



***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: 06/14/2016

6:30 – 8:00 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
Richard Duane	Project Manager	Public Works
Courtney Black	Public Information	Public Works

Also in attendance: Gregg Andrulis, Malone Wheeler – Austin Energy Electrical Feeders Project; Chris Wolter, Project Sponsor, Austin Water; Danny McReynolds, Engineer, Austin Energy

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: 8:00 p.m.
- Meeting Actual End: 8:05 p.m.
- Total Attendees: 30

1.3 MEETING NOTES

The meeting began with a presentation from Public Works staff with support from Austin Water, Austin Energy and consultant staff. During the presentation, attendees raised questions to staff. 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. The 35th Street project will take approximately 6-8 months; the Davis Water Treatment Plant projects will take up to four years. Staff also reminded residents that there is funding within the budget to supply flaggers/APD, as required, in response to increased traffic congestion related to the project.

Attendees expressed concern about the condition of 35th Street and whether or not it would be repaved upon completion of both projects. Staff explained that the portion of 35th Street affected by these projects would be restored; however, complete repaving of 35th Street is not in the scope of this project.

Another topic of interest was the buffer zone surrounding the Davis Water Treatment Plant. At present, project plans have the temporary construction fence bordering the edge of the right of way for the duration of the project. Residents living adjacent to the buffer zone would like staff to consider altering the plans to have the buffer zone only closed temporarily. Staff is currently looking into alternatives. Citizens have also requested a specific timeline for construction, including phasing, and would like to see the plans for lighting and landscaping (post-project completion).

Sidewalks were another theme of the evening. One citizen raised the question of funding and asked whether or not the construction of this sidewalk would compete with funding for other sidewalks, such as those needed for area schools. Staff explained that this funding is not related and is part of a separate “in lieu” fee. The citizen also asked how vegetation in the right-of-way would be addressed. Staff responded that we will work with citizens and discuss plans on a case-by-case basis.

RECORDED QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES**35TH STREET UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL FEEDERS PROJECT**

- 1. *Will flaggers/APD be available to help with increased traffic as a result of this project? How will the need for flaggers/APD be assessed?***

Yes. There is room in the project budget for flaggers/off-duty APD. The Project Manager will assess the need. Citizens may call to report congestion or adverse conditions.
- 2. *How are the sidewalks on the north side of 35th Street being funded? Is this funding taking away from sidewalks needed for area schools?***

These sidewalks are being funded by “in lieu” fees and money from the District 10 quarter cent fund. Funding is separate from that needed to provide sidewalks for area schools.
- 3. *Some homes have vegetation/landscaping in the right of way. How will this be addressed when sidewalks are constructed? Will the vegetation be preserved and, if removed, will residents be responsible for re-planting?***

Staff will work directly with citizens who are affected by the construction of sidewalks. If you have a specific concern, please contact Project Manager, Dennis Crabill, to discuss at Dennis.Crabill@austintexas.gov or 512-974-7232.
- 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. *Are phases concurrent?***

No. Phases are self-contained. One phase must be finished before next phase can begin (work is scheduled to begin in the east and terminate in the west).
- 6. *Are there penalties for late completion?***

If the contractor exceeds the time allotted for the project, the City may pursue fees for liquidated damages.
- 7. *What is the traffic control plan for each phase?***

The traffic control plan is available on the [project website](#).
- 8. *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.
- 9. *Will there be people directing traffic? Where?***

There are provisions in the contract to hire flaggers and police officers to assist with traffic when and where required.
- 10. *Will 35th Street be repaved upon project completion?***

No. Only the disturbed 35th Street lanes will be repaired.
- 11. *How do we [the citizens] formally request that 35th Street be repaved?***

Citizens may reach out to their District representative to request that repaving be made a priority upon project completion. They may also call 3-1-1 or go to their [website](#) to make an official request.

12. 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.

13. Will there be any interruption in electric service?

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

14. Will there be any temporary signals installed (areas of interest: 35th and Pecos; 35th and Hillview)

No. Temporary signals will not be installed; however, as mentioned above, we will utilize off-duty APD to help, as needed.

15. Are there any plans to install speed bumps along 35th Street?

There are not currently plans to install speed bumps along 35th Street. Requests to do so may be done through 3-1-1 and City staff will evaluate. For this project, no temporary speed bumps will be installed.

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

No. Vehicles will enter and exit through the Davis Water Treatment Plant's main drive.

2. Will there be tree removal for overhead lines?

Yes. 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 new substation be less noisy?

Yes. 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.

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

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

7. 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.

All staging areas will be restored to their existing condition. There are no plans to build on the buffer zone. Staff are exploring potential options to limit impact on the buffer zone/green space.

8. Will residents have access to the buffer zone/green space adjacent to the plant for the duration of the project?

No. A portion of the green space will need to be used during construction. The new structures will be built next to the existing fence. As we build, the contractor will need space to supply materials, connect electrical feeders (from the 35th Street Project) while keeping construction a safe distance from public space. We will try to limit the closure of greenspace as much as possible and are working to find a solution that meets the needs of this project and the community.

9. What kind of lighting will be used? Will light affect adjacent residents?

LED lights will be installed around the newly constructed buildings for safety and security. LED lighting is specifically used to reduce lighting footprints. Residents adjacent to the plant will not be adversely affected by new lighting installations.

10. What is the traffic impact for the 3 years of plant construction?

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

11. 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 concerned about vegetation in right of way	Dennis Crabill	Will meet 6/23 at 3:00 p.m.
Provide constituents with phasing/timeline for DWTP project	Richard Duane	In progress
Evaluate green space/buffer zone and discuss alternatives to limiting access	Richard Duane/AWU COA/Residents	Meeting with residents on 6/3. Will work with contractor within next several weeks and present a solution prior to construction.
Meeting Minutes/Web Updates/Email	Courtney Black	Periodically, as needed