199-FOOT CELL TOWER IS REQUESTED NEAR I-81

Montgomery County, Virginia • The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors is seeking comments on a special use permit request by Verizon Wireless to allow a 199-foot telecommunications tower along Interstate 81 at exit 105 near the New River, City of Radford and Pulaski County.

Verizon Wireless has stated the purpose of its request is to enhance network coverage for Interstate 81 and nearby secondary roads near the proposed tower site. The 5480 Peterson Drive site in Riner, where the tower is proposed, is undeveloped and designated as Rural in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Citizens may provide comments on the proposed 199-foot telecommunications tower by contacting Board of Supervisors' members at (540) 382-6954 or supervisors@montgomerycountyva.gov or speaking during public address at their June 9 and 23 meetings. Comments also may be made by contacting Planning Department staff at (540) 394-2148 or writing to the Planning Department, 755 Roanoke St. Suite 2A, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the tower special use request on May 27. At this meeting, the Board discussed whether to approve the 199-foot tower with a full 14-foot platform array of antennas or, instead, a 155-foot tower with flush mounted antennas.

At its May 21 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the tower at 199 feet with the full platform array. The recommendation was made on a 6-1 vote (Rice opposed, Donahue and Disney absent).

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to take action on the special use permit request at its June 23 meeting. For more information, see www.montgomerycountyva.gov/planning under pending requests and applications or contact Planning staff at (540) 394-2148.

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