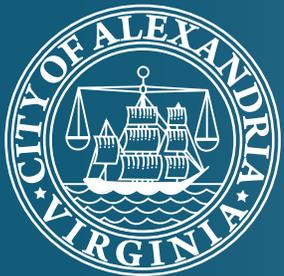


INTERIM WIRELESS FACILITY AESTHETIC GUIDELINES



PURPOSE

These Interim Wireless Facility Aesthetic Guidelines establish requirements for the placement and general design of wireless infrastructure and associated facilities within the City of Alexandria to address safety, streetscape, and potential engineering concerns.

These goals include:

- Mitigating visual and physical impact within the streetscape across the City;
- Minimizing the impact on the character of public spaces, specifically historic districts; and
- Avoiding impacts to important view sheds, vistas, and landmarks.

These interim guidelines are being put in place to address state and federal requirements for prompt action; the City is working on permanent guidelines; and permanent guidelines will allow the City to address concerns over the appearance and placement of wireless infrastructure, while also accommodating the needs of carriers, new state and federal policy, and desire of the public for access to service.

DEFINITIONS

Small Cell Wireless Facilities are low-powered antennas that provide wireless service coverage to a limited geographic area (often with ranges of a few hundred feet), and are used to supplement and expand the coverage provided by the traditional, larger-scale network

Streetlight pole means a structure owned, operated, or owned and operated by a public utility, the City, or the Commonwealth of Virginia that is designed specifically to support a street light, that lights the public right of way.

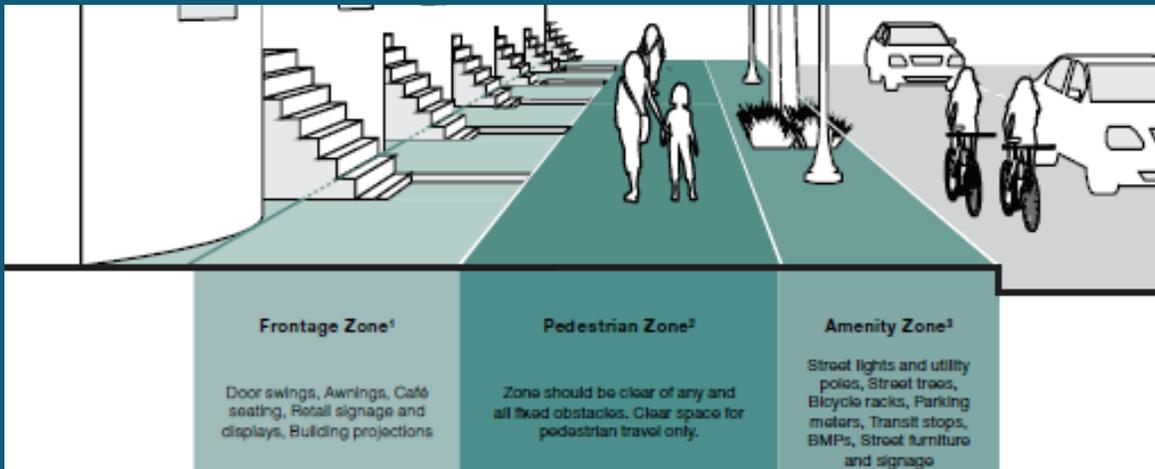
Utility pole means a structure owned, operated, or owned and operated by a public utility, the City, or the Commonwealth of Virginia that is designed specifically for and used to carry lines, cables, or wires for communications, cable television, or electricity.



CONTEXT

Within the City of Alexandria, sidewalks are not a singular space but consist of distinct usage zones. Sidewalks are typically located in the public right of way, which extend from the curb line to a private property line behind it. Sidewalks can be broken up into three primary zones performing unique functions in the overall operation of the street, and interface with adjacent private property uses. These zones are identified as the Frontage Zone, Pedestrian Zone, and Amenity Zone. Although boundaries between zones may blur and blend, the overall function of each zone generally remains consistent. City of Alexandria, Complete Street Guidelines pg. 3-3

Across the City, most of the existing infrastructure that can be used to accommodate wireless facilities (streetlight poles, utility distribution poles, traffic signal poles, etc.) are located within the amenity zone. Deployment of wireless facilities, to the greatest extent possible, should not impede the pedestrian and frontage zones within the sidewalk.



Amenity Zone lies between the curb and the Pedestrian Zone. This area is occupied by a number of street fixtures and utilities such as street lights, utility poles, street trees, bicycle racks, parking meters, signposts, signal boxes, benches, trash and recycling receptacles, and other amenities. In commercial areas, it is typical for this zone to be hardscape pavement, pavers, or tree grates. In residential, or lower intensity areas, it is commonly a planted strip.

Frontage Zone is the area of sidewalk that immediately abuts buildings along the street. In residential areas, the Frontage Zone may be occupied by front porches, stoops, lawns, or other landscape elements that extend from the front door to the sidewalk edge. The Frontage Zone of commercial properties may include architectural features or projections, outdoor retailing displays, café seating, awnings, signage, and other intrusions into or use of the public right-of-way. Frontage Zones may vary widely in width from just a few feet to several yards.

Pedestrian Zone, also known as the “walking zone,” is the portion of the sidewalk space used for active travel. For it to function, it must be kept clear of any obstacles and be wide enough to comfortably accommodate expected pedestrian volumes including those using mobility assistance devices, pushing strollers, or pulling carts.

- City of Alexandria, Complete Street Guidelines

GENERAL AESTHETIC STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

The following standards for wireless facilities apply to all areas in the City unless otherwise specified in areas such as historic districts.

- Wireless facilities and associated infrastructure shall be located within the Amenity Zone of the sidewalks or a comparable location in the public right of way.
- Wireless facilities should avoid areas of environmental sensitivity such as floodplains, wetlands, and resource protection areas (RPAs).

Guidelines for Wireless Facilities Subject to Article X of the City's Zoning Ordinance for Historic Districts

Wireless facilities within Historic Districts are subject to Article X of the City's Zoning Ordinance and shall require approval under those provisions.

Guidelines for Attachments to Existing Utility and Streetlight Poles

The following are applicable when locating wireless cell facilities on existing utility and streetlight poles within the public right of way:

- All wireless facilities and associated equipment located within the public right of way shall be located such that it meets ADA requirements and does not hinder, obstruct, impede usual pedestrian and vehicular travel.
- Wireless facilities must be shrouded, enclosing wires and equipment. No separate ground mounted equipment, including backup power supply, shall be allowed within the public right of way. Wireless facilities shall not negatively impact the decorative elements of the existing pole.
- Wireless facility attachments and hardware shall be colored to match the existing pole or colored to match similar infrastructure along the block face. If located on a wooden pole, attachments shall be colored to match the color of the pole or a similar earth tone color.
- Any signs on poles must comply with Article IX of the City's Zoning Ordinance.

If an existing utility or streetlight pole upon which wireless facility equipment is proposed to be installed requires replacement, see Guidelines for Replacement of Existing Poles.

Guidelines for Replacement of Existing Utility and Streetlight Poles

The following are applicable when locating wireless facilities on replacement utility and streetlight poles within the public right of way:

- Increases in pole height needed to meet utility safety requirements, are not to exceed 10' greater than the existing pole to be replaced. Increases in pole height should be minimized to the greatest extent possible. No pole shall exceed 50' in height without a special use permit.
- Replacement poles must be in the same general location of the existing pole and within the Amenity zone consistent with the Complete Streets Guidelines and Standards and Title 5, Chapter, Section 5-3-1 of the City Code or a comparable location in the public right of way.
- Replacement poles shall not be located in a manner that requires the removal of an existing tree or impacts to the critical root zone or canopy of existing trees within the public right of way.
- Replacement poles shall be located such that they meet ADA requirements and do not obstruct, impede, or hinder usual pedestrian or vehicular travel.
- Any signs on poles must comply with Article IX of the City's Zoning Ordinance.
- Wireless facilities must be shrouded, enclosing wires and equipment. No separate ground mounted equipment, including backup power supply, shall be allowed within the public right of way.
- Wireless facilities shall be colored to match similar infrastructure along the block face. If located on a wooden pole, wireless facilities shall be colored to match the color of the pole or a similar earth tone color.

Guidelines for New Standalone Structures

The guidelines provided are for single or multi-carrier installations of new standalone structures. The following are applicable when locating wireless facilities on new standalone structures:

- New standalone structures shall be located such that it meets ADA requirements and does not hinder, obstruct, impede usual pedestrian and vehicular travel.
- New standalone structures must be located within the Amenity zone (where applicable) consistent with the Complete Streets Guidelines and Standards and Title 5, Chapter, Section 5-3-1 of the City Code or comparable location in the public right of way.
- New standalone structures shall not be located in a manner that requires the removal of an existing tree or impacts to the critical root zone or canopy of existing trees.
- New standalone structures, to the greatest extent possible, shall be in alignment with existing trees, utility poles, and streetlights.
- All wireless facilities shall be internally contained to the pole and or concealed by an exterior shroud. No separate ground mounted equipment, including backup power supply, shall be allowed within the public right of way.
- New standalone structures shall be cylindrical, straight, and colored to match similar infrastructure along the block face.
- No new standalone pole shall exceed 50' in height without a special use permit.

Wireless Facilities Outside the Public Right of Way

The following are applicable when locating wireless facilities outside of the public right of way:

- Wireless facilities should avoid the creation of clutter and be placed to blend with existing structures.
- Building rooftop wireless facilities should be either flush mounted to surface walls, camouflaged, screened or placed to not be visible from the surrounding area unless the antenna has a minimal visual impact if installed above the roofline.
- New standalone structures must comply with setback requirements of the City's Zoning Ordinance.
- New standalone structures shall be located such that it meets ADA requirements and does not hinder, obstruct, impede usual pedestrian and vehicular travel.
- New standalone structures shall not be located in a manner that requires the removal of an existing tree or impacts to the critical root zone or canopy of existing trees.
- New standalone structures, to the greatest extent possible, shall be in alignment with existing trees, utility poles, and streetlights.
- All standalone structures shall be internally contained within the structure and/or concealed by an exterior shroud. No separate ground mounted equipment, including backup power supply, shall be allowed.
- New standalone structures shall be cylindrical, straight, and colored to match its surroundings.
- No standalone structure shall exceed 50' in height without a special use permit.