

Murden Cove – Winslow 115kV transmission line project area and route segment feedback from the Community Sounding Board

5/9/2022

Background

PSE convened a Community Sounding Board (CSB) to help inform the routing process for the new Murden Cove-Winslow 115 kV “missing link” transmission line between the Winslow and Murden Cove substations. The 18 members of the CSB individually provided input and feedback throughout the routing process. Members were selected from a pool of applicants and represented a variety of geographic, organizational, and individual interests on Bainbridge Island from inside and outside the project study area.

In 2021, CSB members provided the input and feedback below regarding the project study area and route segment options.

Project area feedback

The CSB provided valuable input that informed the Murden Cove – Winslow 115kV transmission line routing process. During consideration of the project study area limits, feedback from the CSB included:

- Suggesting the project study area be expanded east to include Ferncliff Avenue NE to allow additional potential segment opportunities. PSE incorporated this feedback by expanding the project area to include Ferncliff Avenue NE.
- Bringing attention to critical helipad operations at Fire Station 21 at the intersection of NE New Brooklyn Road and Madison Avenue N. PSE followed-up on this feedback by reaching out to the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) to understand if there were any limitations for a transmission line in this area.

Route Segment feedback

PSE met with CSB members to gather feedback on PSE’s potential route segments for the new transmission line. PSE received specific suggestions from CSB members for additional segments to consider:

- Consider following Westerly Lane NE as a shortcut to connect Segments 6 and 3 to avoid Category II wetlands near the Fletcher Bay Road NE and NE High School Road intersection. The City of Bainbridge Island’s code prohibits new primary utilities from being built through wetlands classified as Category I or Category II.
- If using Segment 11 along State Route 305, consider cutting through Sakai Park to connect to segments along NE High School Road sooner. CSB members noted that this segment could face other challenges.
- Consider reconfiguring the southern portion of the existing Winslow Tap transmission line corridor to allow additional route segments to be considered for the “missing link” transmission line. Winslow Tap is the existing transmission line that connects the Port Madison substation to the Winslow substation and is located along Eagle Harbor Drive NE and NE New Brooklyn Road before reaching Winslow substation.

PSE committed to reviewing these route segments to determine their feasibility and practicality, and whether to continue to evaluate them as part of the public routing process. After consideration, PSE determined the suggested route segments did not bring sufficient benefit in reaching the project objectives to consider them further.