

Fairbanks Avenue Improvement Project

Power lines: Conversion from overhead to underground



Project Description

Duke Energy and the city of Winter Park have been making plans to convert the existing overhead power lines along Fairbanks Avenue to underground. The existing poles carry both distribution lines and transmission lines owned and operated by Duke Energy. The wires for cable and telephone are owned by other companies and will also be converted to underground.

The city of Winter Park secured funding from the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) for a project that will begin in late 2018. The city contracted with Duke Energy to complete the project:

- Convert approximately 1 mile of existing 69-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line to underground along Fairbanks Avenue, from Interstate 4 to just past Orlando Avenue at Harper Street. The underground line will proceed along Harper Street to Comstock Avenue, where it will transition to overhead to the city's substation.
- A duct bank system with four manholes will be installed to protect the underground conductors. The duct bank system will be installed in the center of the south travel lane of Fairbanks Avenue using open-trench construction at a depth of approximately 3 feet. A construction method called micro-tunneling will be used to diagonally cross the intersection of Fairbanks Avenue and Harper Street.
- Overhead distribution lines owned and operated by Duke Energy on Fairbanks will also be removed and replaced with underground lines in the vicinity of the sidewalk on the south side of Fairbanks Avenue. The sidewalk will be closed to pedestrian traffic during active construction. The distribution undergrounding work will be done by the city of Winter Park. The relocation of other utilities (cable, telephone) attached to the existing poles will be coordinated by Winter Park.



Impacts to traffic and access to businesses

The south lane of Fairbanks Avenue will be closed during active construction and will reopen as each construction phase is completed and when the lane is deemed safe for traffic. The permanent new pavement will be done in late 2019, when all the construction phases are complete.

Duke Energy, Winter Park and the Florida DOT have developed a comprehensive traffic plan to help manage congestion, identify detours and mitigate access issues for businesses along Fairbanks Avenue. The city of Winter Park has been working directly with businesses to identify alternative access during periods of construction when access from Fairbanks Avenue will be closed.

During construction, the existing middle lane of Fairbanks Avenue, which is currently used as a left turn lane, will be used as an eastbound travel lane. There will be no left turns from Fairbanks Avenue permitted during construction.



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Schedule*

The schedule for the underground installation of the 69-kV transmission lines will occur in five phases beginning on the east end of the project area at Harper Street and conclude on the west side at Interstate 4. The south lane of Fairbanks Avenue will be closed during active construction and will reopen as each construction phase is completed. The timing of each phase will likely overlap:

Phase 1 (Late 2018 to late winter):

- Construction – Harper Street between Comstock Avenue and Fairbanks Avenue and continuing to west side of Orlando Avenue.
 - Full closure of Harper Street from Nov. 1, 2018, to mid-Feb. 2019
 - Jacking pit 14 feet deep, 30 feet long and 14 feet wide for first six weeks
 - Detour signs will direct Walgreens customers and other traffic

Phase 2 (Late 2018 to late winter 2019):

- Open cut in south lane of Fairbanks from west of Orlando Avenue to Kilshore Lane
- Detour signs will direct car traffic to area businesses

Phase 3 (Late winter 2019 to spring 2019):

- Open cut in south lane of Fairbanks from east of Ohio Street to east of Kilshore Lane
- Detour signs will direct car traffic to area businesses

Phase 4 (Spring 2019 to summer 2019):

- Open cut from Ohio Street to Interstate 4 ramp
- Detour signs and signal lights will direct traffic

Phase 5 (Summer 2019 to fall 2019):

- Road resurfacing and marking
- Energize new underground facilities
- Removal of old structure and wires

*Weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances may result in modifications to the schedule. The construction schedule will be kept up to date at duke-energy.com/Fairbanks.

Safety

The work associated with the installation of the underground lines should be considered a construction site. Pedestrians should stay a safe distance from the work site by observing all safety signage. Drivers should observe all traffic and detour signs, as well as directions from the on-site crew.

Stay connected

Project updates will be posted to both Duke Energy and Winter Park websites:

Specific questions about the installation of the underground transmission line should be directed to Duke Energy.

Webpage: duke-energy.com/Fairbanks
Email: FLTransmissionEnhancements@duke-energy.com
Phone: 877.840.0101



General information about the improvements to Fairbanks Avenue is available from the city of Winter Park.

Webpage: cityofwinterpark.org/Fairbanks
Email: fairbanks@cityofwinterpark.org
Phone: 407.643.1655



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