

Project Narrative – Patton Township

About the Applicant: The applicant, Crown Castle NG East LLC (“Crown Castle”), is a subsidiary of Crown Castle International Corp. (“CCIC”). CCIC (www.CrownCastle.com) provides wireless carriers with the infrastructure they need to keep people connected and businesses running. With approximately 40,000 towers and 13,000 small cell nodes supported by approximately 6,000 miles of fiber, CCIC is the nation's largest provider of shared wireless infrastructure with a significant presence in the top 100 US markets. Founded in 1994, CCIC is a NYSE-traded company and a component company of the S&P 500 Index. Our company has regional roots and maintains our operational headquarters in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Crown Castle is a competitive local exchange carrier certificated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Crown Castle is a “carriers’ carrier” providing “RF Transport Services” that carry voice and data traffic handed off to it by wireless providers. It carries that traffic via its fiber optic lines to and from antennas located on utility and street light poles to a central network hub.

Reasons for the Project (National Trends in Wireless Communication): The use of wireless communications networks continues to grow dramatically. In the United States wireless devices now outnumber people, and nearly forty percent of households have no wireline telephone service. Since 2011, wireless data traffic has been increasing at a rate of at least 120% annually. Wireless callers place nearly 400,000 9-1-1 calls each day, subscribers can receive automatic emergency alerts about severe weather at their location, and soon will be able to send text messages, photos, and video to 9-1-1 centers.

Reasons for the Project (Benefits to Patton Twp.): **This project will help ensure that Patton Township is on the leading edge of mobile communications.** The construction of these facilities will bring substantial benefit to the community by providing enhanced wireless service, including fast data speeds with 4G LTE service. Greater connectivity will benefit residents, business owners and visitors. Faster data access might allow a visitor’s phone to better find and direct them to a local restaurant.

The project is designed to enhance connectivity in areas that need it. Crown Castle has been contracted by a major wireless carrier to construct small cell network facilities within the community, including node locations identified on the included map and site plans on poles constructed within the right-of-way. Our client(s) have identified specific areas in Patton Township as areas where the mobile network could or should be supplemented. Each node location is low-elevation and low-power, targeting the residents and visitors in closest proximity to the location.

Your constituents enjoy the benefits of the project at our cost. Crown funds installation, maintenance and upkeep of our equipment and any new poles or structures we provide. As part of the agreement submitted for approval, Crown Castle will pay annual fees for the use of municipal structures, and will replace at its cost any poles not able to support the additional equipment.

The equipment hides in plain sight. These small cell facilities are similar in size and scope to other utility and critical infrastructure equipment deployed in the right-of-way including transformers, fiber/cable power line amplifiers, and traffic signal controllers. Once constructed, the fiber network will have the ability to support other wireless carriers and to be expanded to adjacent areas with the possibility of using additional municipal poles. Additional information about the project is available at <http://wirelessformycommunity.crowncastle.com/>.