



**For Immediate Release**

June 13, 2017

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### **Small Cell Networks and Smart Cities ICC Holds Policy Session on Building Smart Cities in Illinois**

CHICAGO –The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) hosted a policy session on Wednesday to discuss how governments can work together with wireless service carriers to build smart cities across Illinois. The session included expert panelists from across the nation focusing on the technology and regulatory changes necessary to keep up with the future demands of 5G and beyond, as well as smart city applications such as improvements in public safety, infrastructure management and monitoring of assets and transportation system optimization.

“Small cells are crucial to us continuing to provide the type of service that everybody wants when they pick up their cell phone and look up whatever they need,” said Chris Bondurant, AVP of Construction and Engineering at AT&T Technology Operations. “Presently we can provide speeds of 100 to 200 megabits per second. Our path is to get to one gigabit per second, allowing you to download a movie in about 5 seconds.”

Through Q&A sessions, participants discussed solutions to clear the path for more micro and macro towers capable of handling both the bandwidth and latency requirements to support emerging smart city applications. Robust telecommunications networks are critical not only for consumer needs, but for business development and public safety.

Ken Schifman, Director of Government Affairs at Sprint, spoke about the logjams carriers sometimes face in municipalities. “We divide up the regulator barriers in the small-cell deployment into three buckets: one is we get restrictive access to the right of way or the vertical structures; two, we find burdensome or no processes via municipalities for allowing for the placement of small cells; and the third bucket is excessive application, attachment and right-of-way usage.”

Because some municipalities have no process for small cell applications, the Illinois Municipal League (ILML) made a model ordinance available on their website to all Illinois cities, villages and towns to use as a template. “Municipalities believe in the economic power of technological deployments like this,”

said Patrick Hayes, ILM General Counsel. “We believe in balancing interests and allowing telecom to use the right of ways. We feel the model ordinance was a good step in that direction and accommodates the needs of the industry.”

Panelists also discussed the role of 5G and small cell networks in creating new jobs and opportunities, enabling smart grids and autonomous vehicles and supporting emergency services.

“Through the Internet of Things, the 5G high speed bandwidth network will support video, sensor data, weather information, data collectors, voice and machine-to-machine communications,” said Michael Kuberski, Director of Utility Communications for Exelon. “This will pave the way for smart grids, smart homes, intelligent transportation and smart cities,” he added, outlining the standards that must be met to ensure the technology is available at all times and under all conditions, including conditions created by cyber security threats.

The goal of the session was to demonstrate how partnership and collaboration between telecommunications providers, municipalities and electric utilities create efficiencies in meeting the new demands smart city applications will place on telecommunications networks. To view all of the presentations from the policy session, click [here](#).

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#### ***About the Illinois Commerce Commission***

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission’s Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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