



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: September 6, 2012

PROJECT AT&T Communication Antennas and associated equipment Liberty Loan Building 401 14th Street, SW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7395
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.74(38.30)43611
REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Preliminary and final approval of building plans
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve as requested
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted preliminary and final building plans for the installation of nine telecommunication antennas and one GPS receive only antenna on the roof of the Liberty Loan Building. GSA has submitted the project on behalf of AT&T communications. The telecommunication antennas are 54 inches long, 9 inches wide and 7 inches deep. The GPS antenna has a diameter of about 3.5 inches and a height of about five inches. The installation will also include one unmanned equipment cabinet.

KEY INFORMATION

- The antennas will be flush mounted on the building or the penthouse and will not protrude above the rooflines.
 - The antennas will increase capacity and enhance the quality of the service in the 14th Street Bridge, Independence Avenue, I-395, and Tidal Basin area.
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RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary and final building plans for the installation of nine AT&T telecommunication antennas, one GPS antenna, and associated support equipment at the Liberty Loan Building located at 401 14th Street, SW, Washington, DC, for a period not to exceed ten years.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	none
Remaining actions (anticipated)	none

Prepared by C. Kelly
August 30, 2012

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Site

The proposed antenna installation will be located at the Liberty Loan Building, at 401 14th Street, SW, Washington, DC. The building is surrounded by 15th Street, SW, on the west, 14th Street, SW, on the east, Maine Avenue, SW to the south, and the U.S. Treasury Building to the north. To the west, with views of the building, is the Tidal Basin.



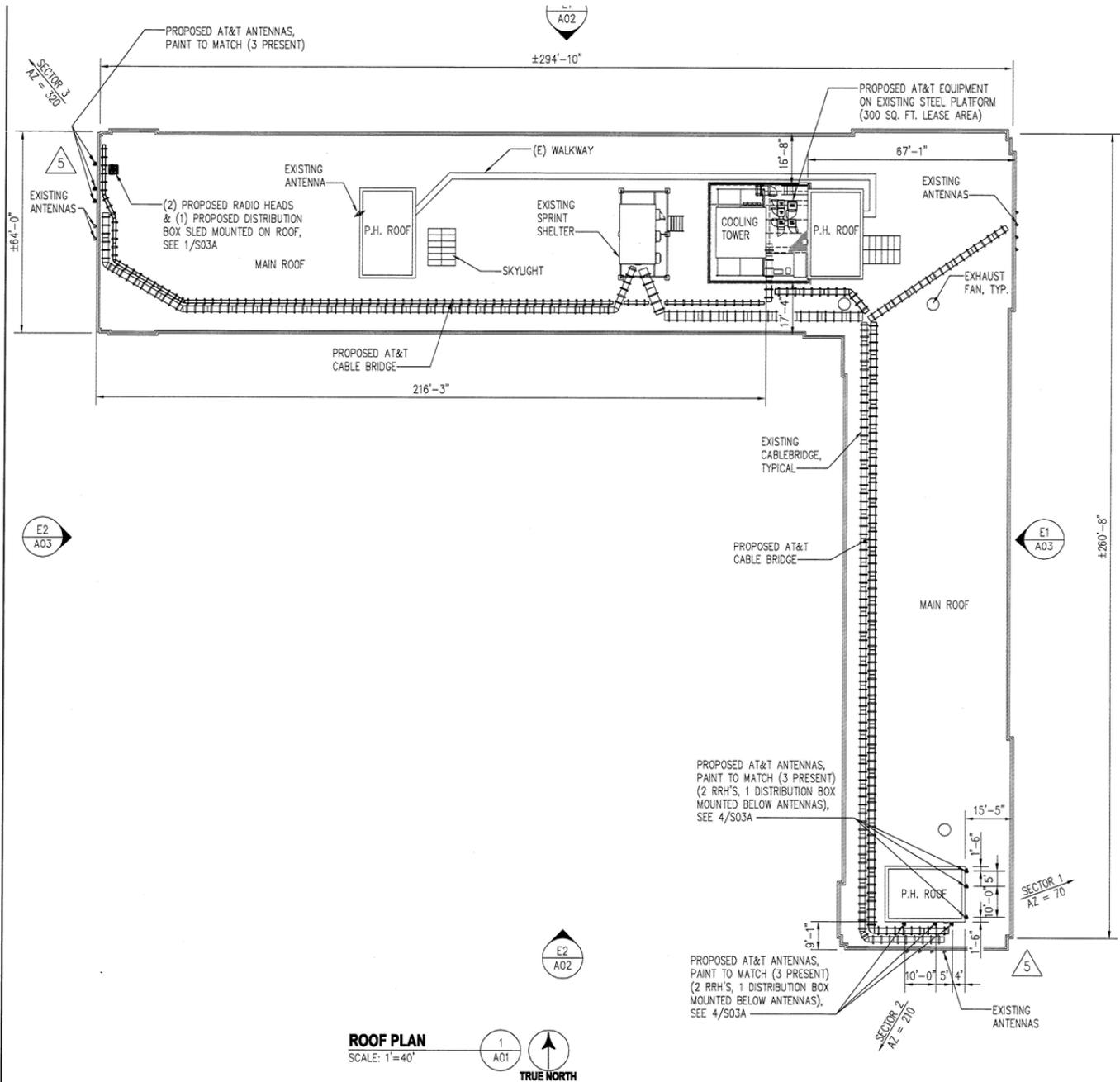
Liberty Loan Building Location

Proposal

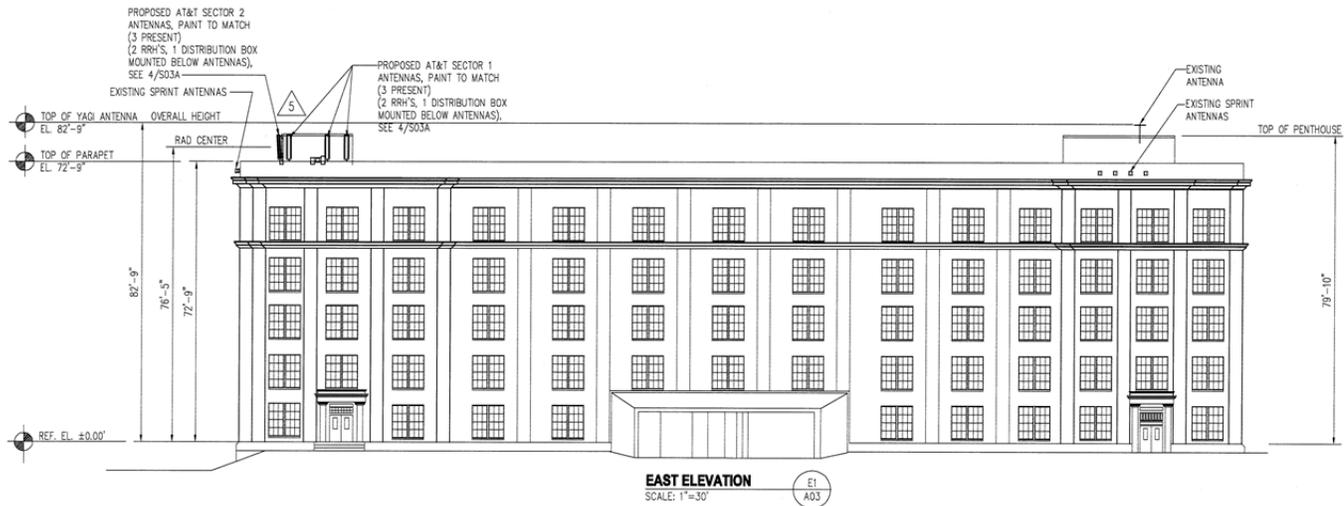
GSA, on behalf of AT&T Mobility, has submitted preliminary and final building plans for the installation of nine telecommunication antennas and one GPS receive only antenna on the roof of the Liberty Loan Building. The proposal also includes the installation of an equipment cabinet on an existing steel platform that is located within a recessed rooftop cooling tower well. Due to the location of the equipment cabinet within the recessed area, the public will not be able to see the cabinet.

The antenna will be placed in three groups of three antennas, with each group of three being called a "sector." Two sectors will be flush mounted to the existing penthouse wall on the southern section of the building roof plan. The antennas will not exceed the height of the penthouse wall. The last sector will be flush mounted to wall of the west elevation of the building and will not exceed the height of the wall.

Roof Plan



Building Elevations



II. PROJECT ANALYSIS/CONFORMANCE

Analysis

Staff finds that the proposed work meets the general criteria of Section 3 of the NCPC Antenna Guidelines, and **recommends approval of the proposed antenna installation, for a period of ten years, including approval of the supporting equipment necessary for the operation of the antennas.** The applicant has located the antennas to minimize their appearance as well as will paint the antennas to match the existing penthouse and building color. The antennas will not protrude above the roofline of the building or the penthouses and will not be readily apparent to the public at ground level. The proposal is consistent with the Commission's Antenna Guidelines and with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that encourages placement of commercial antennas on federal property.

Radiofrequency Radiation Analysis

In accordance with NCPC's submission guidelines, GSA has submitted information about radiation patterns for the proposed antennas. The GSA submission documents show that the proposed antennas will not adversely affect human health and safety on the ground. The lack of potential hazards is partially attributed to the distance of the antennas above ground. Since the antennas are located higher than 70 feet above the ground, no adverse emission levels will be encountered by the general public and the antennas do not exceed the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) occupational or general population exposure limits. On the roof level, the radiofrequency exposure risk is low for both the general population the occupational population. Access to the roof is controlled and exposure risk to the general population is minimal.

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Staff finds the proposed antennas comply with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, in particular the Federal Environment Element, which indicates that federal actions in the region should conform to the following policy:

Evaluate the possibilities for joint-use of antennas and collocating antennas to reduce aesthetic impacts and limit the area of radiofrequency (RF) exposure. Federal agencies should also evaluate the cumulative effect of multiple transmitters at one location to ensure that the combined radiofrequency emissions continue to meet Federal Communications Commission guidelines.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

GSA has determined that the proposed antennas adhere to the conditions of their Categorical Exclusion 5.4(n) under its implementing procedures for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for installation of antennae consistent with General Services Administration Bulletin FPMR D-242, *Placement of commercial antennas on Federal property*. NCPC staff has determined that the proposed project adheres to the NCPC Categorical Exclusion requirements under §8(C)(20) of the agency's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, which is for "review and approval of the installation of communication antennae on federal buildings and co-location of communication antennae on federal property consistent with the General Services Administration Bulletin FPMR D-242 and the NCPC Submission Requirements for Antennas on Federal property."

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), GSA submitted the project to the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) for review. The DC SHPO concurred with GSA that the project will have no adverse effect to historic properties. NCPC staff evaluated the project and concurs with the determination of no adverse effect. The antennas will be painted to match the existing building and penthouse and will not protrude above the roofline. Visibility of the antennas will be minimal.

III. CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its August 15, 2012 meeting and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services; the National Park Service; GSA; the DC SHPO, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The Commission of Fine Arts approved the installation of the antennas at the Liberty Loan building on its Consent Calendar at its July 19, 2012 meeting.