

Site Search Process and Selection

Section 16-50j-74(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires the applicant to submit a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” In accordance with this requirement, the description of the general site search process, the identification of the target search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed Facility are provided below.

As an FCC licensed wireless carrier, T-Mobile decides to seek out a site in an area based upon the needs of its wireless infrastructure and extensive research of the subject area. T-Mobile chooses a target area central to the area in which it has identified coverage and/or capacity needs. The area targeted is the geographical location where the installation of a site would, based on general radio frequency engineering and system design standards, likely address the identified problem. T-Mobile’s goal is to locate sites that will remedy coverage or capacity issues, while resulting in the least environmental impact. In this case, T-Mobile has searched for a site in this area, and has identified the Pawcatuck Avenue property as the best possible location for a wireless facility.

T-Mobile is sensitive to State and local desires to minimize the construction of new towers, and it does not pursue development of a new facility where an acceptable existing structure can be found. In general, T-Mobile’s site acquisition personnel first study the area in and near the search ring to determine whether any suitable structure exists. If T-Mobile cannot find a structure with appropriate height and structural capabilities, it turns to industrial / commercial areas or individual parcels that have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics. The list of potential locations is limited by the willingness of property owners to make their property available. Radio frequency engineers study potentially suitable and available locations to determine whether the locations will meet the technical requirements for a site in the area. Analysis of potential environmental effects and benefits may further narrow the alternatives. The weight given relevant factors varies for each search, depending on the nature of the area and the availability of potential sites.

In the area of Stonington, particularly the Village of Pawcatuck, which is the subject of this site search, there are no existing towers, transmission line structures or other suitable structures. Moreover, any existing towers are too far from the target area to provide coverage specifically to the target area. The nearest towers and suitable structures are already in use by T-Mobile. There are no large areas of commercial or industrial use in or near the target area. Finally, the proposed site is located within the target search area.

T-Mobile considered several other locations that might have addressed the coverage gap in this area of Stonington. The reasons T-Mobile did not select any of these locations are outlined below:

1. Pawcatuck Thread Mill, 12 River Road. This property hosts the Pawcatuck Thread Mill, which is being developed into apartments and stores. The existing building is four stories high with a five story penthouse on the northwest corner of the building. T-Mobile reviewed the building to determine whether a facility located on the rooftop would provide adequate coverage for the intended coverage objective. T-Mobile concluded that the rooftop is too far to the southeast to afford adequate coverage to T-Mobile's coverage goal.

2. Highland Homestead Inc, 170 Pawcatuck Avenue. This property abuts the property of the proposed Facility. This property does not host any suitable structures to mount a telecommunication facility and, therefore, would require the construction of a tower. T-Mobile contacted the owners of this property, but they were not interested in leasing land to T-Mobile to construct a telecommunications tower.

3. First Student Bus Company, 50 Extrusion Drive. This property hosts an existing light duty lattice tower, which is approximately forty-five feet high. T-Mobile contacted the owners of this property, but they were not interested in having T-Mobile replace the existing tower with a higher telecommunications facility which would be needed to address T-Mobile's coverage goal.

4. Davis Standard, LLC, 1 Extrusion Drive. This property hosts an existing one story building. T-Mobile reviewed the building to determine whether a facility located on the rooftop would provide adequate coverage for the Amtrak rail line. T-Mobile concluded that the rooftop is too low to afford adequate coverage to T-Mobile's coverage goal.

5. End South Broad Street Amtrak Right of Way Parcel. There are no suitable structures on this property for a telecommunications facility and, therefore, this site would require the construction of a tower. Access to the parcel is across property owned by the Town of Stonington. T-Mobile met with the First Selectman, the Honorable Edward Haberek, Jr., about a prospective facility on this property. The Town was not interested in constructing a facility on this alternative site because it would be within the vicinity of a school and park. The Town asked T-Mobile to consider alternate locations for a telecommunications facility.

6. South Broad Street, Town of Stonington Sewer. This property hosts the Town's pump station. There is an existing light duty lattice tower, which is approximately twenty-five feet high. T-Mobile concluded that the existing lattice tower is too short to meet its coverage goals, and the tower is structurally

inadequate to support T-Mobile antennas. T-Mobile met with the First Selectman, the Honorable Edward Haberek, Jr., about a prospective facility on this property. The Town decided not to pursue this alternative site because it would be within the vicinity of a school and park. The Town asked T-Mobile to consider alternate locations for a telecommunications facility.

7. 151 Greenhaven Road, Town of Stonington. This property hosts an existing old lattice tower, which is approximately thirty feet high. The tower is no longer in use. T-Mobile reviewed the existing tower to determine if it could serve as a site suitable to provide coverage for this area of Stonington. T-Mobile concluded that the lattice tower is too far to the southwest to afford adequate coverage to T-Mobile's coverage goal.

Consequently, T-Mobile has determined that the property located at 166 Pawcatuck Avenue is superior to the other properties in the area. The Property is 5.02 acres. The Property is currently used as a single family residence and farm. T-Mobile would not have to remove any trees to construct the Facility. The proposed Facility would be approximately 650 feet from Pawcatuck Avenue with excellent screening from mature trees. The property immediately to the north of the proposed Facility is heavily wooded. Verizon has expressed an interest to co-locate on the proposed tower.

The proposed Pawcatuck Avenue site (the "Facility") would enhance wireless service availability to existing and future T-Mobile wireless device users. Enhanced coverage provided by the Facility will allow T-Mobile subscribers to use voice and data services reliably as well as to connect to Emergency 911 services. The intended coverage area of the proposed Facility would include Pawcatuck Avenue, River Road and Greenhaven Road just south of Interstate 95 in the Village of Pawcatuck, as well as the portion of the Amtrak rail line which travels through this section of Stonington. Additionally, the Facility would provide capacity relief for the current sites that presently cover this area from outer lying areas.