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# City of San Diego Receives Outstanding IT Project Award for Its Implementation of 5G Network

## 5G MOBILE NETWORK EXPECTED TO DELIVER FASTER SPEEDS

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego has received the Outstanding IT Project Award by Government Technology, a magazine and online site focused on information technology in the public sector, at the Los Angeles Digital Government Summit. The City won the award on Tuesday afternoon for its cutting-edge approach to implementing 5G technology by using data analytics and Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to create a suite of tools to support the permitting and installation of 5G small cell nodes.

**“The 5G mobile network is regarded as the next-generation standard for wireless communications,”** said Erik Caldwell, the City’s Deputy Chief Operating Officer. **“This award not only shows how we are ahead in building a foundation for this technology, but how we are doing it right.”**

The City’s project was developed in September 2018 after the Federal Communications Commission required municipalities to make their assets, such as street lights, available for 5G equipment distribution. Using GIS, the City created an internal, interactive map to identify which street lights were available to mount small cells, and built a publicly available map for telecommunications vendors to research and request usage of available street lights. In addition, they made a dashboard to monitor the submittal process by vendors and a mobile editing application allowing field staff to recommend asset location and attribute changes to improve database accuracy.

**“The suite of tools has sped up our workflow significantly and gives us more accurate data,”** said Jonathan Behnke, the City’s Chief Information Officer. **“Before it was created, the City did not have a dynamic mapping interface to research what types of equipment were on all the street light poles. We hope our model inspires other cities as they permit the installation of 5G small cells.”**

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