

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 18, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor.

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

License Commission Staff Present: Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant.

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. **New petition (1213515) - Crown Castle Fiber LLC/Arium Networks**, 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, for the following: near 76 John F. Kennedy Street - near 1-5 Brattle Street - near Peabody Street and near 61 Brattle Street - Crown Castle is proposing to add an additional antenna on the specified poles. There will be no digging. These installations are upgrades to existing small cell locations. This installation shall not incommode the public way.

Present: Lauren Berg.

Summary: The Commission first discussed the issue of which company should be listed on the petition since the information previously provided was that Crown Castle was ceasing to exist and that it had been bought by Arium Networks. It was explained that Crown Castle, the parent company, sold the small cell side of the business and the new parent company of Crown Castle fiber is now Arium Networks. However, the legal name change has not been finalized (it should be within the next few months). The petition will continue to be under both Crown Castle and Arium Networks.

The particulars of the petition is to upgrade the equipment at various pole locations. They are adding antennas – the shroud and cabinets are remaining the same with the same orientation. There will be no digging or excavation. Four poles are receiving upgrades with panel antennas, and the existing

antenna and equipment will remain the same. On the fifth pole at 1-5 Brattle Street, they will be adding a 35-inch mast arm to raise the antenna and re-install the antenna on top of the mast arm and panel antennas. This work will be performed in September because they need to order the mast arm, which will be done once the petition is approved.

The Historical Commission has approved this work with the only condition that whatever equipment is no longer operational is removed from the poles. All work complies with the small cell policy.

Decision: Granted with the condition that any part of the equipment that is no longer in use or operational is removed before any new installations.

2. Possible revocation of Grant of location for **Crown Castle's** small cell installation petitions #1140518 – 1156110 – 1160781 – 1162472 – 1165878 – 1167948 and 1173411 for failure to start and complete the proposed work within the allowed time set by the Pole and Conduit policy.

Present: Lauren Berg.

Summary: The petitioner updated the Commission on the status of five petitions. Petition #1140518 is not complete. They are targeting equipment installation for early August and have confirmed with the customer that this is the intended delivery date.

Petition #1156110, Charles and Flagg Street, is pending for utility license to be issued. The target complete date is the fourth quarter, end of the year.

Petition #1160781, consists of five locations, three (Henry, Berkshire and Hancock Streets) are going to be installed in August with customer equipment that is coming in. 23 Kelly Road and 171 Hancock Streets are pending utility work so they are targeted to be completed at the end of the year.

Petition #1162472 is complete.

Petition #1165878, five locations, all of which are targeted to be installed and completed in August.

Petition #1173411, two locations, of which one, Edmonds Place is targeted for August and Hammond is pending utility work, with a target of tail end of the year.

The petitioner explained that the make-ready work process involves all poles being placed and pending transfers of equipment. Crown Castle will not be able to install its equipment until space becomes available, as their location is below Eversource's. The Commission advised that they need to work with Eversource to replace any double poles. Several poles and double poles are obstructing driveways and sidewalks and another extension cannot wait for that. The Commission also cautioned that Crown Castle needs to be mindful of all GOL timelines, and that if they are not ready to work, they should not be submitting petitions knowing there is a lead time.

Decision: With the exception of 1162472 which has been completed, extension for completion of work as to the remainder granted through December 2026. If there is no completion, the petitions will be placed on agenda for revocation of grant in January 2027.

3. **New petition (1209493) - Verizon New England**, 125 Lundquist Drive, Braintree, MA 02184, for the following: Ellery Street - Verizon to place two 4-inch conduits 26 feet from existing manhole, MH207B, to an existing pole P0235/3 to service the existing Crown Castle cell site at pole P3.

Present: Bryan Simmons.

Summary: This petition is to install two four-inch conduits to an existing pole going through a sidewalk from an existing manhole. There has been a lot of work at this location in the past and the Commission questioned why the conduit is being upgraded now as opposed to during prior work. Only one conduit is being used for the customer and the second one is a spare. Verizon agreed that the spare conduit will be a City conduit.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional conditions of permanent sidewalk restoration, and that one of the conduits is for the City of Cambridge.

Note: *Post hearing the Commission as from Verizon to have it and Extenet remove all of the materials from Otis Street based on the withdrawn Petition #256377. Regardless of the Commission's requests to have the materials/equipment removed from the public way, they are still there. The Commission discussed it would address this with Extenet and also seek a legal opinion as to options should they continue to fail to remove the equipment.*

4. **New petition (1211380) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Ivy Street - Starting at utility pole #3 on Ivy Street, trench +/- 35 feet northeasterly, installing (1) 4-inch conduit to the property line of 11 Ivy Street. This is for a new service connection.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: Comcast will be installing 35 feet of conduit from a pole on Ivy Street to a new multi-dwelling building for a new service connection. The Commission advised Comcast that the pole has a red "X" on it, likely meaning it needs to be replaced and that no new attachments can be added until the pole is replaced. Also, if other utilities are going underground for 204 Garden Street, Comcast must work with them together.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition of confirming whether Pole 3 needs to be replaced, and if so, that there be no new attachments until the double pole is removed, and confirmation that no other utilities are going underground, and if they are, to file proper petition(s) to do it all together.

5. **New petition (1211383) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Irving Street - Starting at existing Comcast vault on Irving Street, trench +/-45 feet northerly, installing (1) 4-inch conduit to the property line of 138 Irving Street. This is for a new service connection.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This is a new service connection with one four-inch conduit. The Comcast vault is behind the sidewalk, 45 feet to the property line for a single family home renovation.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

6. Review/update on **Eversource's** grant of location #1204123 for Putnam Avenue.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This petition was originally granted in April 2026 with work needing to be completed by June 15, 2026. This extension asks for an August 31, 2026, deadline. Eversource will work in tight coordination with the River Street project. It will take two to three days for this service upgrade. The Commission reiterated the deadline provided was what would work for the City and this request to push the deadline does not work. Eversource explained that they have a backload of work and can only agree to a August 31, 2026, deadline.

Decision: Grant ratified with the amendment that the work needs to be completed before 7/13, otherwise, the grant is revoked.

7. **New petition (1211716) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Story Street - Southerly from manhole (MHC2581), southwest of Brattle Street, to private property at #4-12 Story Street, install approximately 10 feet of conduit.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is a service upgrade at customer (Harvard University's) request.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition of permanent sidewalk restoration on Story Street.

8. **New petition (1214182) - Eversource Energy**, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue - Northwesterly, thence turning and running northerly, opposite Pearl Street, install approximately 43 feet of conduit from manhole (MHC291) to private property line of #571-577 Massachusetts Avenue.

Present: Phyllis Galloway.

Summary: This is a service upgrade at the customer's request, a two story commercial building with five commercial tenants. The character of the buildings will remain the same.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and additional condition of permanent sidewalk restoration.

9. **Consideration of Meeting Minutes** - May 21, 2026.

Decision: Approved.

Additional Matters Not Previously Posted on the Agenda

10. **Reconsideration of Meeting Minutes** – The minutes for the meetings of March 5, March 26, and April 16, 2026, all incorrectly state that the Chair was absent and that all votes were 2-0. This is to amend the minutes to correct the error.

Decision: Minutes amended and amended minutes approved.

NMF______

Minutes Approved: August 20, 2026

MM___MM/

Minutes Posted: August 20, 2026

TJS___TJS/