



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

**Planning Department
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Ricardo M. Sousa, Esq., Agent; Paul Nonni, Senior Building Inspector

FROM: Christopher DiIorio, Senior Planner

DATE: January 17, 2008

SUBJECT: 94 Beacon Street Minor Revision Request – ZBA 2000-09-MR-01-08

Applicant Sprint Broadband Corporation and Owner Beacon Place Condominium Trust are requesting a Minor Revision to the Special Permit #2000-09. The original special permit allowed the applicant to install eight (8) antennas total, five (5) to be mounted on the elevator penthouse and three (3) to be mounted on the access penthouse. Also, seven (7) equipment cabinets were approved for installation on a platform near the center of the roof. All antennas were to be painted to match the building and the cabinets were to be screened or not visible from the eastern street level view.

The present application seeks to:

1. Add five (5) new antennas (three (3) WIMAX and two (2) dual-pole CDMA) to replace four (4) existing CDMA antennas
2. Add one (1) GPS antenna
3. Add two (2) additional equipment cabinets onto the existing equipment platform

These revisions are shown on plans stamped in the City Clerk's Office on January 7, 2008. The Applicant is requesting these changes to upgrade the wireless communication technology.

The proposed revisions to Special Permit #2000-09 are *de minimis* and consist of only minor details. The changes are in line with the original special permit and will not be noticeable from the street level. The three (3) WIMAX and two (2) dual-pole CDMA antennas will be situated in areas that have either existing antennas or existing mounts. These antennas will be of similar size and appearance to the existing antennas. The proposed GPS antenna will be situated on the elevator penthouse and extend around two (2) feet above the top of the parapet.

The new lines of coax cable will be concealed in the existing cable tray. The cabinets are of similar size and appearance to the existing cabinets and will be located on the existing equipment platform. The Special Permit #2000-09 approved seven (7) equipment cabinets for the platform, but only three (3) currently exist. The two additional cabinets proposed in this revision will be situated where the original approved cabinets were to be located.

Based on the preceding, Planning Staff deems the proposed revisions as minor. Planning Staff finds that the changes are substantially consistent with the special permit approval and do not constitute a revision requiring new notice and approval.

As a condition for approval, the applicant shall, reduce to the maximum extent possible the visibility of the antenna arrays from the street. The applicant agrees to paint the antenna arrays to match the building. Final paint color is subject to planning staff review and approval and shall be subject to change if it does not adequately match the building.