

Parks Energy & Environment Committee

December 10, 2019

File 19-895

Small Cell Wireless Facilities Update



2018 FCC Declaratory Ruling & Report Order 18-133

- Remove regulatory barriers that inhibit the deployment of infrastructure necessary for 5G and other advanced wireless services.
- “...underscores the FCC’s commitment to ensuring the United States wins the global race to 5G”
- Currently being challenged in ninth Circuit Court of Appeals



2019 Wisconsin Act 14

- **Consistent with FCC Order, provides statewide regulatory framework for deployment of Small Wireless Facilities (SWF) by wireless service and infrastructure providers**
- **Governs local regulation of small cell wireless facilities**
- **Limits the scope of local regulation of small cell wireless facilities**
 - Fees
 - Permitting procedures
 - Placement
 - Aesthetics



Impacts of WI Act 14 on Milwaukee County and Milwaukee County Parks

- Expands definition of public “right of way” as applied to SWF to include highways, sidewalks & utility easements
- Expands definition of “highway” to park drives that are open as public thoroughfares
- Restricts use fees for SWFs located in the right of way to no more than \$20/SWF/year
- Restricts fees for permit applications
- Limits amount county can charge for co-location on county owned poles
- Institutes a shot clock provision limiting time for county response with automatic approval as default
- Establishes that wireless providers have the right to collocate SWF in the right of way and or on county owned poles



5G Networks

- 5G operates on a much higher electromagnetic frequency spectrum than previous mobile networks. The wavelengths it sends out have a higher capacity but a shorter range, which means that large towers that serve dozens of square miles won't be effective. To make the network effective, "small cells" will have to be placed every few hundred feet.
- Rather than large traditional towers, these small cells will rely on "poles" or even existing streetlights and utility poles. Because 5G small cells cover a much shorter distance, there will eventually have to be more of them — thus the demand for a tremendous number of freestanding poles. Also, each pole may only house technology for one mobile carrier. As a result, the demand for poles could grow exponentially.

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/12/05/1956598/0/en/Digital-Locations-to-Focus-on-Smaller-Towers-for-the-5G-Market.html>



Existing Examples



Astor & Prospect



Astor & State

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Existing Examples



Milwaukee & State



65th & Center

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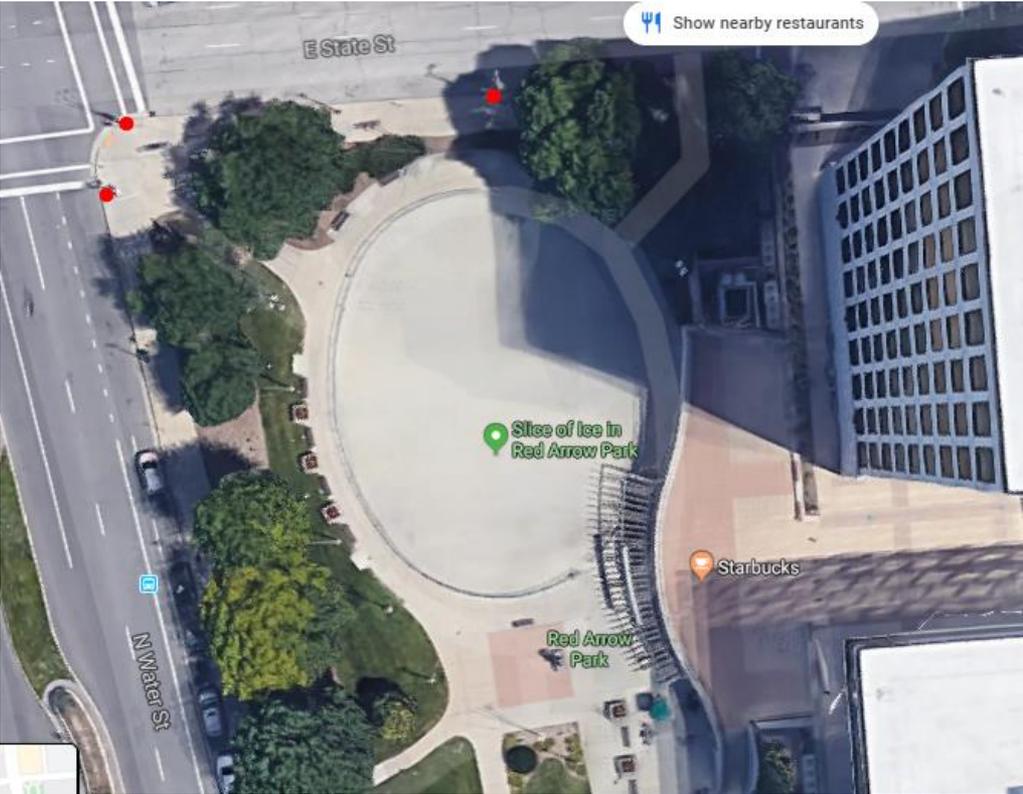


Red Arrow Park



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Red Arrow Park



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Next Steps..

Milwaukee County Parks is working to establish specific procedures and processes to conform to state law regarding the application and permitting of small cell wireless facilities.

