

1 January 2026

Policy: (Revised) Wireless Right-of-Way Permit Application Fees under CMC Chapter 719

Director *Gugory D. Long*

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Pursuant to the management authority of the Director of the Department of Transportation and Engineering ("DOTE") over City streets under Article 5 of the Cincinnati Administrative Code and the authority conferred on the Director under Cincinnati Municipal Code ("CMC") Chapter 719, "Wireless Communications Facilities in the Right of Way," and CMC Section 721-35, "Rules and Schedules," the Director hereby adopts the following revised fees for applications for wireless communication facilities in the public right-of-way ("ROW"). The revised fees constitute an update to the City's April 4, 2017, wireless permit fee policy in order to make it consistent with current Federal and State Codes and Regulations.

Wireless ROW Permit Fee Requirement

In accordance with CMC Section 719-5 and the accompanying Revised Wireless Detailed Design Guidelines and Examples, an applicant for installation of a wireless communication facility in the ROW must pay a non-refundable permit application fee in an amount as shown in the table below. Under CMC Section 719-9, approval of an application includes approval of both (1) a permit to construct/install the facility and (2) a wireless facility ROW occupancy permit. For ease of administration, the single combined application fee set forth below is inclusive of DOTE application review costs for both permits.

Wireless ROW Permit application fees vary with on the category of application under CMC Section 719-7. The baseline application fees are as follows:

Application Fee (per facility)	Application Type
\$314 *	Type I (minor modification of existing equipment on existing structure)
\$314*	Type II (major (substantial) modification of existing equipment on an existing structure.)
\$275 **	Type III (new transmission equipment on a structure that does not already support transmission equipment)
\$275 ***	Type IV (new transmission equipment on a new structure)

* Type I and II permit fees include both the costs of (1) application and plan review and (2) the equipment permit.

** Type III permit fee just includes the cost of the application and plan review. A separate equipment permit will be issued with a corresponding additional fee.

*** Type IV permit fee just includes the cost of the application and plan review. A separate construction permit will be issued with corresponding additional fees.

Prior to issuance of permits, DOTE will determine whether the baseline application fee adequately covers its actual review costs and revise the fee amount as necessary. Actual permit fees may vary if, for example, the application requires sidewalk and/or street opening or if unusual elements of the application require additional staff or outside consultant review time. CMC Section 719-13 requires that all application fees be paid prior to issuance of a permit.

Detailed Cost Calculation Information

(1) Construction Permit and Inspection Portion of Costs

- a. Type I and II. Installation of a Type I or II facility requires an \$125 Equipment Permit fee (current cost) covering the costs of overseeing installation of new equipment in the ROW. This fee is listed in the DOTE fee schedule adopted under CMC Section 721-35. This cost is included in the original application fee.
- b. Type III. Installation of a Type III facility requires a \$125 Equipment Permit fee (current cost) covering the costs of overseeing installation of new equipment in the ROW. This fee is listed in the DOTE fee schedule adopted under CMC Section 721-35. This cost is separate from the original application fee and will need to be paid before the permit is issued.
- c. Type IV. New construction in the ROW requires a street opening permit and corresponding fee calculated based on the DOTE fee schedule adopted under CMC Section 721-35.
 - i. Note that street opening fees are estimated up front based on projected restoration quantities, and the final bill is based on final as-built quantities measured by the DOTE inspector. Credit balances are returned to the applicant and a bill is sent for any additional balance due.

(2) Recovery of Additional Costs Incurred in Processing Application

CMC Section 719-5 provides that DOTE may charge for recovery of additional, reasonable costs incurred in its analysis, evaluation, and response to an application if the actual costs of review exceed the application fee. No construction or wireless ROW permits shall be issued until the applicant pays for the additional costs as are authorized to be recovered. Any additional costs sought to be recovered by DOTE for use of outside permit review consultants will be subject to the process under CMC Section 719-5.

(3) Fee Increases

All fees shall be adjusted ten percent every five years from 2018, rounded to the nearest five dollars. During each five-year period, the adjustment may be applied incrementally or as a single adjustment as determined by the DOTE.

2018 = \$250

2023 = \$275

2028 = \$305

2033 = \$340