

Briefing Notes: Somerset (Bellevue) Neighborhood Meeting

Meeting host: Somerset Community Association

Location: Somerset Elementary School, 14100 Somerset Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

Date: May 9, 2016

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Purpose and overview: The Somerset Community Association invited Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to provide a presentation on the Energize Eastside project and answer community questions at their May 9 meeting. PSE's preferred route, Willow 2, spans the Somerset neighborhood and along SE Newport Way. The existing corridor, Willow 1, also spans the Somerset neighborhood. This neighborhood has been informed about the Energize Eastside since project launch back in 2013 and many of the residents have stayed very active in the process since.

At the briefing, the project team:

- Informed residents about the project and PSE's preferred route
- Shared photo simulations of how the new poles could look in their community at 137th Ave SE, 134th Ave SE, SE 42nd Pl, SE Allen Rd and SE Newport Way
- Informed the neighborhood about how they can get involved in the EIS process
- Answered questions and learned about community concerns

Format: Jens Nedrud, Project Manager, and Keri Pravitz, Community Projects Manager, gave a presentation on Energize Eastside. Topics included an overview of the project, why the project is needed, how the need has been verified, how PSE got to the preferred route (i.e., Community Advisory Group recommendation, fieldwork, community concerns, and impacts documented in the Phase 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement), photo simulations, and the EIS process. Following the presentation Jens and Keri answered questions from community members. Andrew Lightfoot, Lead Electrical System Engineer, and Mark Williamson, Industry Expert, were also available to answer questions.

Themes heard

Note: This section reflects a synthesis of individual questions, comments and themes that came up at the meeting. The synthesis provided is not intended for use as a verbatim transcription.

Attendees asked questions or made comments about the following topics related to Energize Eastside:

- Pole height, diameter, design and location
- Transmission line voltages and distance from the ground
- Sustainable alternatives to overhead transmission lines (i.e., solar panels)
- Effects to view corridors
- Project need (i.e., load growth, reliability and system capacity)
- Tree removal and the differences in vegetation standards for distribution and transmission lines
- Pipeline safety concerns
- Electric and magnetic field safety concerns
- PSE's preferred route and specific route locations

PSE appreciates community input and expression of interests and concerns. PSE will continue to listen and learn as the project and the EIS process continue.