

# City of Surrey <br> PLANNING \& DEVELOPMENT REPORT <br> File: 7913-0224-00 

Planning Report Date: September 8, 2014

## PROPOSAL:

- Development Variance Permit
in order to increase the height of a free-standing telecommunications tower from 12 metres ( 40 ft .) to 18 metres ( 59 ft. ).

LOCATION: 18655 - Fraser Highway
OWNER: Clayton Crossing Shopping Centre
ZONING: CD (By-law No. 15679)
OCP DESIGNATION: Commercial


## RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Approval for Development Variance Permit to proceed to Public Notification.


## DEVIATION FROM PLANS, POLICIES OR REGULATIONS

- Seeking a variance to the Zoning By-law to increase the maximum permitted height of a free-standing telecommunications tower from 12 metres ( 40 ft .) to 18 metres ( 59 ft .).


## RATIONALE OF RECOMMENDATION

- The applicant has proposed a monopole design that replaces and attempts to mimic an existing 12 -metre ( 40 ft .) tall parking lot light pole.
- The applicant has provided information which indicates that there are no existing structures which are suitable to meet the coverage requirements within a 2 -kilometre ( 1.2 -mile) radius of the subject site.
- The public notification for the proposal generated 4 negative and 4 supportive responses from 330 property owners within 180 metres ( 590 ft .) of the proposed location.
- The proposed location of the tower is within a shopping centre parking lot.
- The applicant has provided documentation which indicates that there is a demonstrated coverage gap in the area, which the wireless carrier would like to resolve to attract new customers.


## RECOMMENDATION

The Planning \& Development Department recommends that Council approve Development Variance Permit No. 7913-0224-0o (Appendix IV) varying the following, to proceed to Public Notification:
(a) to vary the Zoning By-law to increase the maximum height of a free-standing telecommunications tower from 12 metres ( 40 ft .) to 18 metres ( 59 ft .).

## REFERRALS

Engineering: The Engineering Department has no objection to the project.

## SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Existing Land Use: Clayton Crossing Shopping Centre

Adjacent Area:

| Direction | Existing Use | NCP Designation | Existing Zone |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| North (Across 68 Avenue): | Townhouses and a <br> church which are both <br> under construction. | Institutional | RM-30 and PA-2 |
| East: | Mixed use building. | Commercial/Residential | CD (By-law <br> No. 16537) |
| South (Across Fraser Highway): | Commercial plaza. | Commercial | CD (By-law <br> No. 16537) |
| Southwest (Across 68 Avenue <br> and Fraser Highway): | Commercial plaza. | Commercial | CD (By-law <br> Nos. 14711, 16708, <br> and 18245) |

## DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- The subject property, located between Fraser Highway, 68 Avenue and 188 Street in Clayton, is designated Commercial in the Official Community Plan (OCP) and is zoned CD (By-law No. 15679). The subject site has multiple commercial buildings comprising the Clayton Crossing Shopping Centre.
- Standard Lands Company Limited on behalf of Rogers Communications is proposing to erect a telecommunications tower and equipment compound on the subject site.
- The proposal will provide improved telecommunication coverage and capacity for the area generally bound by 72 Avenue to the north, 192 Street to the east, 64 Avenue to the south, and 184 Street to the west (see Appendix V).
- The property owner has authorized the applicant (Standard Lands), to apply for a Development Variance Permit to increase the maximum height of a free-standing telecommunications tower from 12 metres ( 40 ft. ) to 18 metres ( 59 ft .).
- The proposed telecommunication monopole will replace an approximately 12 -metre ( 40 ft .) tall existing light pole that has a width of approximately 0.26 metre ( 10 inches) (Appendix III). The proposed stealth pole is 18 metres ( 59 ft .) tall and 0.76 metre ( 2.5 ft .) wide. The antenna will be encased by fiberglass or polycarbonate shrouding, so the antennas will not be visible.
- Replacement parking lot lights are proposed to be located at an approximately 10-metre ( 33 ft .) height which is the approximate height of the lighting on the other light poles in the parking lot. At the 3 -metre ( 1 oft .) height level, a set of radio remote units (RRU) are proposed, which power the antennas.
- The applicant has provided three renderings of what the proposed grey-coloured pole will look like from Fraser Highway to the south, from 68 Avenue to the north and from within the existing parking lot to the northwest (Appendix III).
- Landscaping within the parking lot and street trees surrounding the site are not yet mature but will screen the tower substantially as they mature. The proposed tower is located in a landscaped island with two young trees which will also screen the tower as they mature.
- An equipment compound is proposed near the northwest corner of the Shoppers Drug Mart building adjacent 68 Avenue, between the building and existing garbage compound. The proposed compound is 2.25 metres ( 7 ft .) by 4.6 metres ( 15 ft .) in dimension, for a total area of 10.4 square metres ( 111 sq . ft.). Within the proposed compound, there are proposed to be two cabinets and a transformer. The proposed compound will be constructed of timber and will match the garbage compound.
- The proposed telecommunication monopole has a setback of approximately 15 metres ( 49 ft .) from the northern property line.
- Staff and the applicant explored several alternate locations surrounding the subject site (see Appendix VII) but no viable alternate sites or solutions could be found.


## City's Telecommunication Strategy

- Since October 2010, an inter-Departmental team of staff has been meeting with representatives of the six (6) telecommunication companies, including Rogers. Due to the escalating demand for wireless service, the telecommunication companies have requested a more stream-lined process for obtaining approvals from the City for new installations. The key message staff has relayed to the group is the importance of a comprehensive strategy to ensure adequate coverage for all carriers while minimizing the number of singular user installations, without compromising the existing policy guidelines, especially proximity to residential areas and aesthetics being adequately addressed.
- Improving high speed wireless service supports the growing high technology sector, high tech education, emergency services and broadens community consultation opportunities through social media.
- Although a comprehensive City-wide strategy has not yet been developed for Council's consideration at this time, the subject application generally complies with the current Telecommunication Tower Policy and is therefore, being presented for Council's consideration.
- The City policy on telecommunication towers was developed in conjunction with wireless providers and approved by Council on June 18, 2001 (Policy No. O-49 Telecommunication Towers). The policy provides parameters on how the towers should be sited and designed.
- The following is an evaluation of the current proposal in relation to Policy No. O-49:


## Location and Siting

- When considering the siting of telecommunication tower facilities, every effort should be made to locate new equipment on existing structures such as Hydro transmission line towers, utility poles, roof tops, etc.

The applicant has indicated that they require an 18-metre (59 ft.) height in order to ensure an expanded coverage area bounded by 72 Avenue to the north, 192 Street to the east, 64 Avenue to the south, and 184 Street to the west (see Appendix V).

The applicant has informed staff that there are no existing structures within a 2-kilometre (1.2-mile) radius from the proposed location of the telecommunication tower that have the necessary height to facilitate the increased coverage area.

- It is preferable that new free-standing telecommunication towers be sited in non-residential locations and preferably in industrial areas.

The proposed location is within an existing commercial area.

- Towers on prominent natural and cultural features, environmentally sensitive areas or areas with historically significant buildings are discouraged.

The proposed location of the installation is not located close to prominent natural or cultural features.

- New free-standing telecommunication towers should be located at a distance from the edge of an existing or future road allowance no less than the height of the tower.

The wireless installation is proposed to be set back approximately 15 metres (49 ft.) from the north property line at 68 Avenue, which is below the height of the proposed tower. Due to the location of the proposed equipment cabinet next to the existing garbage enclosure and landlord's wishes, this is the only location that is technically suitable.

- Location of telecommunication towers on sites with matures trees is encouraged.

The site is developed for commercial use, and there are many young trees on site. In the future as these trees mature the proposed tower will be better screened.

- All applicants for free-standing telecommunication structures will be requested to identify any other structure (i.e. hydro transmission towers, existing telecommunication towers, etc.) within a radius of 500 metres ( $1,640 \mathrm{ft}$.) from the proposed location and to provide reasons why other existing structures within that radius are not acceptable for use (i.e. structural capabilities, safety, available space or failing to meet service coverage needs).

There are no suitable existing structures within a 500-metre ( $1,640 \mathrm{ft}$.) radius of the site. The most feasible location was the 4-storey mixed use/multifamily strata development across 188 Street to the east. However, the strata was not interested in communication equipment on their building.

## Co-Location

- The carriers and other telecommunication tower owners are encouraged to work cooperatively in reaching agreements which allow for sharing of tower structures so as to minimize the total number of towers in the City. This practice is typically referred to as "colocation".

Due to the stealth design and proposed height of 18 metres ( 59 ft .), co-location is not feasible at this location as it would require additional height and width. Other carriers may wish to explore a similar pole design in the future.

- Towers and ancillary equipment shelters will be designed to fit their surroundings and to minimize their visual impact on surrounding properties.

The applicant is proposing a pole design that will mimic the design of existing light poles on the site.

- The use of monopoles is encouraged. Where a tower is being constructed to accommodate a single user, a monopole design is required.

The proposed tower will be for a single carrier and is a monopole design.

- Landscaping shall be appropriately placed around telecommunication towers and ancillary facilities, such as equipment shelters, to minimize their visual impact on the neighbourhood.

The proposed tower will be sited in a landscaped island in the parking lot. Two young existing trees sharing the landscaped island will be retained so no additional landscaping is proposed. The ancillary equipment will be located between the adjacent Shoppers Drug Mart building and garbage compound and will match the wooden design of the existing garbage compound.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In accordance with the City policy, the applicant sent out approximately 330 information packages on July 23, 2014 to property owners within a notification area of approximately 108 metres ( 350 ft .), which is six times the height of the proposed tower.

As a result of these notifications, eight comments were received concerning the proposed tower with two residents and two businesses being in support and four residents being opposed.

The negative concerns raised by the residents are as follows (with the applicant's responses in italics):

- Dissatisfied with the proposed location. Respondents thought a better location would be across Fraser Highway or in downtown Cloverdale or near the amphitheatre.

The applicant explored alternate locations and this site was deemed to be the most suitable and feasible to provide the necessary coverage.

- Tower is too tall and the design looks odd.

The proposed 18 -metre ( 59 ft .) design is amongst the shorter towers proposed by the industry within Surrey. It would be possible to design a narrower tower but this would require external antennas which are not supported by Planning and Development Department staff.

The positive comments raised by the residents and business owners are as follows (with the applicant's responses in italics):

- Satisfied with the proposed location.

Four respondents (2 business owners and 2 residents) thought the location was good.

- Better wireless communication in the neighbourhood is needed.

Four respondents indicated a desire for greater high-speed wireless coverage in the area and therefore supported the tower, including residents and representatives from two businesses within the notification area. One business owner indicated that the business has been negatively impacted due to lack of wireless coverage. A representative from another business also indicated strong support.

## BY-LAW VARIANCE AND JUSTIFICATION

(a) Requested Variance:

- To vary the Zoning By-law to increase the maximum height of a free-standing telecommunications tower from 12 metres ( 40 ft. ) to 18 metres ( 59 ft .).

Applicant's Reasons:

- The applicant has submitted documentation demonstrating that there is a coverage gap in the area, which the proposed telecommunications tower would assist in resolving.

Staff Comments:

- The proposal complies with the majority of criteria identified in the City's Policy for Telecommunication Towers. The proposed location is within a commercial area with road separation from residential uses.
- The proposed pole design mimics the design of an existing light pole and may be replicable for other carriers who seek to increase coverage in the area.
- Public consultation was evenly split with four residents/business owners supportive and four residents opposed.
- Staff support the proposed variance.


## INFORMATION ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT

The following information is attached to this Report:

| Appendix I. | Lot Owners and Action Summary |
| :--- | :--- |
| Appendix II. | Site Plan and Tower Elevations |
| Appendix III. | Renderings |
| Appendix IV. | Development Variance Permit No. 7913-0224-oo |
| Appendix V. | Coverage Map of Proposed Tower |
| Appendix VI. | Map of Existing Structures within 2 Kilometres (1.2 miles) |
| Appendix VII. | Alternate Locations Considered |

original signed by Judith Robertson

Jean Lamontagne
General Manager
Planning and Development

## Information for City Clerk

Legal Description and Owners of all lots that form part of the application:

1. (a) Agent: Name: Rosa Mundy

Standard Land Company Inc.
Address: $\quad 688 \mathrm{Q}$ - West Hastings Street, Suite 610 Vancouver, BC V6B 1 Pı
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Tel: } & 604-687-1119 \\ \text { Fax: } & 604-687-1339\end{array}$
2. Properties involved in the Application
(a) Civic Address: 18655 - Fraser Highway
(b) Civic Address: 18655 - Fraser Highway

Owner: Clayton Crossing Shopping Centre Ltd.
PID: o26-221-641
Lot A Section 16 Township 8 New Westminster District Plan BCP16324
3. Summary of Actions for City Clerk's Office
(a) Proceed with Public Notification for Development Variance Permit No. 7913-0224-oo and bring the Development Variance Permit forward for issuance and execution by the Mayor and City Clerk.







## What will the site look like?

Below is a photo simulation where the proposed tower design has been transposed on a picture taken from Fraser Highway, looking north at proposed light standard replacement.

Before Construction


## After Construction



Photo Simulation is a close representation and is for conceptual purposes only.
Best efforts have been made to represent the antenna accurately.
The tower will be marked in accordance with Transport Canada Obstruction Marking and NAV Canada requirements.

## What will the site look like?

Below is a photo simulation where the proposed tower design has been transposed on a picture taken from $68^{\text {th }}$ Avenue, looking south at proposed light standard replacement.

## Before Construction



After Construction


Photo Simulation is a close representation and is for conceptual purposes only.
Best efforts have been made to represent the antenna accurately.

## What will the site look like?

Below is a photo simulation where the proposed tower design has been transposed on a picture taken from the parking lot at Clayton Crossing Shopping Centre, looking northwest at proposed light standard replacement.

Before Construction


After Construction


Photo Simulation is a close representation and is for conceptual purposes only.
Best efforts have been made to represent the antenna accurately.
The tower will be marked in accordance with Transport Canada Obstruction Marking and NAV Canada requirements.

## DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT

NO.: 7913-0224-00
Issued To:
Clayton Crossing Shopping Centre
("the Owner")
Address of Owner: $\quad 3905159$ ST
SURREY BC V3S oY

1. This development variance permit is issued subject to compliance by the Owner with all statutes, by-laws, orders, regulations or agreements, except as specifically varied by this development variance permit.
2. This development variance permit applies to that real property including land with or without improvements located within the City of Surrey, with the legal description and civic address as follows:

Parcel Identifier: 026-221-641<br>Lot A Section 16 Township 8 New Westminster District Plan BCP16324<br>18655 Fraser Highway<br>(the "Land")

3. Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993, No. 12000, as amended is varied as follows:
(a) To vary Sub-section A.1(a)ii.b. of Part 4 General Provisions, to increase the height of a telecommunication tower from 12 metres ( 40 ft .) to 18 metres ( 59 ft .).
4. The siting of buildings and structures shall be in accordance with the drawings numbered 7913-0224-oo(A) through to and including 7913-0224-00(B) (the "Drawings") which are attached hereto and form part of this development variance permit.
5. The Land shall be developed strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions and provisions of this development variance permit.
6. This development variance permit shall lapse if the Owner does not substantially start any construction with respect to which this development variance permit is issued, within two (2) years after the date this development variance permit is issued.
7. The terms of this development variance permit or any amendment to it, are binding on all persons who acquire an interest in the Land.
8. This development variance permit is not a building permit.

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE COUNCIL, THE DAY OF , 20 . ISSUED THIS DAY OF , 20 .

Mayor - Dianne L. Watts

City Clerk - Jane Sullivan



Appendix 2. Existing and Proposed Coverage Maps.


Existing Coverage before Installation


Proposed Coverage after Installation


## Appendix 1. Map of Alternative Locations Considered.



1: 18765 Fraser Highway
2: 6758, 188 Street
3: 18682 Fraser Highway
4: 18655 Fraser Highway (Proposed Location)

