



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



6

226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd., Suite 508
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0760
Phone: (615) 741-3012
Fax: (615) 532-2443
www.tn.gov/tacir

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 6 September 2019

SUBJECT: Public Chapter 819, Acts of 2018 (Small Cell)—Update

Public Chapter 819, Acts of 2018, makes changes to state law governing the deployment of small wireless facilities for providing broadband internet service. It directs the Commission to study the Act's effect in Tennessee; identify best practices from the perspective of industry and local governments, as well as a review of other states; and identify opportunities to advance transportation in the state through applications supported by small wireless facilities.

Tennessee is one of 28 states that have enacted small wireless facilities laws. None of these laws predate 2014, and all have been either enacted or amended in the last three years.

In September 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted new rules governing the deployment of small wireless facilities. Although the FCC's rules and Tennessee's law address similar policy issues related to small cell deployment, the standards they set differ in several ways, including but not limited to the definition of a small wireless facility, the time local governments have to process applications, the fees that can be charged for processing applications, and whether local governments may pass on consultant fees to applicants.

Today's update includes presentations from

- Dr. Liang Hong, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Tennessee State University, who will provide information about small wireless facilities and the evolution of mobile wireless networks, and

- Dr. Daniel Work, an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Vanderbilt University, who will provide information about ways in which advances in mobile wireless networks can support advances in the transportation sector.

The Act directs the Commission to report the results of its study, including any recommendations, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2021.