



energize**EASTSIDE**

project newsletter

Willow 2 selected as PSE's preferred route for Energize Eastside

PSE has announced a preferred route for the Energize Eastside project. Called "Willow 2," the route limits pole heights in some areas to address visual impacts.

Read on for additional details and to view the route map.

Preferred route

Willow 2



LEGEND

- ▲ Existing substation
- A** Route segments and substation undergoing additional analysis

What is Energize Eastside?

The Energize Eastside project will replace approximately 18 miles of existing transmission lines with upgraded transmission lines from Redmond to Renton and build a new substation in Bellevue. Combined with continued aggressive electric conservation, Energize Eastside will keep the lights on for homes and businesses in our Eastside communities for years to come.

Now is the time to upgrade

The last major upgrade to the backbone of the Eastside's electric grid was more than 50 years ago in the 1960s. Since then, our population has grown eight-fold and our economy relies on reliable power in ways that it did not 50 years ago.

Studies project that growth on the Eastside could cause demand for electricity to exceed the capacity of the backbone of the Eastside's electric transmission system as early as winter 2017-18. Without substantial electrical infrastructure upgrades along with aggressive conservation efforts, PSE may have to utilize intentional rolling blackouts as a tool to meet federal reliability regulations, increasing the possibility of outages for more than 130,000 customers. No responsible utility – or community – wants to use intentional rolling blackouts as a federal compliance strategy.

PSE is committed to providing safe and reliable power to help sustain population and economic growth on the Eastside. It's time to upgrade.



Bellevue circa 1960



Bellevue today

We are listening

PSE has heard from nearly 2,000 people over the past two years through the Community Advisory Group process, open houses, consultations and comments. Most recently, we've heard from the community through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, led by the City of Bellevue in cooperation with the cities of Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond and Renton. We've also learned more about the existing transmission line corridor through fieldwork, and our engineers have been taking a hard look at route designs. We've learned that continued electric reliability, use of existing utility corridors, pole height, views and safety are some key concerns for members of the community. With this input in mind, PSE identified our preferred route and three additional route options to undergo further analysis during Phase 2 of the EIS process.

PSE's selection of a preferred route is based on four key factors:

- **Safety first.** Safety is our first priority. The project will be constructed safely according to strict federal standards. We have a long history of working closely with Olympic Pipeline, and PSE's existing transmission lines have safely coexisted with Olympic Pipeline's infrastructure in the existing corridor for decades. High voltage electric transmission lines safely coexist with pipelines across the country and in Washington.
- **Minimizing impact.** We are using the existing corridor as much as possible. In most instances, where there are currently four poles in the corridor, we will be replacing them with one pole, or at most two poles. Additionally, most of the new poles will be built in approximately the same place as the existing poles. As described in the Phase 1 Draft EIS, new construction means new, longer-lasting equipment as well as fewer poles.
- **Avoiding new corridors and sensitive areas.** We did our best to develop route options that avoid new corridors and environmental impacts whenever possible. We understand it's nearly impossible to have no impact. We appreciate those who may be affected by our routing decisions and will continue to work with them and welcome their input.
- **No condemnation of homes.** Based on what we know today, our preferred route fits in the existing utility corridor and will not require condemnation of anyone's home.

PSE's preferred route



PSE is replacing poles to keep the lights on

Specifically, our preferred route means:

- **In Redmond and Bellevue (north of Interstate 90):** We'll replace the four existing poles with one pole typically 100 feet in height (See photo simulation No. 1)
- **In the Factoria area:**
 - Somerset:** We'll replace the four existing poles with two poles, typically 65 feet in height (See photo simulation No. 2)
 - Factoria:** On the new Segment P on Southeast Newport Way and Segment I on Factoria Boulevard Southeast, we'll add single poles, generally 80 feet in height

- **In Newcastle:** We'll replace the four existing poles with two poles, typically 85 feet in height (See photo simulation No. 3)
- **In Renton:** We'll replace the four existing poles with one pole, typically 100 feet in height (See photo simulation No. 4 on back)

For additional materials, background information and photo simulations, please visit the Energize Eastside project website at pse.com/energizeeastside.

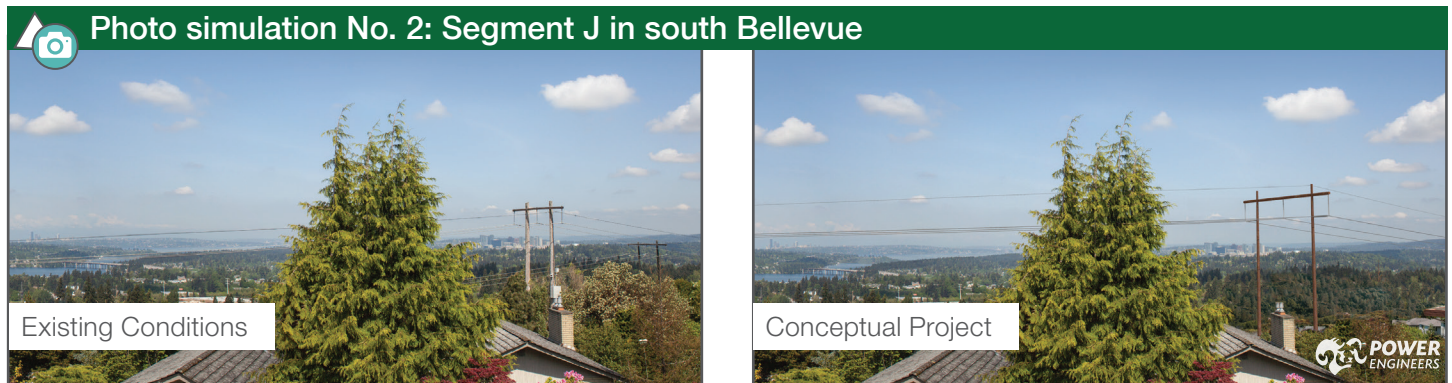
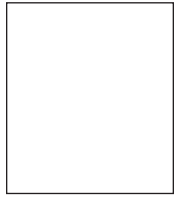


Photo simulations are for discussion purposes only and may change pending public, regulatory and utility review.




For more information

- Learn more about PSE's preferred route for Energize Eastside, view maps and photo simulations, and read the latest news about the project by visiting pse.com/energizeeastside.
- For information about the environmental review process, visit the City of Bellevue's website, EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

Thank you for your interest in Energize Eastside. If you have any questions about PSE's preferred route and route options, contact us.

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What's next for the Energize Eastside project?

PSE will continue to listen and learn as the project and the cities' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process continue. The community will have an opportunity to comment on each of the route options during Phase 2 of the EIS Process.

The City of Bellevue will continue the EIS process in Phase 2, which is anticipated to begin later this spring. Phase 2 of the EIS will include a more specific and

detailed review of alternatives based on the outcomes of Phase 1, and will focus on project design and construction.

The community will be able to provide comments during scoping and on the subsequent Phase 2 Draft EIS. Please visit the City of Bellevue's website, EnergizeEastsideEIS.org, for updates on the environmental review process. Comments or questions submitted to Puget Sound Energy will not be considered part of the EIS.

Photo simulation No. 4: Segment M in Renton



Existing Conditions



Conceptual Project