

IR/WA Seminar

Ohio Department of Transportation Wireless Communications Program Presentation

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Historical Perspective

- ODOT Wireless Communication Program began mid 1997
- Program enacted with the support of:
 - Telecommunication Industry
 - State/Federal Officials
 - Ohio General Assembly
- H.B. 210 became law July 1, 1997- Ohio Revised Code 5501.31.1 – Outlines the Parameters by which the Director, ODOT may lease transportation facilities.

Wireless Communication Program Mission

- Improve communication services available to the traveling public
- Provide alternatives to tower siting in residential areas
- Establish communication infrastructure to support Intelligent Transportation Initiatives
- Maximize the efficient and effective use of existing resources, while maintaining the safety and efficiency of Ohio's transportation system

Wireless Communication Program Manual

- ODOT has developed a manual to assist ODOT personnel and the telecommunication industry in the siting of cellular towers on ODOT property
- Safety is the governing factor when considering a site for a cellular tower
 - ODOT has developed safety criteria and design standards to be addressed in the analysis of each cellular site

Master License Agreement (MLA)

- MLA standardizes the terms and conditions that apply to all sites licensed to a carrier
- Carrier must first enter into a MLA to be eligible for consideration in locating a tower at an ODOT facility
- Following execution of the MLA, carrier may then submit applications proposing installation of towers at specific ODOT facilities, this requires the granting of an Individual Site Agreement (ISA)

Individual Site Agreement (ISA)

- Granted for a specific ODOT facility when the proposed site does not detract from the safe/efficient transportation of the public
 - Agreement is for five (5) years
 - May be renewed for three (3) consecutive five (5) year periods
 - Describes the specific use and restrictions for utilizing an ODOT site
 - ISA must be submitted with a \$2,000 non-refundable application fee
 - Requires a security deposit of \$10,000

Site Identification

- Requires collaboration between the district cellular tower coordinator and the cellular carrier
- Once a site has been identified the district coordinator:
 - Conducts preliminary research as to future highway plans in the area
 - Determines status of parcel ownership – only parcels held in fee simple / warranty deed will be utilized for the siting of cellular towers

Site Identification – Con't.

- District coordinator and carrier visit site. Coordinator advises carrier as to the sites potential
- Coordinator approves/disapproves site
- If approved the carrier then submits the following:
 - Conceptual Proposal Checklist
 - Permit Application

Conceptual Proposal Checklist

- Includes key information pertaining to the proposed site and the carrier, including:
 - Description / Location of the site including longitude, latitude, and elevation.
 - County and municipality
 - Height of proposed tower

Permit Application

- Also contains information pertaining to the carrier
- Must completely state the type of installation proposed at the site

Site Plans

- Once the site has been approved the carrier prepares / submits site plans for approval
- Following ODOT approval the plans are submitted to FHWA for review / approval
- Once FHWA approval is received. Plans are submitted to the Depart. Of Commerce for approval and site inspection.
- Once Depart. Of Commerce approval is given, the Individual Site Agreement (ISA) is executed
- ODOT issues a permit to enter the property and begin construction

Payment for Use – Base Fee Factors

- The carrier pays ODOT an annual fee for each site
- Calculated on two factors
 - Geographic location
 - Equipment (number of antennas)
- State is divided into four geographic areas for fee purposes
 - Urban
 - Suburban
 - Rural / Suburban
 - Rural

Payment for Use – Base Fee Factors - Con't.

➤ Example:

- Urban location with 10-16 antenna on tower
 - Fee = \$29,000
 - Suburban location with same number antenna
 - Fee = \$24,000
 - As we move through the other locations with the same number of antenna the fee is less than the examples given
- *All fees increase 3.5% annually

Tower Site Termination

- ODOT or the primary carrier may terminate the ISA should it become inadvisable for either party to continue the agreement.
- Requires 30 days written notice

Co-Locators

- One of the key benefits of the Program
- Master License Agreement requires primary carrier to negotiate in good faith to share its tower space with other providers
- Designed to reduce the number of towers erected along Ohio's highways

Camouflaged Towers

- Many communities dislike the appearance cellular towers present
- ODOT working with the cellular company can provide solutions
- Examples.....

S.R. 257 Tower (Dublin, Ohio)



Con't.



Con't.



Mexican Fan Palm (Southern California)

Mexican Fan Palms



Mexican Fan Palm (2)

Mexican Fan Palms



Apparatus Concealment



CEV Hatch Boulders



CEV Hatch Boulders

Questions?

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