



## South 56th Street Reliability Project

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the purpose of the South 56th Street Reliability Project?**

The South 56th Street Reliability Project is a multi-phase project to rebuild transmission lines and structures along 56th Street, from Everett Street to Elkcrest Drive.

The project will begin in mid-2023, with the relocation of overhead distribution lines to underground. Eliminating overhead power lines along this major roadway meets the Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan statement, “Within the City of Lincoln, wherever feasible and affordable, implement a phased program to relocate overhead utility lines underground.” Burying these lines will improve neighborhood aesthetics, reduce impact from vehicle/pole accidents and build upon our reliability now and in the future.

Once distribution lines (the “middle” lines on the pole) are removed, as well as the communication utility lines (the “lower” lines on the pole), work will begin on transmission structures and lines. This portion of the project will update structures to support increased electricity needs for the area and increase the span of the lines between structures.

The project will begin in summer of 2023 and is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2025.

#### **What is the benefit to Lincoln of moving power lines underground?**

Installing underground electrical facilities can enhance system reliability by reducing exposure to many common outage causes such as storms, tree debris, vehicle/pole accidents and animal interference. Neighborhoods also benefit by improving aesthetics.

#### **Is this a city project?**

This project is initiated and budgeted for by LES.

#### **How will my property be affected?**

Properties in the project area will see construction crews boring, installing new cables and removing the old overhead lines. If an easement is needed, our Land Management professionals will reach out to you to explain the project needs.

#### **How will traffic be affected?**

LES will work closely with the city to facilitate lane shifts along 56<sup>th</sup> Street when construction requires it. Please drive safely in construction zones.

#### **When will construction begin?**

Construction will begin in summer of 2023 and will be completed in two phases. The first phase will focus on burying new power lines on the east side of 56th Street and installing new streetlights. Some adjacent neighborhoods will also have overhead power lines buried. Next the existing



distribution lines and communication cable will be removed on the west side of 56th Street along with multiple utility poles. This phase is anticipated to be complete in summer 2024.

Construction of the second phase will focus on the rebuild of the existing transmission structures and cable along the same portion of 56th Street.

**When will construction end?**

Construction is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2025.

**Will LES perform the work or will another construction crew be hired?**

LES crews will complete the construction for this project with the assistance of a boring contractor, Central States Contractors. The boring contractor will begin their work ahead of the LES crews but will work under the supervision of an LES representative.

**Will I be notified when construction is approaching my property?**

Construction postcards will arrive two to four weeks prior to construction beginning on your property. If an easement is needed, our Land Management professionals will reach out to you to explain the project needs.

**Will I experience power outages during construction?**

We do not anticipate extended outages with this type of construction. LES will notify customers in advance of any planned outages, such as when electricity is switched from the overhead lines to the new underground cables. Although unplanned outages may occur during construction, LES crews will make every effort to minimize any outages.

**Who can I contact if I have additional questions?**

Contact LES at 402-475-4211 with any additional questions.