



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Aims to Accelerate Wireless Infrastructure Buildout

New Proceeding to Expedite Deployment of Towers and Other Mobile Connectivity Facilities

WASHINGTON, September 30, 2025—The Federal Communications Commission today voted to begin a proceeding that will explore ways to accelerate buildout of wireless infrastructure including cell phone towers. The Commission will update its rules to supercharge the deployment, densification, and upgrading of wireless networks and, where necessary, clarify that state and local restrictions cannot unlawfully block 5G or soon, 6G deployment. The proposal will seek comment on processes to expedite the resolution of permitting disputes, including possibly through a “rocket docket” process.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today aims to further expedite state or local approval of certain modifications of existing tower and wireless base stations, as envisioned by the Spectrum Act of 2012. Also, this rulemaking looks to build on the success of the FCC’s 2018 Small Cell Order to ensure investment and network buildout is free from unlawful regulatory burdens imposed at the state and local level.

Too often still, state and local regulations inhibit the installation and modernization of wireless networks, resulting in an effective prohibition of 5G wireless services. This rulemaking will consider further clarification of the FCC’s small cell deployment rules and if or when further preemption of specific state and local regulations is necessary to ensure compliance with the Telecommunications Act. The Notice specifically asks about state and local limits on deployment of macro cell towers and other wireless facilities, imposition of unreasonable delays or fees, conditioning of approval on aesthetic or similar criteria, and other impediments to building.

Under Chairman Carr, the FCC has pursued a Build America Agenda to drive growth and opportunity through high-speed internet deployment, freeing up spectrum, cutting red tape, advancing national security and public safety, and strengthening America’s workforce. In recent months, the FCC has already made significant progress on this front by advancing plans to accelerate the upgrade from old copper line networks to modern ones, to ease access to utility poles, and to revamp the FCC’s approach to environmental reviews.

Action by the Commission September 30, 2025 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 25-67). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty approving and issuing separate statements.

WT Docket No. 25-276

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