Austin Energy's Rainey Street Substation

Rezoning Request, Case # C14-2020-0065

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Austin Energy's "Repowering Downtown" Initiative

The *Rainey Street Substation* is part of Austin Energy's CIP plan following the 2011 Downtown Austin Plan (ord. no. 20111208-093) "to acquire a site for a future electric substation" supporting adequate infrastructure for a vibrant downtown.

- Currently 2 substations serve all of the downtown network:
 - Seaholm Substation is newer, added energy capacity in 2019
 - Brackenridge Substation is 40+ years old, scheduled to be rebuilt in 2023
- Addition of Rainey Street Substation would:
 - Provide a third substation to serve the growing downtown network
 - Allow Brackenridge Substation to be temporarily decommissioned and rebuilt
 - Add capacity, resiliency, and reliability to entire downtown network



Substation Site

- Utilizes existing COA property, acquired by Austin Energy in 1999 for purpose of adding a substation to meet projected energy demand downtown
- Location has minimal impact on downtown residents and businesses
- Cost savings to City due to existing electrical transmission located on site
- Gas-insulated switchgear (GIS) substation uses smaller footprint: site is 1.46 acres, substation footprint is 0.81 acres
- Austin Energy coordinated through design with: TxDOT, Watershed Protection, Austin Water, Public Works, Waller Creek Local Govt. Corp., adjacent developments



Support from Downtown Stakeholders

- Real Estate Council of Austin
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Downtown Austin Alliance
- Waterloo Greenway Conservancy
- Waller Creek Local Government Corporation
- Downtown Austin Neighbors Association
- Mexican American Cultural Center
- COA Design Commission



October 6, 2017

Jackie Sargent General Manager Austin Energy 721 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704

Ms. Sargent,

The Development Policy Committee of the Downtown Austin Alliance supports Austin Energy's Repowering Downtown Project. This project will provide the electrical infrastructure needed well into the 21st Century as downtown and Austin's economy continue to grow.

Austin Energy's upgrades of the downtown electrical network will help attract high-tech companies and other employers downtown, as well as thousands of residents who make downtown home.

This project, which includes construction of a new substation in the Rainey Street District, increases the reliability and redundancy of electrical infrastructure needed to create a compact and dense downtown. We fully support all elements of this important, timely and much-needed infrastructure improvement to downtown.

Sincerely

Dewitt M. Peart President and CEO



Engagement with Rainey Community

- Rainey neighborhood located in fast-growing, highly visible area of downtown
- Worked with associations and residents to collect and incorporate feedback
 - Three in-person public meetings held at the MACC: June 2018 (project introduction and discussion); Feb. 2019 (presentation of design concepts), and Aug 2019 (finalizing design concepts)
 - 600+ residents and downtown stakeholders responded to survey data
 - 98% survey respondents reported they were satisfied with opportunities to provide public input
 - Placed priority on: attractive and modern-themed enclosure; adequate street lighting; pedestrian safety; preservation of heritage trees; minimal traffic impact; native plants/grasses in landscaping
- Support from: Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), Rainey Neighbors
 Association, Town Lake Neighbors Association, Towers of Town Lake HOA, Council
 District 9



Next Steps

Substation Construction 2021



Downtown Network Distribution Ties 2021-ongoing



Substation Energization 2022







Customer Driven. Community Focused.

