

Municipal Support for Small Cells



As consumers and businesses are using mobile devices more often to connect with their world, their work, and their entertainment, our network capacity must be upgraded to keep pace with surging demands for data.

The growing demand for data is exponential and will continue to grow as mobile video streaming becomes even more prominent. This increase in data use requires an increase in wireless network capacity — otherwise, service quality could be disrupted or decline.

To keep up with these surging demands, operators must evolve their networks to more efficiently use spectrum, and the best path forward is network densification — which means small cells, and plenty of them. This is why AT&T is investing in and deploying small cells in states across the country. Small cells help bolster network capacity, and better meet surging consumer and business demand for more data and faster connectivity, while preparing our network for the next generation of technologies and services — like [5G](#), [the Internet of Things](#), and [smart cities](#).

To successfully deploy small cells, AT&T needs help from local municipalities. Local officials and leaders can facilitate the deployment of small cells to bring their citizens enhanced coverage and capacity, while helping prepare our network to accommodate future technologies in their cities.

Favorable Build Conditions

Cities with a favorable build environment offer most, if not all, of the following:

- Proactively welcome small cells and require no zoning for small cells or poles
- Provide fair and reasonable terms, conditions, and rates to access ROW and city infrastructure
- Require no more than reasonable parameters on size, height, and location for small cells and poles
- Offer favorable permit processes, including batch submissions and a shot clock with permits deemed approved if not timely processed
- Impose no more than reasonable and cost-effective aesthetic requirements
- Offer an MLA employing industry standard attachment terms

Unfavorable Build Conditions

Things that can slow small cell deployment and the availability of new services to the city:

- Charge unreasonable ROW and attachment rates tied to “market conditions”
- Require carriers to maintain city-owned infrastructure
- Require all small cell equipment to be underground
- Require a separate permit for each small cell

