

# Municipal DAS Issues

DAS Summit

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# Municipal DAS Issues

## ◆ It's the Towers...

- A decade of PCS buildout, 2+ decades for cellular
- Cellphones no longer just for the rich
- People want their cell service
- They see lots of ugly towers
- Not in my back yard!
- There must be a better way...

# Municipal DAS Issues

- ◆ DAS is compelling
  - People are used to infrastructure in our lines of communication (highways and streets)
    - Asphalt
    - Guard rails, sidewalks, road signs, traffic lights
    - Drainage
    - Sewer, water, gas
    - Utility poles, lines, and cabinets

# Municipal DAS Issues

- ◆ DAS is compelling
  - People perceive foreground, middleground, and background differently.
    - Tower structures are often seen as disproportionate and out of character with certain environs
      - ◆ They Loom,
      - ◆ They Pierce Skylines,
      - ◆ They add an Industrial Appearance to the land use
      - ◆ The eye sees them as massive undertakings in the middleground and background

# Municipal DAS Issues

- ◆ DAS is compelling
  - People perceive foreground, middleground, and background differently.
    - Utility pole mounts are the opposite:
      - ◆ In the foreground
      - ◆ In proportion to their surroundings
      - ◆ Generally don't Loom
      - ◆ Generally do not Pierce Skyline
      - ◆ Generaly hide in plain sight with other infrastructure

# Municipal DAS Issues

- ◆ **Wireless Facility Siting can be adversarial**
  - No long-term wireless facility planning
  - Threat of federal lawsuit looms over wireless applications
  - Industry entrenched in current site-development mode
- ◆ **Municipalities must be gatekeepers for sensible development over long term**

# Municipal DAS Issues

- ◆ How Do You Encourage Low-Impact, Low-Profile Wireless Development?
  - Municipalities must:
    - Understand the options that apply in their communities
    - Lower the hurdles for approving preferred outcomes (that are workable)
    - Raise the hurdles for less desirable outcomes

# Municipal DAS Issues

- ◆ Municipal Process Meets Business Process
  - Traditional Wireless Facilities
    - Facility Siting Based on the Search Ring
    - Negotiation and Contracting
    - Permitting on Site-by-Site Basis
    - “*This is the only site*” Permit Thresholds
    - Nearsighted Business Plan Meets Desire for Comprehensive Long Term Plan



# Municipal DAS Issues

- ◆ Municipal Process Meets Business Process
  - DAS Networks
    - Search Ring?
    - Non-traditional site acq.
    - Multiparty Negotiation and Contracting
    - Permitting Often Not Understood or Defined by Muni
    - Mythology Goes Both Ways
    - DAS Plan Closer to Meeting Desire for Comprehensive Long Term Plan

# Municipal DAS Issues

- ◆ Municipal Process Meets Business Process
  - ROW vs Parcel in Zoning District
  - How Does Ordinance Apply?
  - Who Regulates?
  - What Are the Criteria?

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## ◆ Thank You

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- Signal propagation modeling and field measurement
- Wireless application review, wireless site RFP support, ordinance revision support
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