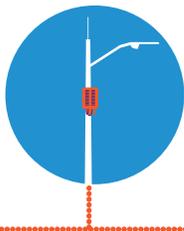


AN OVERVIEW:

Montgomery County's Small Cell Legislation



Communities across the nation are working with telecommunications companies to deploy 5G technologies and usher in a new era of economic growth and connectivity. Since 2016, the Montgomery County Council has considered various bills of its own to allow for the deployment of small cell antennas necessary for 5G. In 2018, ZTA 18-02 was introduced and passed by Council allowing for deployment of small cells in commercial and mixed-use areas of the County—a positive first step.

Since 2017, the Council has also considered legislation that would permit and streamline small cell antennas in residential zones, with the latest effort beginning in October 2019 when residential ZTA 19-07 was introduced. Following a public hearing in November 2019, Council discussions on ZTA 19-07 were put on hold.

In August 2020, a federal appeals court upheld the Federal Communications Commission's cap on fees and timelines to permit small cells, providing an opportunity for the Montgomery County Council to reconsider ZTA 19-07 this year.

WHAT ARE SMALL CELLS?

Small cells complement existing wireless infrastructure, such as towers and rooftop antennas, to add much-needed capacity and provide the best possible wireless coverage. Since they are often inconspicuously installed on right of way infrastructure, like utility poles and streetlights, small cells blend into their surroundings and preserve the aesthetics of their environment.

As people use wireless devices for more data-intensive tasks like telemedicine, virtual education, telecommuting, and more, network congestion is becoming an issue. Adding small cells creates more wireless capacity. As we move toward the next generation of connectivity, known as 5G, we will continue to need more communications infrastructure, specifically small cells supported by fiber that transmits data at the speed of light.

WHY DO WE NEED ZTA 19-07 NOW?

Thirty states have already passed similar small cell legislation, including neighboring Virginia, Delaware, and West Virginia. Similarly, Baltimore, Prince George's County, Howard County and soon Anne Arundel County have advanced policies to permit small cells and realize the benefits of 5G. Without a countywide small cell bill, Montgomery County risks falling behind.



MD5G
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WHAT DO MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS THINK?



85% of Montgomery County voters think it is important that the County Government make every effort to implement policies to ensure they have the very best service available during local and national emergencies.*



60% of Montgomery County voters agree that it's worth allowing 5G infrastructure in the county, placed on streetlights and utility poles in residential neighborhoods and downtown business districts, to gain faster more reliable mobile broadband service.*

**Gonzales Research and Media Services poll, August 2018*



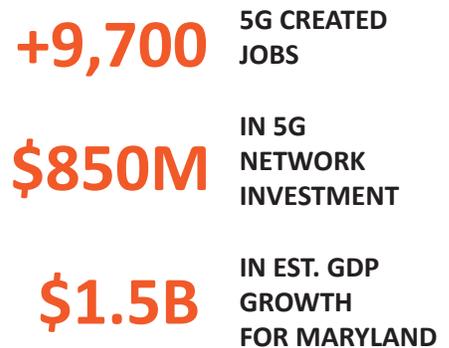
WHAT'S THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF 5G? HOW WILL IT INCREASE JOBS & GDP IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY?

5G is expected to create more than 9,700 jobs, \$850 million in network investment and \$1.5 billion in GDP growth for the state. Much like 4G ushered in a new era of mobile internet, it is anticipated that 5G will unlock new potential in industries like manufacturing, transit, healthcare, technology, and more.

Rockville and Gaithersburg, two of the county's most populous cities, are expected to see over \$100 million in GDP growth each, creating over 1,300 jobs.

ARE SMALL CELLS SAFE?

The consensus among the scientific and health communities is that there is no evidence of any adverse effects from exposure to radiofrequency (RF) emissions below FCC exposure limits. RF emissions safety has been studied for more than 60 years and the research is subject to constant review by government health agencies, and standard-setting organizations, like the FCC and FDA. In December 2019, the FCC reaffirmed safety standards on a unanimous and bipartisan basis. RF energy from antennas used in cellular transmissions, including small cells, result in exposure levels well below FCC safety limits.



*Economic data: CTIA 2020
www.ctia.org/the-wireless-industry/map/5g*