



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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**Mary M. Cheh**

Councilmember, Ward 3  
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Director Jeff Marootian  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street, SE Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Director Marootian,

Following discussion with my office, I would like to request changes in any plans for 5G small cell deployment in the District. More specifically, I request that DDOT facilitate a design process in coordination with the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Office of Planning, and current Master License Agreement holders. This design process would define the appearance standards for all 5G small cell standalone poles and their accompanying cabinetry installations and small cell installations to take place on existing poles for incorporation into the guidelines. After the Committee on Transportation and the Environment's November 19<sup>th</sup> roundtable, as well as follow-up discussions I have had with members of the community, I believe DDOT could do more to address the appearance of the small cell standalone poles and the installations to take place on existing poles. These discussions have also led me to believe that DDOT should decrease the allowable density of installations per block face in the updated draft guidelines. As it is written now, a small cell facility would be permitted for every 150 feet of block face, which I believe will negatively affect the historic and residential character of many areas in the District.

Even if DDOT decreases the allowable density of small cell poles that are likely to begin going up around the District, it is also important that the poles and small cells, as much as possible, aesthetically blend into our many historic and residential areas. A more uniform design should be created for the poles and small cells, so that their appearance does not vary widely from one carrier to another.

While I understand that the federal government has made clear that these small cell poles are coming to the District, we must do everything we can to ensure that they do not ruin the beauty and character of the District. A coordinated design process with design professionals and the organizations listed above will significantly improve the potential effect of the standalone poles and small cells on the District.

I ask that DDOT facilitate this design process, ensuring each organization's voice is heard, to design poles and small cells that are as aesthetically pleasing as possible and, for the most part, uniform in appearance among telecom companies. I also ask that DDOT decrease the allowable density of installations per block face in the updated draft guidelines. I look forward to your response to these suggestions.

Regards,



Mary M. Cheh