

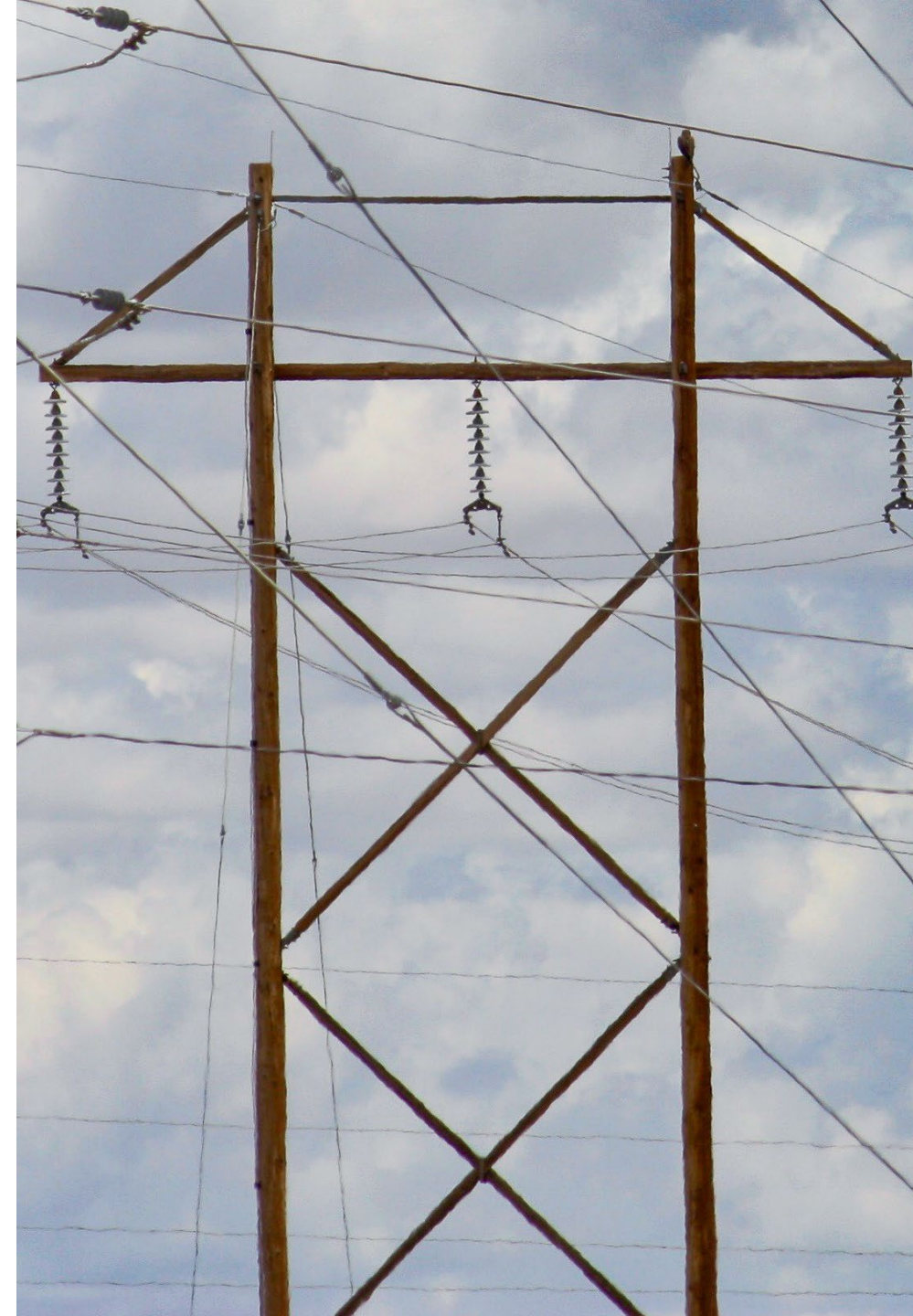


Knox County Connector Project

Virtual Open House 3

October 14 - 26, 2024

We welcome your input during
Round 3 of our Routing Study!



WELCOME

to the Knox County Connector Project Virtual Engagement

Thank you for joining us online today!

We need your valuable feedback about the Knox County Connector Project. We look forward to your input in understanding the project area from the community's perspective. The goal of this virtual engagement is to:

- Learn more about the project
- Review project maps
- Provide feedback and input to the project team

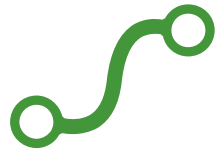


Project Overview

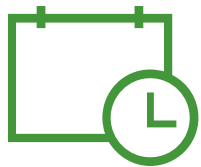
Knox County Connector Project



- Improves energy reliability in Knox County
- Replace and upgrade approximately 11 miles of new energy lines
 - 10 miles would be rebuilt along existing corridors and co-located with existing Ameren Illinois facilities

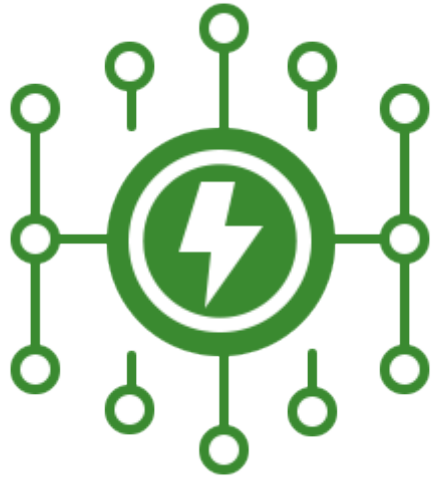


- A majority of the line will be rebuilt on new structures and will include a second power line, referred to as a “double circuit”
 - will carry both 138/69 kV transmission lines.
 - portion of the double circuit will need to be routed around the west side of Wataga

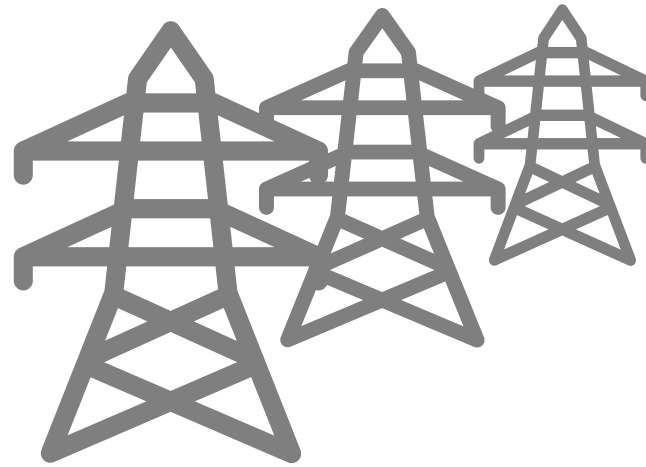


- Modifications to the existing Sandburg Substation
- Anticipated in service date: Spring 2026

Project Need



- Strengthen our energy system by creating a more reliable grid



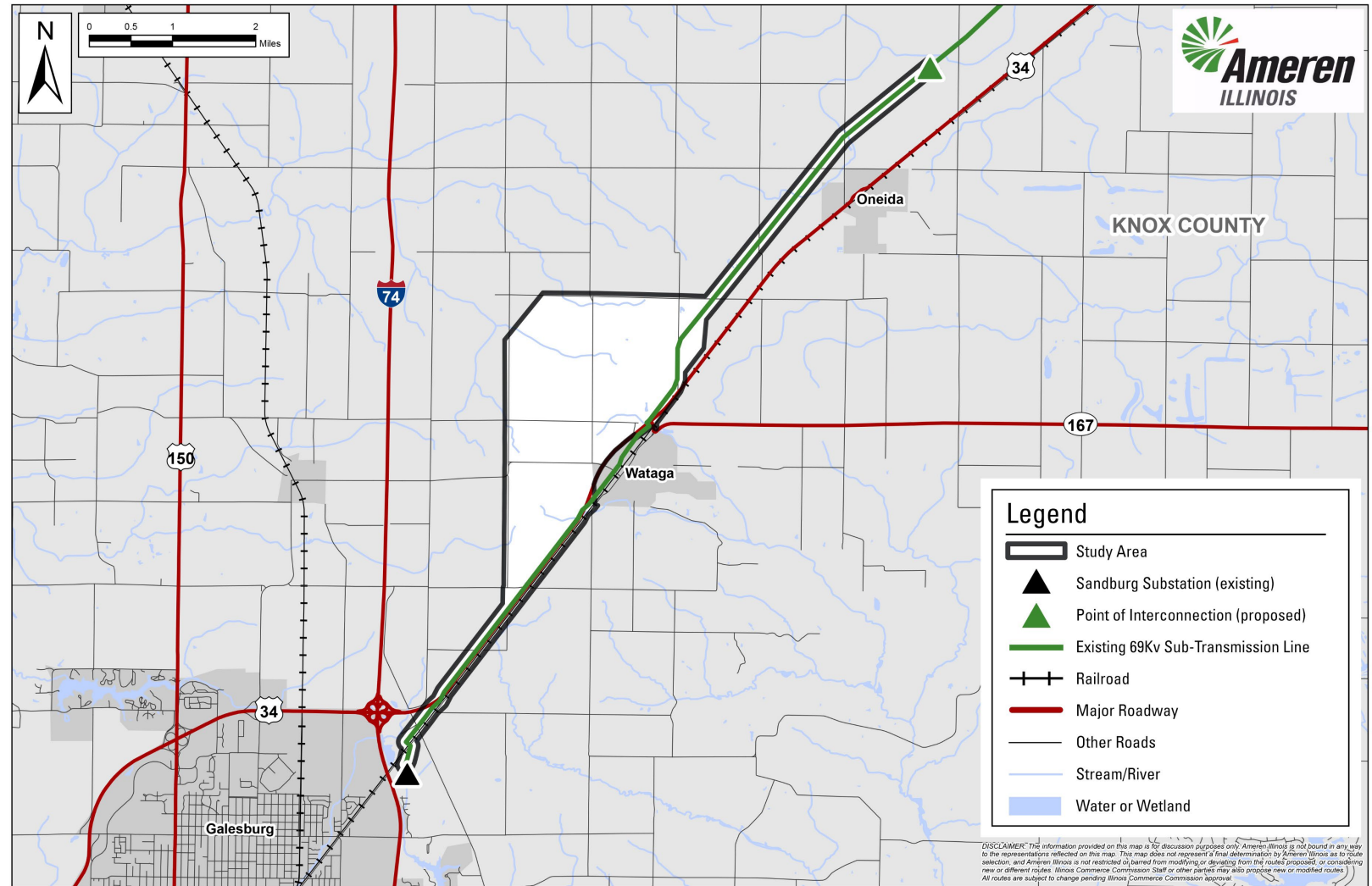
- Upgrade aging infrastructure



- Build a connection to diverse energy sources for Illinois communities

Study Area

Public input is an important part of the transmission line route selection process. You may provide input by entering a comment on the interactive map on the project website, calling the project hotline or emailing the project team. Contact information can be found in this presentation as well as the project website.



Preferred Route Alternatives

STEP 1: DEFINE STUDY AREA – COMPLETE

Our team started by using data from publicly available data sources to create our Study Area. We considered existing utility corridors, resource areas, natural environment data and field survey data to develop a Study Area that provides feasible routing opportunities.



STEP 2: DEVELOP PRELIMINARY ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

Next, our team used data collected from our stakeholders, community members and federal, state and local agencies during our first round of engagement, as well as the four categories of routing criteria – Opportunities, Sensitivities, Technical Guidelines and Statutory Requirements – to develop potential Preliminary Route Alternatives in the Study Area.



STEP 3: DEVELOP PREFERRED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES – WE ARE HERE!

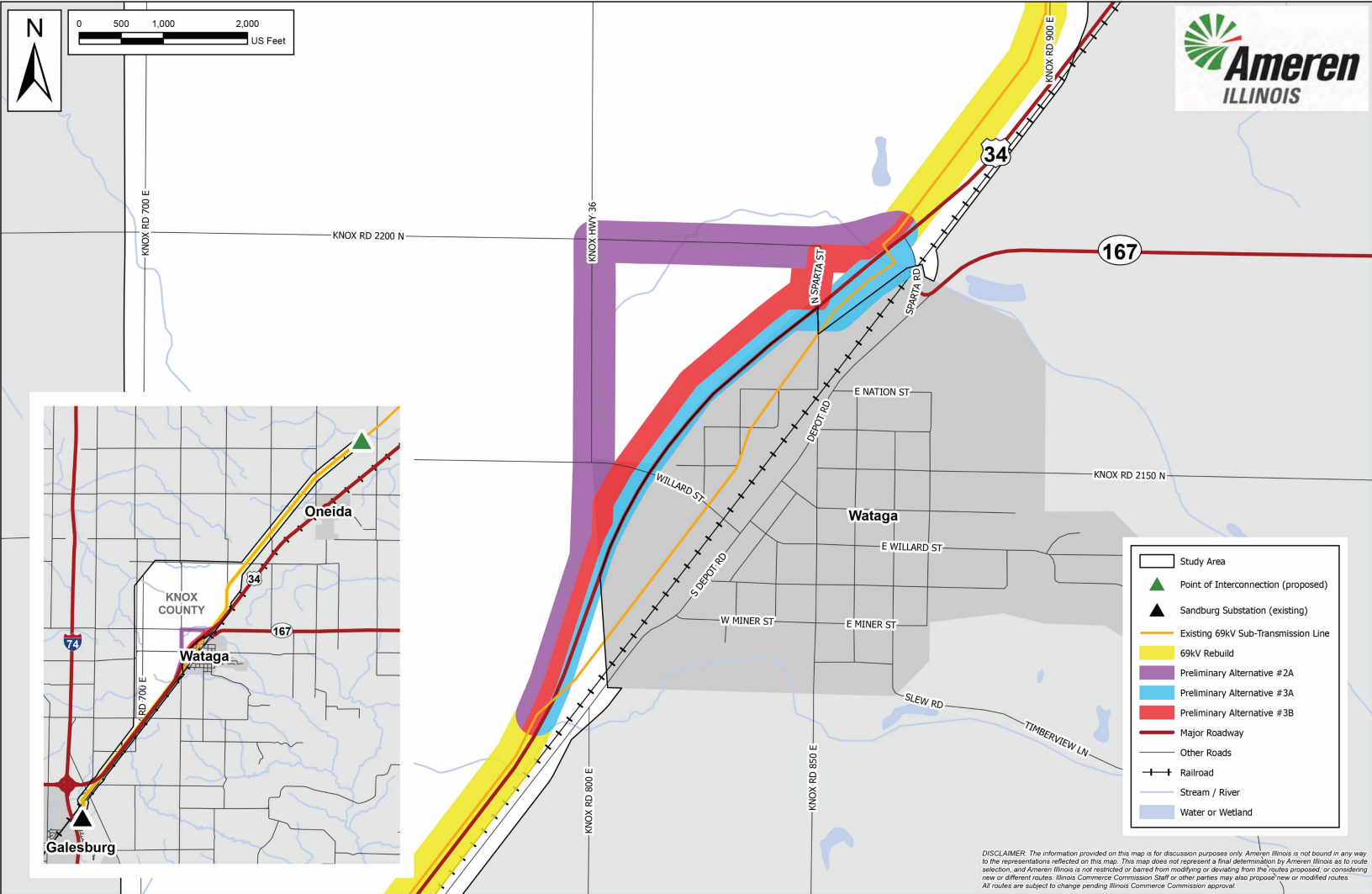
Using routing criteria and comments received from the community, our team has identified several Preferred Route Alternatives, narrowed down from the Preliminary Route Alternatives presented at the previous round of open houses. Finally, using data and input collected at the third round of open houses, our team will select a “primary route” and an “alternate route” for the Knox County Connector Project to present in the application to the ICC.



Preferred Route Alternatives

The map shows Preferred Route Alternatives narrowed down from the Preliminary Route Alternatives that were presented to the public at the September 2024 open houses. The next step will be to select one of the remaining routes as a “primary route” and one as an “alternate route” for Ameren to present in the application to the ICC to approve.

Please visit the interactive map on the project in more detail.



DISCLAIMER: The information provided on this map is for discussion purposes only. Ameren Illinois is not bound in any way to the representations reflected on this map. This map does not represent a final determination by Ameren Illinois as to route selection, and Ameren Illinois is not restricted or barred from modifying or deviating from the routes proposed, or considering new or different routes. Illinois Commerce Commission Staff or other parties may also propose new or modified routes. All routes are subject to change pending Illinois Commerce Commission approval.

Anticipated Schedule

2024

- Gather public and agency input
- Engineering and permitting
- Final routes identified
- File routes with ICC

2025

- Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN) decision
- Environmental surveys and permitting
- Easement acquisition process
- Preconstruction activities
- Construction

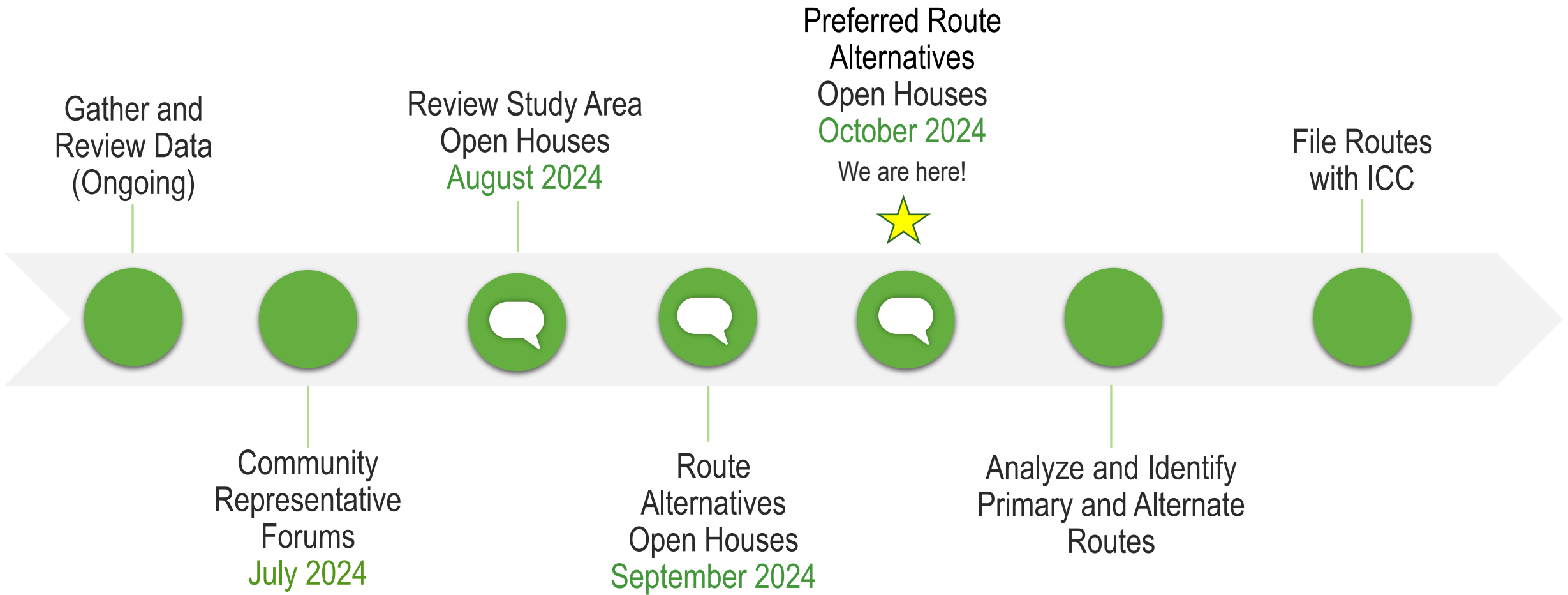
2026

- Project in service in spring



Routing + Public Involvement

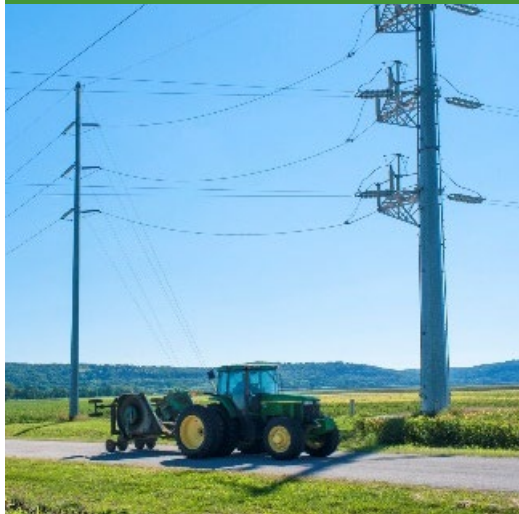
Routing Process & Outreach



Routing Criteria

Our goal is to take advantage of Opportunities while understanding and minimizing impacts to Sensitivities and adhering to Technical Guidelines and Statutory Requirements.

Opportunities



Sensitivities



Technical Guidelines



Statutory Requirements



Routing Criteria



OPPORTUNITIES

Linear features that are oriented in the direction of the project:

- Field lines
- Property lines
- Section lines
- Roads
- Utility corridors



SENSITIVITIES

Area resources or conditions that may require additional review and consideration:

- Agricultural conflicts
- Airports/VOR
- Cemeteries
- Communication Towers
- Conservation Areas/
Nature Preserves
- Contaminated Areas
- Cultural/Historic
Resources
- Planned Development
(future)
- Floodplains (*more difficult
construction and many times
have sensitive species*)
- Forest/Grassland
- Hospitals
- IL DNR Resource Lands
- IL DNR State Parks
- Levees/Dams
- Mines/Quarries
- Pipelines*
- Railroads*
- Recreation/Tourism
- Religious Facilities
- Residences (*especially
large clusters of homes*)
- Scenic Roads
- Schools/Daycares
- Sensitive Crops
- Sensitive Species
- Streams/Wetlands
- Wells

**Linear features with additional precautions and studies needed*

Routing Criteria

Technical Guidelines:

- Ensure safety and compatibility with existing infrastructure
- Comply with National Electric Safety Code (NESC)
- Ensure adequate access for construction and maintenance activities
- Maintain required or sufficient setbacks from roads and highways
- Minimize angle structures
- Minimize crossing of existing transmission lines
- Minimize impractical construction requirements
- Minimize non-standard designs
- Minimize length

Public Engagement



Public Open Houses – In Person and Virtual

- August, September and October 2024



Individual Landowner and Stakeholder Discussions



Online Engagement

- Comment map
- Project website
- Hotline and email

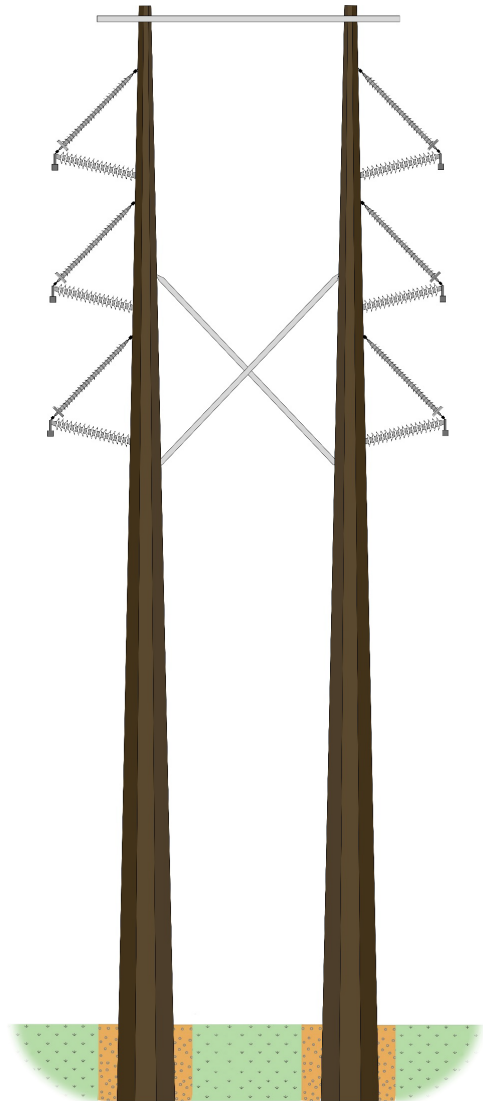


Email and Direct Mail

Construction



Structures



Typical 138 kV H-Frame Structures

- Height: 80 - 120 ft
- Span: 600 - 900 ft
- Structures/mile: 6 – 9
- Conductor ground clearance: 21 ft (minimum)
- Typical easement width: 100 ft

Note, this graphic is not to scale. The number of x-braces on a typical structure and the sizing of the structure may vary depending on the final route.

Construction Process

- The transmission line will be built in intermittent phases and will not be constant on landowners' property during the construction period.
- There will be six major stages of construction.
- We will provide more information before construction begins.



1 Survey structure locations and vegetation clearing



2 Auger holes for new poles



3 Set poles and backfill holes to secure poles in place



4 Aerial H-frame assembly. Ground framing may also be utilized prior to drilling and setting poles.



5 String lines



6 Restore easement and energize line

Vegetation Management



Vegetation Management

- Safety and reliability are the driving factors behind managing trees, and other forms of vegetation, around our transmission lines. Trees and other vegetation can damage the line and can hinder our ability to deliver electric services safely and reliably. They can make the job of storm restoration more difficult, extend restoration times, and pose additional hazards to line crews.
- To protect the public and reduce the risk of extended power outages, Ameren has a vegetation management program designed to ensure proper clearances around the lines as required by federal and state agencies. The program reduces the potential for damage and allows access for crews to maintain and repair transmission equipment.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MAY INCLUDE:



MOWING



MANUAL AND AERIAL TRIMMING



REMOVAL OF VEGETATION



APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE HERBICIDES

Environmental & Agency Coordination



Agency and Municipal Coordination



Real Estate



Real Estate

- An easement is an interest or right to use the land of another for a specific purpose. Ameren will be seeking to obtain easements from affected landowners for the construction, operation and maintenance of the electric transmission line. The typical easement width for the new structures is 100 feet.

EASEMENT ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR THE TRANSMISSION LINE

Ameren's real estate team will have several land agents assisting landowners during the entire real estate process. Discussions with landowners will include topics such as:

- LAND SURVEYS AND STUDIES
- ACCESS ROADS
- STRUCTURES/LINE DESIGN
- RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING
- COMPENSATION
- PROPERTY RESTORATION

Online Comment Map

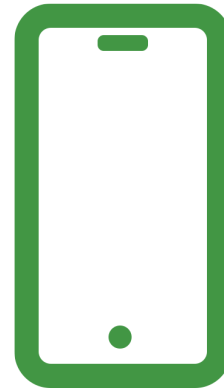


We want to hear from you...

Please click on the link below to be directed to the Interactive Project Map. Your input is very important. You can zoom into any property or use the address search feature and then drop a pin to add your comments.



<https://www.ameren.com/company/ameren-transmission/knox-county>





Please Contact Us

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Toll-Free 833.478.7733



Ameren.com/KnoxCounty

Thank You