



TOWN OF
QUEEN CREEK
ARIZONA



2025 Telecommunications Update

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Agenda



Background



Macro Towers



Small Cell Deployments



Fiber Deployments



Conduit Occupancy Agreements



Permitting Performance



Miscellaneous Updates



Goals/Next Steps



Background

Corporate Strategic Plan - Superior Infrastructure

4.8 - Continue to work with technology providers to provide services Town wide (cell, internet, fiber, etc.)

Important Background/Previous Work

- Previous drive tests have shown the Town faces a significant capacity issue for cellular service
- In preparation for small cell deployments, the Town purchased the streetlights throughout the Town from SRP
- Updated our ROW agreement language to attract investment in the Town
- Created a webpage for residents that provides updates on future cell sites





Upcoming Macro Towers

Small Cell Agreements

The Town has two licensing agreements for small cell deployments

Cox Communications (October 2025)

- Approximately 21 small cell sites near Town Center
- Q4 2026-Q1 2027 delivery

Crown Castle (March 2024)

- 23 small cell sites throughout the Town
 - 8 nodes currently under construction (January-February “live” timeframe)
 - 15 nodes pending construction
- 40.5 miles of fiber installed
 - 20.1 miles of RAPID 2.0 installed
 - 1.9 miles of RAPID 2.0 pending
 - 3.27 miles of RAPID 2.0 in design

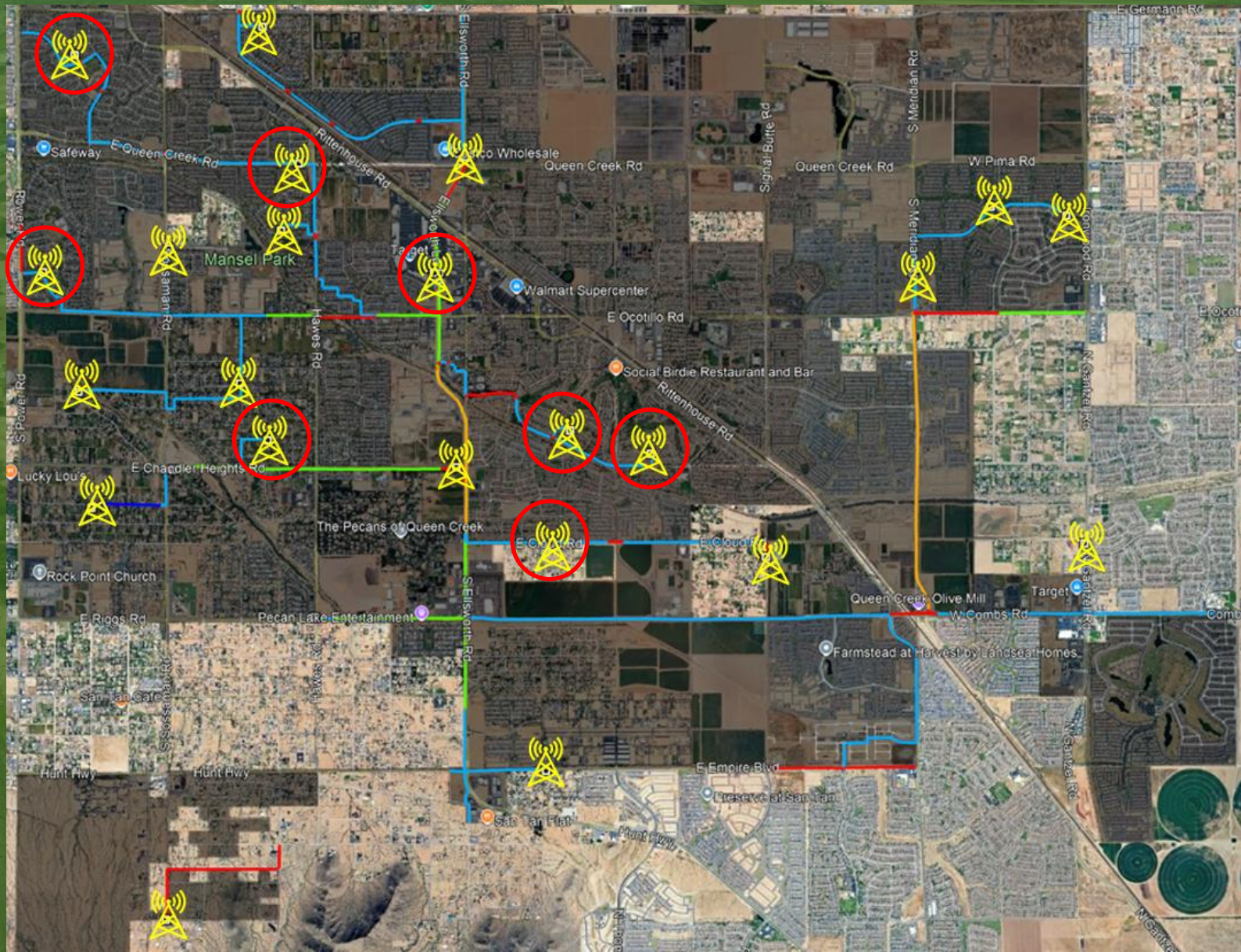




Note: These locations are an estimate as Cox is still finalizing their exact deployment locations



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Crown Castle: 23 Small Cell Facilities in Queen Creek

Fiber Updates

Gigapower

- The Town executed an agreement with Gigapower in March 2025.
- Gigapower recently notified the Town they have no plans to deploy in the near future.

NOVOS Fiber

- The Town executed an agreement with NOVOS in March 2025.
- NOVOS recently updated the Town they are still assessing their plans to deploy in QC.

Orbitel Communications

- The Town signed an agreement with Orbitel in April 2024.
- Orbitel has still yet to deploy in the Town. The Town has the option to terminate the ROW agreement in April 2026.



Google Fiber

The Town approved a licensing agreement with Google Fiber in December 2023

- So far:
 - 24 segments built
 - 9,775 households passed
 - 606,533 feet of microtrenching
 - 186,209 feet of bore
- Google Fiber plans to go live in December
- Full buildout by the end of 2026



Conduit Occupancy Agreements

10/15/25 – The Town executed conduit occupancy agreements with Crown Castle and Google Fiber

- Conduit occupancy agreements allow telecommunication companies to lease Town owned conduit
- The Town structured these agreements to include an in-kind offset option as well as a linear foot fee backup option
- These agreements and their in-kind structure are beneficial in multiple ways:
 1. Allows the Town to lease fiber from these companies
 2. Expedites the deployments of Crown Castle and Google Fiber
 3. Minimizes construction impacts



Permitting Performance

- The Town Council previously adopted a policy allowing telecommunication permits to receive expedited review.
- Last year, the average permit review time was 5 days.
- If all of the information is provided at the time of submission, Town staff is reviewing permits in less than 5 days.



Additional Important Updates

- Upcoming Text Amendment from our Development Services Department.
 - Effort to improve efficiency and processing times for entitlement applications related to wireless communication facilities.
 - Anticipated to be brought before P&Z Commission in the next 60-90 days.
- Town staff met directly with T-Mobile to discuss capacity concerns.
- Crown Castle will share the results of their first group of small cells going “live” early next year.
- The Town will contract with EWS to conduct a full drive test with EWS later in 2026.



2026 Goals

- Oversee the construction of 3 new macro towers
- Finalize upcoming text amendment
- Ensure Crown Castle and Cox small cell deployments go “live”
- Continue building public/private partnerships
- Execute drive tests and report results
- Continue to work with Google Fiber to ensure Town-wide deployment by the end of 2026

Thank You



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