

PSE on bainbridge island

December 2021

“Missing link” transmission line – selected route option

Project overview

As part of our solution to improve electric reliability on Bainbridge Island, PSE is planning to build the new “missing link” transmission line between the Murden Cove and Winslow substations. This new transmission line is a critical component of PSE’s plan to improve electric service reliability, reducing the frequency and duration of power outages for customers on Bainbridge Island.

Selected route option

Safety is always the foundation of everything PSE does. The selected route option – “Route A” – is the best route option to connect Murden Cove and Winslow substations. Route A was selected as the route that best meets PSE’s operational needs while balancing community values shared during the outreach process. In comparison to other route options, the selected route is the shortest route and follows road right of way.



Map of selected route option A.

Route A has existing overhead distribution lines along the entire length which presents the opportunity to collocate with existing distribution lines, impact the fewest number of parcels and is located within low density residential zoning. Additionally, the route has lower tree canopy density compared to other routes.

Route A

Route A provides opportunities to minimize impacts to values shared by the community:

- Trees
- Wetlands
- Habitats
- Private property
- Residential neighborhoods
- Schools

Community engagement

oct. 2019 – Oct. 2021



During the community engagement process, which lasted over a year, we heard a wide range of input from hundreds of island residents on their values related to route siting. The feedback was varied, and it helped PSE better understand community values and perspectives to inform the route selection.

We appreciate the hundreds of islanders and the dedicated Community Sounding Board members who took the time and made the effort to join us in the siting conversation and share their feedback to inform our selection of the route option.

Frequently asked questions

Which side of the road has PSE selected for the route?

- PSE will collocate the transmission line over existing distribution lines unless there are specific locations where this is not feasible or there are better design alternatives.
- Any site specific deviations from collocating with the existing distribution line will be determined during detailed engineering.

How is PSE minimizing impacts to vegetation?

- Collocating the transmission line over existing distribution helps to limit impacts.
- Visual surveys identified Route A as generally having lower tree canopy density.
- Additional work will be undertaken during design to first avoid and then to minimize potential impacts; our intent is to remove as few trees as possible.

How is PSE replacing vegetation removed?

- PSE will replace trees we remove with transmission corridor compatible species.
- PSE will look for opportunities to plant trees with property owner authorization or in partnership with Bainbridge Island community groups.

Can PSE underground the line?

- If the City is interested in cost sharing, we can explore that option, although today we do not know the feasibility or cost of this alternative.
- To date, PSE has not received any indication that the City would like to pursue this conversation further.

Is PSE going to impact wetlands?

- There are wetlands along the route.
- PSE expects the primary impact in wetlands will be removal of vegetation along the roadside edge.
- Impacts can be limited through collocation with existing distribution system.

Next steps

- PSE is continuing to answer questions about the Missing Link Project and the selected route option.
- PSE anticipates having the transmission line look in-service by 2025/2026.
- We encourage you to sign up for project emails at pse.com/bainbridge.
- For questions, please contact us at 1-888-878-8632 or info@psebainbridge.com