



DAVIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 05/27/2015

Meeting Location: Mayfield Cottage

1 MEETING SUMMARY

1.1 PRESENTERS

Name	Title	Organization
Imane Mrini	Project Manager	Public Works
Chris Wolter	Project Sponsor	Austin Water
David Tomczyszyn	Engineer	Austin Energy
Richard Everton	Davis WTP Superintendent	Austin Water

Also in attendance: Gregg Andrulis, Malone Wheeler – Austin Energy Electrical Feeders Project; Jake Balcom, AECOM, Davis WTP Medium Service Pump Station Project; Shant Harutunian, HEI, Davis WTP Power Upgrade Project; Public Information Specialist Courtney Black, COA

1.2 MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the upcoming Davis Water Treatment Plant Improvement Projects & 35th Street Austin Energy Underground Electrical Service Project. Staff gave an overview of each, discusses citizen concerns, including traffic controls, tree removal, noise, and technical project details.

- Meeting Start: 6:30 p.m.
- Meeting Scheduled End: 8:00 p.m.
- Meeting Actual End: 8:20 p.m.
- Total Attendees: 25

1.3 MEETING NOTES

The meeting began with a presentation from Public Works, Austin Water, Austin Energy Staff and consultant staff. The presentation was followed by a rigorous question and answer session with attendees. The majority of the questions and comments from attendees expressed concern about the effect of the electrical feeder lane closures on traffic and how traffic would be routed for the duration of the project. Attendees were also concerned about the height of the poles proposed to be installed at the Davis Water Treatment Plant. Other concerns included construction staging for the duct project.

Another concern was meeting notifications not reaching some residents. Public Works Public Information Officer disseminated flyers to residents 1,000 ft. from the project site(s), but apparently not all neighbors received notification. Attendees suggested postcards for future notices.

2 RECORDED QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

1. **Did the project take into consideration the current Mopac construction?**

The Mopac Improvement Project is a TXDOT project that is happening mostly along the expressway and will not intersect with the limits of construction of the Austin Energy's Davis WTP electrical feeders project. Nevertheless, lane closures related to the TXDOT's Mopac Improvement Project are typically limited to Sunday nights from 5 pm to 6 am and Monday through Thursday 8 pm to 6 am which is outside the work hours of the Austin Energy project along 35th street.

2. **Has Camp Mabry been contacted?**

Yes, Austin Energy has been coordinating with Camp Mabry on their event schedule and to try to minimize disruptions to their operations.

3. What will be done to handle the same volume of traffic with the proposed lane reduction?

Weekend work is scheduled to lessen the impact on Balcones Drive. In addition, detours will be in effect to reduce influx to construction areas.

4. School traffic going towards Cassis Elementary may be an issue. Parents drop off children at 7:45 am and pick them up at 2:45 pm. West 35th St and Exposition Blvd are used to connect. What will be done to alleviate congestion?

This is an existing condition and outside of the construction area. Residents, schools, businesses and neighboring stakeholders affected by the construction will be made aware of the upcoming construction and should take appropriate measures as they see fit. Alternate detour signage should help alleviate traffic through the construction zone by reminding them that there is construction. Alternate detours were carefully selected and reviewed by Austin Transportation's ROW management for adequacy, safety and effectiveness.

5. Will there be people directing traffic? Where?

There will be a flagger operation only for a specific section of the alignment along 35th street between the intersection of Balcones Drive and Foothill Drive.

6. The townhomes on Exposition experience bad traffic between 3:30 pm and 6 pm. How will this affect them?

The townhomes are east of where the majority of the work that will occur, which is between Hillview Rd and Foothills Drive along 35th Street. However, there will be two small sub-projects to install a few conduits and a manhole (each work location is approximately 60 to 100 feet in length) between Mopac and Exposition; and one subproject to rework/clean-up the overhead lines at the intersection of Exposition and 35th. These sub-projects are still in the design phase, but any traffic control plans will be coordinated with the Davis Water Treatment Plant/35th street work.

7. Will the pavement on 35th street be upgraded?

The pavement on the north bound lane of 35th street will be replaced and any pavement disturbed by construction will be restored per the City of Austin pavement repair standards. There are no plans to replace the pavement outside of the limits of construction as part of this project.

8. Can Mt. Bonnell traffic be redirected? It's a popular destination and is often congested.

The intent of the detours is to help with traffic through the construction area rather than fix existing congested areas. Detouring traffic from Mt Bonnell through neighborhood side streets creates other issues and is not desirable. Residents and drivers will be made aware of the construction by appropriate signage and will be able to plan ahead and choose available detours accordingly.

9. Will there be any interruption in electric service?

There is no planned interruption of electrical service anticipated as of this date.

10. Will there be a construction entrance to buffer zone through Foothill drive?

The entrance to the staging area in the buffer zone will be through 35th street for the Austin Energy electrical feeders project. There are no current plans to have an entrance to the buffer zone through Foothill drive for the Davis WTP improvement projects.

11. Are there any plans to place sidewalk along 35th street?

The scope of Austin Energy's Electrical Feeders project does not include any plans for sidewalk construction.

12. Will there be tree removal for overhead lines?

Some trees will have to be removed as part of the Davis Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) Improvements projects to accommodate proposed underground utilities. However, no additional trees will be removed as part of relocating the overhead lines. The current alignment was chosen to remove fewer trees, none of which are Heritage Oaks. To compensate for removed trees, additional trees will be planted in the buffer zone.

13. Will the size of Foothill Street change?

No.

14. Why were underground electrical utilities chosen in lieu of overhead? What is the cost difference?

Underground utilities were chosen for their increased reliability. Underground lines are historically more reliable than overhead because they are typically not exposed to elements such as wind (ex: storms, hurricanes, tornados), lightning, ice, trees, cars, or animals (ex: squirrels). Underground lines are typically 3-10 times the cost of overhead lines.

15. Will the lines miss the crossing at Taylor's Creek?

Yes. The duct bank will be installed in a sleeve underneath the culverts that convey Taylor's Creek under 35th Street. The sleeve will be installed by boring a hole underneath the culverts. No disturbance to the creek bed or the culverts flow is anticipated.

16. Will the new substation be less noisy?

Noise will be reduced comparatively with the existing substation. Some existing transformers from old substation will remain and AWU staff will explore opportunities for additional noise mitigation through separate sub-projects in the future.

17. How will traffic be impacted during Davis WTP construction phase?

There will be no closures, but trucks will come and go from site.

18. Where is the construction staging area for duct project? How big is it and how will it be accessed?

There is a 70-foot-long by 40-foot-wide staging area planned in the buffer zone of the DWTP. Construction vehicles will access the staging area from 35th Street. Four additional staging areas are planned in the 35th Street Right-of-Way on the north side of the road adjacent to Camp Mabry. These will be 20-foot-wide and range in length from 50 feet to 100 feet and will be accessed from the work zones on 35th Street.

19. In regards to the pole relocation along buffer zone: Why are the proposed poles 70 feet tall? How many and where will they be? Neighbors are concerned about aesthetics and placement. Can utilities be underground, can alternative placements be considered, and/or the height be shortened?

The existing poles are 60 feet tall. Three poles are planned to be slightly relocated inside the buffer zone area as part of the Davis Improvement projects in order to accommodate underground utilities. The proposed heights of 70ft. for the newly relocated pole were requested by AWU to minimize tree trimming cycles. The location of the poles was selected carefully to minimize impact to trees including heritage trees and to existing and proposed

utilities. As the result of feedback from this public meeting, the City is currently considering going back to standard 60 ft high self-weathering poles along the buffer zone area.

20. Will Staging area be restored? Do you have future plans to build on the buffer zone?

Yes, all staging areas will be restored to their existing condition. There are currently no plans to build on the buffer zone.

21. Can you put Boulders around buffer zone area at the corner of 35th St and Foothill? Kids using it driving donuts. Also used for peewee football.

Installing boulders around the buffer zone area is currently under consideration by the project team.

22. What will happen to the existing electrical lakeshore feed lines

They will be disconnected from DWTP, but will still be used as a backup to the overhead feeders in the area until such time that the cables fail and are no longer repairable. At that time, since the lines are direct buried and cannot be removed; they will be abandoned in place.

23. What is the traffic impact for the 3 years pf plant construction?

Residents should expect to see Heavy construction equipment traveling along along 35th street during construction hours?

24. What is the cost of the 35th street electrical feeder's project?

The current overall estimate approximates \$3 Million which includes a new transformer at Austin Energy's Warren substation and the underground feeders along 35th street between Austin Energy's substation and Davis Water treatment Plant.

3 POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
Import e-newsletter sign ups	Courtney Black	05/28//2015 (Complete)
Upload and disseminate Responses to meeting questions	Courtney Black	06/18/2015 (Waiting on AE/AW responses)
Send follow up e-mail to attendees	Imane Mrini	06/18/2015 (Waiting to finalize FAQs)