitations, and requirements of Small Cell infrastructure standards and practices across the country, such as Denver, Boston, Dublin, OH, and Lincoln, NE. In addition, these guidelines have been informed through a best practices review of international cities in North America, Europe, and Asia.
- 2.6. The guidelines incorporate applicable local and federal policies and regulations. The applications shall comply with the most current version of guidelines and regulations, including but not limited to:
  - 2.6.1. Small Cell Master License Agreement
  - 2.6.2. District of Columbia (DC) Code
  - 2.6.3. DC Municipal Regulations
  - 2.6.4. DDOT Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
  - 2.6.5. DDOT Design and Engineering Manual (DEM)
  - 2.6.6. The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital
  - 2.6.7. Shipstead-Luce Act
  - 2.6.8. Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978
  - 2.6.9. DDOT Public Realm Design Manual
  - 2.6.10. National Mall Streetscape Manual
  - 2.6.11. Old Georgetown Act

### **3. Purpose**

#### **3.1. Goals of the Guidelines**

- 3.1.1. The Small Cell Infrastructure Guidelines set forth requirements and specifications for the placement and design of Small Cell infrastructure within the District's public right of way (ROW) to address engineering, safety, and aesthetic concerns. The guidelines intend to fit the functional needs of the cellular infrastructure necessary to provide adequate coverage within the character and function of the capital city's public space with the goals of:
  - 3.1.1.1. Avoiding impact on the most important view sheds and vistas within the L'Enfant Plan of Washington, DC;
  - 3.1.1.2. Minimizing the impact on the character of designated historic districts and landmarks, monuments, memorials, and federal buildings and open spaces;
  - 3.1.1.3. Protecting access and circulation to buildings and public open spaces;
  - 3.1.1.4. Prioritizing the pedestrian experience along public streets by minimizing visual and physical clutter within the streetscape, and

- 3.1.1.5. Ensuring that all neighborhoods across the District receive equitable consideration regarding the permitting and design process for all small cell installations

### **3.2. Areas of Special Interest**

- 3.2.1. The L'Enfant Plan of 1791 established Washington, DC's historic urban form and its framework for development. Reinforced by the McMillan Plan of 1902, the combined Plan of the City of Washington includes an orthogonal grid and a series of diagonal avenues radiating from the White House and U.S. Capitol, which at the Capitol's center point, establishes the District's four quadrants. The intersection of the street grid and diagonal avenues create a system of parks, open space, and vistas that are integral to the District's historic street network. L'Enfant's urban framework is recognized for its national importance through its listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 3.2.2. The character of Washington, DC's streetscape reinforces the importance of the public realm, where the streets, squares, and public spaces are the primary features in the city defined against the background of urban development. A strong tradition of public space planning in the late 19th and early 20th centuries built upon Washington, DC's historic plans through intentionally designed public infrastructure and streetscapes, such as curb and gutters, tree planting, streetlights, and traffic control devices. Many of these elements are contributing elements to the L'Enfant Plan historic designation and to the Districts-cultural landscapes in Washington, DC. This essential quality of Washington, DC's streetscapes and public spaces must be maintained as a creative, welcoming and livable environment, and to reinforce Washington, DC's unique role as the nation's capital and the home to approximately 700,000 residents.

## **4. Review Process**

### **4.1. Master License Agreement**

- 4.1.1. Before an entity can install Small Cell infrastructure in the ROW, it must first submit an executed a Master License Agreement (MLA) with Washington, DC.
- 4.1.2. The MLA governs many aspects of Small Cell infrastructure and is a standardized document that does not allow modification or alteration by or for individual MLA applicants. The MLA includes multiple provisions that establish conditions, requirements, and limitations on the MLA holder and any Small Cell infrastructure installed in Washington, DC. In and of itself, the MLA does not permit the installation of any Small Cell infrastructure. It serves as a preliminary step in the process for an MLA holder to submit applications with DDOT for public space permits to install Small Cell infrastructure.
- 4.1.3. All of the conditions, requirements, and limitations to which the MLA holder agrees by executing an MLA with Washington, DC are incorporated by reference into every public space permit an MLA holder may receive. In addition, particular provisions may be reiterated in this document and in an issued public space permit.

- 4.1.4. A copy of each executed MLA can be found online at the Office of the Chief Technology Officer's website. The webpage is: <https://octo.dc.gov/page/small-cells>
- 4.1.5. Prior to submitting a public space permit application, and in the case when proposing an attachment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party pole following preliminary acceptance by the pole owner for a proposed attachment, the MLA holder shall provide notice to all immediately adjacent property owners (i.e. owners of all properties on both sides of the block where the Small Cell Infrastructure is proposed to be installed) concerning equipment to be placed in the Public Right of Way using language provided by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and shall provide proof of notice in a form and manner specified by DDOT.
- 4.1.6. Prior to submitting a public space permit application for the location and installation of the first of each class of Small Cell Infrastructure in any Single Member District (SMD) of the District of Columbia, the MLA holder shall provide notice to the affected SMD representative, the affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission, and the relevant Ward Councilmember of MLA holder's plans to locate and install such infrastructure in the neighborhood. The MLA holder shall use language provided by DDOT for its notice to the SMD representative, ANC, and Ward Councilmember. MLA holder shall certify that notice was provided in a form and manner specified by DDOT and the certification shall be included with the application when first submitted. Failure to provide notice to the SMD representative, the affected ANC, or the relevant Ward Councilmember shall automatically render the application void and any permit issued for the application shall not be valid. Failure to provide certification of notice with the initial application shall render the application incomplete and any permit issued shall not be valid.

## **4.2. Public Space Permits**

- 4.2.1. All Small Cell installations in Washington, DC require a public space permit from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). DDOT uses a transportation online permitting system (TOPS: [tops.ddot.dc.gov](https://tops.ddot.dc.gov)) to process public space permit applications. All applications will require review to ensure adherence to these guidelines and all other applicable standards, regulations, and laws. Applications that comply with these guidelines and all other applicable standards, regulations, and laws will be processed by DDOT's Public Space Regulation Division.
- 4.2.2. Any applications that are not consistent with these guidelines require review and approval by the Public Space Committee (PSC) at a designated hearing and will include review and comment by Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) as well as by NCPC, CFA, and HPO as appropriate.
  - 4.2.2.1. Applicants will be notified that their application is not consistent with these guidelines and at such time, will be notified of the PSC hearing date for which their application will be reviewed.



- 4.2.2.2. As with all PSC hearings, the notification will be published in the DC Register and all constituents will be able to submit comments and testify at the hearing.
- 4.2.3. NCPC Review
  - 4.2.3.1. Applications for small cell facilities that are identified as an allowable small cell facility on the Federal Core Interest Area Map, attached to these guidelines as Map 1 and incorporated herein, do not require NCPC approval. An interactive GIS map will be available on DDOT's website.
  - 4.2.3.2. Within the Federal Core Interest Area, providers who desire a small cell facility in a location that is not indicated on the map must obtain and submit an approval letter from NCPC with their application to DDOT's Public Space Regulation Division. The request for exceptions without such letter will not be considered.
  - 4.2.3.3. Installations adjacent to Federal properties or Federal reservations that are outside of the Federal Core Interest Area Map are not permitted and will require a request for exemption from NCPC and the PSC.
  - 4.2.3.4. All request to replace a temporary or permanent security element along the boundary of a federal building shall require NCPC review and approval.
- 4.2.4. CFA Review
  - 4.2.4.1. CFA reviews permit applications for work in public space under several jurisdictions: the Shipstead-Luce Act, the Old Georgetown Act, and regulations concerning government projects in the District of Columbia. The Shipstead-Luce Act and Old Georgetown Act areas are included on Map 2 for illustration purposes only.
  - 4.2.4.2. Applications for small cell facilities that are identified as allowable locations on the Federal Core Interest Area Map, attached to these guidelines as Map 1 and incorporated herein, and that comply with the small cell design guidelines, do not require CFA review.
  - 4.2.4.3. Applications for small cell facilities in areas subject to CFA review under the Shipstead-Luce Act or the Old Georgetown Act, and that comply with the small cell design guidelines, do not require CFA review.
  - 4.2.4.4. Applications for small cell facilities within the Federal Core Interest Area or in areas subject to CFA review under the Shipstead-Luce Act or the Old Georgetown Act, and that do not comply with the small cell design guidelines shall be submitted to the CFA by DDOT's Public Space Regulation Division through its online permitting process, for the opportunity for CFA to provide advice during a 30-day comment period.
  - 4.2.4.5. Outside of the Federal Core Interest Area and the areas subject to CFA review under the Shipstead-Luce Act and the Old Georgetown Act, if a provider seeks an exception to the small cell design guidelines, shall be submitted to the CFA by DDOT's Public Space Regulation Division through its online permitting process, for the opportunity for CFA to provide advice during a 30-day comment period.

## **5. General Guidelines**

### **5.1. General limits: Locations**

- 5.1.1. These guidelines for Small Cell infrastructure apply to all areas in Washington, DC, except those areas that are under Federal or private ownership.
- 5.1.2. Small Cell infrastructure is not permitted to be installed on:
  - 5.1.2.1. Medians and traffic islands (i.e. any public space that is contiguous only with roadways and does not border any private property, regardless of whether it currently houses a District owned streetlight or a third party utility pole)
  - 5.1.2.2. Bridges, tunnels, overpasses and elevated roadways
  - 5.1.2.3. Twin-Twenty or Washington Upright poles, or others not listed on chart 1
  - 5.1.2.4. All sidewalks and rights-of-way immediately adjacent to Federal property or Federal reservations.
  - 5.1.2.5. Avenues and streets on the Federal Core Interest Area Map (see Map 1) that do not designate small cell infrastructure locations

### **5.2. General limits: Preference for Locations and Methods**

- 5.2.1. The preferred locations of Small Cell infrastructure, in order, are:
  - 5.2.1.1. A mount on third party poles on streets.
  - 5.2.1.2. A mount to Pendant Pole streetlights as allowed on streets.
  - 5.2.1.3. Standalone poles on streets or named alleys.
  - 5.2.1.4. Where there are existing poles that the guidelines allow for attachment, no new standalone poles will be permitted, except for within the Area of Federal interest.
- 5.2.2. Small cell infrastructure shall not be installed on an existing or new pole within a 10' setback from all existing buildings or building lines (i.e. property line, building restriction line, or additional setback required by zoning)..
- 5.2.3. To protect the integrity and efficacy of traffic control devices, small cell infrastructure shall not be installed on the same support structure as a traffic control device and shall not be located where they will interfere with, or detract from, traffic control devices.

### **5.3. General limits: Appearance**

- 5.3.1. Except for Small Cell Infrastructure attached to wood poles, Small Cell infrastructure requiring any cabinetry, including pole mounted or ground level, is not to be installed until the cabinetry design has been reviewed and formally adopted by the PSC as part of these guidelines. Within 90 days of the date the PSC adopts the final cabinetry design, any cabinetry installed on wood poles before the adoption of the final cabinetry design by the PSC that does not comply with the adopted cabinetry design shall be modified or replaced in order to comply with the adopted cabinetry design. Prior to performing the modification or replacement the modified or replaced cabinetry must be approved through the public space permitting process.



- 5.3.2. Except when Small Cell infrastructure is attached to a wood pole, poles and all equipment must be the same color and finish as surrounding streetlight poles or third party poles.
- 5.3.3. Except when Small Cell infrastructure is attached to a wood pole, exposed wires are not permitted.
- 5.3.4. Corporate or company names (except for location identification purposes noted below), logos, identifying graphics or other advertisements shall not be painted, embossed, applied or displayed in any manner on the poles, equipment enclosures (boxes, cabinets, etc.), hand hole covers, or other component of the pole. Individual location identification information will be permitted, provided no letter, number, or graphic symbol is taller than one inch in height.
- 5.3.5. No antenna(e) shall be attached on an arm adjacent to the pole.
- 5.3.6. Small cell infrastructure shall not be placed within the T-Base of a DDOT streetlight.
- 5.3.7. Height
  - 5.3.7.1. Existing Poles: Any attachment, including antenna(e), to an existing pole shall not extend the existing pole to a height of more than 36 feet or by more than 10 percent, whichever is greater.
  - 5.3.7.2. Wood Poles: The height of any replacement wood pole including its antennae shall not exceed 50 feet.

#### **5.4. General limits: Adherence to Other Applicable Standards**

- 5.4.1. Nothing in these guidelines is intended to limit the applicability of any other duty, requirement, limitation, or condition for work in public space in Washington, DC. As required in the MLA and in accordance with DC Municipal Regulations, persons working in the public ROW are required to abide by all traffic control, construction safety, and public space restoration standards. Separate public space permits approving temporary traffic control may be required.
- 5.4.2. Nothing in these guidelines is intended to limit the responsibility of a person who obtains a public space permit to install Small Cell infrastructure in public space to obtain all other necessary licenses, permits, and approvals from any government agency or other party that has authority or responsibility to grant and issue such license, permit, or approval.
- 5.4.3. If a streetscape is redesigned in the future, including, but not limited to the location and type of streetlights, small cell providers will be required to remove their infrastructure at their own cost and apply to reinstall small cell infrastructure in accordance with these guidelines and the new streetscape.

#### **5.5. General Parameters on Installations: Types, Locations, and Frequency**

- 5.5.1. Chart 1, Permissible Installation Types and Locations, indicates where Small Cell installations are allowed based on the location and context of each proposed placement.
- 5.5.2. Chart 2, Permissible Spacing and Frequency of Installations, indicates the spacing and frequency of Small Cell installations that will be allowed.
- 5.5.3. Map 2, Areas of Special Interest, indicates the areas included in the L'Enfant Plan, Shipstead-Luce Act, Old Georgetown, and Historic Districts.

- 5.5.4. Map 1, The Federal Core Interest Area indicates where small cell infrastructure can be located within the prescribed boundaries.

## **6. Guidelines regarding Areas of Special Interest**

- 6.1.1. With respect to these guidelines, areas of special interest shall be defined and include the following:
- 6.1.2. Historic Districts
- 6.1.3. Historic Landmarked Properties
- 6.1.4. The Shipstead-Luce Act area
- 6.1.5. Old Georgetown Act area
- 6.1.6. Areas of Federal Interest as defined in Map 1

### **6.2. Historic Districts and Landmarked Properties**

- 6.2.1. Small Cell infrastructure shall not be located along any boundary lines of a D.C. Landmark, a National Historic Landmark, or a property individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Small Cell infrastructure located in unnamed alleys within a historic district shall setback a minimum of twenty feet (20') from the inside edge of adjoining sidewalk.
- 6.2.2. Small cell facilities shall not obstruct contributing vistas and views as noted in Illustration 1, Contributing Vistas and Views.

### **6.3. Areas of Federal Interest**

- 6.3.1. Placement of small cell facilities in the Federal Core Interest Area shall be consistent with Map 1.
- 6.3.2. Installations adjacent to Federal property or Federal reservations that are outside of the Federal Core Interest Area Map are not permitted and will require a request for exemption from NCPC and the PSC.

#### **6.3.3. Building and Open Space entrances**

- 6.3.3.1. Placement of standalone poles. The functional and visual relationship of the pole to building and open space, park, and plaza features shall be considered as follows:
- 6.3.3.1.1. Placement of small cell facilities shall not be located within a formal or informal setting within the building entrance area, whether the entrance is open or permanently or temporarily closed.
- 6.3.3.1.2. The building entry setting is an integral component of the functional and decorative features of architectural design. These entrances are delineated by one or more of the following features, such as: doors, pilaster, entablatures, columns, balustrades, columns, fanlights, sidelights, stairs or ramps, podiums plinths, flagpoles, sculptural or decorative elements, and designed landscape plantings flanking the entry.
- 6.3.3.1.3. Placement of small cell facilities shall not be located along the frontage of public space features defined by landforms such as terracing, furnishings such lights and benches, and decorative elements, such as sculpture, statuary, water features, including fountains and pools located within a building yard, park, or plaza.

6.3.3.1.4. To the maximum extent possible, avoid pole placement of standalone poles that blocks views to and from building windows or detracts from the building's architectural quality.

6.3.3.2. Standalone poles shall not obstruct pedestrian access between the curb and sidewalk across the amenity zone.

#### **6.3.4. Security**

6.3.4.1. A minimum distance of four feet (4') is required between a standalone pole and any permanent or temporary security elements, such as planters or bollards.

6.3.4.2. A standalone pole may replace a perimeter security element if the pole is designed to comply with the vehicle crash rating required by the occupant of the adjoining building.

6.3.4.3. All standalone poles that replace security element shall be coordinated with the building occupant.

6.3.4.4. Replacement of security elements shall also require NCPC review and approval prior to submitting a permit application to DDOT, in accordance with federal review authority.

6.3.5. Within the Federal Core Interest Area, any deviation from these small cell guidelines requires approval by the NCPC prior to application to DDOT for a small cell permit, except for the following conditions:

6.3.5.1. The standalone pole may be moved a maximum of three-feet to avoid existing underground utilities and root zones.

6.3.6. Within the Federal Core Interest Area, any deviation from these small cell guidelines shall be submitted to the CFA by DDOT's Public Space Regulation Division through its online permitting process, for the opportunity for CFA to provide advice during a 30-day comment period, except that the standalone pole and associated equipment may be moved a maximum of three feet parallel to the roadbed to avoid existing underground utilities and root zones, provided that it still comply with all sections of these small cell design guidelines.

## **7. Guidelines regarding DDOT Streetlights**

7.1. The guidelines will allow attachments to certain categories of poles. These include Pendant Poles with cobra head fixtures and tear drop fixtures as allowed, wood poles, and 5A poles (aka metal alley poles).

7.2. An interactive GIS map of the District's Department of Transportation streetlight assets can be found online.

7.3. All other categories of DDOT streetlights will not be permitted for attachment of Small Cell infrastructure.

7.4. These guidelines do not allow the installation of new DDOT streetlights.

7.5. Any application intended to install on an existing DDOT streetlight must indicate the replacement of an existing DDOT streetlight pole. The replacement pole must be exactly the same in outward appearance, while having increased structural strength to support the additional equipment.

- 7.6. These guidelines do not allow the use of any streetlight on bridges, tunnels, overpasses or elevated roadways.
- 7.7. DDOT will require engineer-stamped plans showing the replacement of its existing streetlight pole.

## **8. Guidelines regarding New Standalone Poles**

### **8.1. Appearance**

- 8.1.1. Any Small Cell infrastructure requiring standalone poles is not to be installed until the standalone pole design has been reviewed and formally adopted by the PSC as part of these guidelines.

### **8.2. Pedestrian Path and Amenity Zone**

- 8.2.1. The sidewalk area of public space is typically delineated into the pedestrian path and the amenity zone. The amenity zone is located between the pedestrian path and the roadway and provides access between the two as well as the area for street trees, streetlights and traffic signals, and other functional elements. It is critical that all pedestrian paths are clear to facilitate safe and optimal access and circulation along sidewalks.
- 8.2.2. Standalone poles shall not be located in the clear pedestrian path, as established by the most current DC Municipal Regulations and the most current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and DDOT's Public Realm Design Manual.
- 8.2.3. Standalone poles shall be located in the amenity zone, when one is provided.
- 8.2.4. Standalone poles shall not be located within a designated right-of-way of a paper street or paper alley within the L'Enfant Plan.
- 8.2.5. In a non-residential area where there is no amenity zone, standalone poles shall be placed within the area traditionally devoted to the amenity zone within the right-of-way if it does not obstruct the required width for the clear pedestrian path in accordance with DDOT's most current Design and Engineering Manual (DEM) and DDOT's Public Realm Design Manual Section 3-4.
- 8.2.6. In a non-commercial area where there is no amenity zone, poles may be located in the sidewalk space within the right-of-way if it does not obstruct the required width for the clear pedestrian path in accordance with DDOT's most current Design and Engineering Manual (DEM) and DC Municipal Regulations, and DDOT's Public Realm Design Manual Section 3-4.
- 8.2.7. Standalone poles shall be aligned with existing streetlights, third party poles, and street trees as applicable in order to maintain a visual and physical organization of structures within the right-of-way, as measured from the center of the base of the pole. When streetlight and street tree alignment are offset within the amenity or curbside zones, prioritize alignment of the small cell facility with streetlights.
- 8.2.8. All measurements shall be taken from the outer edge of the standalone pole and the infrastructure listed in the following specific limits/prohibitions.
  - 8.2.8.1. The exterior of the standalone pole shall be placed a minimum of two feet six inches (2'6") from the face of curb Standalone poles must be placed a minimum of six feet (6') from existing fire hydrants or buildings' fire connections.

- 8.2.8.2. Standalone poles shall be located a minimum of 10 feet (10') from light poles and traffic signal poles.
- 8.2.8.3. Standalone poles shall be located a minimum of 3 feet (3') from bicycle racks and shall not impede the attachment of bicycles.
- 8.2.8.4. Standalone poles shall not interfere with the operation of Capital Bikeshare docks and stations. This requires a minimum of four feet (4') of clearance from the rear wheel of a docked bicycle, five feet (5') distance from each end of a station, and should not be installed in such a way that would prevent solar access to the solar panel.
- 8.2.8.5. Standalone poles shall be placed a minimum of ten feet (10') from any above grade building face, including bay windows, show windows, oriel windows, and building projections or overhangs.
- 8.2.9. In areas where DDOT does not have streetlight poles and instead attaches its streetlights to existing third party poles, no new standalone poles will be allowed.
- 8.2.10. In residential areas with DDOT-owned poles, standalone poles shall be placed in alignment with lot lines extended to the maximum degree possible.
- 8.2.11. Poles should be located, to the maximum extent possible, to minimize impact on businesses and residential mixed-use development by avoiding placement directly in front of building entrances, alignment with windows, primary entry walks, or delivery zones or entrances.

### **8.3. Access, Circulation, and Sight Distances**

- 8.3.1. Safe and functional access, circulation, and clear sight lines are important for pedestrian ease of movement and to maintain unobstructed line of sight among drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists.
- 8.3.2. Standalone poles shall not obstruct ADA access, including maintaining a clear landing at the top of curb ramps at crosswalks.
- 8.3.3. Pole placement shall not impede, obstruct, violate, conflict with, or hinder any mode of travel over or access to any public street, bridge, tunnel, highway, lane, path, alley, sidewalk, or driveway, including but not limited to the obstruction of sight lines.
- 8.3.4. Poles shall be placed consistent with the most current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and adopted District standards for maintenance of an intersection's sight line triangles.
- 8.3.5. A minimum of fifteen feet (15') shall be maintained between the pole and the outside edge of the alley or driveway.

### **8.4. Spacing among Streetscape Elements**

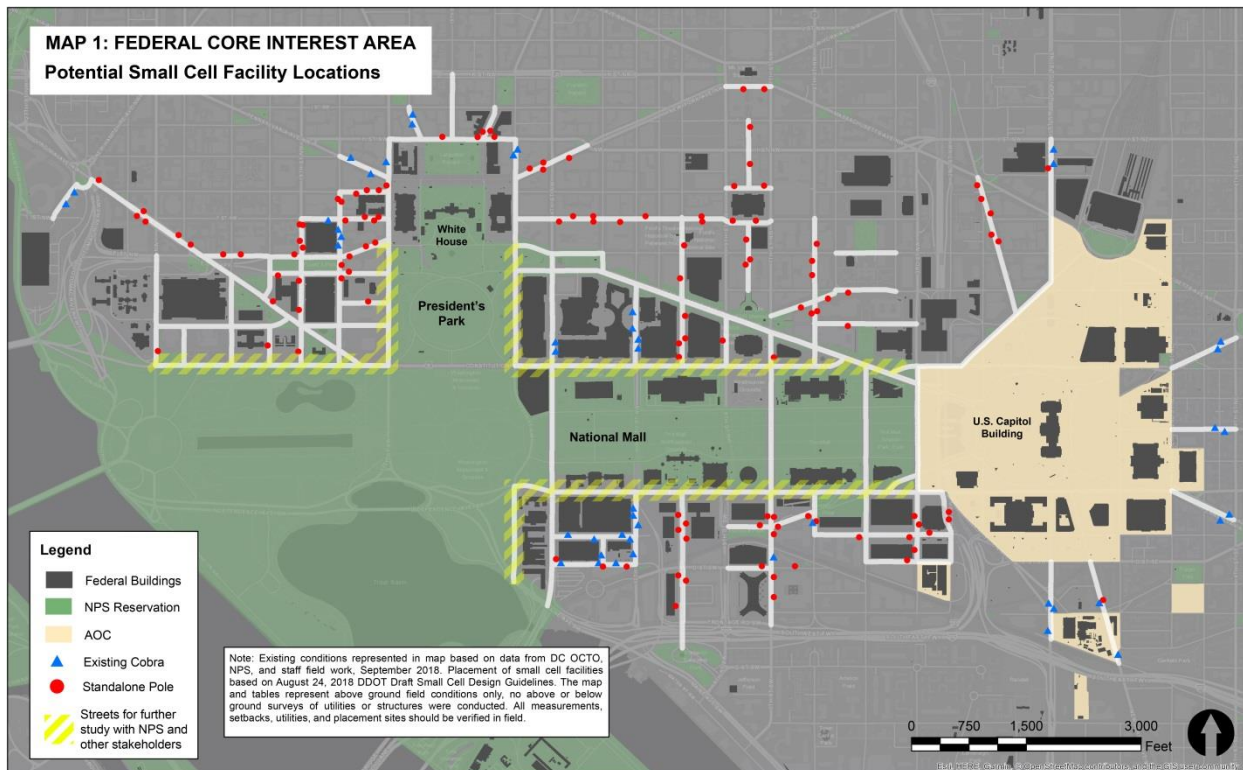
- 8.4.1. A standalone pole shall not be located within an existing street tree's protected zone. The protected zone shall be equal to one foot for each inch of the tree's diameter measured at 4' 6" from grade, or a minimum of fifteen feet (15'), whichever is greater. The protected zone shall be measured from the outside of the tree to protect root growth.
- 8.4.2. In addition, standalone poles shall not be placed within fifteen feet (15') of any open tree planting space, according to the records of the District Department of Transportation Urban Forestry Division.

- 8.4.3. No street tree shall be removed, or have its protected root zone impacted, to accommodate installation of Small Cell infrastructure, regardless of whether the application is for a standalone pole or to replace an existing DDOT streetlight or third party pole.
- 8.4.4. No tree shall be pruned related to the installation or functioning of small cell infrastructure.

## **9. Guidelines regarding Existing Utility Poles**

- 9.1. Poles owned by a third party (i.e. poles installed in public space by entities other than DDOT) are typically wood utility poles and are located throughout Washington, DC's rights-of-way and alleyways.
- 9.2. With the consent of the pole owner, Small Cell providers may submit applications to install infrastructure attached to these poles.
- 9.3. These guidelines do not allow the installation of new third party poles. Any application must indicate the installation on and replacement of an existing third party pole.
- 9.4. All Small Cell equipment on third party poles, including antennas, antenna related equipment, cabinets, shrouds, conduit, and mounting hardware shall be a grey powder coated finish.





**Map 1 Federal Core Interest Area: Potential Small Cell Facility Locations**

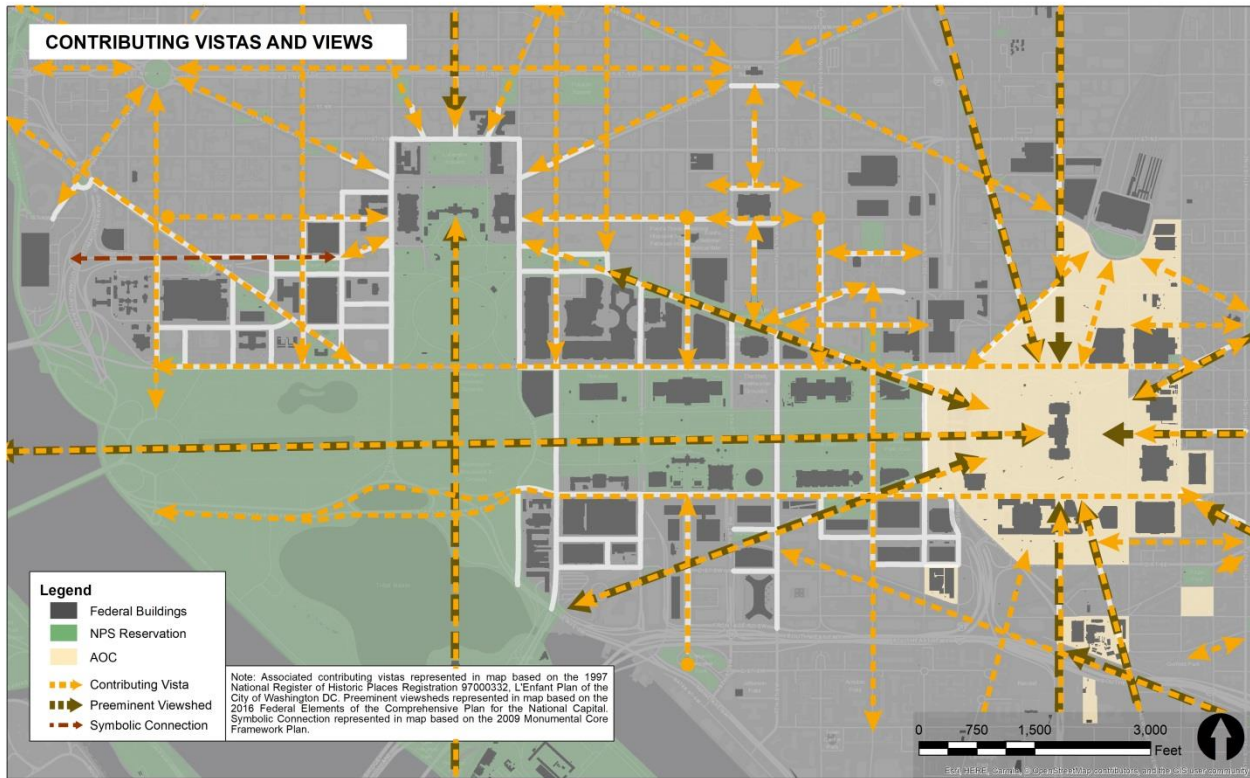


<b>Pole Ownership</b>	<b>Pole Type</b>	<b>Installation type</b>	<b>Cabinetry</b>
District	<b>Existing 5A Poles</b>	Class A or Class B	Only installations that do not require any cabinetry can be installed. All installations requiring cabinetry will be determined in a separate PSC adoption based on cabinetry design guidelines.
District	<b>Existing Wood Poles</b>	Class A or Class B	Attach cabinetry to poles. Consistent with 5.3.1 of these guidelines, any cabinetry attached to wood poles prior to the adoption of final design for cabinetry shall be modified or replaced to be consistent with the final adopted design for cabinetry.
District	<b>Existing Pendant Poles with cobraheads</b>	Class A or Class B	Only installations that do not require any cabinetry can be installed. All installations requiring cabinetry will be determined in a separate PSC adoption based on cabinetry design guidelines.
District	<b>Existing Pendant Poles with teardrops</b>	Only Class B “collar” attachments. No attachments above the arm of the pole and no removal of the decorative finial permitted.	Only installations that do not require any cabinetry can be installed. All installations requiring cabinetry will be determined in a separate PSC adoption based on cabinetry design guidelines.
Carrier	<b>New Standalone Poles</b>	None at this time. To be determined in a separate PSC adoption.	To be determined in a separate PSC adoption.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party	<b>Existing Utility Pole</b>	Class A or Class B	Attach cabinetry to pole. Consistent with 5.3.1 of these guidelines, any cabinetry attached to wood poles prior to the adoption of final design for cabinetry shall be modified or replaced to be consistent with the final adopted design for cabinetry.

**Chart 1, Permissible Installation Types and Locations**

	Outside Areas of Special Interest		Inside Areas of Special Interest		
Blockface Length Intervals <sup>1</sup>	Number of Small Cell Facilities Permitted per Blockface <sup>2</sup>	Minimum Distance between Facilities on same Blockface <sup>3</sup>	Number of Small Cell Facilities Permitted per Blockface	Minimum Distance between Facilities on same Blockface	Limit per Carrier per Block <sup>4</sup>
0'-150'	1	N/A	1	N/A	1
151'-300'	1	N/A	1	N/A	1
301'-450'	2	60'	1	N/A	1
451'-600'	2	60'	2	90'	1
601'-750'	3	60'	2	105'	2
Over 750'	3	60'	2	120'	2
	<sup>1</sup> Block lengths should be measured along the edge of curb between the edge line extended of adjacent intersecting streets. <sup>2</sup> This is inclusive of all types of installations and regardless of carrier. <sup>3</sup> In other words, the minimum distance between two facilities sharing the same side of the block. Distance should be measured in a linear fashion along the edge of curb between the two facilities' center points. <sup>4</sup> A block is defined as two opposing blockfaces.				

**Chart 2, Permissible Spacing and Frequency of Installations**



**Illustration 1, Contributing Vistas and Views**



## 10. Glossary

The following serve to define terms used in the guidelines as they relate to the public spaces in Washington, DC.

**5A Pole** – A DDOT-standard pole type as described in the DDOT Streetlight Policy and Design Guidelines, typically round in shape and found in alleys.

**Areas of Special Interest** – Areas within Washington, DC that include the L'Enfant Plan, Shipstead-Luce Act, Old Georgetown, Historic districts, and the Federal Core Interest Area.

**Amenity Zone** – The area of public space between the curb and the sidewalk reserved for the installation of street lights, parking meters, bicycle racks, signs regulating curbside management. It also includes the tree space, the area of public space reserved for the planting of street trees.

**Antenna** - an apparatus designed for the purpose of emitting radiofrequency (RF) radiation, to be operated or operating from a fixed location, for the transmission of writing, signs, signals, data, images, pictures, and sounds of all kinds.

**Building Entrance Area** - The building entry setting is an integral component of the functional and decorative features of architectural design. These entrances are delineated by one or more of the following features, such as: doors, pilaster, entablatures, columns, balustrades, columns, fanlights, sidelights, stairs or ramps, podiums plinths, flagpoles, sculptural or decorative elements, and designed landscape plantings flanking the entry.

**Building face** – Any building wall, or its projection, that fronts a right-of-way.

**Clear pedestrian path** - The straight path that is free of all obstructions within the sidewalk between the amenity zone and the public parking area or property line/building restriction line. The clear pedestrian path is measured from the farthest extended portion of any element projecting out from the building facade, such as a sidewalk café, to the curb line or the nearest obstruction, such as the outer edge of a tree box.

**Cobra head fixture** – A DDOT-standard lighting fixture as described in the DDOT Streetlight Policy and Design Guidelines, typically attached to a pendant pole, wood pole or 5A pole.

**D.C. Landmark** – As per the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 a Historic landmark means a building, structure, object or feature, and its site, or a site:

(A) listed in the National Register of Historic Places as of the effective date of this chapter; or



(B) listed in the District of Columbia's Inventory of Historic Sites, or for which application for such listing is pending with the Historic Preservation Review Board; provided, that the Review Board shall schedule a hearing on the application within 90 days of one having been filed, and will determine within 90 days of receipt of an application pursuant to sections 5 through 9 of this act whether to list such property as a historic landmark. (Note: This subparagraph is as amended by D.C. Law 12-86 on April 29, 1998 and D.C. Law 16-185, effective November 16, 2006)

**National Historic Landmark** - National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) are cultural properties designated by the Secretary of the Interior as being nationally significant. Acknowledged as among the nation's most significant historic places, these buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. NHL designation is an official recognition by the federal government of the national significance of historic properties

**Federal Interest Core Area** - The Federal Core Interest Area includes streets that lie within areas with a concentration of federal lands; and streets, or segments thereof, that create or lie within a contributing vista as designated in the 1997 L'Enfant Plan National Register of Historic Places nomination. Map 1 illustrates the Federal Interest Core Area.

**Federal Reservation** – Federal park lands owned by the U.S. Government, as shown in Map 3.

**Monumental Core** – The spatial and symbolic center of the city, which includes the U.S. Capitol grounds, the White House, the National Mall, Federal Triangle, and the surrounding government offices and civic, cultural, and symbolic structures. The monumental core is most closely linked to the distinctive image of the capital city and the functions of the federal government. While the major landmarks and resources within the core are perceived, it does not have a rigid geographic or jurisdictional boundary and continues to evolve.

**Open Space features of landscape design** - Features that are delineated in one or more of the following: landforms such as terracing, furnishings such as lights and benches, and decorative elements, such as sculpture, statuary, water features, including fountains and pools located within a building yard, park, or plaza.

**Paper street or paper alley** – An unimproved public right of way.

**Pendant Pole** – A DDOT-standard pole type as described in the DDOT Streetlight Policy and Design Guidelines, that is typically fluted.

**Primary building face** – The face of a building that generally represents the building's overall design intent and includes access points with the highest volume of pedestrian traffic.

**Small Cell infrastructure** – Low-powered antennas and related equipment, including disconnects and meters, that provide cellular and data coverage to smaller geographic areas, supplementing the larger cellular network and improving service for wireless customers.

**Standalone poles** – Independent poles that antennas are attached to for the purpose of transmitting wireless signals.

**Streetscape elements** – Components that make up the city street, such as trees, light poles, bicycle racks, traffic cabinets, parking meters, signs, sculptures, and street furniture.

**Teardrop fixture** – A DDOT-standard lighting fixture as described in the DDOT Streetlight Policy and Design Guidelines, typically attached to a pendant pole that is teardrop in shape.

**Terminating Vista (Linear view corridors):** Linear views that extend from a street level viewpoint to and terminate at a focal point object(s) such as a structure and building. Within the L'Enfant Plan, there are important terminating vistas (linear view corridors), defined by street walls and public realm elements, which terminate at significant civic buildings or memorials.

**Third-party pole** – An existing pole in public space owned by a party other than Washington, DC or the cellular provider installed to provide public utilities and that can accommodate Small Cell infrastructure equipment.

**Traffic control device** - a sign, signal, marking, or other device used to regulate, warn, or guide traffic, placed on, over, or adjacent to a street, highway, private road open to public travel, pedestrian facility, or shared-use path by authority of a public agency or official having jurisdiction.

**Twin-Twenty Pole** – A DDOT-standard pole type as described in the DDOT Streetlight Policy and Design Guidelines that is in the same family as the Washington Upright, that is typically fluted and decorative in design with two globe-type light fixtures mounted on top.

**Views and Vistas** – Primary, Radiating, Orthogonal, Major Cross-Axes, Tangential, Frontal, and Axial Street vistas that contribute to the 1997 L'Enfant Plan National Register of Historic Places nomination. Views and Vistas are shown in Illustration 1.

**Washington Upright Pole** – A DDOT-standard pole type as described in the DDOT Streetlight Policy and Design Guidelines, also referred to as Washington Globe, available in several heights and is typically fluted and decorative in design with a globe-type light fixture mounted on top.