



***35TH STREET UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL SERVICE PROJECT
(PROJECT ID: 2015.026)***

***DAVIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) POWER DISTRIBUTION UPGRADE
(PROJECT ID: 2015.006)***

***DAVIS WTP MEDIUM SERVICE PUMP STATION
(PROJECT ID: 2015.041)***

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 09/16/2015

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Westwood Country Club

3808 W 35th St, Austin, TX 78703

MEETING SUMMARY

1.1 PRESENTERS

Name	Title	Organization
Dennis Crabill	Project Manager	Public Works
Chris Wolter	Project Sponsor	Austin Water
Danny McReynolds	Engineer	Austin Energy
Richard Everton	Davis WTP Superintendent	Austin Water
Courtney Black	Public Information	Public Works

Specials Guests: Council Member Gallo; Constituent Liaison, Suzie Chase; Policy Aide, Tina Cannon; Lt. Mike Bush, APD

Also in attendance: Gregg Andrulis, Malone Wheeler – Austin Energy Electrical Feeders Project

1.2 MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the upcoming 35th Street Austin Energy Underground Electrical Service Project and the Davis Water Treatment Plant Improvement Projects. Staff gave an overview of each, discusses citizen concerns, including traffic controls, construction schedule phasing, and technical project details.

- Meeting Start: 6:30 p.m.
- Meeting Scheduled End: 8:30 p.m.
- Meeting Actual End: 8:20 p.m.
- Total Attendees: 25

1.3 MEETING NOTES

The meeting began with a presentation from Public Works, Austin Water, Austin Energy Staff and consultant staff. The presentation was followed by a rigorous question and answer session with attendees. The majority of the questions and comments from attendees expressed concern about the effect of the electrical feeder lane closures on traffic and how traffic would be routed for the duration of the project. Staff explained construction phasing, approximate construction times and impact to residents.

Attendees expressed concern about the addition of sidewalks. Several residents were against placement of sidewalks on the north side of 35th Street. Attendees asked why sidewalks couldn't be placed on the south side. Project Manager, Dennis Crabill, explained that it would be less expensive and more practical to add sidewalks on the north side of the street as part of this project while the area is already undergoing construction. He also explained that a number of businesses/residents have built in the City's right of way on the south side, including a number of retaining walls, making construction there difficult and more costly. There are also a number of trees that may need to be removed on the south side.

RECORDED QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES (TO DATE)

35TH STREET UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL FEEDERS PROJECT

1. *Why can't sidewalks be on the south side of 35th Street to connect with existing sidewalks?*

A number of businesses and residents have built in the City's right of way on the south side of 35th Street. Construction of sidewalks would involve removing retaining walls, existing

landscape, etc. It is more practical to build sidewalks on the north side of the street as part of this project while we are already in construction. The impact and the cost would overall be less.

2. Will Foothill Drive be closed at any point during this project?

No. Foothill Drive will remain open. During construction, there will be flaggers allowing traffic to pass workers.

3. How many phases of the project are there? What is the sequence?

There are four project phases. Phase 1 will start just east of Hillview Road and continue to Maintenance Drive. Phase 2 will be from Maintenance Drive to Balcones Drive. Phase 3 will be from Balcones Drive to the 3200 block of 35th Street. Phase 4 will be from the 3300 block of 35th Street to Foothill Drive. Please see attached map for details.

4. How long will each phase of the project take?

The entire project will take approximately 6-8 months. The length of each phase will be based on the contractor's progress.

5. Can phases be concurrent?

No. Phases will be self-contained. One must finish before the next phase can begin (continuing east to west).

6. What is the traffic control plan for each phase?

See attached map for lane reductions and contractor's working hours.

7. Did the project take into consideration the current Mopac construction?

Yes. The Mopac Improvement Project is a TXDOT project that is happening mostly along the expressway and will not intrude into the limits of construction of the Austin Energy's Davis WTP electrical feeders project. Nevertheless, lane closures related to the TXDOT's Mopac Improvement Project are typically limited to Sunday nights from 5 pm to 6 am and Monday through Thursday 8 pm to 6 am which is outside the work hours of the Austin Energy project along 35th street.

8. Has Camp Mabry been contacted?

Yes. The project manager has been coordinating with Camp Mabry on their event schedule to minimize disruptions to their operations.

9. Will Camp Mabry still use the 35th Street entrance/exit?

Yes.

10. What will be done to handle the same volume of traffic with the proposed lane reduction?

The construction contract will include an allowance so that the contractor can hire off duty APD Officers to assist with any additional construction caused traffic congestion.

11. School traffic going towards Cassis Elementary may be an issue. Parents drop off children at 7:45 am and pick them up at 2:45 pm. West 35th St and Exposition Blvd are used to connect. What will be done to alleviate congestion?

This is an existing condition and outside of the construction area. Residents, schools, businesses and neighboring stakeholders affected by the construction will be made aware of the upcoming construction and should take appropriate measures as they see fit.

12. Will there be people directing traffic? Where?

Yes. There will be a flagger operation only for a specific section of the alignment along 35th street between the intersection of Balcones Drive and Foothill Drive. The construction contract will include an allowance so that the contractor can hire off duty APD Officers to assist with any additional construction caused traffic congestion.

13. The townhomes on Exposition experience bad traffic between 3:30 pm and 6 pm. How will this affect them?

The townhomes are east of where the work will occur, which is between Hillview Road and Foothills Drive along 35th Street.

14. Will 35th Street be repaved upon project completion?

Only the disturbed 35th Street lanes will be repaired.

15. Will we install speed humps with this project?

No. The installation of speed humps is not within the project scope.

16. Can Mt. Bonnell traffic be redirected? It's a popular destination and is often congested.

Detouring traffic from Mt Bonnell through neighborhood side streets creates other issues and is not desirable. Residents and drivers will be made aware of the construction by appropriate signage and will be able to plan ahead and choose available detours accordingly.

17. Will there be any interruption in electric service?

There are no planned interruptions of electrical, water, or gas services during the project.

DAVIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**1. Will there be a construction entrance to buffer zone through Foothill drive?**

The entrance to the staging area in the buffer zone will be through 35th street for the Austin Energy electrical feeders project. There are no current plans to have an entrance to the buffer zone through Foothill drive for the Davis WTP improvement projects.

2. Will there be tree removal for overhead lines?

Some trees will have to be removed as part of the Davis Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) Improvements projects to accommodate proposed underground utilities. However, no additional trees will be removed as part of relocating the overhead lines. The current alignment was chosen to remove fewer trees, none of which are Heritage Oaks. To compensate for removed trees, additional trees will be planted in the buffer zone.

3. Will the size of Foothill Street change?

No.

4. Why were underground electrical utilities chosen in lieu of overhead? What is the cost difference?

Underground utilities were chosen for their increased reliability. Underground lines are historically more reliable than overhead because they are typically not exposed to elements such as wind (ex: storms, hurricanes, tornados), lightning, ice, trees, cars, or animals (ex: squirrels). Underground lines are typically 3-10 times the cost of overhead lines.

5. Will the lines miss the crossing at Taylor's Creek?

Yes. The duct bank will be installed in a sleeve underneath the culverts that convey Taylor's Creek under 35th Street. The sleeve will be installed by boring a hole underneath the culverts. No disturbance to the creek bed or the culverts flow is anticipated.

6. Will the new substation be less noisy?

Noise will be reduced comparatively with the existing substation. Some existing transformers from old substation will remain and AWU staff will explore opportunities for additional noise mitigation through separate sub-projects in the future.

7. How will traffic be impacted during Davis WTP construction phase?

There will be no closures, but trucks will come and go from site.

8. Where is the construction staging area for duct project? How big is it and how will it be accessed?

There is a 70-foot-long by 40-foot-wide staging area planned in the buffer zone of the DWTP. Construction vehicles will access the staging area from 35th Street. Four additional staging areas are planned in the 35th Street Right-of-Way on the north side of the road adjacent to Camp Mabry. These will be 20-foot-wide and range in length from 50 feet to 100 feet and will be accessed from the work zones on 35th Street.

9. In regards to the pole relocation along buffer zone: Why are the proposed poles 70 feet tall? How many and where will they be? Neighbors are concerned about aesthetics and placement. Can utilities be underground, can alternative placements be considered, and/or the height be shortened?

The existing poles are 60 feet tall. Three poles are planned to be slightly relocated inside the buffer zone area as part of the Davis Improvement projects in order to accommodate underground utilities. The proposed heights of 70ft. for the newly relocated pole were requested by AWU to minimize tree trimming cycles. The location of the poles was selected carefully to minimize impact to trees including heritage trees and to existing and proposed utilities. As the result of feedback from this public meeting, the City is currently considering going back to standard 60 ft high self-weathering poles along the buffer zone area.

10. Will Staging area be restored? Do you have future plans to build on the buffer zone?

Yes, all staging areas will be restored to their existing condition. There are currently no plans to build on the buffer zone.

11. Can you put Boulders around buffer zone area at the corner of 35th St and Foothill? Kids using it driving donuts. Also used for peewee football.

Installing boulders around the buffer zone area is currently under consideration by the project team.

12. What kind of lighting will be used?

LED lights that will reduce spillage of light, but still make the area safe for evening use.

13. What will happen to the existing electrical lakeshore feed lines?

They will be disconnected from DWTP, but will still be used as a backup to the overhead feeders in the area until such time that the cables fail and are no longer repairable. At that time, since the lines are direct buried and cannot be removed; they will be abandoned in place.

14. What is the traffic impact for the 3 years pf plant construction?

Residents should expect to see heavy construction equipment traveling along 35th street during construction hours.

15. What is the cost of the 35th street electrical feeder's project?

The current overall estimate approximates \$3 Million which includes a new transformer at Austin Energy's Warren substation and the underground feeders along 35th street between Austin Energy's substation and Davis Water treatment Plant.

POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned To	Status
Meet with residents on 35 th Street to discuss sidewalk on north side	Dennis Crabill	Complete
Meet internally to discuss sidewalk plan/general phasing/construction	COA	October meeting scheduled. Will update community once meeting is held.
Send follow up e-mail to attendees	Dennis Crabill	Complete
Meet the Contractor Meetings	Courtney Black	Will be scheduled after Council awards the construction contracts. Residents will be notified via mail/email.