THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.

THE PRESENTATION WILL BEGIN SHORTLY.

Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Project

Overview

September 2023

AGENDA

1. Project Need
2. Project Description
3. Project Benefits
4. Project Map & Segments
5. Schedule
6. Route Development
7. Regulatory Process
8. Construction
9. Contact Us

QUESTIONS?

- Please submit questions using the chat function below.
- If you want to submit a question through the phone, please press *3.
- We'll answer questions at the end of this session.

Today’s Presenters

Randy Fordice – Moderator
Manager, Transmission Communications and Public Affairs

Jesse Lyon – Presenter
Transmission Engineer

Joe Sedarski – Presenter
Routing and Permitting Specialist

Improving Transmission Infrastructure

In Minnesota and the Upper Midwest

The Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Project is one of several long-range transmission project identified by MISO, the regional grid operator, to support energy needs in Minnesota and throughout the region. Transmission line projects, like this one, strengthen the grid by:

Adding transmission capacity to accommodate increasing amounts of renewable energy generation as aging traditional generation resources retire.

Improving reliability and system resilience in the Upper Midwest.

Creating greater access to low-cost renewable energy.

Upgrading and updating infrastructure facilitates more jobs and increases tax revenue for communities in southern Minnesota.

Supporting regional economic growth through new energy infrastructure.

Project Description

Install and Upgrade

120 miles of 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines

between the Wilmarth Substation in Mankato and a connection point at the Mississippi River near Kellogg.

Build

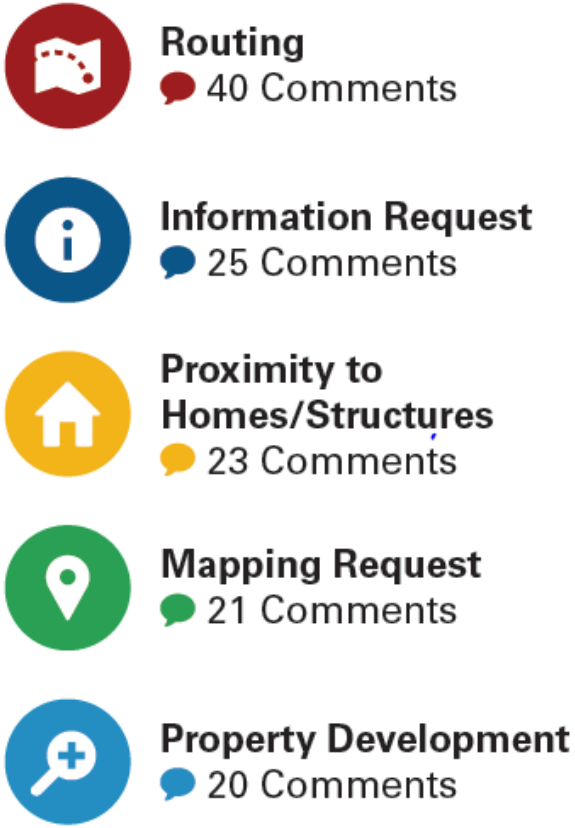
20 miles of new 161 kV transmission lines

between the North Rochester Substation near Pine Island and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester, which is being relocated from its existing alignment to install the new 345 kV infrastructure.

SPRING 2023 ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

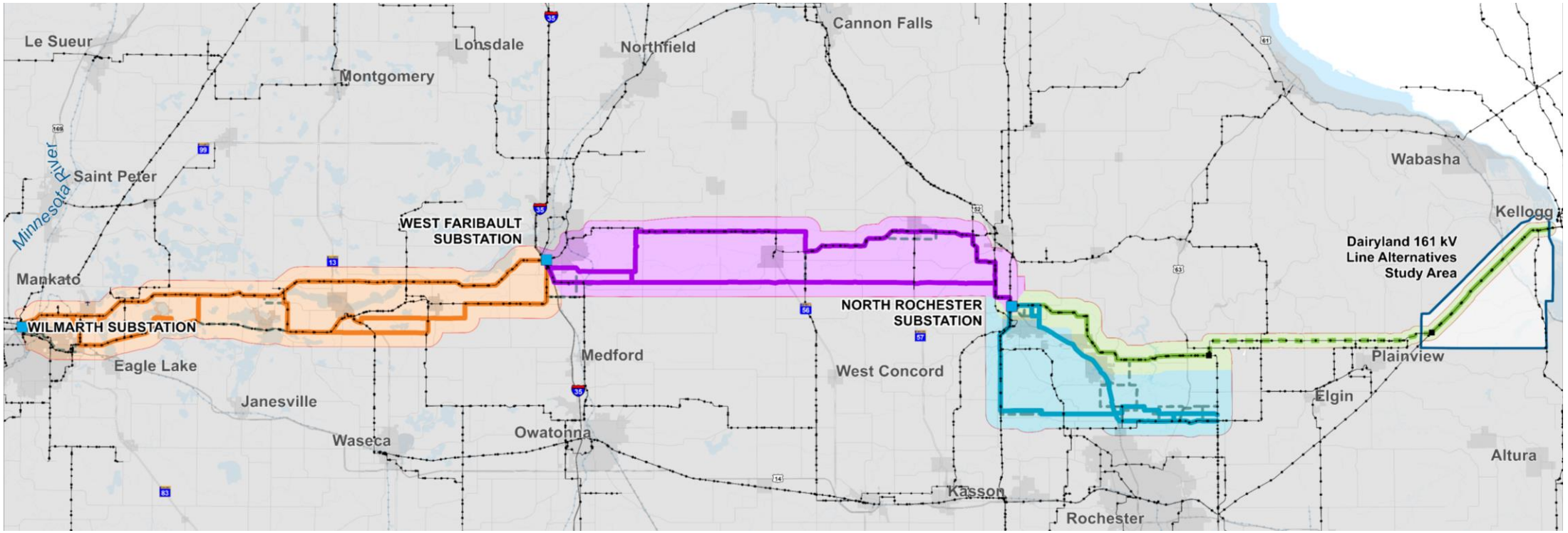
- 6 in-person open houses
- 2 virtual open houses
- 1 self-guided virtual open house
- 1,070 website visits
- 17,000+ postcard mailed
- 43,000 people reached with 11 newspaper ads
- 67,000 people reached with Facebook posts
- 145 total comments received

TOP COMMENT TOPICS



Project Map

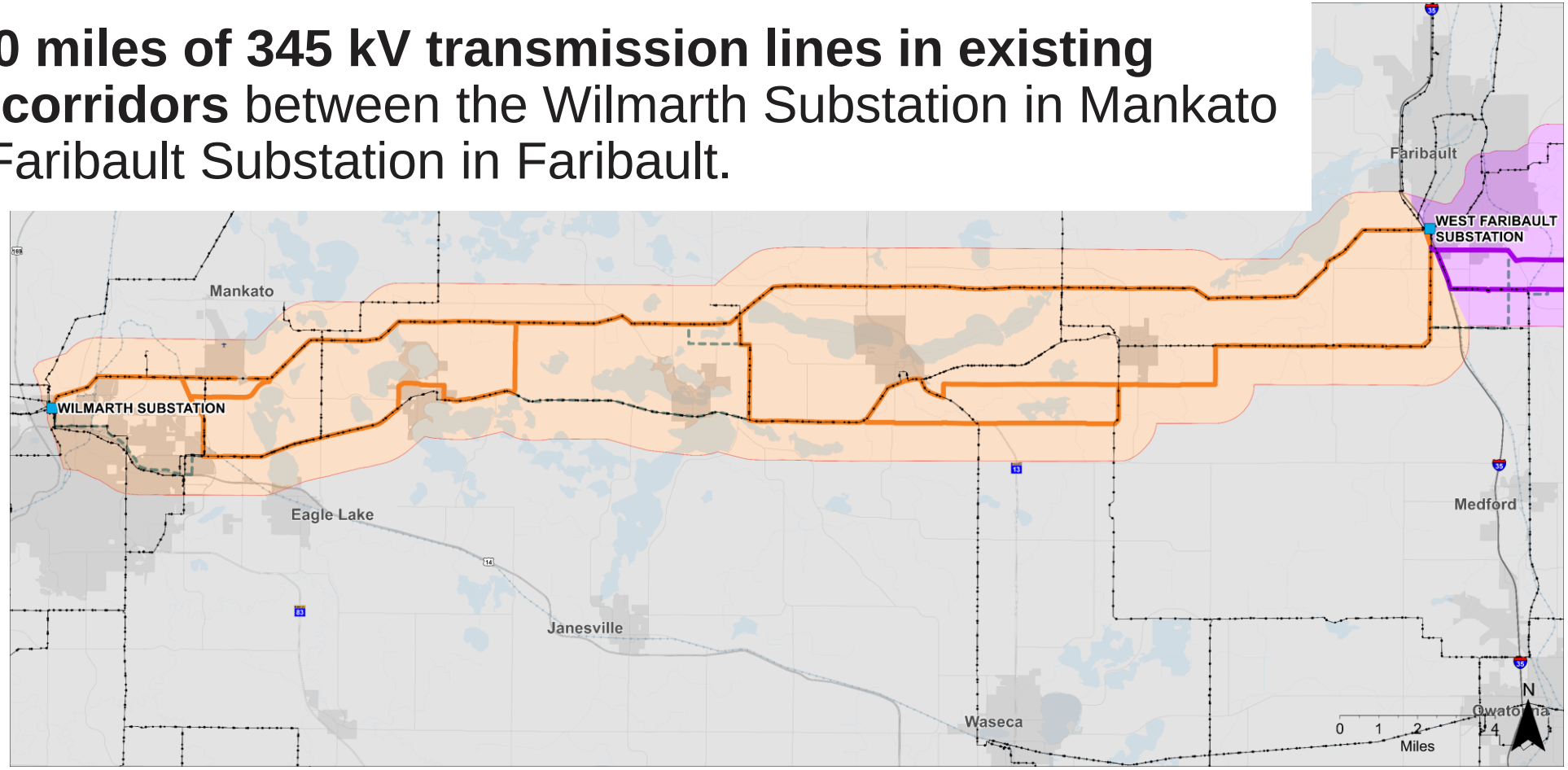
One project with four distinct segments.



Project Segments

Segment 1

Build about 40 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in existing transmission corridors between the Wilmarth Substation in Mankato and the West Faribault Substation in Faribault.



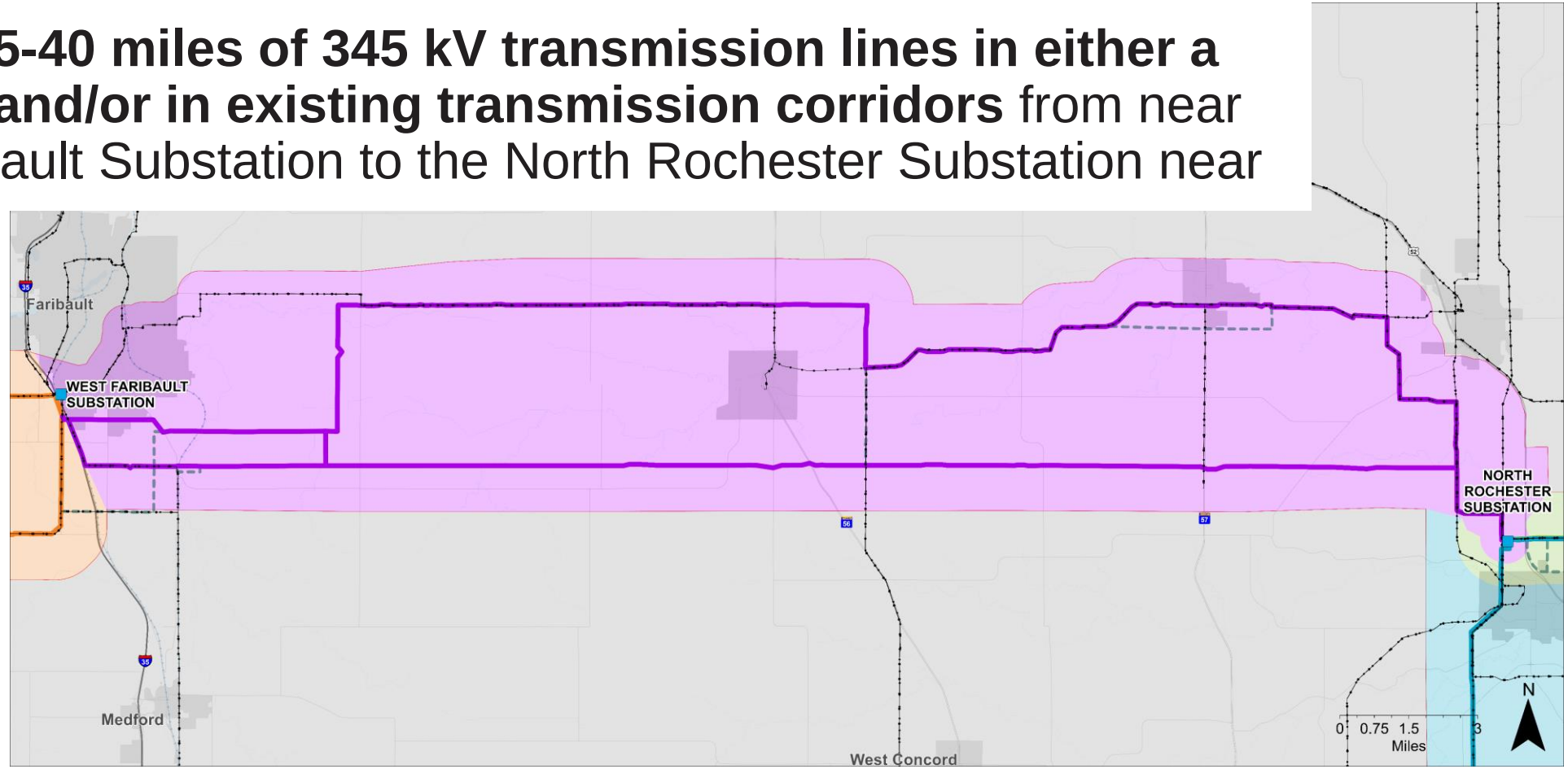
LEGEND

- Segment 1 Alternatives
- Segment 2 Alternatives
- Project Study Area
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Substations
- Junction

Project Segments

Segment 2

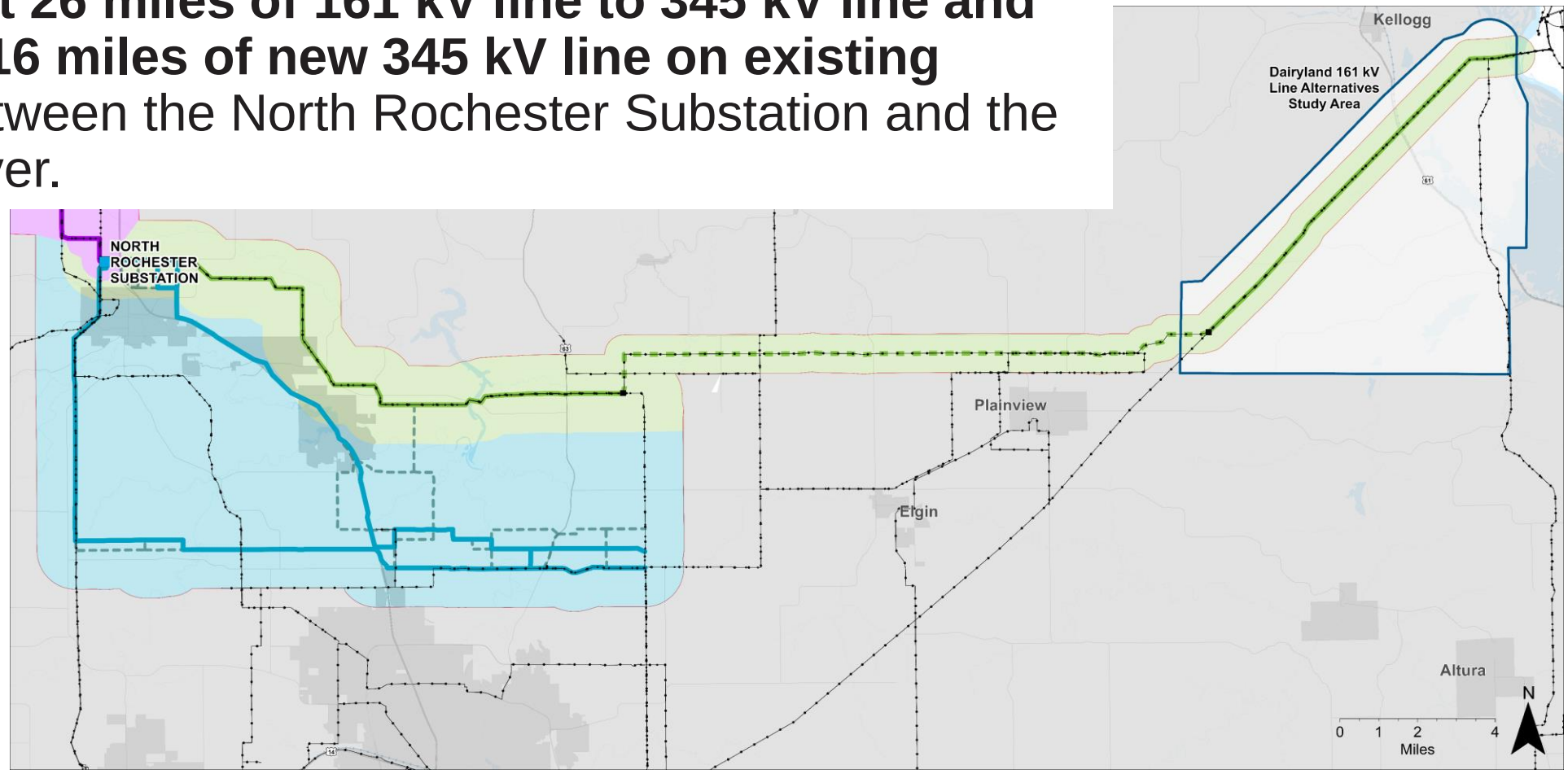
Build about 35-40 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in either a new corridor and/or in existing transmission corridors from near the West Faribault Substation to the North Rochester Substation near Pine Island.



Project Segments

Segment 3

Convert about 26 miles of 161 kV line to 345 kV line and install about 16 miles of new 345 kV line on existing structures between the North Rochester Substation and the Mississippi River.



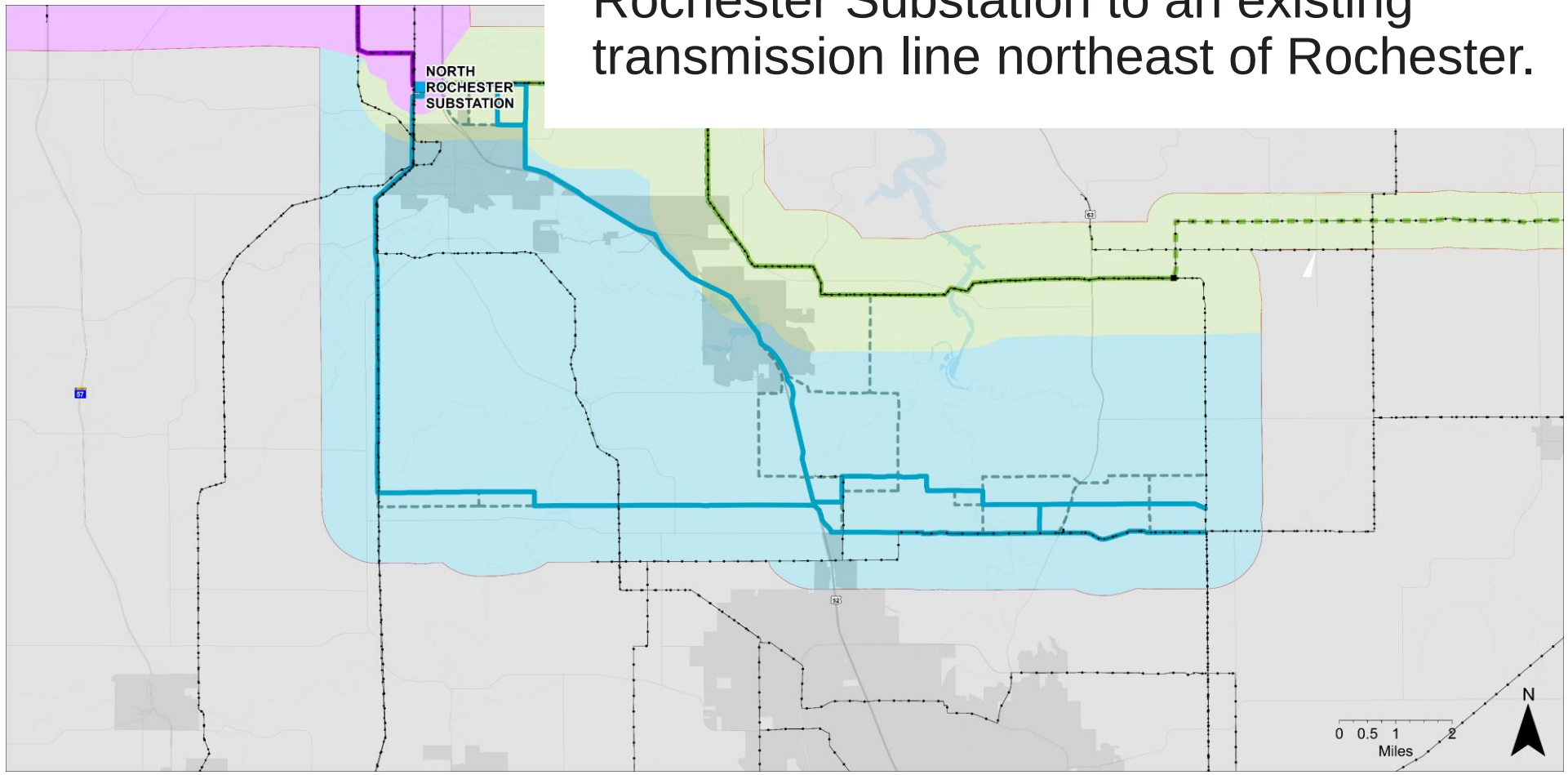
LEGEND

- Segment 2 Alternatives
- Segment 3 Alternative:
- Add new 345 kV
- Convert 161 KV to 345 kV
- Segment 4 Alternatives
- Project Study Area
- DPC 161 kV Alternatives Study Area
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Substations
- Junction

Project Segments

Segment 4

Build about 20 miles of a new single-circuit 161 kV line from the North Rochester Substation to an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester.



LEGEND

- Segment 2 Alternatives
- Segment 3 Alternative:
- Add new 345 kV
- Convert 161 KV to 345 kV
- Segment 4 Alternatives
- Project Study Area
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Substations
- Junction

Project Partners

- We’re working with utility partners to develop portions of the project.
- **Development details:**
  - Xcel Energy will develop and own the infrastructure in Segments 1 and 2.
  - All project partners will participate in Segments 3 and 4.
  - All segments will be permitted together.
  - Dairyland Power will develop and permit a related project separately: the relocation of the 161 kV portion east of Plainview.

Anticipated Project Schedule

2022

- Project identified by MISO

2023

- Route development process begins
- Public and stakeholder engagement
- Preliminary engineering
- Submit Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application

2024-2026

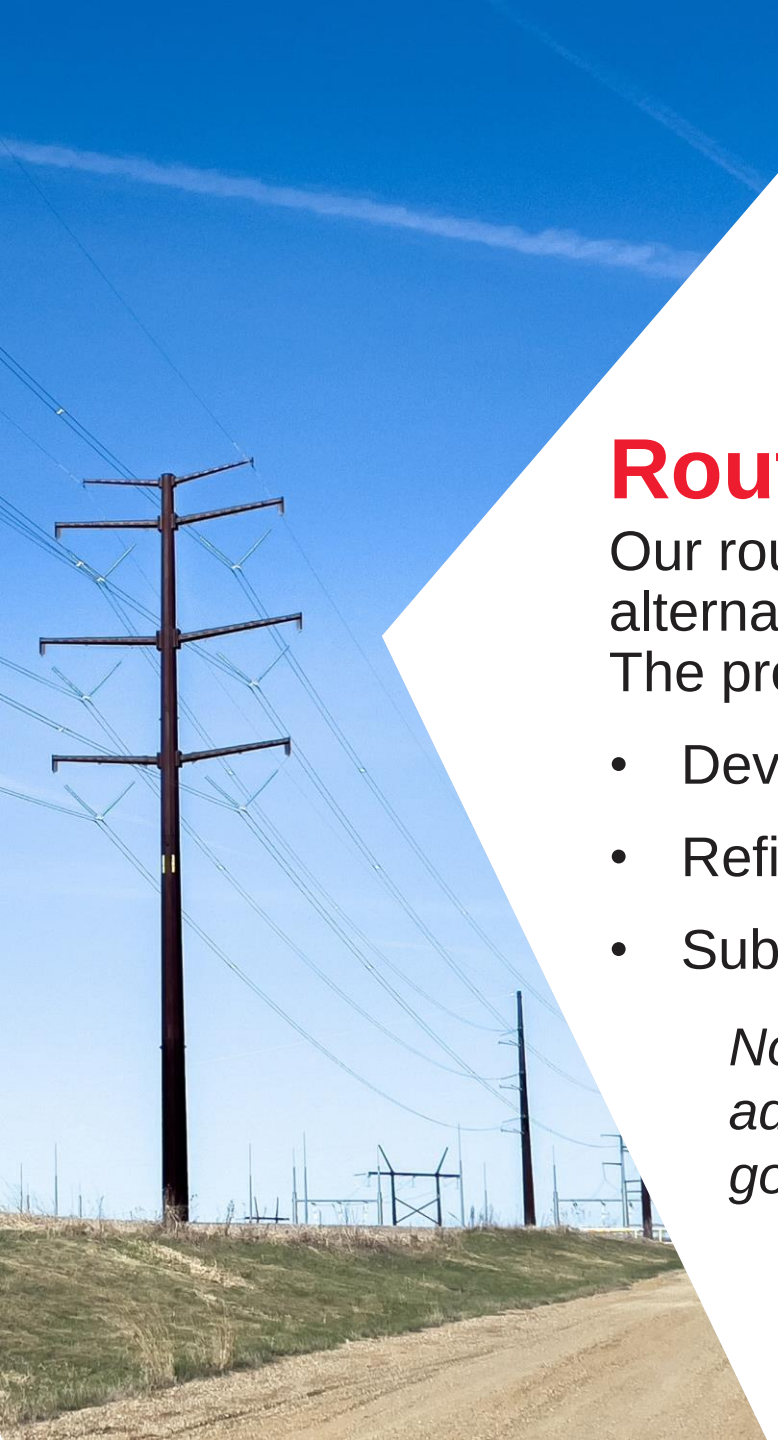
- Minnesota permitting review (including public engagement)
- Final engineering
- Negotiate with landowners to secure easements
- Obtain other required permits
- Continued public and stakeholder engagement

2026-2028

- Construction

2028

- In-service and restoration



Routing Process

Our route selection process is a multi-step analysis that identifies route alternatives that minimize impacts to humans and the environment. The process generally includes:

- Developing preliminary route options.
- Refining and field verifying preliminary route options – **we are here**.
- Submitting proposed routes to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Note: this process is flexible and steps may be revisited based on additional data and feedback from landowners, the public, local governments, Native American Tribes and resource agencies.

Permitting

We expect to apply for a combined Certificate of Need and Route Permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in late 2023.

Certificate of Need Application

This describes why the project is needed, the issues building it will solve, and includes details such as engineering, operational details, environmental impacts and alternatives considered before submitting the application.

Route Permit Application

This type of project requires at least two feasible proposed routes. The application includes proposed routes, significant information about each route option, including construction, maintenance and operations considerations, the land use considerations that went into developing the route, and other factors that were evaluated.

Working with Landowners

Easement

Easements are a permanent right authorizing a utility to use the Right-of-Way (ROW) to build and maintain a transmission line.

Landowners are paid fair market value for the easement and can continue to use the land for most purposes so long as their use does not interfere with the operation and maintenance of the transmission line.

Right-of-Way

A right-of-way (ROW) is the actual land area acquired for a specific purpose, such as a transmission line, roadway or other infrastructure.

Land uses in the easement area may be restricted based on types of activity, but after construction, agricultural activities can continue outside of the small area occupied by the transmission structures.

Regulatory Process

Public meetings and hearings will be held throughout the project area. Some of those meetings will discuss the scope of the environmental assessment, and at public hearings, local landowners can comment about the overall project.

Landowners, local officials and other stakeholders can also submit written comments to the PUC.

Following this process, the PUC will hold a public meeting to decide on the Certificate of Need and Route Permit, with a decision expected in 2024 or 2025. The PUC may select one option, or a combination of the options identified.

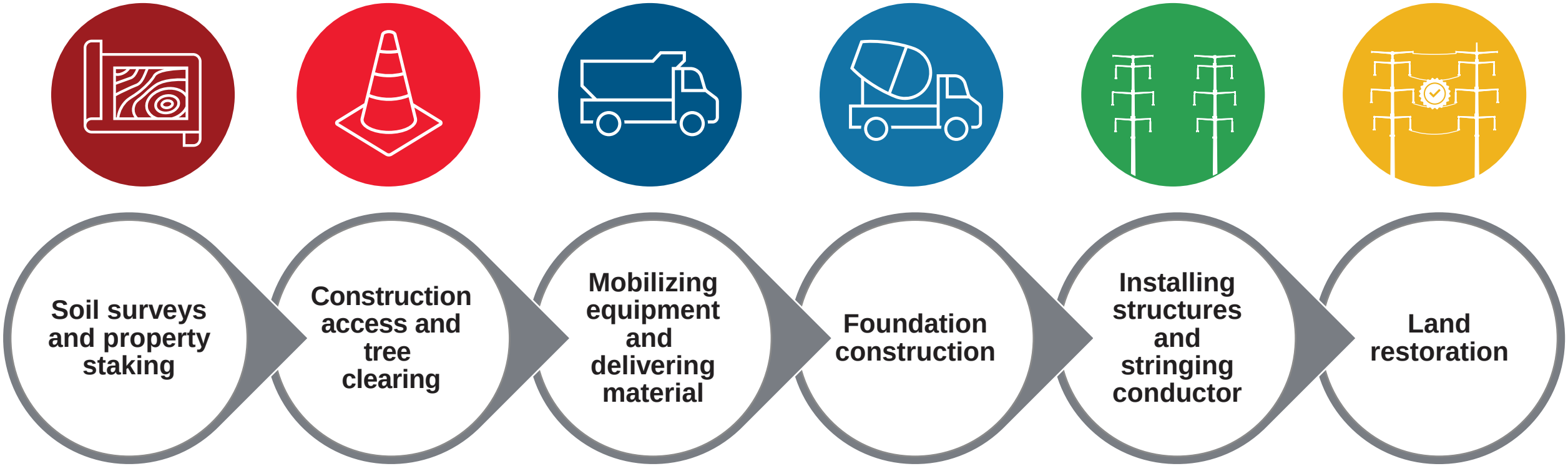
Transmission Line Infrastructure

Our anticipated design includes:

- Steel transmission structures
- Single-pole style for most structures
- Typical pole height is 100-150 feet, depending on the terrain
- **345 kV segments**
  - Typical ROW width is 150 feet
  - 800 – 1,200 feet between structures
- **161 kV segments**
  - Typical ROW width is 80 – 100 feet
  - 300 – 500 feet between structures

Typical Construction Process

Our typical transmission line construction process includes the following steps:



CONNECT WITH US!

If you have questions or need more information, our team will collect your feedback through our website, email and hotline. We'll respond to your comment as quickly as possible.

- **Visit: mmrtproject.com**
- **Email: contact@mmrtproject.com**
- **Call: 800-853-3365**

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COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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