

Austin Energy's Rainey Street Substation

Rezoning Request, Case # C14-2020-0065

Pamela England, Manager of Public Involvement & Property Acquisition

Kim Doyal, Community Engagement Consultant



Sept. 8, 2020

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Austin Energy's "Repowering Downtown" Initiative

The *Rainey Street Substation* is part of Austin Energy's CIP plan following the 2011 Downtown Austin Plan (ord. no. 20111208-093) "to acquire a site for a future electric substation" supporting adequate infrastructure for a vibrant downtown.

- Currently 2 substations serve all of the downtown network:
 - Seaholm Substation is newer, added energy capacity in 2019
 - Brackenridge Substation is 40+ years old, scheduled to be rebuilt in 2023
- Addition of Rainey Street Substation would:
 - Provide a third substation to serve the growing downtown network
 - Allow Brackenridge Substation to be temporarily decommissioned and rebuilt
 - Add capacity, resiliency, and reliability to entire downtown network



Substation Site

- Utilizes existing COA property, acquired by Austin Energy in 1999 for purpose of adding a substation to meet projected energy demand downtown
- Location has minimal impact on downtown residents and businesses
- Cost savings to City due to existing electrical transmission located on site
- Gas-insulated switchgear (GIS) substation uses smaller footprint: site is 1.46 acres, substation footprint is 0.81 acres
- Austin Energy coordinated through design with: TxDOT, Watershed Protection, Austin Water, Public Works, Waller Creek Local Govt. Corp., adjacent developments



Support from Downtown Stakeholders

- Real Estate Council of Austin
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Downtown Austin Alliance
- Waterloo Greenway Conservancy
- Waller Creek Local Government Corporation
- Downtown Austin Neighbors Association
- Mexican American Cultural Center
- COA Design Commission

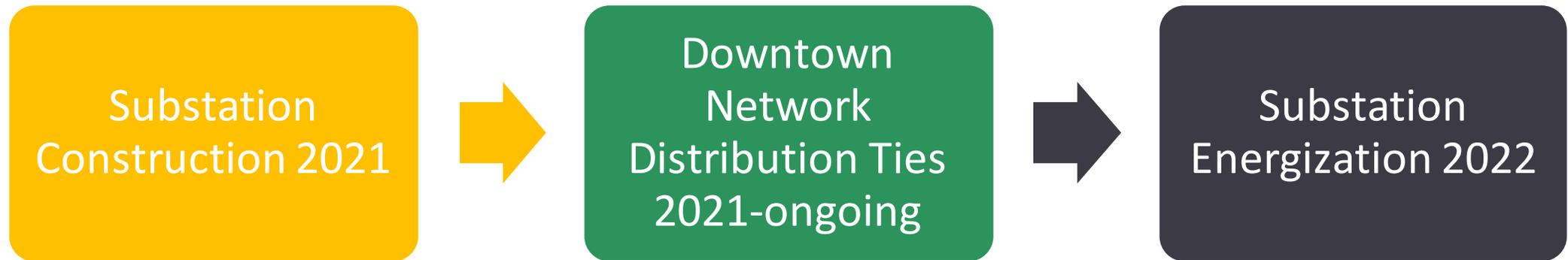


Engagement with Rainey Community

- Rainey neighborhood located in fast-growing, highly visible area of downtown
- Worked with associations and residents to collect and incorporate feedback
 - Three in-person public meetings held at the MACC: June 2018 (project introduction and discussion); Feb. 2019 (presentation of design concepts), and Aug 2019 (finalizing design concepts)
 - 600+ residents and downtown stakeholders responded to survey data
 - 98% survey respondents reported they were satisfied with opportunities to provide public input
 - Placed priority on: attractive and modern-themed enclosure; adequate street lighting; pedestrian safety; preservation of heritage trees; minimal traffic impact; native plants/grasses in landscaping
- Support from: Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), Rainey Neighbors Association, Town Lake Neighbors Association, Towers of Town Lake HOA, Council District 9



Next Steps



Questions?



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