



energize**EASTSIDE**

fact sheet

The Project

The Energize Eastside project will build a new electric substation and higher capacity transmission lines to serve homes and businesses on the Eastside. This effort will upgrade our existing transmission system and provide more dependable power for all Eastside communities for many years to come.

These aren't the electric distribution lines that you see serving the homes in your neighborhood. These will be electric transmission lines, which have a larger capacity than distribution lines and transmit enough electricity to serve entire cities.

Growth is straining our region's existing transmission system

You can see it everywhere – from Renton to Redmond, cranes are up and traffic congestion is increasing. The Eastside is growing faster than any other region in Washington. World-class businesses are moving in and job growth is on the upswing. At the same time, this good fortune is straining our region's existing electric system. Growth studies project that demand for reliable power will exceed capacity as early as winter 2017-2018.

This doesn't mean the lights will go out, but without substantial electrical infrastructure upgrades and aggressive conservation efforts, the Eastside's power system will lose redundancy, increasing the possibility of outages for more than 60,000 customers.

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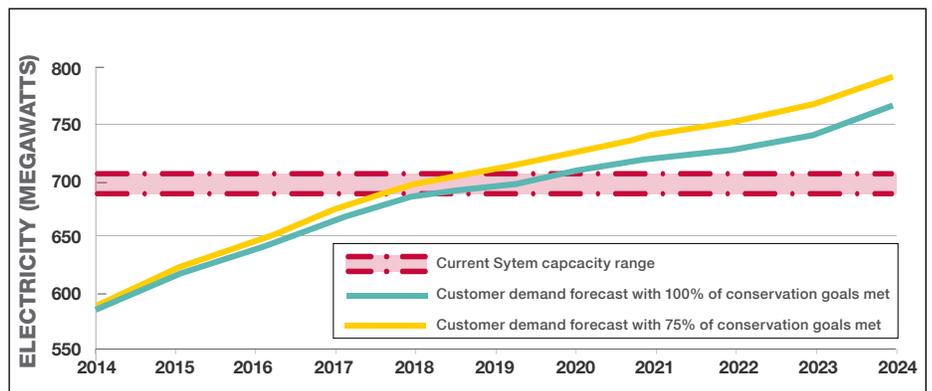
- Will construct a new electric substation and approximately 18 miles of transmission lines from Redmond to Renton
- Will ensure the Eastside's power system can continue to support the area's dramatic growth

What's new

- PSE is moving forward with additional analysis and fieldwork of the Lakeside substation site and the two transmission line routes recommended by the Community Advisory Group
- Environmental review occurring now; construction expected to begin in 2017
- For more information on the EIS and opportunities for public comment, visit EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

Eastside customer demand forecast

This chart shows customer demand with 100% and 75% conservation goals met compared to our current electric transmission system's capacity. Even with PSE customers meeting 100% of conservation goals, growth studies project that demand will exceed our ability to provide dependable power by winter 2017-2018.



Conservation alone is not enough to meet the challenge

Over the last 30 years, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has taken significant steps to get the most out of the existing electric system. Since 1979, PSE has spent millions on energy efficiency and renewable power programs. In fact, through upgraded lighting, appliances and equipment, increased weatherization, and energy-efficient building technologies, PSE customers helped us save enough electricity to power 30,000 homes in 2012. However, conservation alone is not enough. We have approached the limit of what we can do and have outgrown the electric system that serves our Eastside communities.

Our Eastside economy and population are growing far faster than our conservation efforts can keep up. Without substantial electrical infrastructure upgrades, tens of thousands of residents and businesses will be at risk of more frequent and longer power outages.

PSE's Energize Eastside will power the Eastside's growth into the future

PSE and independent experts conducted multiple independent analyses of the existing system and a variety of options to address the growing need on the Eastside. You can read these reports on the project website at pse.com/energizeeastside.



Community members review maps and data while discussing local values and concerns about route segments at a workshop in Renton.

PSE examined several options including building a local generation facility, constructing the transmission lines underground and exploring emerging technologies like battery storage and demand response. However, PSE determined that underground transmission would be cost-prohibitive (unless funded by those requesting it) and very difficult to construct in the Eastside environment, while new technologies either wouldn't address the need or haven't been tested at the scale necessary for the Eastside.

After a comprehensive review, PSE determined that a combination of continued conservation and infrastructure upgrades – a new substation and higher capacity transmission lines – is the only way to reliably meet the Eastside's growing energy needs. The new substation will provide additional capacity to ensure the local electric system can accommodate our customers' growing energy usage, while the transmission lines will ensure we can deliver that additional capacity to the Eastside communities that need it the most.

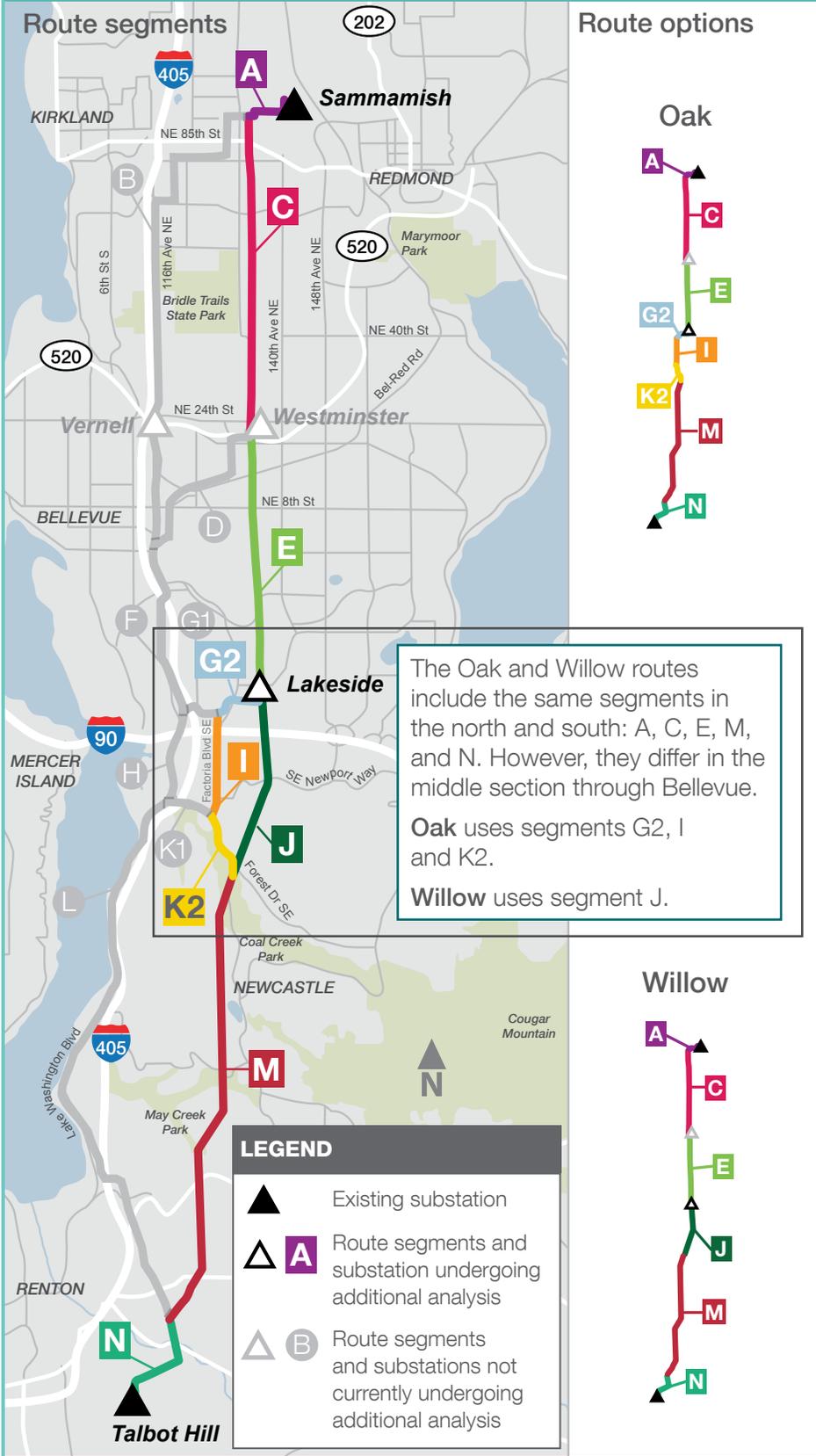
Gathering community input on transmission line route options

In order to provide a forum that would generate robust input from diverse community stakeholders, PSE convened a Community Advisory Group comprised of 24 representatives from various interests across the Eastside. The Community Advisory Group's goals were to help identify and assess community values in the context of evaluating which route the new transmission lines should follow, and to develop a route recommendation for PSE's consideration.

The Community Advisory Group process was supplemented by broad and ongoing community outreach, including public meetings, workshops, briefings and correspondence about the project. At outreach events, the community learned about outcomes of the advisory group process to date and submitted feedback that the advisory group considered in their discussions and route evaluations.

At their final meeting on Dec. 10, 2014, the Community Advisory Group selected routes Oak and Willow as their final route recommendation for PSE's consideration. Of the 22 advisory group members and four residential association alternates participating in the recommendation discussion, 20 supported the final recommendation.

Route segments and options currently under evaluation for Energize Eastside – Spring 2015



Next steps for 2015

Following this year-long public route discussion, PSE is moving forward with additional analysis and fieldwork of the Lakeside substation site and Oak and Willow, the two transmission line routes recommended by the Community Advisory Group (see map on page 3 for reference).

Environmental review

The Energize Eastside project is now moving into the environmental review stage. The environmental review process will be led by the City of Bellevue in cooperation with Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, and Renton, and will include preparation of a Washington State Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS provides an unbiased discussion of significant environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

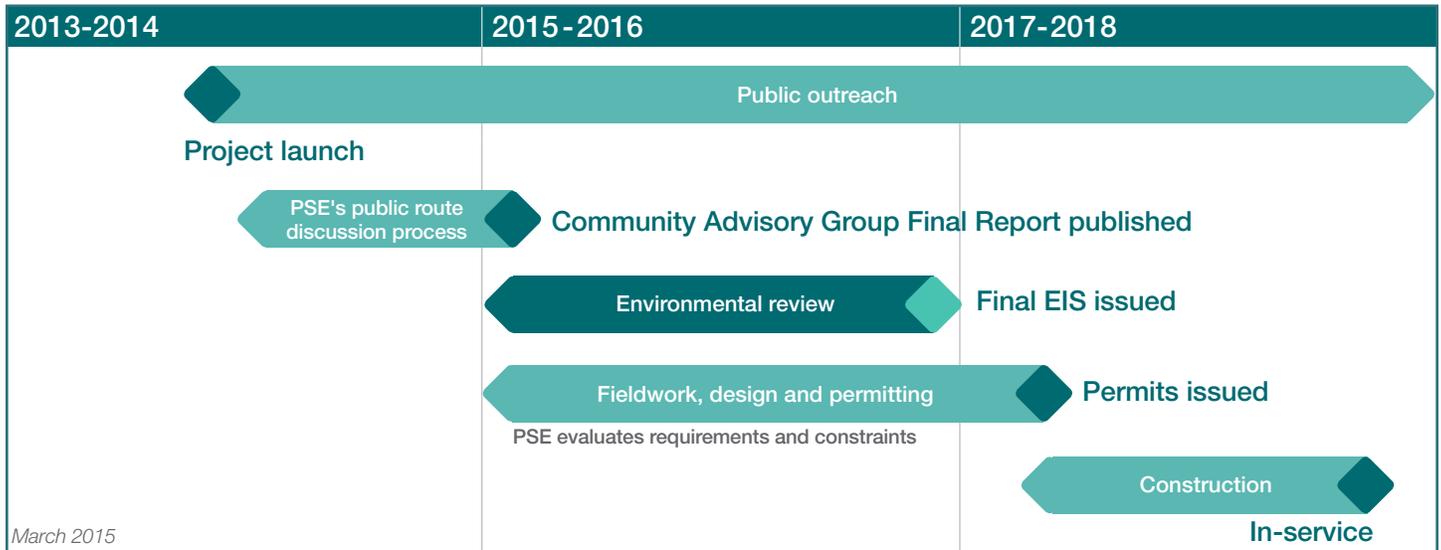
The EIS process will include opportunities for public comment. Through the EIS process, other alternative solutions may be identified and reviewed. For more information on the EIS and opportunities for public comment, visit EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

Fieldwork

PSE is also collecting field information to inform the environmental review process, project design and future permit applications. In order to gather additional information about the routes, PSE and our contractors will conduct fieldwork activities, including a pipeline co-location survey, wetland delineations, land surveys, tree inventories, historic and cultural resources surveys, and geotechnical investigations.

We are committed to keeping property owners, tenants and neighbors informed when our crews will be working in their area, and we will give affected property owners advance notice.

Project schedule



Design

Stay tuned for more information about how you can provide feedback on project design, which may include pole height, finish and other design considerations. In order to develop design options to share with the community, we need to gather and review field data and identify points of flexibility, which the project team will be working on in 2015.

Staying involved

For more information on the EIS and opportunities for public comment, visit EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

For background information on the Energize Eastside project and to view route options on an interactive map, please visit the project website at pse.com/energizeeastside.



A Bellevue resident discusses Energize Eastside with Community Projects Manager Jackson Taylor at the Bellevue Strawberry Festival.

Thank you for your interest in Energize Eastside.

 pse.com/energizeeastside

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