



POLICY IN ACTION

United States Lowers Barriers to Infrastructure Deployment for 5G

Market context

The United States was an early mover in preparing for 5G deployment, recognising its importance not only for individual consumers but for spurring innovation and digitalisation across the economy. Taking into account lessons learned from the rollout of 4G, the Federal

Communications Commission (FCC) opened up key spectrum bands early on. Nearly 5 GHz of high-band mmWave spectrum has been released to enable ultra-low-latency connections, which rely on a dense network of small cell equipment.

Policy or regulatory action

Since 2017, the FCC has acted to minimise barriers to network deployment and densification. A range of FCC orders has lowered the cost of infrastructure deployment and reduced time scales for wireless infrastructure projects. These actions included limits on the amount

cities can charge operators per site and a time limit for local authorities to respond to applications. The FCC also updated its rules on attaching new network equipment to utility poles to ensure quick, affordable and predictable access for network operators.

Why this is good practice

Without regulatory intervention to streamline deployment, operators can face big delays and significant cost barriers. The FCC ensured that 5G deployment would not get

bogged down by state and local approval processes — removing burdensome and fragmented siting approvals, access barriers and high administrative costs.

[Overview of 5G Fast Plan](#)
[FCC Initiatives -- America's 5G Future](#)

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