



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

1:00 PM, William J. Pitstick Executive Board Room

NCTCOG Offices, CPII

616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011

Co-Chair: Robert Woodbury, City of Cedar Hill

Co-Chair: Misty Christian, Kimley-Horn

1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

Robert Woodbury, Subcommittee Chair, facilitated introductions.

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEMS

2. **Perspective on Small Cell Implementation in North Texas: Survey Results.** NCTCOG staff will share results from two recent small cell surveys, which include responses from cities and counties as well as telecommunications providers.

NCTCOG staff briefed Subcommittee members on survey results. In late 2018, NCTCOG staff disseminated two surveys at the request of the Subcommittee – one for telecommunications providers and another targeting city and county representatives. The survey for telecommunications providers focused on current permitting information, challenges over the past year, and their experience working in North Central Texas. The Subcommittee commented that cities' current processes are not perfect, as many cities have not done this before and the landscape is constantly changing. As for the survey directed to city and county members, questions focused on permitting and design, as well as prioritizing potential small cell resources.

3. **Small Cell Discussion.** Karen Flewharty, Oncor Joint Use Manager, will be joining the subcommittee to discuss current small cell implementation.

Karen Flewharty, a Joint Use Manager for Oncor, was in attendance and discussed current small cell challenges with the group.

Karen explained that 6 companies are working with Oncor's license agreement and are allowed to attach devices to poles. There are currently 785 small cell nodes installed, with many more permitted. On Oncor's website there are joint use standards, wireless guidelines, along with other resources. Karen advised that design manuals and ordinances be as specific as possible in terms of what is allowed in the ROW, and include reasoning for these specifics. It will help make these manuals more defensible against pushback.

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Licensees must (1) get permission from Oncor for use of their poles and (2) get city permitting approval. They must comply with both requirements.

4. **SPROW BMP Guidelines Document.** NCTCOG staff will request input from the subcommittee on a potential structure of a BMP Guidelines document.

The Subcommittee stressed the need for the SPROW BMP Guidelines Document to be user-friendly. In addition, it would be valuable to invite planners to contribute to this document.

One member suggested the inclusion of all ROW aspects (e.g. costs, types, lifecycle, landscaping, utilities, etc.). In addition, the document should be able to serve not only today's communities, but communities 10 to 20 years in the future.

ROW Guidance and Design Manuals from cities like Dallas, Irving, and Arlington can be used as models for NCTCOG's SPROW document. The subcommittee needs to identify the most significant topics to include in this document. In addition, the document should integrate lessons learned by larger cities and pioneering projects, this will help smaller and younger cities avoid mistakes that have already been made by communities in the region.

It is important for the subcommittee to identify the document's audience as well as its distinct purpose. Additionally, users will reside in various cities throughout the region, so it will likely be valuable to consolidate certain criteria in the form of tables or checklists so individuals can compare information in a succinct manner.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

5. **Roundtable Discussion.**
6. **Schedule for the Next Meeting.** TBD
7. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Kate Powers by phone at (817) 695-9213, or by email at kpowers@nctcog.org.

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Crysta Guzman by phone at (817) 695-9231 or by email at cguzman@nctcog.org, 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

