

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 AGENDA

Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor.

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

License Commission Staff Present: Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant; and Kris Foster, Executive Officer.

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. ExteNet requesting a 6-month extension to complete the work on the following sites/grants of location #244858 (Windsor Street), #256377 (Otis Street), #263244 (First Street), #252850 (Cambridge Street), and #252857 (Washington Street).

Present: Kate Rugman.

Summary: The work was unable to be completed because they were missing some of the equipment from the carrier.

Decision: Granted.

[Note: Matters #2 & 3 as listed on the agenda were called together.]

2. **Continuation from May 22, 2025 for further clarification (1163165) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Reed Street - Easterly from pole 577/5, approximately 245 feet north of Rindge Avenue, to private property at #23 Reed Street, install approximately 4.7 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia, Eversource; and Shane Flewelling, Comcast.

Summary: They are now proposing a different size pipe and have uploaded an updated plan. This work has already been completed by the contractor who installed a 2-inch pipe.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

3. **New petition (1168123) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Reed Street - Comcast proposes to take ownership of (1) 3-inch conduit +/- 3 feet in the public way/sidewalk from pole 577/5 to the property line of 23 Reed Street for new service to 23A Reed Street that was previously installed by the contractor.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia, Eversource; and Shane Flewelling, Comcast.

Summary: Conduits already on the end, it is a single 1-inch conduit for Comcast not a 3-inch. There is currently a double pole.

Decision: Granted with the amendment that it is a one 1-inch conduit and typical conditions, and the additional condition that the double pole must be removed before any new attachments are made.

4. **New petition (1162413) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Washburn Avenue - Northwesterly from pole 707/11, approximately 550 feet northeast of Massachusetts Avenue, to private property at #55 Washburn Avenue, install approximately 31 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia.

Summary: From pole to private property for new service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

5. **New petition (1167085) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Fresh Pond Lane - Northeasterly from manhole (MHC3559), at the corner of Meadow Way, to private property at #41 Fresh Pond Lane, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia.

Summary: Manhole to private property for an upgrade on existing service. Right now the feed is overhead line in backyard and want to do a pool so moving it and putting it underground.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

6. **New petition (1167086) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mount Auburn Street - Easterly from manhole (MHC59), across from Banks Street, to private property at #11 Mount Auburn Street, install approximately 12 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia.

Summary: Upgrade of service for rehabilitation of existing buildings 9 & 11.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

7. **New petition (1168144) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: New Street - Easterly side, approximately 565 feet north of Bay State Road, install one pole 503/12-1X on the private property of the City of Cambridge.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia.

Summary: Installation of conduit for the new building at the Danehy Park Pavillion. It will be a utility pole. There will be conduit from the pole to the park and the transformer is going there (secondary conduit). There was discussion on how this needs to go through landfill permitting process as New Street is landfill; a safety plan will need to be submitted and Jim Wilcox needs to be involved.

Decision: Continued to have the petition language and plan cleaned up and ensure the Health and Safety Plan with the corresponding/related petition has been submitted.

8. **New petition (1168347) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: River Street - Northerly from manhole (MHC1599) to private property at #183 River Street, install approximately 30 feet of conduit in Howard Street.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia.

Summary: Manhole to private property request from Cambridge Department of Public Works for roadway improvement project.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

9. **New petition (1168567) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street - Easterly from manhole (MHC99), across from Hovey Avenue to private property at #1588 Cambridge Street, install approximately 31 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia.

Summary: Manhole to private property. This is an upgrade in service; it is a duplex house and they are separating the services.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 10. New petition (1169284) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Broadway - Northerly from manhole (MHC2347), approximately 341 feet east of the Western Connector, to private property at #121 Broadway, install approximately 28 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin and Kelly Correia.

Summary: Install in Broadway new construction of a residential tower.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 11. New petition (1159541) - TC Systems Inc.**, 157 Green Street, Suite 2, Foxborough, MA, 02035, for the following: Montgomery Street - Rindge Avenue and Sherman Street - Install (1) 4-inch scheduled 40 PVC conduit between riser pole #485/1 and riser pole #67. The conduit installation will take place on Montgomery Street, Rindge Avenue, and Sherman Street; a total of 307 feet of conduit.

Present: Erica Hudson.

Documents Considered: Application and documents attached thereto; and correspondence received with regard to the application.

Summary: Affiliate engineer – AT&T riser pole south onto Sherman. Questions and concerns from some of the residents. Regarding time frame – that is dependent on securing all approvals, ideally start in July and days of week and time dictated by City of Cambridge permits. Typically the works takes place during the day. They are excavating on one side of the street except on Rindge Avenue. Typically, they do not have rodent issues when they do open construction, driveway access another concern, will take steps to ensure that they are not blocking driveways, this work (curb cut) takes a couple of hours. Will have police detail.

The final pave within next week or two. There can be no excavation on Montgomery Street as it was recently paved. There is existing conduit there; it was part of another project – approved for over the streets and overhead wires – this is a new project and want to expand the network (for AT&T). They need more information They want to rise up on the pole on Montgomery Street. There needs to be more information because there was a question as to expanding with existing (meaning there is something already there) or whether it is new service.

Decision: Denied as Montgomery Street was recently repaved; petitioner to look for alternate route.

- 12. New petition (1157185) - Verizon New England**, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Munroe Street - Verizon to place approximately 30 feet of conduit on Monroe Street for the purpose of providing new service.

Present: Alexander Marrero.

Summary: One new 4-inch PVC conduit for new service at 135 Munroe Street. This would be permanent service intersecting existing conduit. Intercepting existing duct bank on Munroe – there should be a manhole on Munroe and Third and go from there. The City will require a 4-inch conduit as well.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions, and additional condition that there must be an additional 4-inch conduit installed for the City.

- 13. New petition (1157341) - Verizon New England**, 125 Lundquist Drive Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Concord Avenue - Verizon to place 5 feet of conduit from existing manhole, COMM MH1, to the property line of 197-227 Vassal Lane, on Concord Avenue.

Present: Alexander Marrero.

Summary: One new 4-inch PVC from existing manhole – new service to 197-227 Vassal Lane. Only finished the private portion of this work – the 5 feet on public way still waiting. This work has already been completed; they are seeking to take ownership.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

- 14. Crown Castle** requesting a 6-month extension to complete the work on the following site/grant of location #254125 (Portland Street).

Present: Sarah Feely; and Brandi Spezzano.

Summary: This is for a small cell installation. End of the year, delay on the equipment – receiving the equipment. The conduit has not been installed; this street was recently reconstructed. Since the conduit was not installed before the road was paved, they will need to mill and overlay pave curb to curb and take care of the sidewalk restoration.

Decision: Granted pending submission of MWRA 8M permit, and with typical conditions and the additional conditions that there be mill and overlay, pave curb to curb, restoration of any markings, and permanent sidewalk restoration and coordination with Eversource.

- 15. New petition (1165604) - Crown Castle**, 4545 East River Rd, West Henrietta NY 14586, for the following: Main Street - Crown Castle is proposing to install approximately 35 feet of power, fiber and city shadow feed, from a proposed Crown Castle handhole on Wadsworth Street, to project continued onto a private property near 200 Main Street.

Present: Sarah Feely; and Brandi Spezzano.

Summary: This is a conduit installation partially on private property. This is just the section asking for to lead up to that property and will eventually go to a node on that private property. Have seen

requests for Eversource electric. There was a question as to whether Eversource have a grant of location for this area as well. The pole was damaged and now they have the okay from Cambridge Housing Authority to replace it.

On Wadsworth and Amherst they are relocating the cell and dealing with this for a couple of years. The original site was removed but the barrels are still there. They have been fully removed on Wadsworth and Main. Node going to Cambridge Redevelopment Property – have zoning board this evening to see if okay. They are installing both power and communication.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition that all barrels need to be removed from Wadsworth and Amherst, and Wadsworth and Main.

- 16. New petition (1165878) - Crown Castle**, 4545 East River Rd, West Henrietta NY 14586, for the following: Sixth Street – Market Street – Norfolk Street – 310 Columbia Street – 455 Columbia Street - This is a request to upgrade existing equipment, by upgrading it will cut down on additional installations elsewhere. Modifications are needed to the site in order to comply with new technology, allow for increased bandwidth and reliability for residents and businesses, enhance emergency services, and also to continue to allow collocation of multiple carriers on a single pole, reducing the wireless installations on surrounding poles.

Present: Sarah Feely; and Brandi Spezzano.

Summary: There was confirmation that the installations/upgrades comply with all current requirements of the Small Cell Policy. The five sites are for upgrades of current installations. All of them have the longer antenna at this point, and proposing a shorter antenna and adding an additional power box. The Sixth Street and power converter box only. Power box is being added to the shroud; it is added to handle the power conversion from the antenna to the newer antenna to the existing equipment. This should remove some ions, and lessen the noise. It was clarified that the current antenna is the smaller but older version – so the antenna will be the same size not changing but it is an upgraded antenna with power form AC to DC. There will be no excavation at any of the sites. Double pole needs to be removed at Columbia Street.

There was discussion as to the noise being generated and how Crown Castle needs to go through their installations to make sure they are operating properly and not generating noise that could constitute a violation of the Noise Ordinance. Crown Castle needs to patrol and look at fans.

Decision: Granted with the condition that the double pole at Columbia Street needs to be removed.

- 17. New petition (1167948) - Crown Castle**, 4545 East River Rd, West Henrietta NY 14586, for the following: Amory Street – Ellery Street – Antrim Street – Highland Avenue – Roberts Road - This is a request to upgrade existing equipment, by upgrading it will cut down on additional installations elsewhere. Modifications are needed to the site in order to comply with new technology, allow for increased bandwidth and reliability for residents and businesses, enhance emergency services, and also to continue to allow collocation of multiple carriers on a single pole, reducing the wireless installations on surrounding poles.

Present: Sarah Feely; and Brandi Spezzano. Chris Colbath-Hess, resident. Rebecca Westlake.

Summary: There was confirmation that the installations/upgrades comply with all current requirements of the Small Cell Policy. The five proposals are all upgrades for the existing equipment. Roberts have the larger antenna now and going to smaller antenna. The same size antenna for the rest but a newer antenna. Antrim Street requires a new pole.

Chris Colbath-Hess, resident – 79 Amory Street – pole is 3 feet from her window – corresponded with Melo about 3 years ago. Complained about the noise, possible radiation and wondered whether a new location could be found. Rebecca, resident, also complained about the noise.

Crown Castle gave a number that can be called (833-703-4237) to report noise issues. Most of the times it is leaves/debris caught up in the fan. The proposed project is intended to address and ameliorate some of the noise.

Decision: Granted as to all with the condition that there must be a noise study and a radiofrequency study; as to Antrim Street, granted with the aforementioned condition and the additional conditions of typical conditions, the double pole at Antrim Street needs to be removed, and there needs to be coordination with Eversource.

- 18. New petition (1166369) - Crown Castle**, 4545 East River Rd, West Henrietta NY 14586, for the following: Oak Street - Crown Castle is proposing to install new small cell equipment on an existing pole. The equipment will consist of a pole mounted shroud (1.75' x 5.8') and a pole top antenna (1.2' x 2'). This site has been moved from a different pole on Oak Street - which the upgrade of was previously denied by the Board for being too close to a residential building. In order to maintain the reliability of the network for our customer, this location has been chosen because it meets all of the requirements of the City's Small Cell Policy.


Present: Sarah Feely; and Brandi Spezzano.

Summary: There was confirmation that the installation complies with all current requirements of the Small Cell Policy. The location was previously denied for an upgrade as the location would have not complied with the Small Cell Policy. This proposal has the installation being relocated so that it is at least 6 feet away from any structure. The old equipment has not been removed, the grant of this petition will make it compliant by moving it.


Decision: Granted.

- 19. Consideration of Meeting Minutes** - April 17 and May 22, 2025.

Decision: Approved as to both.

NMF____

Minutes Approved: August 14, 2025

MM____MM/

Minutes Posted: August 14, 2025

TJS____TJS/