



For Immediate Release

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**Building Smart Cities with Small Cell Networks
ICC Plans Policy Session**

CHICAGO – The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will host a policy session Wednesday, June 7, 2017 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm to discuss network technologies required to support smart cities. The policy session will take place in the main hearing room of the ICC’s Chicago office located at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite C-800.

The ever-increasing demand for wireless connectivity and immediate access to data and content is growing quickly, and will undoubtedly continue to grow significantly in coming years. With the proliferation of connected devices and data-intensive applications, small cell solutions play a critical role in adding more capacity to the wireless networks.

“We must closely examine the policy issues community leaders and telecommunications providers are facing to keep up with demand to upgrade infrastructure for 5G and beyond,” said ICC Chairman Brien J. Sheahan. “Enabling Illinois cities to become ‘smart’ cities is imperative to improving public safety, making our transportation networks more efficient, and supporting other advances enabled by the Internet of Things.”

The policy session will feature expert panelists in two discussion categories. The first will focus on the evolution of technology and discuss the network solutions to meet the Internet of Things infrastructure needs for 5G and beyond. It will also address policy issues that telecommunication providers and communities are currently facing. The goal is to showcase the successes that can be achieved through partnership and collaboration between telecommunications providers, municipalities, and utilities. The second panel will discuss how the next generation of wireless infrastructure, primarily small cells, will enable cities to become “smart.”

Expert panelists include:

Benjamin J. Aron, Director, State Regulatory, *CTIA*

Chris Bondurant, AVP Construction & Engineering, *AT&T Technology Operations*

Jason Caliento, Senior Vice President, Network Strategy, *Mobilitie*

Patrick Hayes, General Counsel, *Illinois Municipal League*

Michael Kuberski, Director IT, UComm, *Exelon*

Ken Schifman, Director of Government Affairs, *Sprint*

Jim Zolnierek, Bureau Chief, Public Utilities, *ICC*

To view the full agenda for the session, click [here](#).
Click [here](#) for live audio access of the policy session via the ICC website.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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