



AUSTIN
Independent School District



Project Lighthouse

Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission

December 14, 2022

Project Objective

- Over (20%) of students in Austin ISD have been using hotspots; and between March 2020 and July 2022, nearly 30,000 hotspots were used to connect Austin ISD students to the internet, at a cost of \$7.17 million for delivery of hot spots.
- AISD is seeking to improve telecommunication services on and around all campuses by providing free services to our students and their families for educational purposes where Internet access has historically been limited.
 - Students' academic performance can be negatively affected without the Internet since they cannot connect with teachers, classmates, or get online homework help.
 - Families can miss information or lose out on a direct line of communication with their schools and teachers.



Implementation Process

- In conjunction with Branch Communications, Austin ISD plans to install monopoles as part of Phase 1 of the Project Lighthouse initiative at (9) campuses.
- The selected campuses are located in the Eastern crescent in order to more effectively address our historically underserved communities.
- Monopoles will be installed in carefully selected locations to ensure they will not interfere with educational or recreational activities and cause a minimal disruption to the overall campus plan.
- Branch Communications will construct and maintain the monopoles at their sole cost and expense in exchange for being able to lease space on each monopole to up to (3) cell phone carriers, such as AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile.



Infrastructure

- The monopole will be up to 120 feet in height.
 - AISD will have exclusive use of the top 15 feet of the tower to install its LTE equipment.
 - Branch will have the ability to rent out use of the tower to up to 3 cell phone carriers.
- Each monopole will be enclosed by security fencing with a separate access point.
- It will be located on campus in compliance with the following:
 - More than 50 feet from a dwelling unit or a daycare or preschool facility classroom area
 - More than 300 feet from any property or structure zoned “H” historic or structures designed as National Register Historic Landmarks







Student Access

- AISD will act as the “carrier” and provide internet to District students living within a 1-mile radius of the monopole.
- A single Consumer Premises Equipment (CPE), similar to a cable modem/set-top box, will be provided to each student’s family at their home address.
 - One CPE can be used by all students at their home address.
 - The CPE can be checked out after the parent/caretaker signs a CPE agreement form.
 - The CPE should be located near a window for the best reception.
 - Students will login on their school issued device in the same manner as when they are in class at school.



Collaboration with City of Austin

- City Council passed resolution in June 2022 directing City staff to work with AISD to prepare an agreement relating to telecommunications facilities on District campuses and associated site development standards.
- AISD and COA drafted an amendment to the Land Development Standards Agreement that outlines the requirements for installation of the monopoles.
- AISD Board will vote on the amendment on January 26, 2023.
- City Council also scheduled to vote on the amendment on January 26, 2023.



Community Engagement

- Campus Level
 - Partner with principals to identify best communication channels to inform students and families about monopolies
 - Examples: handouts, campus social media, Principal coffee chats
- Neighbors
 - Send out mailer to all residents within 1-mile radius of campus
- District Level
 - Provide updates via Family newsletter
 - Host informational community meeting
 - Publish resource page on District website

