



energizeEASTSIDE

frequently asked questions - routing

Has PSE determined a route for the new electric transmission lines?

No, not yet. PSE's engineers have developed potential route segments that, when put together, would provide the needed electrical upgrade between Renton and Redmond.

PSE has also convened a Community Advisory Group to help PSE with the route-selection process. After collecting feedback from the public, Community Advisory Group and other stakeholders, PSE will further evaluate requirements and constraints and select a preferred route to move forward for final design, environmental review and permitting.

How did PSE develop the route segments?

We considered several factors to develop the potential route segments, including geography, land use and environmental factors.

We contracted with an industry leader in computer-based route evaluation and to collect and review a variety of geographic information system (GIS) data for factors like topography, environmentally-sensitive areas and schools. We categorized the GIS features into opportunities and constraints for routing a new 230 kilovolt electric transmission line, and then used a computer-based model to identify the best balance of the opportunities and constraints to create the routes. The model produced route segments, which our engineers then went out into the field to ensure they were constructible.



Route options will be configured to go from segment A to segment N and connect with one of the potential substation sites.

How will the community be involved in identifying the final route?

PSE is asking the public to provide input on which combination of route segments best reflect the values of the Eastside community. After collecting feedback from the public, the Community Advisory Group and other stakeholders, PSE will further evaluate requirements and constraints and select the preferred route and substation to move forward for final design, environmental review and permitting.

When will PSE identify the preferred route?

Using public comments and the Community Advisory Group's recommendation, PSE plans to make a final route decision by the end of 2014. Once the preferred route has been determined, the project will move into the design and permitting phase. Construction is planned to begin in 2017 with project completion expected in 2018.

Why doesn't PSE use the Seattle City Light corridor that runs north-south from Redmond to Renton?

PSE studied the Seattle City Light corridor during the solution identification process. If completely rebuilt, the corridor could work to meet the Eastside's energy needs. However, PSE does not own this corridor.

PSE approached Seattle City Light, but this corridor is a key component of Seattle City Light's transmission system and is not available for our use.

Why doesn't PSE use the existing transmission line that runs through Bridle Trails State Park?

The transmission line that goes through Bridle Trails State Park belongs to Seattle City Light and is not available for PSE's use.

Why is PSE considering the Eastside Rail Corridor when a trail is planned for that area?

In addition to working with the public, we are actively reaching out to local jurisdictions and groups like the Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Advisory Council to ensure the Energize Eastside project aligns with other regional plans. It is important to note that PSE is a member of the Eastside Rail Corridor Advisory Council, has development rights along the corridor, and continues to work closely with jurisdictions and King County on the preservation of the corridor as a public asset. Trails and electric transmission lines are compatible uses as demonstrated by numerous examples throughout King County.

Could PSE put the new electric transmission lines along Interstate 405?

We've reached out to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to discuss the possibility of installing a new electrical transmission system along the I-405 corridor, either in the median or alongside the highway.

WSDOT indicated that the Federal Highway Administration's standard policy generally doesn't allow utilities through the median of an interstate, so PSE would not be able to build power lines down the center of I-405.

Additionally, there are prohibitive challenges with routing the line along either side of I-405. In addition to existing space constraints, if our lines were in conflict with any future WSDOT project, PSE would need to relocate out of the WSDOT property without sufficient lead time to re-site our line. The potential risk of losing the route rules this out as a viable option for PSE.

Why is PSE looking at corridors outside of its existing right-of-way?

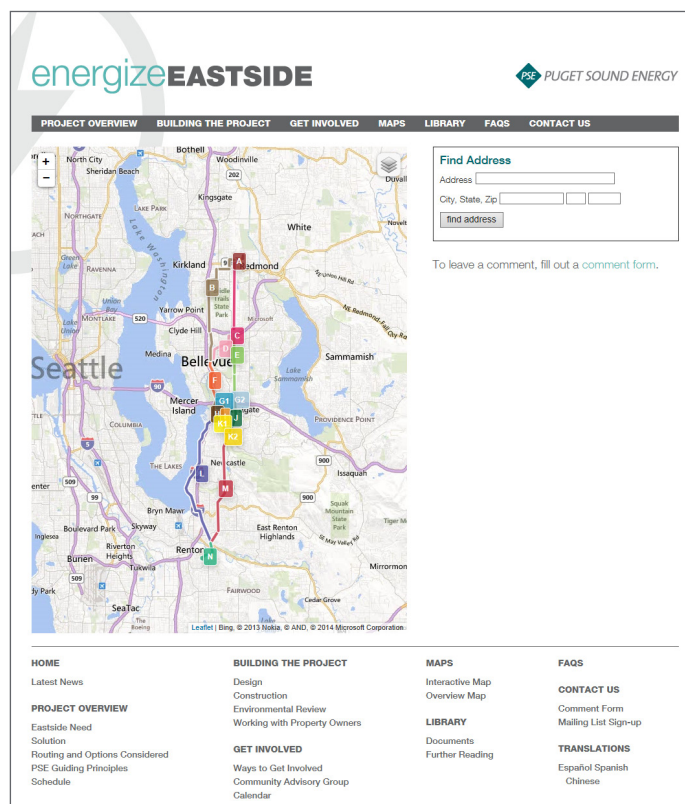
During the solution identification process, PSE's engineers and third-party experts looked for the best solutions to deliver electricity to the Eastside. Based on this analysis, route segments were identified that included our existing right-of-way, the former BNSF railroad corridor and road rights-of-way, many of which already have transmission lines along them.

How much of the route segments use existing transmission lines?

Seventy-one percent of the potential route segments have existing transmission lines. Segment D is the only route segment that doesn't have existing or adjacent transmission lines along at least a portion of its length.

It looks like my house is along one of the route segments. What does that mean for me?

We are in the early stages of the project, and we encourage you to get involved in the routing discussion. As the project progresses we will keep you informed of the status of the route segments and opportunities for involvement. Once PSE has selected our preferred route, we will notify property owners, residents and businesses along the route about the project's next steps. The project will then go into the design, permitting, and construction phases.



You can find our interactive segment map at our website pse.com/energizeeastside.

Check out our interactive segment map at our website (pse.com/energizeeastside) to verify if your property is along a possible segment. While you're at our website, leave us a comment and sign up for alerts on when a community meeting might be happening near you.



Questions and Comments



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