

At District 88, we are committed to being open and transparent with our communication to keep stakeholders up to date and informed.

As part of that focus, this message is to share information about a partnership we're pursuing with TowerCo Infrastructure and AT&T. We will have a hearing with the Village of Villa Park Planning & Zoning Commission this evening, June 8, to request a Special Use Permit to install a wireless telecom facility on the Willowbrook campus.

Details about the project can be viewed below.

What are the benefits of building a wireless telecom facility?

The proposed facility will:

- Bring state-of-the-art wireless services to residents, students/families and local businesses to offer seamless coverage.
- Have the latest AT&T technology, including 5G and FirstNet (<https://www.firstnet.com/power-of-firstnet.html>), which operates on a dedicated frequency for first responders during an emergency situation.

FirstNet - Due to communications challenges during the response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the 9/11 Commission recommended the establishment of a single, interoperable network for public safety. For years, public safety organizations lobbied Congress to make this recommendation a reality. Therefore, when Congress established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) in 2012, it based its mission on public safety's express concerns and desires. To truly design the FirstNet network for public safety by public safety – a distinction that makes it unique in American telecommunications history – FirstNet continuously consults with local, state/territory, tribal and federal public safety agencies across the country. Over the past several years, FirstNet has collaborated with public safety stakeholders and leadership from each state and territory. Never before has the public safety community had the opportunity to provide input towards the creation of a nationwide broadband network tailored specifically to meet their needs as they save lives and protect communities across the nation.

Local first responders have confirmed there have been issues with accessing calls directly (calls are being diverted) during emergency events, and this access will be beneficial to assist with communications in the event of an emergency when multiple agencies are responding.

- Accommodate multiple wireless carriers or local government services, providing critical infrastructure for the area.
- Generate a revenue source for District 88 to support future facility projects. The district will receive \$1,700 a month, with a 2-percent increase each year (for up to 25 years).

What is the timeline for this project?

During the Oct. 31, 2022, Board of Education meeting, the Board voted to approve the communication tower lease with TowerCo for an initial five-year term and up to four additional five-year renewal terms.

The timeline is being developed, and we will provide updates as they become available.

Where will the facility be built?

The facility will be on the northwest corner of the Willowbrook campus. [CLICK HERE](#) to view a proposed map of the area.

What will the facility entail?

The proposed site will include a 125-foot multicarrier monopole tower (130 feet with the lightning rod). The area will be enclosed in a 40-by-60-foot fenced equipment compound that will include slats to screen the equipment and deter any trespassing into the equipment compound. Additionally, the compound will be screened in on the north, south and east sides by a regional species of evergreen trees. The west side will be screened in by the adjacent forest preserve. The site will be accessed by a new, paved road that uses an existing field drive. Installing a gate to the access road also is being considered.

What will be the impact on residents?

The facility will have little to no impact on residents or village services.

- It won't affect traffic flow.
- It will only be serviced about once a month by a technician.
- It will use power and fiber already in place near the site.
- There will be no connection to water or sewer.
- There will be minimal stormwater runoff after it's completed.
- There might be brief disruption on Highridge Road during the construction process.

How will the facility be funded?

There will be no cost to residents/taxpayers to implement this project. Funds will be provided by TowerCo Infrastructure.

Who can I contact with questions or for more information?

You're welcome to contact the District 88 Business Office at 630-530-3970.

Thank you for your continued support of District 88.