

Electric Utility | 2602 Jackson Bluff Road | Tallahassee | FL | 32304 | 850.891.4YOU (4968)

## Electric Reliability Project Fact Sheet - Line 55 (Interstate 10 corridor)

### **Q: What are transmission lines?**

A: Transmission lines are high voltage power lines that move power efficiently from power plants to substations. The City operates transmission lines at 115 kilovolts (kV) and 230 kV.

### **Q: What is a substation?**

A: A substation is an electric facility where higher voltages are reduced to a lower level to provide service to area homeowners and businesses. The City has 24 substations throughout the community. This project involves connecting the new substation on Centerville Road (near Shamrock South) to the substation on Timberlane Road, near Market Square.

### **Q: Why do you want to connect the substations?**

A: Connecting the substations will provide the ability to deliver power to the substations from multiple transmission lines. If the City were to experience an electrical outage at a substation due to a problem with a transmission line, it would impact thousands of customers. It is advantageous to have the substation served by multiple transmission lines from multiple substations (e.g.: "looped") so that should such an event occur, power can be restored through the non-impacted line. Having substations connected or looped, means customers will have more reliable electric service.

### **Q: Does that mean I will have fewer power outages or "blinking lights" from outages?**

A: Unfortunately, no. The outages that most often impact your home or business are typically from tree limbs or animals on lower voltage distribution lines.

### **Q: What would happen if this transmission line is not constructed?**

A. The restoration of power would be delayed, which has already happened. Currently, there are three substations that are fed from only one direction. These substations are located off of Mahan Drive (near the Nissan dealership), the northeast corner of the intersection of I-10 and Highway 90, and Centerville Road near Shamrock. During Hurricane Hermine and the January 2017 storm, these three substations were out of service due to a fault on the single transmission line. This caused 9200 customers served by these substations to be without power. Not everyone's power was immediately restored when this line was repaired. However, without the line, these customers could not be served at all. A suitable backup for this line could have helped to restore power sooner. The construction of this new transmission line will provide the needed backup for these substations in the future.

### **Q: If the City places distribution lines underground, why can't transmission lines also go underground?**

A: While it is technically possible to construct the new transmission line underground, it will not alleviate the potential visual impacts. Installing the new transmission line underground will still require the removal of at least the same amount of trees within the FDOT right-of-ways for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the transmission line. Additionally, the cost associated with installing the new transmission line underground could range between \$15-17 million.

### **Q: How close will the transmission line in the I-10 corridor be to homes?**

A: The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will require the poles to be as close to the edge of the right of way as possible so that future expansion of the interstate will not be impeded by this line. This will typically put the center of the poles approximately 13-14 feet from the edge of the FDOT fence. The transmission lines themselves will be installed on the I-10 side of the poles.

**Q: When businesses have to remove trees, they are required to replant similar trees. Does the City have to follow those same rules?**

A: Yes. In lieu of paying funds into the tree bank fund, the Electric Utility will be replanting trees on private properties along I-10 that abut the right of way in which the line will be constructed and along the transmission corridor.

**Q: Trees along the interstate serve as both a visual and noise buffer for many adjacent homeowners and neighborhoods. If you remove a lot of trees, what can you do to address noise and the loss of a visual buffer?**

A: The Electric Utility has made every effort to keep as many of the existing trees within the corridor as possible. However, in order to provide the most reliable electric service that is expected by the City's customers, the City must maintain a clear twenty foot buffer on each side of the transmission line wires. Based on feedback from residents, staff recommended and had approved by the City Commission to use tree bank money to replant trees on private property along I-10 to help replace those impacted by the new transmission line. This would be outside normal rules wherein tree bank money is used to plant trees only on public property. We hate to lose the buffer and believe this may be a creative way to help both adjacent property owners as well as nearby neighborhoods. This is at no cost to the adjacent property owners.

**Q: What kind of trees coexist with a transmission line?**

A: The trees will be of a variety that is suitable for coexisting underneath and around the transmission line. They will not grow tall enough to interfere with the electric wires and therefore will not require trimming. Several species are highlighted in the workshop boards tonight. Where the plantings do not interfere with the construction of the line, it would be the intent of the Electric Utility to move forward as soon as possible to plant the trees so that there will be some sort of barrier started.

**Q: What will the process be for requesting trees be planted on my property?**

A: It is important that property owners along the corridor who wish to have trees or a new fence on their property contact the City to coordinate this. Upon meeting with the owners, the City will ask that the owner to sign a document showing that everyone understands the work and the conditions for the work.

**Q: Is there a deadline to submit a request for tree plantings?**

A: The City has contact impacted property owners prior to the start of construction to discuss the tree plantings and fencing program. Some property owners in the impacted area are already taking advantage of this opportunity. The program will be available to these property owners throughout the construction period and immediately following the completion of construction.

**Q: Are there any other routing options other than running the new transmission line down the I-10 corridor.**

A: All other options would take the transmission line through the middle of neighborhoods. The I-10 corridor was selected because the right-of-way already exists and it will have less impact on customers.

**Q: Will the transmission lines hum?**

A: Typically, noise is not generated from a transmission line unless there is a bad connection on the line. However, from time to time especially in wet seasons, customers may notice a low humming sound generated on a transmission line. There is no danger from it and is typically not audible beyond the limits of the right of way.

**Q: How tall will the poles be down the I-10 corridor?**

A: The transmission poles will be between 70 to 115 feet tall.

**Q: I have heard concerns shared about EMFs. What are they and are there health concerns?**

A: EMF stands for Electromagnetic Field. Any energized electric line, whether it is a transmission line or an electric circuit in your house will generate some form of electromagnetic field. The strength of the electric field depends on the voltage (in this case 115 kV) and the magnetic field strength depends on the amount of current being carried (Amperage). The City designs and engineers all of its transmission lines to meet all of the state regulations designed to protect the health and welfare of residents.

**Q: Where can I get more information or reach a staff person about this project?**

A: Project information is included on the [Talgov.com/Reliable](http://Talgov.com/Reliable) webpage. You can also call the City's Power Delivery Office at (850) 891-5031.

**Q: Are there any construction impacts to my neighborhood for the Line 55 part of the Project?**

A: Construction will take place within the FDOT I-10 right-of-way. No direct impacts to nearby properties are anticipated other than tree trimmings or removals on the adjacent properties as discussed with these owners. Residents will see construction traffic in the area though. For safety reasons, FDOT requested that access to the I-10 corridor occur from the private property side for as much of the time as possible. For this reason, the Electric Utility has looked for opportunities to access the I-10 right-of-way from public roads that are adjacent to the I-10 corridor. Access will occur on the east end from Miccosukee Road and on the west end from Raymond Diehl Road.

**Q: Are there any construction impacts to my neighborhood for the Line 17 part of the Project?**

A: Line 17 currently runs through both commercial and residential areas. There is likely to be some disruption due to the construction. However, the City will try to minimize all disruptions and be sure to notify the customers along the way when the disruptions are scheduled to occur.

**Q: What time of day will construction activity typically occur?**

A: Typically, the contractor will be working between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., with most work occurring Monday through Friday. There will be times when the work must be done during the twilight hours or over the weekend. If there are lane closures required for the project, they will be done per FDOT policy for closures of lanes (9 p.m. to 5 a.m.). The wire crossing of I-10 on either end will be done between 2 and 5 a.m. for safety reasons. Whenever possible, the Electric Utility will strive to minimize the night time work.