

5G FAQ

What are 5G/small cell networks?

- 5G stands for “fifth generation” of cellular networks. The 5G towers help improve data-transmission efficiency and connection quality, especially in dense urban areas. The breakthrough technology is capable of providing peak download and upload speeds comparable to fiber connectivity, together with real-time responsiveness, while connecting a multitude of devices simultaneously.

What is Greenwood’s role in 5G/small cell network rollout?

- Verizon approached the City in January 2019 requesting a non-exclusive license agreement approved by the Greenwood Common Council.
- Verizon and the City agreed to establish the 5G system, using Verizon’s parameters where applicable. Where possible, existing pole functions will be incorporated into the 5G system design.
- The City has worked with Verizon to match the color of the poles with current infrastructure and provide additional lighting for residential areas.

Has 5g/small cell networks already been installed in Greenwood?

- Telecommunications providers have installed approximately 26 small cell facilities in Greenwood with plans to install 76 total.

What happens before and during the installation process?

- Site selection is under the control of the telecommunications providers.

How do I find out about permits for my neighborhood?

- Per state law, 5G pole installation is a permitted use in the public right of way.
- The Greenwood Board of Public Works and Safety has been delegated the task of reviewing and writing permits for all right-of-way installations. Citizens may attend BPWS meetings for information, however, state law does not afford control of telecommunications utility placement at the city level.
- The City’s regulatory authority is extremely limited and is largely preempted by federal law. In Indiana, the placement of a small cell facility and the associated supporting structure in the public right of way is considered a permitted use and is exempt from local zoning review if the total height of the structure supporting the small cell facility does not exceed the greater of (a) 50 feet measured from grade or (b) the height of any utility pole in place on July 1, 2017, and within 500 feet of the proposed small cell facility, plus 10 feet.