

Nicole Murati Ferrer
Chairperson

Mark Melo
City Electrician

Terrence James Shea
Superintendent of Streets

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 signed into law on July 16, 2022.

Commission Members (All Present): Nicole Murati Ferrer, Mark Melo and Terrence James Shea.

License Commission Staff Present: Dana Clarke, Administrative Assistant.

Advisor: Stephen Lenkauskas, Retired City Electrician.

Documents Considered by the Board: As to all petitions, the Commission considered the application submitted to it and all documents attached thereto.

Decisions: All votes, unless otherwise stated, were taken by roll call vote and were 3-0, unless otherwise indicated. When matters are granted with "typical conditions," those are:

- (1) Must obtain Electrical Department Utility Permit and Department of Public Works ("DPW") Permits and comply with the provisions therein.
- (2) Must pay sidewalk preservation off-set fee.
- (3) Must coordinate site visit with DPW.
- (4) Must commence work within sixty (60) days of the grant and complete within six (6) months of the date of the approval.
- (5) Must comply with any amendment City agencies make to the issued permits after the Acceptance Without Reservations is filed.

1. Discussion Possible amendment to the Small Cell Policy as it relates to the aesthetic requirements.

Present: Eli Elbaum, counsel to Crown Castle. Paul Costa, with Crown Castle.

Documents Considered: Correspondence received on the issue.

Summary: Discussed this matter as it related to a request for a waiver to the equipment cabinet size. Just like the City, Crown Castle prefers co-location but the current dimensions do not allow for it. Ideally, Crown Castle would like to fit up to 4 carriers in 1 shroud and FCC dimensions may allow it. Each carrier would also increase radiation emission. It is suggested that a 70-inch shroud might work but the equipment keeps changing and it is hard to tell whether that would change. Having flexibility in designing 5G will certainly be helpful. The Commission specified it needed additional information and advice on the issue and also needed to confer with the other City Departments that were involved in the creation of the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: No vote – under advisement.

2. New Petition (188842) Cambridge Electrical Department, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02138, for the following: Binney Street - Capture area of Binney Street sidewalk using temporary fence panels. Removal of the existing concrete sidewalks. Dig and trench for the installation of new conduits and light bases. Grade and compact sidewalk subgrade after conduits installed (Total time for this should be 10 days). Replace concrete sidewalk after completion of backfill. Remove fence panels and re-open sidewalk (Total time for this should be 5 days). Police detail will be always onsite and will assist as needed. Electrical Scope: request shut down with Mark Melo and Demo existing light poles (1 day). Cut in and installation of new (2") schedule 80 conduit raceways to (3) new pole bases from the existing City of Cambridge light pole hand hole. Tap off (2) new #4 RHH/RHM feeders through conduit and up the new base. Neatly coil for re-installation of light pole. Request shutdown, hoist light pole on to new base location and terminate wires (1 day). CFD Inspection.

Present: Daniel Murray.

Summary: Work being performed at the new federal Volpe public conduit. An electrical scope will be coordinated with various departments. Three poles are being relocated due to future consideration of future landscaping work. The work will be performed between 8/22 and 9/9 and will be coordinated with the Electrical Department.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions that there will be continued coordination with the electrical department.

3. Continuation from July 15, 2022, for further coordination and common trench (183385) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Binney Street - Installation of approximately 290 linear feet of (6) 4" telecom conduits to facilitate the construction of the building at 290 Binney Street. Comcast offered to be the lead company for the common trench at the June 16, 2022, hearing for VP#179630.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro, Bill Conway, and Jon Moser.

Summary: Just continued with common trench back in July. The duct bank cannot be placed on private property behind the sidewalk as the garage adjacent is scheduled for demolition. The new building is being built where the existing conduits are now.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

4. New Petition (188624) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: Binney Street - Installation of (1) 4" telecom conduit to facilitate the construction of the new building at 290 Binney Street. This is part of the common trench build for Comcast petition #183385 that was continued at the July 28, 2022, hearing.

Present: Bill Conway.

Summary: Incorporate by reference the testimony provided as to petition # 183385. No further discussion.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

5. Continuation from July 15, 2022, for common trench (184788) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Binney Street - Verizon to place approximately 260' feet of new conduit and a new manhole on Binney Street to accommodate construction of a new building.

Present: Ross Bilodeau and Jon Moser.

Summary: Incorporate by reference the testimony provided as to petition # 183385. Bilodeau provided a better sketch showing what they were proposing; nothing changed from what was presented. No further discussion. Clarification of 290 Binney Street – what the additional 2 conduits are for – one for Verizon, and the other for the City. Two common trenches on each side of Binney Street.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

6. New Petition (188941) Cambridge Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Binney Street - Install +/- 180 LF of (2) 2" conduit from the new building constructed at 290 Binney Street and 250 Binney Street to a sewer manhole within Binney Street related to power and communications for a sewer sensor, required by Cambridge DPW.

Present: Jon Moser.

Summary: Work proposed is for sanitary tanks at 290 & 250 Binney Street. The tanks sense whether sewer is filling up and then they kick in to ensure they do not flood the street. Work to be coordinated with DPW, which would control in the future.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

7. New Petition (189059) Boston Properties 800 Boylston Street, Suite 1900, Boston MA 02199-8103, for the following: Binney Street - Installation of approximately 158 linear feet of (2) 4" telecom conduit in coordination with Verizon to facilitate the construction of the proposed new building at 290 Binney Street. Verizon provided common trench letter.

Present: Jon Moser.

Summary: Incorporate by reference – no further discussion. Applied through Dana and dig safe.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and pending issuance of Dig Safe number and payment of maintenance fee paid to the City.

8. New Petition (189061) Boston Properties 800 Boylston Street, Suite 1900, Boston MA 02199-8103, for the following: Broadway - Installation of approximately 231 linear feet of (2) 4" telecom conduit to facilitate construction of the new proposed building at 105 Broadway (future 135 Broadway) in coordination with Comcast. Comcast provided the common trench letter.

Present: Jon Moser.

Summary: Incorporate by reference the testimony provided as to petition # 183385.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and pending issuance of Dig Safe number and payment of maintenance fee paid to the City.

9. New Petition (189040) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Broadway - Install (1) 4in conduit from private property manhole on the property of 135 Broadway to a private property manhole on the property of 115 Broadway.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Incorporate by reference the testimony provided as to petition # 183385. Submission related to be part of Comcast common trench (#3) – to take part of joint trench.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

10. Continuation from July 15, 2022 (184792) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Pleasant Street - Starting at utility pole #550/23 on Pleasant Street, trench northeasterly 79' to the private property line of 46 Pleasant Street, installing (1) 2" PVC conduit. All work will be completed by the property owner/contractor. Comcast will submit new design.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: Common trench letter had been sent out, but no one replied, including Eversource that has an upcoming project. Eversource might have a petition from manhole from across the street.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

11. New Petition (188615) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Allston Street - Starting at pole #9/19 on Allston Street, trench northeasterly 4' to the private property line of 159 Allston Street, installing (1) 1.5" PVC conduit. The conduit has already been installed by the contractor. This goes along with Eversource petition #179183 that was approved at the July 28, 2022, hearing.

Present: Anthony Vatalaro and Bill Conway.

Summary: Conduit was installed by owner's contractor and so applied for public way. Comcast applying to take ownership of the public way portion.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

12. New Petition (188620) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Cottage Street - Starting at pole #176/17 on Cottage Street, trench northeasterly 5' to the private property line of 43 Cottage Street, installing (1) 1.5" PVC conduit. The conduit has already been installed by the contractor/property owner. this goes with Eversource petition #183842 that was continued at the July 28, 2022, hearing.

Decision: Not heard because petitioners failed to send a common trench letter in accordance with Commission policy.

13. New Petition (189281) Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Lakeview Avenue - From pole 417/34, trench easterly 42' +/- to the property line of 207 Lakeview Avenue installing 1-2" PVC conduit. Conduit has already been installed as part of common trench. Property owner is responsible for trenching and all city restoration and all fees.

Present: Anthony Vatararo, Bill Conway, and Hannah Cooper.

Summary: Conduit already installed. Anthony had met with Mark Melo on site to confirm everything was in order. Comcast is applying to take ownership of the public way portion.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

14. Continuation from August 19, 2021, for submission of new drawing/design (136065) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: 32 Vassar Street - Place cable in Verizon conduit.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: New drawing/design has been submitted. One pole (number 73) is going to be permanently removed.

Decision: Granted.

15. Continuation from February 17, 2022, to allow petitioner to submit a new design (161933) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Vassar Street - The installation of underground cable and conduit beginning at the existing Utility Pole #85 and continuing to the point where it reaches the property of 620 Memorial Drive; approximately 88 feet.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Trying not to do a trench into the building but have not received feedback from the property owner allowing the aerial as pole cannot handle more. Proposed to withdraw the application (not digging and only marking as aerial).

Decision: Acknowledgement of withdrawal of application.

16. New Petition (188982) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Main Street - Install (2) 4in conduits 101' from the new private property telecom manhole on the property of 600 Main Street, Cambridge MA, to Level 3 manhole 0515-2702 on Albany Street through the asphalt roadway and concrete sidewalk.

Decision: Not heard because petitioners failed to send a common trench letter in accordance with Commission policy.

17. New Petition (188984) Cambridge Network Solutions, 35 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridgepark Drive - Install (1) 4in conduit for 14' from the Verizon manhole on Cambridgepark Drive to the CATV manhole in the driveway.
Install (1) 4" conduit for 13' from the CATV manhole in the driveway to the new 3x4 manhole on the property of 101 Cambridgepark Drive.

Present: Jeff Harrington.

Summary: Asking to exit the existing Comcast cable tv system and into the Verizon system they currently lease conduit from to further extend down Cambridgepark Drive. Manholes are within a few feet of each other.

Decisions: Granted with typical conditions.

18. Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review (174126) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: Main Street – This is an equipment upgrade from a 24"h x 14" width antenna, with a 60 x 14 x 8.5 cabinet to a 24"h x 14" width antenna, with a 70.1h x 22.7 w, 21.5 d, with one 19.4 x 9.6 x 6.9 5G antenna (associated with VP 140548).

Present: Bryn Thornburgh.

Summary: This is requesting an installation for a cabinet with dimensions not compliant with the current Small Cell Policy. The petitioner seeks a waiver of the aesthetic design/size. The Commission is still considering whether it will amend the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: Entered into tolling agreement.

19. Continuation from July 15, 2022, for further review (184670) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: Sidney Street - The proposed physical dimensions of the proposed upgrades would be keeping the 48"h x 8.16" diameter antenna and adding a (3) panel

antenna array of 19.4" h x 9.6" w x 6.9" d antennas. The equipment cabinet would be upgraded to a 70.1" h x 22.7" w x 21.5" d equipment cabinet.

Present: Bryn Thornburgh.

Summary: This is requesting an installation for a cabinet with dimensions not compliant with the current Small Cell Policy. The petitioner seeks a waiver of the aesthetic design/size. The Commission is still considering whether it will amend the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: Entered into tolling agreement.

20. Continuation from July 15, 2022, for further review (184672) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - The proposed modification includes the existing 48" h x 8.16" diameter antenna and upgrades the site with (2) panel antenna array with antennas of 19.4" h x 9.6" w x 6.9" d. The equipment cabinet will also be upgraded to a 70.1" h x 22.7" w x 21.5" d cabinet.

Present: Bryn Thornburgh.

Summary: This is requesting an installation for a cabinet with dimensions not compliant with the current Small Cell Policy. The petitioner seeks a waiver of the aesthetic design/size. The Commission is still considering whether it will amend the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: Entered into tolling agreement.

21. Continuation from July 15, 2022, for further review. (185603) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: Main Street - Crown Castle is seeking that the requirement on a 6-foot distance (V.C.5) from the installation from the building to be waived and that the size restriction of a 36"x18"x12" equipment cabinet (VII.B) be waived. Currently the pole is 82" from the building. With the proposed equipment cabinet of a depth of 21.5" the installation would be 60.5" or 5 feet from the building. Crown is requesting a waiver on these two requirements as a larger cabinet is needed to support the equipment and future colocation efforts within the City. Please see attached EME report which shows that the exposure to the building is within FCC limits. Aesthetically the antennas and equipment would be above the window lines of the adjacent building so there would be no impact to views outside.

Present: Bryn Thornburgh.

Summary: This is requesting an installation for a cabinet with dimensions not compliant with the current Small Cell Policy. The petitioner seeks a waiver of the aesthetic design/size. The Commission is still considering whether it will amend the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: Entered into tolling agreement.

22. New Petition (188508) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: Vassar Street - The proposed modification is an installation of a (2) panel antenna array, with each antenna being 19.4" h x 9.6" w x 6.5" d.

Present: Bryn Thornburgh. Heather Hoffman, resident.

Summary: Proposed upgrade is to add a panel antenna array with two 19-inch antennas attached to it and at the same time keeping the existing 70-inch cabinet that is currently above the Cambridge siting requirements (it was approved before the small cell code passed). The pole is going to be removed by Eversource within a month or so.

Decision: Denied for failure to comply with the Small Cell Policy.

23. New Petition (188515) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: 1611 Cambridge Street Massachusetts Avenue - Crown Castle is proposing to install a (2) panel antenna array where each antenna is 19.4"h x 9.6"w x 6.9"d.

Present: Bryn Thornburgh. Eli Elbaum.

Summary: Proposing an upgrade at this location with an additional panel with (2) 19"x9" antennas – at this location have existing 70" cabinet, permitted under previous code that able to keep this shroud – 24"x36. This would not be compliant with the current Small Cell Policy. The petitioner seeks a waiver of the aesthetic design/size. The Commission is still considering whether it will amend the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: Enter into tolling agreement while await for legal opinion on the matter.

24. New Petition (188517) Crown Castle NG East, 1800 West Park Drive, Marlborough, MA 01581, for the following: 1746 Cambridge Street - The proposed installation is a (3) panel antenna array where each of the antennas are 19.4"h x 9.6"w x 6.9"d.

Present: Bryn Thornburgh.

Summary: As prior petition, requesting to keep 70" cabinet. This would not be compliant with the current Small Cell Policy. The petitioner seeks a waiver of the aesthetic design/size. The Commission is still considering whether it will amend the Small Cell Policy.

Decision: Enter into tolling agreement while await for legal opinion on the matter.

25. Continuation from July 15, 2022, for better survey showing existing utilities in the roadway. (181012) Verizon New England, 385 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 02780, for the following: Main Street - Verizon to trench roadway 762 feet from MH26/19 to MH26/20 to MH26/21 on Main Street to place and splice new conduit.

Present: Ross Bilodeau.

Summary: Existing conduit cannot be repaired as it is too large (over 30 feet). There are damaged conduits the whole length of the street. 1 fiber needs to get down the street and out of 12 none can be used. DPW has some upcoming sewer work to be done in the area and test pits needs to be performed.

Decision: Continue for test pits to confirm corridor.

26. New Petition (187540) Eversource Energy, 247 Station Drive, SE 210, Westwood, MA 02090, for the following: Western Avenue - Beginning 40' west of Putnam Avenue curb, extending 100' +/- along/within south side of Western Avenue sidewalk, install one (1) Mechanical Cabinet, replace gas regulator pit(s) with new Control, Monitor and Slam Shut, interconnect with buried 4" CSHP, 6" PHD HP, 8" CS LP, 12" CS/HDPE LP, supply/main line(s) & conduit. Install one (1) hand hole & one (1) electrical cabinet approx. 60' east of Blackstone Street within sidewalk, connected with 1 1/4" rigid conduit. Cabinets to be protected with bollards (2 each). Connect communication lines, transmitters & vents. Work required to improve/upgrade Control Monitoring protection of underground gas pipeline system.

Present: James Blais and Robert Dreiker.

Summary: Requesting a grant of location to ensure safety and reliability on gas system.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

27. Continuation from May 19, 2022, for further review (174104) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Pearl Street - Southerly from pole P538/62, approximately 30 feet easterly of Glenwood Avenue, to private property at #334 Pearl Street, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

Present: Hannah Cooper, Susan Barroso, and Anthony Vatalaro.

Summary: Requesting to install one foot inch conduit on Pearl Street to feed the house in the back for new service. In case in the future the house in the front seeks service as well, more digging will not be required. Property not interested in Comcast. Verizon not interested in joining trench.

Decision: Granted one four-inch with typical conditions and any other conduit to be removed.

28. Continuation from July 15, 2022, for further review and clarification (183842) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cottage Street - Westerly from pole P176/17, approximately 187 feet west of Magazine Street, to private property at #43 Cottage Street, install approximately 29 feet of conduit

Decision: Not heard because petitioners failed to send a common trench letter in accordance with Commission policy.

29. New Petition (188407) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Lakeview Avenue - Westerly from pole 417/4, approximately 160 feet north of Brattle Street, to private property at #12 Lakeview Avenue, install approximately 8 feet of conduit.

Present: Hannah Cooper and Susan Barroso.

Summary: Request for two four-inch conduit 200 amp service. Common trench was sent even though not required.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

30. New Petition (188411) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Willow Street - Southerly from pole 734/21, approximately 359 feet north of Cambridge Street, to private property at #145 Willow Street, install approximately 76 feet of conduit.

Decision: Not heard because petitioners failed to send a common trench letter in accordance with Commission policy.

31. New Petition (188414) Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Binney Street - Westerly from manhole MHC1383, approximately 115 feet west of Galileo Galilei Way, to manhole MHC1384, install approximately 143 feet of conduit.


Present: Hannah Cooper and Susan Barroso.

Summary: Requesting to relocate an existing duct bank between existing manholes for proposed gas regulator vault to be installed in that location. The proposed work has been coordinated through DPW.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

32. Approval of June 16, 2022, and July 28, 2022, August 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Decision: Approved as to all.

NMF _____ 

Minutes Approved: January 19, 2023

MM _____ MM/ 

Minutes Posted: January 19, 2023

TJS _____ TJS/ 