



# TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Relations



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## ***MEMORANDUM***

**TO:** Commission Members

**FROM:** Cliff Lippard  
Executive Director *Cliff*

**DATE:** 17 January 2020

**SUBJECT:** Public Chapter 819, Acts of 2018 (Small Cell)—Panel

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Continuing the collection and review of information on the effects of Public Chapter 819, Acts of 2018—which made changes to state law governing the deployment of small wireless facilities for providing broadband internet service—you will hear from a panel of experts discussing the Act's effect on providers and the state and local government entities responsible for permitting small wireless facilities:

- Vernon Gerth, Assistant City Administrator, City of Franklin
- Jeff Hoge, Director, Right-of-Way Division, Tennessee Department of Transportation
- Joelle Phillips, President, AT&T, Tennessee

Representatives for the Tennessee County Services Association, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, and the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association have agreed to be available to answer questions if needed.

Tennessee is one of 28 states that have enacted small wireless facilities laws. In September 2018, the Federal Communications Commission adopted new federal rules governing the deployment of small wireless facilities, which differ from the state's law in several ways, including the definition of these facilities, the time local governments have to process applications, the fees that can be charged for processing applications, and whether local governments may pass on consultant fees to applicants.

Public Chapter 819, Acts of 2018, directs the Commission to report the results of its study, including any recommendations, to the General Assembly by January 1, 2021.