

RESOLUTION NO. 20230323-058

WHEREAS, Austin Energy's electric distribution system has approximately 5,000 miles of overhead electric distribution lines and 7,000 miles of underground electric distribution lines; and

WHEREAS, overhead electric distribution lines are less costly up-front but may be more susceptible to extreme weather and other risks than underground electric distribution lines, while underground electric distribution lines have higher up-front costs but may provide greater service reliability for utility customers in storm events; and

WHEREAS, the City, acting through the Austin Transportation Department, the Public Works Department, Austin Water, the Austin Corridor Program, the Austin Transit Partnership, and other offices and entities, is continually planning and executing construction projects in the public rights-of-way where there exists the potential to redesign and relocate electric distribution lines underground; and

WHEREAS, several City projects, such as the Austin Corridor Mobility Program and Project Connect, are currently in the project design phase, and could potentially reduce the costs of relocating electric distribution lines underground through efficiencies of shared planning and construction efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Land Development Code Chapter 25-2, Subchapter E (Zoning) currently requires that for core transit corridors, utility lines within the right-of-way shall be placed underground or relocated to the rear of the site to the maximum extent practicable; and

WHEREAS, for City projects such as the Austin Corridor Mobility Program and Project Connect, City staff have been coordinating across

departments to achieve the requirements of the Subchapter E; **NOW,**
THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to review the City's current practices regarding coordination between City departments regarding the placement of electric distribution lines underground in the development of capital projects and identify opportunities for improvement to ensure that the potential for underground placement is thoroughly considered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to coordinate planning across departments and pursue, where feasible, the transition of overhead electric distribution lines to underground facilities for all future publicly funded capital projects in or along the public right-of-way including, but not limited to, along Corridor Mobility Project, Project Connect lines, and other similar transportation and public works projects that are in the early stages of project design at the time of adoption of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to identify, as a pilot, areas and priority locations where capital projects have already been identified to focus on as an initial phase of implementation of this resolution. The process of identifying pilot projects may consider criteria including, but not limited to, feasibility, highest need (such as service to critical infrastructure, repeated outages due to vegetation/exposure, extensive tree canopy, etc.), timeliness within the planning process, equitable geographic dispersion, stakeholder input, and fiscal impact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

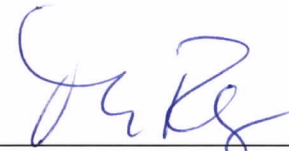
The City Manager is encouraged to coordinate these efforts with private utilities that co-locate overhead service lines on City-owned utility poles and non-City-owned telecommunications or utility poles within the same right-of-way as prescribed in the Utilities Criteria Manual.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back on progress related to these efforts to the Electric Utility Commission and the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee within 180 days of the adoption of this resolution.

ADOPTED: March 23, 2023

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk