



THE
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Testimony concerning proposed NYC 5G Infrastructure Solution

New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications

July 29, 2020

Founded in New York City in 1966, the Victorian Society in America is dedicated to fostering the appreciation and preservation of our nineteenth-century heritage, as well as that of the early twentieth century, from 1837-1917. Among its other activities, the New York Chapter actively promotes preservation of the incomparable wealth of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century historic districts, individual landmarks, interiors and civic art in the New York City area.

The New York Chapter has reviewed the proposed designs for small cell equipment installation on the city's lampposts and traffic signals as described in the document "**Proposed NYC 5G Infrastructure Solution.**" This proposed equipment is significantly more obtrusive and out of scale than existing equipment; we believe the installation will degrade the public visual environment. It would be especially offensive on classically-designed lampposts such as the bishop's crook and Triboro, as well as the modern Citylight post. To affix alien equipment of the scale proposed to carefully and delicately designed lampposts will compromise their design integrity and adversely affect the public streetscape.

We recommend that DoITT find another solution, as it is empowered to do. We note that in Paris, for example, 5G equipment is being designed to be incorporated into existing street furnishings in an unobtrusive way that does not fundamentally change or diminish their design quality.

At the very least, we urge that this equipment not be affixed to old and historic lampposts that are designated as individual landmarks or are within historic districts or on other landmark sites. We also urge that this equipment not be affixed to reproduction historic lampposts and other designed posts like the Triboro and Citylight, especially not when these posts are located within designated historic districts.

If the installation nonetheless goes forward as proposed, then we recommend that the franchisees and installation companies, which are profit-making enterprises, mitigate their actions and compensate the public in kind: first, provide a fund to restore, in consultation with the Landmarks Commission, all remaining historic lampposts, including those that are protected by the Commission as designated individual landmarks, as well as in historic districts or on other landmark sites, and provide a maintenance fund for them. Second, provide a fund to install appropriate historic reproduction lampposts in all historic districts that currently do not have them, along with a maintenance fund.

We are sending this testimony also to the Public Design Commission and the Landmarks Preservation Commission, as we understand both agencies will review the proposal.

George Calderaro, Chair, Preservation Committee
Victorian Society New York

Cc:

New York City Public Design Commission
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission