

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

## COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

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**Reference No.:** TTCFF

**Draft No.:** 2

**Committee:** GOFP

**Date:** Nov.12, 2024

**Action:** FAV

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**REPORT:** Committee Vote: Favorably as amended 9-0 (Council Members Ivey, Watson, Harrison, Dernoga, Franklin, Oriadha, Blegay Fisher, Burroughs)

The Prince George's County Council met as the Committee of the Whole (COW) on November 12, 2024, to consider the Fiscal Year 2023 Master Plan (Plan) from the Telecommunications Transmission Facilities Coordinating Committee (TTFCC).

The Telecommunications Transmission Facility Coordinating Committee (TTFCC) Master Plan and Annual Report are required to be transmitted to the Council for its review and comment pursuant to Section 5A-155 of the County Code. As noted in the TTFCC report, all applications follow the health, safety, and welfare section of the Prince George's County Code and federal or state regulations and laws, including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The Master Plan displays the locations where one or more wireless service providers have sited telecommunications antennas or may site antennas in the future and is displayed on a map.

The Annual Report informs the County Executive, the County Council, and residents of the TTFCC's activities during the year. It summarizes the TTFCC's purpose, procedures, activities, and history and includes a summary of the accomplishments and strategies recommended for further improvement.

During the meeting, after an overview was received from the Council Representative to the TTFCC regarding the purpose of the committee, an overview of the year's activities was provided by TTFCC Chair Michelle Lyons and James Crane, a technical consultant shared updates to the report since its submission in June. To date, in 2024, there has been a decrease in applications largely due to an increase in colocations vs. new tower construction. Minor modification applications were also lower compared to last year. Currently, carriers are in a holding pattern since the FTC's authority to auction licenses has lapsed. This has had a large impact locally and nationally.

During the meeting Council Member Watson inquired about the quality of cellular service for residents and requested updated information on where service may expand and potentially improve.

Council Member Hawkins inquired about wireless and broadband access.

Ms. Lyons and Mr. Crane explained some of the challenges with equipment placement and the challenge with the FCC not issuing licenses. OIT Director Wanda Gibson also addressed some of the broadband issues and multi-modal strategies being used including federal grants to build out identified areas needing expanded service.

After discussion, the Committee of the Whole voted favorably, 9-0.