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Small cell network to boost service in busy areas

THE COLONY, Texas — Residents may have noticed small towers (like the one pictured at right) going up at a number of locations throughout the southern half of the city. These are part of a new “small cell” network recently installed by [Crown Castle](#) aimed at increasing cell phone capacity, speed, and reliability primarily along the State Highway 121 corridor where economic development has increased the volume of cell traffic in that area.

The Colony City Council approved an agreement with Crown Castle in July 2016 to allow installation of the towers (or “nodes” as they are called in a small cell network) in public rights-of-way. In return, Crown Castle pays the city an annual fee per tower. Service providers, in turn, pay Crown Castle for installation, maintenance, and use of the towers.



There are 18 nodes in the new system, each about 26-feet tall and painted to match the colors of the city’s existing light poles. Fourteen are laid out along SH 121 between Main Street and Destination Drive, primarily to service the Grandscape area. The remaining four nodes are along Memorial Drive and Paige Road near Hawaiian Falls.

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