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CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH
SMALL CELL DESIGN GUIDELINES

(condo-world.com)

Adopted April 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the authority granted to the City of North Myrtle Beach in Section 24-20(1) – Design of the Small Cell Ordinance, the City has created these guidelines for use with all Small Cell applications sought to be sited in the ROWs located in the City limits. These guidelines are meant to:

1. Ensure that any small wireless facilities to be sited in the City's ROWs are consistent with the overall design and character of the surrounding area and the corridor in which they are sought to be placed, including, but not limited to, all publicly available planned corridor improvements; and

2. Foster partnerships with the telecommunications industry by expediting the installation and operation of small wireless facilities in order to enhance wireless service for those commercial, residential, and visiting users within the City while also balancing the City's objectives outlined in Section 24-1. – Title and Objectives of the City's Small Cell Ordinance; and

(landperspectives.com)

3. Augment those design requirements set forth in Article III of the City's Small Cell Ordinance. In the event of any discrepancy between these Standards and the Small Cell Ordinance, the Small Cell Ordinance shall control.

Unless otherwise noted, all guidelines shall be met unless the applicant can demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that they are not technically feasible.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these guidelines, all words and terms used in these guidelines shall be given those definitions set forth in the Small Cell Ordinance. Any words not defined in the Small Cell Ordinance shall carry their customary dictionary definition.

(tracimiles.com)

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SECTION I. – SMALL CELL DESIGN

A. General.

1. All Small Cell installations must be concealed, to the maximum extent feasible, with design elements and techniques that mimic or blend with the underlying vertical support structures ("VSS"), surrounding environment, and adjacent uses, including adjacent or nearby existing Small Cell installations in the ROW.

2. Accessory equipment shall be mounted or placed in an as unobtrusive manner as technically feasible on the VSS and shall incorporate concealment elements.

3. To protect the safety of the public, accessory equipment must not negatively impact the structural integrity of the VSS and must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal building codes and regulations.


Preferred design.

4. All Small Cell installations must be compliant with all applicable noise regulations found in Article V. of Chapter 12, Health and Sanitation, of the City code. Equipment likely to create noise, such as cooling fans, are strongly discouraged. The City may require the applicant to incorporate appropriate noise-baffling materials and noise mitigation strategies to avoid any ambient noise from equipment reasonably likely to exceed the applicable noise regulations.

B. Location Preference Hierarchy.

1. Attachments to existing utility poles.
2. Attachments to existing wooden, metal, or concrete streetlights.
3. Replacement of existing poles.
4. New VSS such as free-standing poles designed solely for the purpose of implementing small cell technologies in North Myrtle beach.

C. Antenna Design Standards.


Preferred design.

1. The maximum height of antennas is described in Section 24-20(2)(a) - Maximum Height of Antennas of the Small Cell Ordinance.

2. Antennas associated with installations on existing or replacement poles must have concealment elements that, to the maximum extent possible, conceal cable, cable connections, antenna mount, antenna, and other ancillary hardware and electronic equipment so they are not visible to the casual observer.

3. Antennas associated with a Small Cell which are placed on an existing VSS should be colored to match or complement the color of the VSS and mounted in an as unobtrusive manner as technically feasible incorporating concealment elements.

4. When antennas that are placed in a concealment shroud or element at the top of a VSS, the shroud shall meet the volumetric limitations of a Small Cell found in Section 24-2 - Definitions of the Small Cell Ordinance. When the antenna cannot be placed at the top of the VSS, it may be placed lower using mounting hardware parallel to and consistent with the placement of hardware on VSSs such as utility poles in the same covered area and with antennas and hardware sized and mounted to minimize their obtrusiveness and visibility.

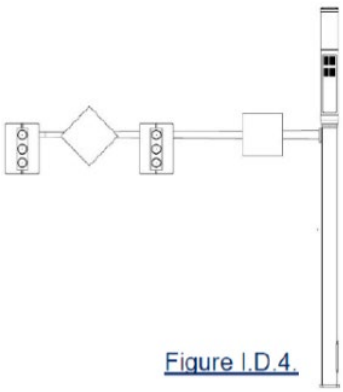

Figure I.D.4.

5. Antennas that overhang the roadway or public walkways are discouraged due to concerns for public safety. If an antenna overhangs a roadway or public walkway, it must comply with all vertical clearance requirements contained in Section 24-20(3) - Height Clearance of the Small Cell Ordinance.

D. Cabinet, Shroud, Meter, and Similar Equipment Design Standards.

1. Pole-mounted equipment must be concealed within a single shroud or cabinet which must contain all accessory equipment, excluding the antenna but including the electric meter and disconnect switch. The height of the disconnect switch and meter must meet building and IBC code.

Disfavored design.

2. All cables and conduits associated with the Small Cell must be concealed from view, routed directly through the tapered metal pole, where applicable, in conduit or other shielding component, and be underground between the pole and any approved above ground electronic equipment or cabinets.

3. Wood poles must use conduit that blends with the wood pool to conceal the vertical component of cables and wires from view.

4. Where feasible, wireless telecommunications facilities shall be placed directly above, below or incorporated with existing design elements of the VSS to help in camouflaging. See Figure I.D.4.

5. In some areas where environmentally and technologically feasible and appropriate for the location, accessory equipment may be required to be installed in an underground vault. See Figure I.D.5.

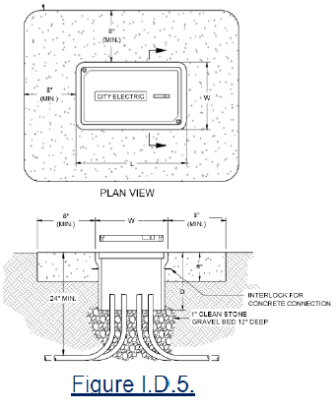

Figure I.D.5.

6. Approved ground-mounted equipment shall incorporate concealment elements into the proposed design. Ground-mounted equipment must be concealed within a single shroud or cabinet and must contain all accessory equipment, other than the antenna, including but not limited to the electric meter and disconnect switch, when possible

and allowed by the utility provider. All cables and conduits associated with the equipment must be concealed from view and placed underground between the VSS and the ground mounted cabinet. See Figure I.E.2.

7. All attachments to new or modified poles must, at a minimum, meet the clearance requirements of Section 24-20(3) - Height Clearance of the Small Cell Ordinance.

8. Equipment cabinets that are part of the pole shall be designed so that they do not become "attractive nuisances" (i.e., collect litter). To this end, no horizontal flat spaces may be greater than 1.5" on any component within reach of ground level.

E. Pole Design Standards.

1. All new or modified poles associated with Small Cell must be no higher than the maximum height limitations set forth in Section 24-20(2)(b) - Maximum Height of Antennas of the Small Cell Ordinance.

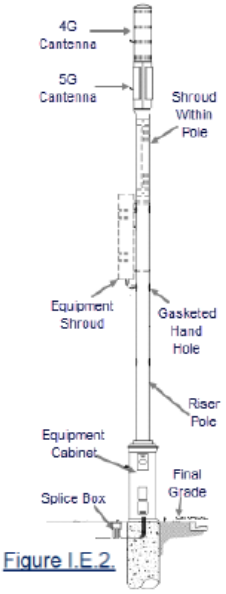

Figure I.E.2.

2. Applicants are encouraged to design any new, modified, or replacement pole such that each may accommodate the equipment of multiple wireless service providers. See Figure I.E.2.

3. All exterior surfaces shall be painted, colored, and wrapped in flat, non-reflective hues that match the underlying VSS or blend with the surrounding environment, and treated with graffiti-resistant sealant. All finishes shall be subject to the City's prior approval.

4. Where possible, approved new poles must match existing poles in appearance, height, design, material, spacing, and color as those used in the vicinity of the proposed location.

5. The City reserves the right to require a pole to be constructed of a different material than that proposed by the applicant, based on the natural environmental, character, or City plans at the proposed site location.

6. Wood poles may not be permitted in areas where wood poles are not currently used to provide utility service.

7. The City prefers that the height of new poles and their diameter shall be consistent with other poles in the vicinity, the as-built environment, the neighborhood character and the overall site appearance. If a compatible height cannot be clearly determined, then a maximum pole height of 40 feet above ground shall be used (including appurtenances) as a default. The zoning district height limit may not be determinative for Small Cells.


Preferred design.

F. Placement & Location Standards.

1. No Small Cell will be sited in locations that either:

   a. Create a physical or visual obstruction to pedestrian or vehicular traffic, thereby creating a safety hazard to pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists;

   b. Obstruct views of any traffic signs or signals;

   c. Obstruct illumination patterns for existing streetlights; or

   d. Reduce any street parking spaces within the right of way.

Preffered design but disfavored location of new pole.

2. Applicants shall seek to collocate on existing VSSs prior to installing any new poles so as to reduce congestion in the ROW. New poles will only be permitted when the applicant can demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that use of an existing VSS is not technically feasible or available for collocation.

3. All accessory equipment placed in the ROW must be located so as not to restrict ADA access standards.

4. Placement of Small Cell in the ROW shall be a minimum of 250 feet apart, unless the applicant can demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that it is not technologically feasible to do so, said evidence to include analysis of possible co-location on existing approved Small Cell within 250 feet.

5. The centerline of any new pole must be aligned with the centerlines of existing poles on the same sidewalk, street, or highway segment. Alternate locations shall be considered where there is a conflict with overhead utility lines of any nature.

6. All new Small Cell and/or accessory equipment must be setback at least 100 feet from public street intersections. The location proposed may not obstruct motorist or pedestrian sightlines or pedestrian access. See Figure I.F.6.

7. Freestanding poles between property lines may not be located in the perpendicular extension of the primary street-facing wall plane or in front of driveways, entrances or walkways.

8. All replacement poles should be located as close to the removed pole as possible.

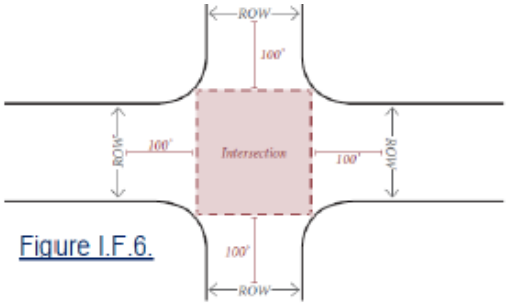

Figure I.F.6.

9. All new poles should be placed:

    a. At mid-block instead of at any intersections on principal arterials and minor arterials;

    b. Where the shared property line between two parcels intersects the right of way; and

    c. At least 50 feet away from any driveways for police/sheriff's stations, fire stations or other emergency responder facilities.

10. In addition to the above, Small Cell may not be placed:

    a. Directly in front of any door or window; and

    b. In a location that interferes with the sight triangles required at intersections described in Section 19-12 - Removal of Trees, Shrubs, Obstructions at Intersections of the City Code.

11. When the owner of an existing VSS, on which an applicant seeks to collocate Small Cell, requires more restrictive standards than those in these guidelines, the more restrictive standards shall apply. If any portion of the privately owned VSS is on private property, the applicant must first obtain all applicable zoning and building permits prior to submittal.

12. Care must be taken to locate new poles so they do not negatively impact adjacent commercial or retail establishments. To this end, new poles may not be located in front of storefront windows, primary walkways, primary entrances or exits, or in a way impeding a delivery to the business or building.

Disfavored design.

13. New poles may not be placed near the center of any public beach access.

G. Signage.

1. All signage must meet or exceed the requirements set forth in Section 24-20(7) - Signage of the Small Cell Ordinance. See Figure I.G.1.

Figure I.G.1.

2. Identification stickers must utilize the lowest visibility sticker as possible and use colors that are consistent or complimentary to the color of the equipment cabinet and/or pole on which it is to be placed; however, they must be legible at street level.

3. Placement of a RF warning sticker if required, evidencing such RF level, must be as close as possible to the antenna and face directly away from the street.

H. Lighting.

1. Unless otherwise required for compliance with FAA, FCC or other applicable federal or state governmental regulations, no Small Cell may include any permanently installed lights. Any lights associated with the electronic equipment shall be appropriately shielded from public view.

2. All new or replacement streetlights and street light fixtures must be aimed and shielded so that their illumination effects are directed downwards and confined within the ROW in a manner consistent with standards and specifications as identified or required by the City in Code Section 21-15 - Lighting and Section 23-129 - Lighting on Building.

3. All antennas, accessory equipment and other improvements with indicator, status or other lights must be installed in locations and within enclosures that eliminate illumination impacts visible from publicly accessible areas. Any light beacons or lightning arresters shall be included in the overall height calculation.

I. Landscaping.

1. All Small Cell proposed to be placed in a landscaped area in the public rights-of-way must include landscape features and a landscape maintenance plan. The City may require additional landscape features to screen the Small Cell from public view, avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts on adjacent properties, or otherwise enhance the concealment required under the Small Cell Code and these guidelines. All plants proposed or required must be native and drought resistant and be consistent with any landscaping requirements for the underlying zone.

2. Existing on-site vegetation shall be preserved or improved, and disturbance of the existing topography shall be minimized, unless such disturbance would result in less visual impact of the site to the surrounding area.

3. Small Cell may not displace any existing tree or landscape features and may not be installed (in whole or in part) within any tree drip line.

Example of an "attractive nuisance" and disfavored installation of equipment.

4. All landscape features must be placed in a location that does not infringe upon any energized equipment so as to cause a hazard.

J. Security Measures.

1. To prevent unauthorized access, theft, vandalism, "attractive nuisance", or other hazards, reasonable and appropriate security measures, such as locks, removable climbing pegs, and anti-climbing devices, may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

2. Security measures shall be designed and implemented in a manner that enhances or contributes to the overall concealment, and the City may condition approval on additional

concealment elements to mitigate any aesthetic impacts, which may include, without limitation, additional landscape features.

3. Cabinets and equipment shrouding must be kept secured to prevent unauthorized access.

SECTION II. – CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHOOSING A POLE FOR ATTACHMENT OR A LOCATION FOR INSTALLATION

A. Poles That May Be Ineligible for Small Cell Collocation.

The City encourages applicants to investigate the following conditions that may, among other conditions, cause a pole to be eliminated from consideration for attachment:

1. Wood poles with blocked climbing space;
2. Wood poles with transformers, switches, or primary terminations;
3. Wood poles slated for additional equipment;
4. Poles scheduled to be removed to accommodate in-progress service or system work;
5. Poles already reserved by another entity;
6. Metal poles of an improper style or setting;
7. Metal poles used for pedestrian lighting; or
8. Metal poles with existing attachments.

B. Locations That May Be Ineligible for New Construction.

The City encourages applicants to investigate the following conditions that may, among other conditions, cause a location to be ineligible for new construction. When a location:

Preferred design but disfavored location of equipment box.

1. Would interfere with sight lines or clear zones for transportation or pedestrians;
2. Would interfere with compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act or similar federal or state standards regarding pedestrian access or movement;
3. Is scheduled for public improvement(s) or public project(s);
4. Is already reserved by another entity;
5. Is or is scheduled to become an Underground Utility Corridor (in which case the applicant must familiarize itself of the additional requirements in Section 24-20(4) - Underground Utility Corridors of the Small Cell Ordinance; or
6. Is already occupied with existing Small Cell and the introduction of additional Small Cell would defeat or violate the design guidelines or spacing requirements found in Section I.F.4. above.

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SECTION III. – SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

In addition to the design guidelines set forth in Section III., above, the following guidelines will also apply to the specially designated districts below. In the event of an inconsistency between the guidelines set forth in this Section IV. And those guidelines set forth in Section III., above, the guidelines set forth in this Section IV. shall control.

A. Design Districts (zoning districts with the designation of CPO, ZLL, OPO, OFO, PI-ACO, TND, CBNO).

1. Small Cell may not be collocated on existing decorative poles or decorative light poles; however, after review and design approval, a replacement pole may be installed in the same location. In such instance, accessory equipment must be placed or installed within the decorative pole or in an underground vault.

2. No new wood poles shall be permitted.

3. In addition to the above, new VSSs must be placed:

    a. In alignment with existing trees, utility poles, or streetlights;

    b. Within the area between the curb and sidewalk whenever possible;

    c. Equidistant between trees when possible, with a minimum of 15 feet separation; and

    d. With clearance from existing utilities lines.

4. All new poles should be located a minimum of 5 feet from the nearest edge of garage or driveway, whichever is closer. See Figure III.A.4.

B. Historic Districts (reserved).

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