

BRIEFING

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Item # 5.2.2

**Deputy City Manager's Office Briefing to
Gas, Power and Telecommunications
2020 December 10**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
GPT2020-1395**

Update on the Shared Access Network

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

On 2020 November 2, Council referred GPT2020-0886, Shared Access Network and Delegated Authority, back to Administration for further work and to return to Council through the Gas, Power, and Telecommunications (GPT) Committee in Q4 2020.

The purpose of this briefing note is to close the loop on GPT2020-0886 and inform Council that no direction is required.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

As part of the next generation of mobile networks (commonly referred to as 5G), wireless service providers (WSPs) are seeking access to municipal assets for the installation of small cell antennas and other wireless infrastructure. At the same time, the Federal Government is in the process of modernizing the suite of legislation that governs broadcasting and telecommunications including proposals to facilitate the “efficient rollout of safe and secure advanced networks, including the impending implementation of 5G.”

Conversations began in February 2019 with ENMAX to establish a shared access network (SAN) model for enabling wireless service providers, such as Rogers, Telus and Shaw/Freedom Mobile, to rapidly deploy wireless infrastructure to street light poles while reducing disruption and negative impacts on communities and businesses.

In August 2019, The City informed WSPs of its work with ENMAX to establish a shared access network model. Detailed presentations were provided to WSPs on 2020 April 20, 2020 June 08 and 2020 June 29. Based on these presentations, the WSPs identified specific issues with the SAN model.

Administration submitted GPT2020-0886 to GPT in September 2020 in anticipation that any residual issues identified by the WSPs would be addressed and the SAN model may be implemented.

On 2020 November 3, Administration pivoted away from the SAN model in response to unresolved concerns from some WSPs that the anticipated benefits would not be realized. Any further delays associated with further refining the SAN model may have resulted in the WSPs missing the 2021 construction season and The City viewed this as a barrier to the advancement of critical telecommunications infrastructure. As such, Administration no longer requires direction from Council.

Work continues with the WSPs to enter into Master License Agreements under a new open access network model. In the meantime, an interim agreement is in place to allow Administration to respond to requests from WSPs to attach wireless equipment to City-owned assets.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.