



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY & ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Gail M. Roper
Chief Information Officer/Director

October 4, 2023

MINUTES OF TFCG MEETING

To: Distribution

From: TFCG Staff (CTC Technology & Energy)

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on October 4, 2023. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

- Marjorie Williams (via video) TFCG Chair
Amy Zou (via video) DPS
Daryl Braithwaite (via video) City of Takoma Park
Wayne Anderson (via video) WSSC
Benjamin Berbert (via video) M-NCPPC
Lynn Lewis (via video) M-NCPPC
Carina Gonzales (via video) MCPS
Seamus McNamara (via video) OMB

STAFF

- Shawn Thompson (via video) CTC
Julie Elias (via video) CTC
Lisa Lewis (via video) DTS
Heather Elliot (via video) DTS

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Bahareh Inanloo (via video) DPS
Debbie Spielberg (via video) County Executive's office



Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Marjorie Williams read into the record a State of Maryland Open Meetings Law Compliance Board opinion:

A complaint was filed by Colleen Cordes with the Open Meetings Compliance Board on July 17, 2023, on whether Transmission Facility Coordination Group (TFCG) meetings are able to be recorded by the general public.

The complaint is based on an email from May 3, 2021, between Colleen Cordes and the Chair of the TFCG Marjorie Williams. The Open Meetings Compliance Board (OMCB) has determined that the email was “troublesomely worded” as it related to the recording of the TFCG meetings.

Since that time the Chair, Marjorie Williams, has repeatedly responded to members of the general public stating that if you would like to record the meetings you are free to do so.

The conclusion from the OMCB is that the Tower Committee imposed an unreasonable restriction on recording its meetings, in violation of Section 3-303, when it told the Complainant in May 2021 that recording was permissible only if each member of the body consented. The Committee’s current policy, which permits the public to record meetings without that condition, does not violate the Act. This announcement today at the Wednesday, October 4th TFCG meeting serves as an acknowledgement and announcement required of Section 3-211 of the Open Meetings Act.

A copy of the State of Maryland Open Meetings Compliance Board Opinion dated September 11, 2023, will be included as part of the minutes.

Anyone from the general public is allowed and permitted to record the TFCG meetings.

Action Item: Meeting Minutes September 6, 2023

Motion: Seamus McNamara moved that the September minutes be approved. Amy Zou seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

1. **Application Number:** 2023052162 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 5/19/2023
Revised: 6/22/2023
Revised: 9/22/2023

Applicant: NB+C on behalf of Verizon Wireless

Site Name/Location: Colesville Towers/8811 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: CR-3.0, C-3.0, R-3.0, H-100 **Property Owner:** Tower Apartment EHDRT LLC ET AL

Description: Verizon proposes to add (2) proposed Dish Antennas with ancillary equipment on an existing shelter, per plans.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023052162+Application.pdf>

2. **Application Number:** 2023072185 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 7/28/2023
Revised: 8/31/2023

Applicant: NB+C on behalf of Verizon Wireless

Site Name/Location: Moyer Moving and Storage/13050 Shawnee Ln, Clarksburg

Zoning Standard: EOF-0.75/H-100T **Property Owner:** Moyer and Sons, Inc.

Description: Verizon proposes to add (2) proposed Dish Antennas and (2) antenna mounts, with ancillary equipment on an existing monopole, per plans.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023072185+Application.pdf>

3. **Application Number:** 2023082190 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 8/1/2023
Revised: 9/20/2023

Applicant: NB+C on behalf of Other

Site Name/Location: Troop 52 Forest Preserve/16100 Darnestown Rd, Dawsonville

Zoning Standard: AR **Property Owner:** Seneca Creek Forest Preserve Inc

Description: The proposed project installs a concrete generator pad and an optional generator standby system with ancillary equipment.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023082190+Application.pdf>

4. **Application Number:** 2023082191 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 8/1/2023
Revised: 9/21/2023

Applicant: NB+C on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: Wesley Grove Church Monopine/23612(AKA 23630) Woodfield Rd, Gaithersburg

Zoning Standard: RE-2 **Property Owner:** Wesley Grove Church

Description: The proposed project installs a concrete pad, optional standby generator system and ancillary equipment at the existing telecommunications facility.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023082191+Application.pdf>

Margie Williams advised there were four items on the consent agenda and four items on the regular agenda. Debbie Spielberg inquired if any citizen concerns dealt with the consent agenda. Margie Williams responded that no citizen concerns had been received regarding any item on the consent agenda.

Amy Zou made a motion to recommend the consent agenda. Ben Berbert seconded the motion, and the motion to recommend the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Regular Agenda

Margie Williams advised that all four applications on the regular agenda were located at the Yeshiva School, and that items 1-3 of the regular agenda would be discussed concurrently. Margie Williams also noted a fourth application had been submitted by T-Mobile to locate on the roof of the school building (2023072186). T-Mobile has confirmed they will only install antennas at one location of the two locations – the temporary monopole or the school rooftop.

1. ***Application Number:*** 2023072180 ***Type:*** Colocation ***Received (date):*** 7/13/2023

Revised: 8/18/2023

Revised: 8/29/2023

Applicant: Site Link Wireless on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: Yeshiva Temporary Monopole/2010 Linden Lane, Rockville

Zoning Standard: R-60 (residential) ***Property Owner:*** Montgomery County

Description: On a temporary tower T-Mobile plans to install (9) antennas, (3) per sector. (6) remote radio heads, (3) per sector. (1) radio waves HPD2-5.2 dish antenna, (1) cambium PTP670 radio, (2) chimney mounts, (8) horizontal pipe rails, (10) vertical mount pipes, (3) 6x12 4AWG hybrid cables, (1) 6160 equipment cabinet, (1) B160 battery cabinet, (1) transformer, (1) 4.0' x 8.0' equipment platform, (1) generator with trailer, and (1) equipment H-frame

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023072180+Application+and+Report.pdf>

2. ***Application Number:*** 2023072183 ***Type:*** Colocation ***Received (date):*** 7/13/2023

Revised: 8/14/2023

Revised: 8/28/2023

Applicant: Site Link Wireless LLC on behalf of Verizon Wireless

Site Name/Location: Yeshiva Temporary Monopole/2010 Linden Lane, Rockville

Zoning Standard: R-60 ***Property Owner:*** Montgomery County

Description: Verizon is adding (9) antennas and (9) RRHs on a new temporary monopole structure. Verizon is adding (2) new equipment cabinets on a new proposed equipment platform on the ground.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023072183+Application+and+Report.pdf>

3. ***Application Number:*** 2023072184 ***Type:*** New ***Received (date):*** 7/14/2023

Revised: 7/25/2023

Revised: 8/18/2023

Revised: 9/13/2023

Revised: 9/22/2023

Applicant: Smartlink LLC on behalf of AT&T Wireless

Full Corporate Name of the Facility Owner: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Site Name/Location: Yeshiva Temporary Monopole/2010 Linden Lane, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: R-60 ***Property Owner:*** Montgomery County

Description: Proposed AT&T 122' temporary tower. 9 proposed antennas, 12 proposed RRHS, 3 DC9s, fiber and power cables. Proposed ground compound to include 3 temporary cabinets. The temporary tower and compound to house Verizon (app# 2023072183) and T-Mobile (app# 2023072180) as well.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023072184+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Margie Williams advised that AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon were currently colocated on the Woodside Water Tank, a WSSC property. This site will be unavailable for at least two years while renovations to the structure are carried out. All three carriers will be required to remove and relocate their equipment in the interim. AT&T is applying to build a 122-foot monopole on the grounds of the Yeshiva School, which leases their location from Montgomery County. The monopole will be installed for approximately two years or the duration of the work at the water tank. The monopole will be designed for the three carriers. AT&T has applied to build and colocate on the monopole, and T-Mobile and Verizon will also colocate.

Julie Elias presented information on Items 1-3 of the regular agenda, noting the proposed location of the monopole in the rear courtyard of the school. The location of the current water tank site was also noted in relation to the school. This area is zoned R-60. A DPS review noted that a telecommunications tower installed in this zoning required conditional use approval from the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH). AT&T proposes to colocate at the highest elevation at 118 feet, and T-Mobile will be at 108 feet and Verizon will be at 98 feet below that. One fenced compound will be installed at ground level to serve all three carriers.

AT&T demonstrated the need for the monopole with propagation maps showing coverage with and without the water tank coverage. The proposed height of the pole (122') was also shown to be needed with signal degradation demonstrated at lower heights.

The application review identified other existing wireless sites within a one-mile radius. All sites with the exception of Holy Cross Hospital were not feasible due to distance or elevation and those reasons were documented in the application. While AT&T pursued the privately owned Holy Cross Hospital as a potential site, the carrier was unable to come to an agreement with the hospital management.

Photo simulations were submitted showing the visual impact. In addition to being located on the grounds of the school, the site is in a residential area. It would be highly visible to the residential area east of the site along 2nd Avenue and Stratton Road. A recreational field is directly south of the

site. Further south, beyond the recreational field is a wooded area that would provide screening for the residential area along Luzerne Avenue and Glenridge Road. The structure will have a direct visual impact on students and staff at the school as it is located in a rear courtyard.

The applicants also submitted RF reports noting the installations would comply with FCC regulations. The reports noted neither the occupational nor the general population limits for radio frequency exposure will be exceeded at ground level using worst-case predictive modeling.

The nearest dwelling is noted to be 144.5 feet, which does not meet the minimum 300-foot setback requirements from an existing dwelling per County Code. While the code has a provision for OZAH to allow a smaller setback distance, DPS approval would be contingent upon any conditional use decision from OZAH for the installation of the structure.

Julie Elias concluded that the review for Items 1-3 found the proposed temporary structure would provide comparable coverage to mitigate the pending coverage gap and CTC's provided positive recommendation reports on these applications based on their merits from an engineering review perspective.

Margie Williams noted that although there was a fourth application on the agenda to colocate on the school building, there is not enough space for all three carriers to locate on the building.

Margie Williams advised that Yeshiva School is interested in subleasing the property. Because it is a Montgomery County owned property, notifications required for subleasing have begun. Wayne Anderson of WSSC noted the Woodside Water Tank renovation includes structural upgrades and several OSHA related upgrades leading to no ground space available for a temporary monopole at that site. All options were explored to keep the carriers on site, but it was not feasible, and they would not have access to the grounds. The renovation is expected to take two years.

Margie Williams reiterated that the proposed structure would be temporary for all three carriers, and that upon completion of the renovations, all three carriers intend to relocate back to the water tank structure.

Seamus McNamara asked about the RF levels at the upper levels of the school. Shawn Thompson advised that the RF reports were closely reviewed due to the location adjacent to the school and because it is located in a residential area. At the roof level and considering all antennas combined, they are below the general population limit. There is a null spot below the monopole as the antennas point outward. Much of the energy is predicted to go above the school and out, rather than down.

Margie Williams asked Amy Zou of DPS to speak on the setback. Amy Zou responded that it is classified as a new monopole in the R-60 zone. A new structure in this situation would go through the Conditional Use review process by OZAH. If it is limited use, it would need to meet the 300 feet setback. Since this proposal does not meet that setback that is an additional reason to go through the Conditional Use process. During that process, the hearing examiners will review the height and the setback and make a decision if the location can be approved. DPS will follow the decision of the

hearing examiners who will set the standard for DPS to follow. While it is a temporary structure, DPS reviews it by the same criteria as a permanent structure.

Lynn Lewis inquired if a series of small cell installations would provide coverage. Shawn Thompson advised that technically a series of antenna could be installed but the tradeoff would be that the small cells cover a much smaller area and multiple antennas would be needed. For full coverage it would require a large amount. A single site becomes more efficient and for visual impact.

Lynn Lewis inquired about the MPE being 331% on AT&T's RF report. Shawn Thompson advised that in AT&T's case, the school chimney was above the threshold, but this is a location where the general public does not have access.

Lynn Lewis inquired if the monopole would be in place longer than two years if the WSSC renovations took longer. Shawn Thompson advised that a permanent structure would have a foundation and that this monopole is designed as a temporary construction with concrete ballast, which it allows it to be deconstructed and moved more efficiently. Wayne Anderson noted that WSSC's current forecast is two years. Amy Zou concurred that the temporary classification is based on how the structure is built. However, the DPS review will be based on permanent criteria. It is also a code requirement that after the antennas are removed on a decommissioned structure, the structure has to be taken down within one year.

Lynn Lewis inquired about the Conditional Use process and resident input. Margie Williams advised that during the OZAH process there would be a public hearing with public input. Even if the TFCG does not recommend the application, the applicant has the right to pursue it with OZAH. Debbie Spielberg asked if DPS has a mechanism to enforce a monopole's removal when appropriate. Amy Zou advised she would check with the commercial building inspectors.

Debbie Spielberg asked about a resident's concerns if the County needed to give permission for these proposals. Margie Williams noted that per DGS, the school has a 50-year lease, and this process would be considered part of the school's subleasing capabilities. Debbie Spielberg asked if all of the reviews involved by other parts of Montgomery County would be based on this site being temporary. Margie Williams confirmed that the carriers had confirmed these applications were for a temporary duration. Margie Williams noted that the temporary monopole had to be built by AT&T in order for T-Mobile and Verizon to colocate. If the temporary monopole was not built, the other two applications will not move forward. The application to OZAH will have to be made by AT&T and is not the responsibility of the TFCG. Margie Williams advised that Items 1-3 could be considered in one motion.

Julie Elias asked for clarification on if any conditional language should be included in a proposed recommendation. Margie Williams responded that Item 3 (2023072184) should be conditioned upon the Conditional Use approval from OZAH, and that Items 1 and 2 (2023072180 and 2023072183) should be conditioned on the proposed monopole application receiving conditional use approval and is constructed.

Seamus McNamara made a motion to recommend Items 1-3. Amy Zou seconded the motion. The motion was approved with six members approving the motion and Lynn Lewis opposing.

4. **Application Number:** 2023072186 **Type:** Colocation **Received (date):** 7/17/2023

Revised: 8/18/2023

Revised: 8/28/2023

Revised: 9/26/2023

Applicant: Site Link Wireless LLC on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: Yeshiva School Rooftop/2010 Linden Lane, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: R-60 **Property Owner:** Montgomery County

Description: T-Mobile is proposing to install a new 4'x8' equipment platform, (9) new antennas, (6) new RRUs, (1) Radio dish antenna, (1) PTP670 Radio, (2) chimney mounts, (8) horizontal pipe rails, (10) vertical mount rails, (3) hybrids, (2) new cabinets, (1) generator w/trailer, and (1) transformer.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023072186+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Julie Elias summarized the application.

Amy Zou made a motion to recommend, and Wayne Anderson seconded the motion. The motion to recommend was unanimously approved.

1. **Application Number:** 2023052158 **Type:** Colocation **Received (date):** 5/16/2023

Revised: 7/21/2023

Revised: 8/22/2023

Applicant: Crown Castle Fiber LLC on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: PEPCO 789421-700970/Near 8300 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: CR-5.0, C-5.0, R-5.0, H-240 **Property Owner:** MD SHA

Description: Install on PEPCO replaced wood pole:

-Ericsson 4435 Radio (1)

-Ericsson 4402 Radio (2)

-Kathrein 84010602 Antenna (1)

-TBC B66A+B25+B41 Triplexer (1)

-Charles Shroud SHRD52-991 (1)

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023052158+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Margie Williams reiterated that T-Mobile was proposing to collocate on the Yeshiva School building rooftop only if the monopole (application 2023072184) was not constructed.

T-Mobile proposes to colocate on two chimneys on the school building rooftop. The antennas will be installed at an elevation of 80'. An equipment compound will be installed at ground level. An RF report was submitted noting the antenna would comply with FCC standards regarding human exposure. The reports found that neither the occupational nor the general population limits for radio frequency exposure will be exceeded at ground level using worst-case predictive modeling. A DPS review of the application confirmed the installation would meet zoning requirements for the antenna size.

Julie Elias noted that CTC's recommendation of the application was positive on its engineering merits, but suggested that this application should be conditioned upon the temporary monopole not being built.

Lynn Lewis asked if these antennas would be screened. Julie Elias responded they would be painted to match the building façade. Margie Williams proposed a condition that once the water tank work was completed, T-Mobile would move the antennas back to the water tank. Margie Williams advised that in her conversations with carriers, it was apparent that the carriers desired the higher elevation of the water tank. However, conditional language could be placed confirming the temporary status of the school building.

Ben Berbert made a motion to recommend the application and Seamus McNamara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next TFCG meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2023, at 2 p.m.