



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Supplementary Information Report – Design Protocol For Telecommunication Towers and Antennae

Date:	December 13, 2013
To:	City Council
From:	Chief Corporate Officer
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2013\Internal Services\RE\ Cc13034re – (AFS #18768)

SUMMARY

The Government Management Committee ("GMC") considered a report pertaining to telecommunication towers at its meeting November 21, 2013. GMC requested the Chief Corporate Officer (CCO) to report directly to City Council regarding a meeting with Rogers Communications Inc. ("Rogers") to establish better design protocols for the installation of cellular transmission equipment on property owned by the City of Toronto.

This report sets out City Planning's existing Telecommunication Tower and Antenna Protocol and Transportation Services' proposed design guidelines, both of which guide the design process for the installation of cellular transmission equipment on property owned by the City of Toronto.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on November 21, 2013, GMC considered and adopted with amendments the report entitled "Telecommunication Towers and Antennae Agreements between Rogers Communication Inc. and the City of Toronto" (GM26.8).

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.GM26.8>.

GMC requested the CCO to meet with Rogers to establish better design protocols for the installation of cellular transmission equipment on City of Toronto property to eliminate unsightly installations that are currently installed on public property and requested the CCO to report directly to City Council with respect to the same.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City has an existing "Telecommunication Tower and Antenna Protocol" (the "Protocol"), which has been in place since 2008. It is administered by City Planning.

Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, at its November 20, 2013 meeting considered a report by Transportation Services (PW 27.10) which includes Telecommunication Antenna Placement and Design Guidelines" ("TS Guidelines") for those installations of cellular transmission equipment in the City's public right of ways. Report 27.10 will be considered by City Council concurrently with this report.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.PW27.10>

Both the Protocol and the Transportation Services (TS) Guidelines contain requirements regarding the location, design and aesthetics with respect to the installation of cellular transmission equipment on property owned by the City to eliminate unsightly installations of cellular transmission equipment.

Protocol

The Protocol includes design and placement guidelines. An amendment to the Protocol to include public consultation for poles less than 15 meters was considered at the December 4, 2013 Planning and Growth Management Committee (PG 29.8).

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.PG29.8>

When entering into a licence Agreement with the City, wireless carriers are required to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Protocol and agree with the applicable terms and conditions contained in the Protocol, as may be amended from time to time. The objectives of the Protocol as provided in Section 1 B of the Protocol as follows:

1. To establish a harmonized City-wide process and criteria for reviewing telecommunication tower and telecommunication antenna proposals;
2. To set out a straightforward, objective process, criteria and guidelines for the evaluation of telecommunication tower and telecommunication antenna proposals that:
 - (a) minimizes the number of new telecommunication towers;
 - (b) discourages new towers within or adjacent to Neighbourhoods, Apartment Neighbourhoods, Centres and other sensitive land uses;
 - (c) provides an opportunity for meaningful local public consultation with affected property owners; and
 - (d) allows Industry Canada and the telecommunications industry to identify and resolve any potential land use, siting or design concerns with the City at an early stage in the process.

3. To provide an expeditious review process for telecommunication tower and telecommunication antenna proposals that are established in accordance with the Protocol; and
4. To establish a local land-use consultation framework that allows the City to provide input on all telecommunication tower and telecommunication antenna proposals to proponents and Industry Canada in order that the proponent can satisfy the requirements of Industry Canada regarding local land-use consultation.

The City's existing Protocol already provides a framework and requirements regarding the location, design and aesthetics with respect to the installation of cellular transmission equipment (see relevant sections in Attachment 1).

TS Guidelines

Transportation Services' Report PW 27.1 includes the adoption of the TS Guidelines, which aim to diminish the number of installations and to minimize their visual and functional impact (see TS Guidelines in Attachment 2).

Both the Protocol and the TS Guidelines would be applied to City Right-of-Way installations. However for other properties owned by the City, the Protocol would be the only design arbiter.

Real Estate Services staff believes that the existing Protocol and proposed TS Guidelines are suitable for use on all City properties and shall apply them to all wireless communications carriers considering entering into licence agreements for City-owned properties.

Upon further consultation with Planning and Urban Design Staff it was determined that compliance with the Protocol and TS Guidelines can adequately address design issues for installations on public property.

COMMENTS

On December 6, 2013 City Staff met with Rogers to discuss the concurrence with the Protocol and TS Guidelines. The outcome of the meeting highlighted two key considerations:

- (i) it is not feasible for Rogers to apply the Protocol and TS Guidelines retroactively. Nevertheless, Rogers representatives have agreed to investigate ways to improve existing cellular transmission equipment installations licensed with the City; and

- (ii) while the Protocol is acceptable, the TS Guidelines are new and Rogers representatives requested additional time to review them and provide the City feedback. Initial feedback indicated that certain elements of the TS Guidelines do not appear feasible (e.g. underground installation of antenna equipment boxes) and Rogers expressed interest in future dialogue with Planning and Transportation Services to address these and any other concerns.

Real Estate Services requires all wireless carriers to comply with the existing Protocol and will require compliance with the TS Guidelines (if adopted by Council), where applicable.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: City of Toronto Telecommunications Tower and Antenna Protocol – Design Guideline Excerpt
- Attachment 2: Transportation Services - Telecommunication Antenna Placement and Design Guidelines