



Tucson Electric Power

Midtown Reliability Project
P.O. Box 711
Mail Stop CB200
Tucson, AZ 85701-0711

Energy Grid Update Midtown Reliability Project

November 2023



Midtown Reliability Project



Please Join Us

We're working to identify areas in central Tucson that are most compatible with new, urgently needed transmission facilities.

Public Open House

Thursday, November 16, 2023 | 6-8 p.m.

Open house begins at 6 p.m.

Presentation begins at 7 p.m.

DoubleTree - Reid Park
445 S Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ 85711

TEP asks Midtown residents & others for input

Read inside and visit our website to learn how you can help shape our future energy grid.

tep.com/midtown-reliability-project



Stakeholders Asked to Help Identify Project 'Opportunities and Constraints'

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) is seeking feedback from residents, businesses and other stakeholders to help identify potential locations for new transmission facilities needed to maintain reliable service in central Tucson.

TEP's Midtown Reliability Project will increase the capacity of our local energy grid, providing midtown with the same level of service that residents of other areas already enjoy as the result of comparable improvements. The project will include a new higher-voltage transmission line, a new substation and other upgrades.

When considering where to locate a new transmission line, TEP looks for siting "opportunities" – linear corridors and other land features that are suitable for such facilities. Opportunities may include major roads, railroads, and existing utility infrastructure. We also consider existing or planned land use, vacant land, open space and natural linear features.

"Opportunities serve as a good starting point. They're areas that, at first glance, may be compatible with a new transmission line but still

require us to take a closer look to determine if a line could feasibly be constructed there," said Clark Bryner, TEP's Principal Program Manager for Transmission Line Siting.

TEP also looks for "constraints," or areas that present natural, manufactured, regulatory or political challenges to constructing and maintaining a transmission line. For example, the City of Tucson's determination that, with some exceptions, new utilities must be installed underground in Gateway Corridors has created a constraint along North Campbell Avenue and South Kino Parkway. High-density development, like that at the University of Arizona main campus or downtown Tucson, are examples as well.

The opportunities and constraints that TEP has identified are shown on a map in this newsletter. TEP is now asking stakeholders within the study area to tell us about others.

"Input from people who know the study area best will be extremely helpful in identifying potential routes that are most compatible with the community," Bryner said.

Recent Public Outreach

- Sent newsletter inviting more than 100,000 stakeholders to a September open house. Successful outcome with about 125 in attendance.
- TEP invited representatives from active associations in each of the study area's 62 neighborhoods to participate in a Neighborhood Advisory Group meeting in October. TEP also offered to attend individual association meetings to answer questions about the project. Several meetings were scheduled.
- Field visits in the study area will continue throughout the siting process to maintain familiarity with neighborhoods, streets, and existing land uses.

Project Need and Benefits

Peak energy demand continues to increase in central Tucson and throughout our community. Some transformers and other equipment providing service are 50 years old or more. Residents currently depend on equipment rated as being in 'poor' or 'very poor' condition, creating a greater risk of low voltage and outages. For more details about the project need and benefits, please visit our project website.

TEP's project team will evaluate all opportunities and constraints using field visits and other measures. This information will then be developed into preliminary segments that could be combined in various ways to form potential routes.

To view a detailed interactive map of opportunities and constraints, or to provide feedback about others using our online comment form, please visit the project webpage. TEP expects to share draft preliminary segments at an open house next month.

Survey Results

In late August, TEP emailed a short project survey to 55,000 recipients. A link to the survey also was available on the project website through Oct. 15. Based on responses from nearly 2,800 participants:

- The project's potential impact on low income and disadvantaged communities and its cost, as recovered through electric bills, were determined to be the two most important factors of six presented.
- Taller poles with longer spans of wire between them were preferred over shorter poles with shorter spans. Use of shorter poles would require more poles to be installed.
- Poles with a 'rusted' weathering steel finish, which TEP typically uses throughout its service territory, were preferred over poles with a galvanized metallic finish.

The survey was designed to provide the project team with a closer look at the opinions and preferences of customers and other stakeholders. The survey did not ask participants about underground installation because it is not

under consideration due to significantly higher installation and maintenance costs, shorter lifespan and other factors. Participants identified additional criteria to consider including:

- Public health and safety
- Impacts to pedestrian walkways, public transit, and vehicular traffic
- Impact on property values
- Impact on future land uses
- Impact on Native lands
- Impact on water
- Radio/communications interference

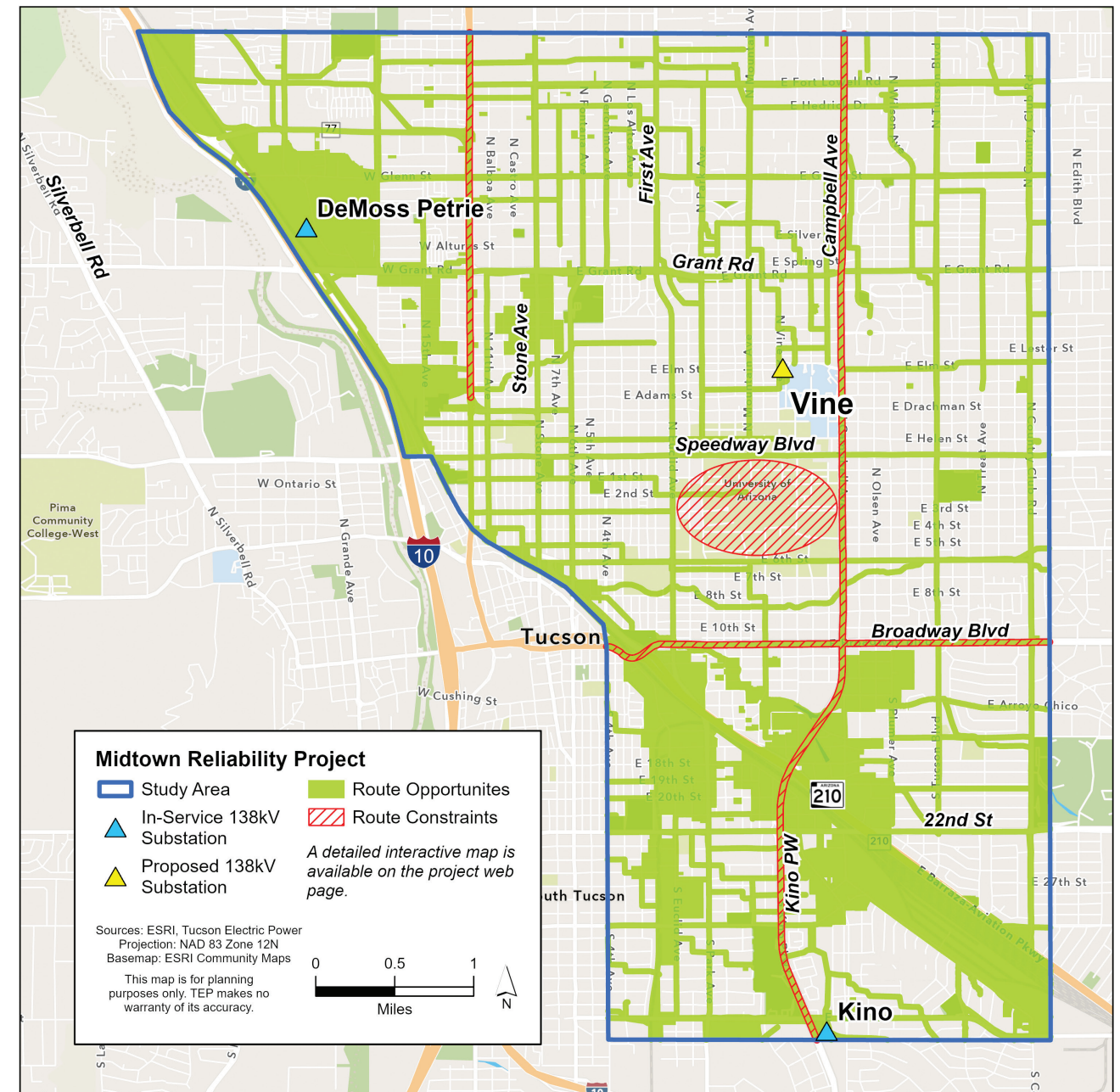
This feedback will be very helpful during later phases of the planning and siting process as TEP's project team evaluates preliminary segments with these criteria and others required under Arizona law.

Public Participation

Please come to our open house on November 16. Stakeholders also can ask questions and submit general comments about the project by:

- Filling out an online comment form on the project webpage
- Sending email comments to midtownreliability@tep.com
- Calling 1-833-523-0887 and leaving a voicemail message
- Mailing a letter with comments to:

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El Proyecto de Confiabilidad del Centro de la Ciudad ofrecerá un servicio más limpio y confiable a los clientes del centro de Tucson en el futuro. Tucson Electric Power (TEP) solicita su ayuda para identificar áreas en el centro de Tucson que sean más compatibles con las nuevas instalaciones de transmisión que se necesitan con urgencia. TEP también anima a los residentes y otras partes interesadas del área de estudio a asistir a la reunión abierta que se proporciona en este boletín informativo y compartir sus opiniones. Visite nuestra página web del proyecto en tep.com/midtown para obtener más información. Si tiene preguntas, llámenos al 1-833-523-0887. Gracias por su interés en el proyecto.