

Verizon Wireless – Responses to Questions from House Commerce & Economic Development

Committee – Hearing on H.117 – February 11, 2015

- Q. 1. What percentage of Verizon Wireless' system in Vermont is 4G LTE? As of the summer of 2014, all of VW's wireless system in Vermont has 4G LTE available. Currently our system is designed and constructed to serve both 4G LTE and 3G in the same footprint. Any location that has 3G service also has 4G LTE capability.
- Q.2. What are the upload and download speeds of 4G LTE and 3G on our system? Using a 4G smartphone on Verizon's 4G LTE network means you can download files from the Internet up to 10 times faster than with 3G. (http://www.verizonwireless.com/mobile-living/tech-smarts/what-is-3g-what-is-4g-lte-difference/) We engineer our 4G LTE Network to deliver on average 2 to 5 MBPS on the upload and 5 to 12 MBPS on the download. (http://www.verizonwireless.com/news/LTE/Overview.html)
- Q.3. What is the breakdown between data usage and voice usage on our system? This information is proprietary. However, national trends in the industry suggest that data usage continues to increase rapidly while it is relatively flat for voice. The following report and pages 11 and 12 show graphically the trends in usage. (http://www.ericsson.com/res/docs/2014/ericsson-mobility-report-november-2014.pdf)
- Q.4. What has been VW's experience with permitting under Section 248a over the past year and working with municipalities in the process? VW is using the Section 248a process extensively for its permitting of new sites. Applications are processed in a timely manner by the PSB. In some instances, at the request of neighbors or municipalities, the DPS has conducted aesthetic analysis of proposed projects. It is part of the Section 248a process for VW to notify the Planning Commission and Selectboard or City Council during the 45-day notice period. If any such Commission, Board or Council expresses questions or concerns, VW sends representatives to meet with them, usually within the 45-day notice period. For example, we are in the process of upgrading our system in the Burlington area and recently met with the City Planning Commission and the City Council. Our hope is to try to identify and address concerns before we file an application with the PSB. This saves all parties time and money and builds better outcomes with support from the municipalities.



Q.5. Can you share the progress in building out your system in 2014 and what you have planned for 2015? We can tell you that during 2014 we completed the construction of 19 "macro" sites. We have an aggressive schedule for 2015 and can tell you that currently three new telecommunications facilities have entered the state permitting process since January 1. All other projects planned for 2015 are not yet in the permitting process and therefore must remain confidential. In the past, we have provided our future build plans during consultation with the DPS under the terms of a voluntary nondisclosure agreement. In H.117 you have provided a process for VW and other providers to share proprietary information with the DPS through a third party aggregator under a voluntary nondisclosure agreement. If and when that information is needed by DPS, VW will be willing to work with the DPS pursuant to conditions similar to those set forth in H.117 to assist in providing DPS with the requested information.