

DATE: May 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Wireless Broadband Facilities

TO: District Executives

FROM: T Jay Cunningham, P.E., Acting Director
Bureau of Maintenance and Operations *T Jay Cunningham, P.E.*

This Strike-off Letter (SOL), effective immediately, is time and resource neutral and updates the wireless communication facilities policy found in PennDOT's Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) Operations Manual (Publication 282).

The intent of the policy revisions is to streamline the HOP application review process by providing clarity and additional options for HOP applicants pursuing a permit to install wireless broadband facilities in state highway right-of-way.

Policy revisions are consistent with 67 PA Code, Chapter 459, and will be incorporated into the next update of Publication 282.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Michael Dzurko, Manager, Highway Occupancy Permit Program Unit, at 717.783.6080.

Attachment

4940/MJD/hmq

cc: Pennsylvania Municipal Advisory Committee
Clint Beck, P.E., Director, Programs and Performance Management Division, FHWA
Timothy Scanlon, P.E., Director, Traffic Engineering and Operations, PTC
Assistant District Executives-Construction
Assistant District Executives-Design
Assistant District Executives-Maintenance
Emmanuel Anastasiadis, Acting Assistant District Executive-Operations, District 6
District Planning and Programming Managers
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Stephen Gault, P.E., PTOE, Chief, TSMO Arterial and Planning Section, BOMO
Michael Dzurko, Manager, Highway Occupancy Permit Unit, BOMO
JRF Read File
MCK Read File

Publication 282, Subchapter 2.7

Wireless Broadband Facilities

The following additional guidance applies to wireless communication facilities:

Location

1. Wireless broadband facilities, including small cell and Distributed Antennae System (DAS) installations, are encouraged on existing utility facility infrastructure where possible.
2. Pole installations will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be placed outside the clear zone as near the right-of-way line as practicable, under the permit and applicable provisions of Design Manuals, Part 2 and Part 5. A breakaway pole design, approved by the Department, may be required on a case-by-case basis. A wireless broadband permit application for new pole installations must first seek to attach to existing facilities and, if unsuccessful, provide documented attempts.
3. Wireless broadband facilities may be permitted on traffic signal structures consistent with PennDOT Publication 191.
4. A breakaway pole design, approved by the Department, may be permitted on a case-by-case basis if unable to meet the above location criteria. This may occur when the clear zone extends outside the right-of-way.
5. If within a crash cluster list area, the District Safety Engineer will determine whether the location is acceptable.
6. Wireless broadband facilities are strictly prohibited:
 - a. on highway structures (bridges, sign structures, etc.).
 - b. in limited access highway right-of-way.

Support Equipment

1. Support equipment should be mounted on the pole. Ground mounted cabinets would be an exception that would be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Permit Manager.

Material

1. Direct burial foundations for steel poles is not permitted.
2. No spliced wood poles permitted.

Construction and Maintenance

1. Provide adequate pull-off area beyond the shoulder for construction and maintenance operations of the facility.
2. Utility must provide an in-service inspection plan for steel poles with a maximum six (6) year interval.

Notification

1. Provide proof the local government has notice of the application submission.