

Welcome to our first newsletter from **Wireless Tower Solutions (WTS)** and our service platform called **AMP!** In this issue, we'll cover the 5G wireless revolution and especially how it affects local governments and users. Please share your responses and your questions.



Why all the hubbub over 5G? What's the hurry?



The “hurry” depends on where you live. The wireless companies are rolling out this new technology steadily, with priority on dense customer bases — urban centers, arenas, market hubs and so on. 5G is the nickname for the “Fifth Generation” of cellular networks (remember 3G and 4G?), promising 100 times faster download speeds and greater capacity. It requires an expensive overhaul by the wireless industry, largely due to the huge difference in antenna spacing — every 1,000 feet or so instead of tall towers every 6 or 7 miles.

Along with new industry-backed regulation that emphasizes the “hurry” and constrains local fees, that buildout puts a major burden on local permitting agencies.

Who has the best 5G service, and where?

Each carrier says it's the best. Let's peel that onion: **OpenSignal**, an independent source, measures download speeds by state. Between November 1, 2021, and January 29, 2022, they report the top 5G download speeds were in Illinois, New York, Minnesota, Maryland and New Jersey (ranging from 141.4 Mbps to 128 Mbps). The bottom five? Wyoming, West Virginia, Maine,

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Alaska and Vermont (low speed of 48.7 Mbps) — all states with less dense populations.

Open Signal also reports 44 states have improved average speeds by 27 Mbps in the past year, while Alaska, Montana, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Vermont showed no statistical change.



What's available where I live?

First, you'll need a 5G-enabled phone to get the benefits. But before you buy one, you can go to **SignalChecker.com** and enter your zip code. With proper disclaimers up front about accuracy, they list the services each major carrier has in your area. At least it's a good estimate of where your local 5G rollout stands.

Is there really urgency? What do local governments need to do?

Again, it depends on where you are — metros, Interstates, etc. All things being equal, the carriers will gravitate toward the best prepared local governments. Being 5G “ready” means many things:

- a state-of-the-art local ordinance
- design resolutions to guide the carriers and protect taxpayers
- transparent and comprehensive online permitting process
- resources to manage a very complex process

That's a big task for local planners.



In doubt? Questions? Call us.

Let's discuss! WTS can help you initiate, implement, or even manage the permitting process at no cost — it might even generate some revenue and fairly balance all the competing interests.

All you need to supply is local expertise, design/location preferences, and collaborative support.

