



Tucson Electric Power  
Midtown Reliability Project

Responses to Stakeholder Questions Submitted at February 2024 Open House

1. **What is the status of the litigation involving Tucson City ordinance regarding the gateway corridor?**

TEP filed a civil action in Pima County Superior Court in November 2023 to appeal a decision by the Board of Adjustment regarding the applicability of the City's Gateway Corridor Overlay Zone ordinance. Both TEP and the City of Tucson are filing written legal arguments as part of these proceedings. A hearing is scheduled for late April.

2. **At the previous meeting the question was asked why a new proposed route in the alleyway between Lester and Linden was included. The TEP response was that the infrastructure already existed in this area. Is the plan to exchange each existing pole with a new pole (pole for pole)?**

After further review, TEP has determined that higher-voltage transmission facilities cannot be safely installed or maintained in some alleyways where lower-voltage transmission facilities are currently in place. As a result, some potential routes for the new transmission line have been relocated to adjacent streets, including East Lester Street, East Adams and East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

3. **How much notice will residents be given prior to commencement of construction (particularly) in true residential areas such as Jefferson Park neighborhood? Will a mock-up including pole size be made available for residents to review?**

TEP will work with interested neighborhood organizations to provide timely information about construction schedules. The placement of facilities and timeline of construction will vary depending on which route is approved. Information about ongoing construction projects is also available at [tep.com/neighborhood-projects](https://tep.com/neighborhood-projects).

Please contact our project team for information about existing facilities that are similar to those TEP expects to install for this project.

4. **It appears some part of Campbell will have underground lines (near the UofA). How long is that undergrounded area and how long is the part that will not be undergrounded?**

TEP is not considering underground installation for this project due to significantly higher installation and maintenance costs, shorter lifespan and other factors. The potential routes that include portions of North Campbell Avenue presume that above-ground construction would be allowed in those areas, based either on a court's decision or a waiver that could be granted by the Tucson Mayor and Council. If such relief is unavailable, TEP would seek authority to build the line above ground along a different route.

5. **Is there any potential route to the Vine substation which would be sited on all large arterial streets, rather than on residential streets in a historic neighborhood (Jefferson Park)?**

Using an interactive map available on the project page at [tep.com/midtown](https://tep.com/midtown), you can explore how the remaining potential routes travel through or near area neighborhoods. For example, routes C, 4 and 5 do not enter the Jefferson Park neighborhood, but do travel through other area neighborhoods.

6. **What will happen to the facilities that will be retired? Sold for other development?**

Typically, TEP will make retired substation sites available for sale. Electrical equipment will be repurposed or recycled whenever possible. Some equipment, like old wooden poles in good condition, may be donated to local nonprofit organizations.

7. **Can the poles be painted or made out of a different metal that is not so obtrusive? Poles on Sunrise are much better than the rust poles in midtown.**

Possibly. Based on feedback from area residents and other stakeholders, TEP will consider painted poles, an anti-graffiti finish on poles, thinner and shorter poles, and other right-of-way enhancements for this project.

In August 2023, TEP invited more than 55,000 stakeholders to participate in a project survey. Based on responses from nearly 2,800 participants, most respondents preferred poles with a 'rusted' weathering steel finish, which TEP typically uses throughout its service territory, rather than poles with a galvanized metallic finish. Although poles can be painted, the paint tends to fade and crack over time, losing its aesthetic appeal. Maintaining the paint requires additional cost and effort that could otherwise be allocated to system reliability or safety concerns.

8. **Will there be any change to the cost of electricity for property owners (our electricity bill)? If so, what will that change be? % increase? What requirements are there for the property owners? Do any models/plans require development within private property lines?**

The rates our customers pay are based on costs to provide service, including system improvements like this project. A final project cost and any potential impact on customer bills cannot be determined until after a final route has been selected. TEP plans to build the line primarily within public right-of-way.

9. **What about the poles in backyards? I am on Euclid and I see 5 poles from my backyard. Will those be replaced?**

Since a final route has not yet been determined, TEP cannot yet identify where lower-voltage equipment might be removed to accommodate installation of higher-voltage facilities.