



OFFICE OF MAYOR TED WHEELER  
CITY OF PORTLAND

DATE: September 25, 2018

TO: Chris Warner, Interim Director PBOT

CC: Office of Community Technology, Interested Parties

FROM: Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

SUBJ: 5G Negotiations

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Thank you for consulting with our offices before opening negotiations with wireless carriers about deploying 5G infrastructure in Portland. We are writing to express our priorities during those negotiations.

**Digital inclusion is a moral and economic imperative for the City of Portland.**

The modern information economy depends entirely on high-speed internet access and will become more so with the rollout of 5G. And yet, an estimated 15 percent of Portland households have no home internet access at all. This is a fundamental equity issue because access is disproportionately lower in communities of color and among low income Portlanders. The deployment of 5G will exacerbate digital inequality without intentional effort to address the problem from wireless carriers and the City of Portland.

**The City of Portland manages the public right of way (streets, sidewalks and everything underneath) to support the well-being of its residents.**

Under the power of state law and city charter, the City of Portland allows public and private utilities to use City streets and sidewalks to deliver essential services – like water, electricity and the internet – to our residents and businesses.

**The City of Portland will secure fair and reasonable compensation for the City and its residents when allowing utilities to place utility infrastructure in the public right of way.**

Approximately 20 percent of land in the City is dedicated public right of way and Portland's residents have invested billions of dollars to build and maintain this asset. Utilities generating profit from access to this public asset should offer fair value in return, or investments of comparable value towards the City's goals for access and affordability.

**The introduction of 5G should support the Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP) adopted by City Council.**

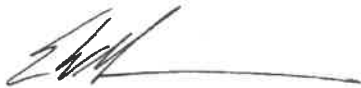
The DEAP's mission is to bridge the digital divide for excluded members of our City by increasing affordable access to highspeed internet and providing training to support skilled use of the internet. This includes:

1. *Ensuring access to affordable highspeed Internet and devices for those in need.*
2. *Providing training and support to ensure that everyone has the skills to use digital technology to enhance their quality of life.*

**Ensure that the City continues to fairly and responsibly protect the public health, safety and welfare of its residents.**

Please let us know how our offices can help turn these priorities into agreements with wireless companies hoping to build 5G infrastructure in Portland.

Sincerely,



Ted Wheeler  
Mayor, City of Portland



Chloe Eudaly  
Commissioner, City of Portland