CROWN CASTLE



Wireless Broadband Deployment

When discussing broadband access, it's important to remember that broadband includes both wired and wireless solutions.

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The pathway to possible.

A year into the pandemic, thousands of students still can't get reliable WiFi for school. The digital divide remains worse than ever.

Erin Richards, Elinor Aspegren and Erin Mansfield, USA TODAY Published 5:02 a.m. ET Feb. 4, 2021 | Updated 2:35 p.m. ET Feb. 4, 2021



WIRELESS IS PART OF THE BROADBAND SOLUTION

- 45% of teens who live in households earning less than $30,000 a year, say they at least sometimes rely on their cellphone to finish their homework.
- Young, minority, and low-income users are disproportionately reliant on smartphones for access to information and resources. Expanding access and deploying 5G will be critically important for these users.

Your wireless world.

CROWN CASTLE

Wherever you go throughout your day, you rely on wireless devices to send email, get directions, watch videos, and so much more. But none of this just happens. It works because of the infrastructure that enables it.

TOWERS

Wireless carriers install equipment on cell towers. When this is done, a tower can provide wireless voice and data services to a large geographic area.

ROOFTOPS

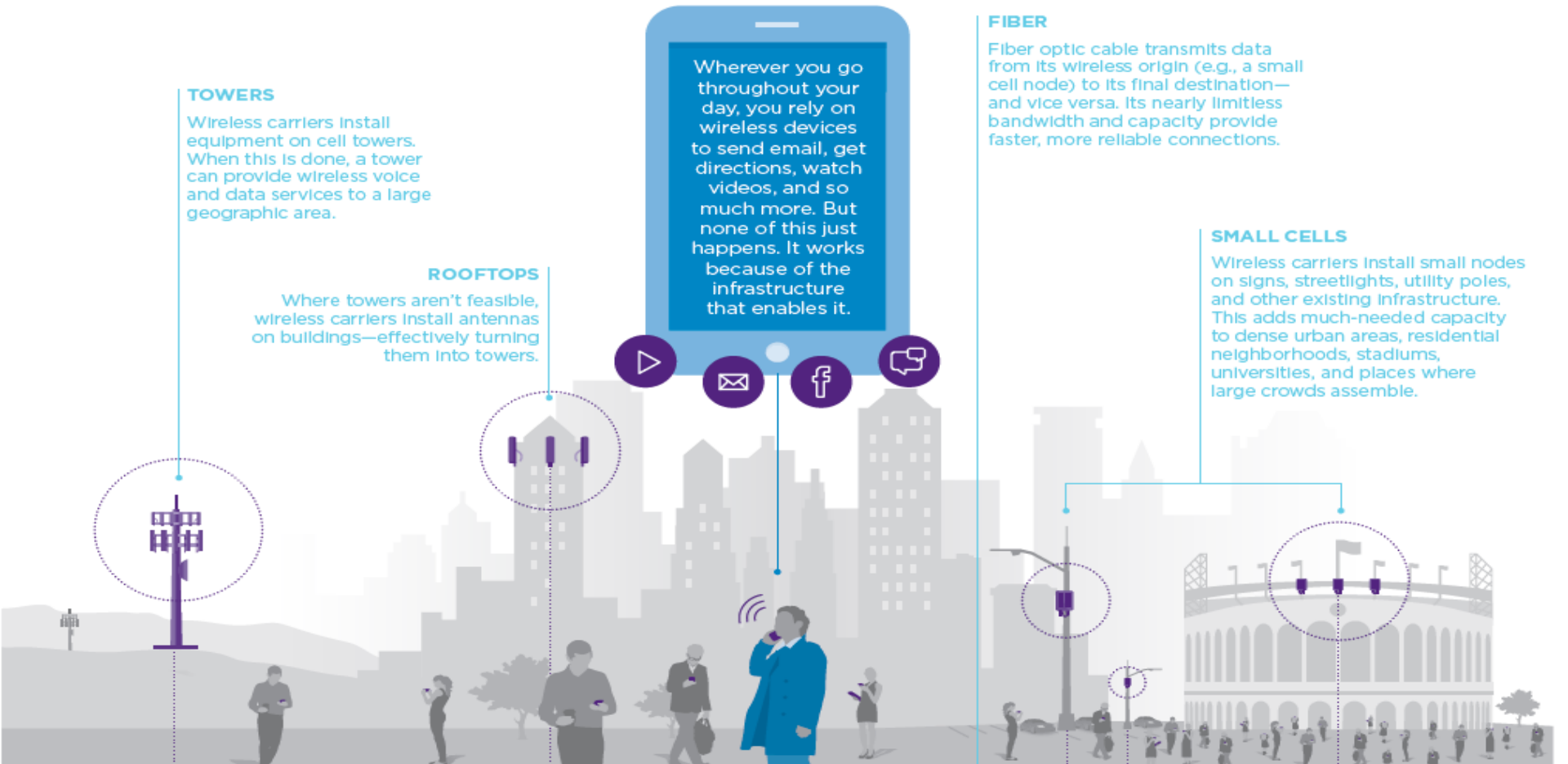
Where towers aren't feasible, wireless carriers install antennas on buildings—effectively turning them into towers.

FIBER

Fiber optic cable transmits data from its wireless origin (e.g., a small cell node) to its final destination—and vice versa. Its nearly limitless bandwidth and capacity provide faster, more reliable connections.

SMALL CELLS

Wireless carriers install small nodes on signs, streetlights, utility poles, and other existing infrastructure. This adds much-needed capacity to dense urban areas, residential neighborhoods, stadiums, universities, and places where large crowds assemble.



CHALLENGES

- How to build a statewide broadband network with patchwork permitting?
- The Federal Communications Commission requires that jurisdictions process permits to collocate small wireless facilities (SWF) on existing infrastructure in the right of way (ROW) within 60 days of application and to install a new pole in the ROW with a SWF within 90 days from submittal.
- In Washington State, there are jurisdictions that have not processed SWF permits for up to 2-3 years (and still waiting).
- The only remedy for noncompliance is litigation, which further delays deployment.
- Although there has been significant attention to broadband funding over the last several months, deployment is an equally critical part of the

SOLUTIONS

- Create a statewide framework to facilitate rapid deployment of small wireless facilities. See HB 1440. 30 states across the country have already adopted similar bills and are seeing the benefits of 5G deployment. Here in WA, we're still trying to build 4G.
- Tie broadband funding to a streamlined permitting process. This is not only a funding issue, it's a deployment issue.
- We have a number of "best practices" that we've seen used effectively elsewhere. Let's apply some of those here.

Thank you

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