Description of proposal: This is a non-project proposed rule by SDOT that provides design standards for attaching small wireless facilities (SWFs) to poles within City of Seattle right-of-way on both public and private poles. SWFs not installed in the public right-of-way are not subject to these requirements, but these standards may inform those installations. SWFs are already allowed and exist in the public right-of-way and must comply with Seattle City Light standards where applicable and require permits and review as provided for in the Sidewalk and Street Use Code. The Director’s Rule is not expected to result in an increase or decrease in the number of SWFs, just to limit their appearance and location in the public right-of-way consistent with the proposed design standards. Specific design standards are described for wood and metal poles for the height of replacement poles, top-mount and side mount canister and panel antennas, pole diameters, accessory equipment locations, and cabling and conduit. There are also design standards for location preferences, context and placement, concealment, noise, and lighting. SWFs on existing poles within public right-of-way require approval from the pole owner such as Seattle City Light, SDOT, Metro, or CenturyLink. Applications for SWFs in Seattle Parks and Recreation’s Boulevards, Historic or Landmark Districts, or the Waterfront Seattle Project Area must comply with design guidance and obtain applicable approvals.

Proponent: Seattle Department of Transportation
Street Use - Public Space Management
P.O. Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Location of proposal including street address, if any: The 2020 Director’s Rule Design Standards for Small Wireless Facilities on Poles in the Public Place applies to the public right-of-way within the entire City of Seattle.

Lead Agency: SDOT

SDOT has determined that this proposal would not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information may be examined in the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections Public Resource Center at 700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, WA, 98104. Documents are also at the Seattle Central Library, at 1000 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA, 98104 and at http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/sdot-document-library/directors-rules-and-ordinances.

☐ There is no comment period.

☐ This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355 and Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.05.355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

☑ This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.05.340; the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the issue date below. Comments must be submitted by 5:00 PM February 27, 2020.

Issue Date: February 13, 2020

SEPA Responsible Official: Jill Macik, SEPA Official, SDOT

Agency contact: Alyse Nelson
E-mail address: telecom.wireless@seattle.gov
Telephone: 206-684-5968

Any interested person may appeal this DNS by submitting a Notice of Appeal and a $85.00 filing fee to the Office of the Hearing Examiner located at 700 5th Avenue, Suite 4000, Seattle; mailing address: P.O. Box 94729, Seattle, WA 98124; telephone: (206) 684-0521. The appeal must be filed no later than 5:00 PM March 5, 2020. The appellant should be prepared to make specific factual objections. See SMC 25.05.680 A(2)(a)(ii) for SEPA appeal procedures.