

# SMALL CELL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SALT LAKE CITY



Salt Lake City is receiving a growing number of requests from wireless providers and wireless infrastructure companies to construct small cell facilities in the public right of way.

## What are “small cells”?

To meet increasing demand for mobile and data services, as well as future wireless technology, wireless service and infrastructure providers need to supplement traditional, larger cell phone towers with small cell facilities to densify their wireless networks. Small cells can also improve service today for areas lacking coverage. The first small cells to be installed will likely be in areas with poor cell reception.

## What will small cells look like?

Each small cell consists of an antenna installed at the top of a pole, and a radio and power line and meter that may be attached to the pole or in an adjacent ground mounted cabinet. Each has its own power source and is connected to a fiber network.

## Why are small cells coming to Salt Lake City?

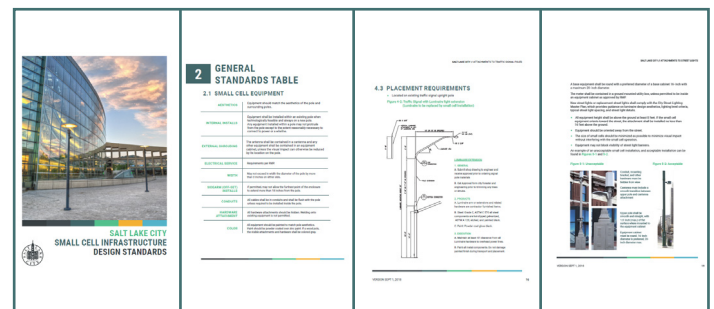
In the 2018 legislative session, state lawmakers unanimously approved the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act (<https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/SB0189.html>). Sponsored by Senator Curtis Bramble and Representative Timothy Hawkes, the state law (Utah Chapter 54.21) allows wireless service and infrastructure providers to co-locate small wireless facilities on existing poles or install new poles in the Right-of-Way (ROW). The law does not allow Salt Lake City to regulate the placement of the small cell facilities but does allow the City to create standards for the installation of the facilities.



Small cell installations will include attachments on utility poles or lines, traffic signal poles, street light poles, new freestanding poles, or on other structures in the right of way.

## Where can I find the city standards regarding small cells?

You can read the Small Cell Infrastructure Design Standards: [www.slc.gov/engineering/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2018/08/Small-Cell-Standards-Aug-31-Revised-Version.pdf](http://www.slc.gov/engineering/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2018/08/Small-Cell-Standards-Aug-31-Revised-Version.pdf)



## How is Salt Lake City managing small cell deployment?

Salt Lake City requires master license agreements (MLAs) with wireless providers that want to install small cells in the City ROW. MLAs provide terms and conditions to protect public interests. MLAs require providers to follow all federal, state and local rules and regulations while deploying individual small cell installations. Once a provider obtains a MLA, they will be required to obtain a ROW permit to construct small cell facilities within the City's right of way.

## How much do small cell providers pay to use the City right of way?

- Small cell providers are required to pay permit fees to Salt Lake City.
- Wireless provider pays annual collocation fee if using a city owned pole.
- Wireless provider pays annual fee to occupy public way, either 3.5% of gross revenues related to public way use or \$250 per facility, whichever is greater.
- Wireless providers must also pay all other permit and business license fees, and have insurance and bonds for each small cell installation.

## What if a small cell installation is not in compliance with City ordinances and regulations?

- The City will provide notice of noncompliance.
- If a wireless provider does not correct the noncompliance, the City may charge a fine of \$100 per day is assessed; suspend or withhold permits, or remove facilities after 180 days.

## Where will small cells be placed?

Small cells will be located in the ROW throughout Salt Lake City.

## How tall are the poles going to be?

Poles with small cell installations cannot exceed 50 feet in height. Small cell installations must be a minimum of 8 feet from the ground on a pole.

## Why is there an electric box next to the pole?

Per Rocky Mountain Power standards, electrical equipment cannot be attached to an electric pole. The meter and other electrical equipment are in adjacent boxes.

## What are the rules regarding new poles?

- New poles must be shaped and painted to match surrounding street lights.
- Salt Lake City has created standards for the placement of new poles. The standards can be found in the Small Cell Infrastructure Design Standards [www.slcc.gov/engineering/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2018/08/Small-Cell-Standards-Aug-31-Revised-Version.pdf](http://www.slcc.gov/engineering/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2018/08/Small-Cell-Standards-Aug-31-Revised-Version.pdf)

## If a new pole is proposed to be installed, who determines its exact location?

A wireless provider requests a location based on need. Salt Lake City will review that request based on the City's requirements. If the requested location does not meet requirements, the location will be moved to another site acceptable to the provider and compliant with City requirements.

## Will small cells be allowed in local historic districts?

Small cells are allowed in local historic districts and adjacent to local landmark sites, with additional requirements to help ensure the new installations integrate into their surroundings.



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### **Can street trees be trimmed for small cell installation?**

Trees in the ROW may be trimmed to prevent branches coming into contact with facilities. Any trimming must be done under the direction of City's Urban Forester.

### **How do I find out more information about the small cell in front of my residence/business?**

- General information can be found on the City's small cell webpage [www.slc.gov/engineering/small-cell-infrastructure-design-standards](http://www.slc.gov/engineering/small-cell-infrastructure-design-standards) or by emailing [mystreet@slcgov.com](mailto:mystreet@slcgov.com) or calling 801-535-6466.

- All small cell installations are required to have labels identifying the provider and a 24 hour contact number.

### **When will we start seeing small cells installed?**

The state law allowing small cell deployment went into effect September 1, 2018.

### **Who do I call if the ROW in front of my residence/business is damaged due to installation of small cell facilities?**

All installations are required to have labels identifying the provider and a 24 hour contact number. Providers can work with you to address the damage. If you need general information about small cells you can learn more at the City's small cell webpage [www.slc.gov/engineering/small-cell-infrastructure-design-standards](http://www.slc.gov/engineering/small-cell-infrastructure-design-standards), emailing [mystreet@slcgov.com](mailto:mystreet@slcgov.com) or calling 801-535-6466.

### **Do small cell installations cause health hazards?**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sets limits for small cell equipment. The equipment that will be used complies with the FCC requirements.



Examples of small cell installations you may see on utility poles, traffic signal, street light poles, new freestanding poles, or on other structures in the right of way.

For questions, contact: [mystreet@slcgov.com](mailto:mystreet@slcgov.com) or call 801-535-6466.