

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2025-021**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA,
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION
SUBMITTED BY VERIZON WIRELESS TO THE ANCHORAGE PLANNING AND
ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TYPE 1 MONOPOLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
TOWER IN PORTAGE VALLEY (PROJECT NO. 2025-0067, PORTAGE LAKE SITE)**

WHEREAS, Verizon Wireless has submitted an application to the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a Type 1 monopole tower at approximately Milepost 0.3 on Portage Lake Loop Road (SEC 13, T8N, R3E, Seward Meridian), scheduled to be considered on June 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the proposed tower would improve wireless communication coverage in Portage Valley—a critical transportation corridor that connects Whittier to the rest of Alaska via the Seward Highway and the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel; and

WHEREAS, while cellular service within the City of Whittier is reliable, travelers lose signal shortly after turning off the Seward Highway, with no service throughout Portage Valley or at the Bear Valley staging area; and

WHEREAS, this gap in coverage creates a public safety concern: if an accident occurs or assistance is needed, travelers and residents must drive several miles back toward the highway to regain signal and place an emergency call; and

WHEREAS, the Bear Valley staging area often hosts long lines of waiting vehicles during peak visitor seasons, and visitors, workers, and residents must wait there without access to communication, navigation, or reservation systems, impeding both safety and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, although the proposed tower is located outside Whittier city limits, it serves a critical role in ensuring safe and reliable communication for all who travel to, from, or through Whittier, including Anchorage residents, visitors, and workforce; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whittier is served year-round by emergency medical personnel, harbor and port staff, and local police who rely on functioning communications infrastructure to coordinate services and emergency response throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, expanded telecommunications coverage will improve the resiliency of travel to and from Whittier, support the safety of locals and visitors alike, and facilitate better coordination across jurisdictional boundaries in this shared corridor.

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NOW, THEREFORE, THE WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Whittier City Council finds that improving cellular coverage in the Portage Valley corridor is a matter of public safety, resilience, and regional connectivity.

Section 2. The Whittier City Council supports Verizon Wireless' Conditional Use Permit application (Project No. 2025-0067) and urges the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the proposed monopole tower in Portage Valley.

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Whittier City Council on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Daniel Blair
Mayor

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Shelby Carlson
City Clerk

(City Seal)