Consumers and businesses are using their mobile devices more than ever before to connect to everyone and everything around them. The average American home had 14.7 connected devices in 2016. Since 2007, wireless data usage on AT&T’s network has increased more than 250,000%. And the same trend is occurring among cities across the country as more and more governments turn towards wireless networks and mobile technology to operate more efficiently.

Preparing for 5G: The Need for Small Cell Technology

Small cells help bring customers faster download speeds, improved call quality and a better overall wireless experience.

To keep up with these surging demands, AT&T is thinking of innovative ways to enhance our network (e.g., small cells), prepare for 5G network deployment, and provide the best possible experience for our customers.

AT&T is proposing legislation that will:

- Address the permitting, installation, and operation of a “small wireless facility” which could include a small cell facility or a distributed antenna system.
- Expedite the process for the installation of micro wireless facilities to speed the deployment of advanced wireless services, such as 5G, to customers.
- Expand current law to include access to municipally-owned structures that can support micro cell wireless facilities.
- Specify the terms under which a micro wireless facility operator may construct a facility in a municipal right of way.
- Direct municipalities to permit attachments by a micro wireless facility operator to a wireless support structures under non-discriminatory rates, fees, terms, and conditions. Such rates and fees shall allow only cost recovery related to the use of the structure.