



Lakeland Area Reliability Project

Virtual Open House 2

August 31-September 15, 2026

We welcome your input during
our Public Engagement!



WELCOME

to the Lakeland Area Reliability Project Virtual Engagement

Thank you for joining us online today! This Project is an investment to strengthen the energy system for the communities in Franklin County.

We need your valuable feedback about the Lakeland Area Reliability Project to develop a route for this new line and energy investment. We look forward to your input in understanding the Project area from the community's perspective. The goal of this virtual engagement is to:

- Learn more about the Project
- Review Project maps
- Provide feedback and input to the Project team

Project Overview



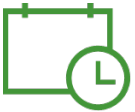
Lakeland Area Reliability Project



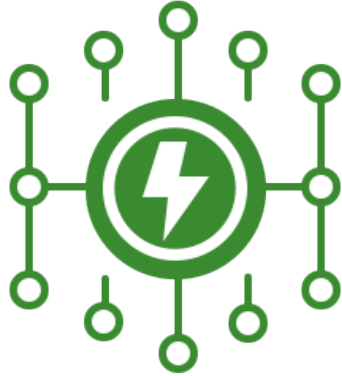
- Located in Franklin County
- Construct a new, approximately 15-mile, 138 kilovolt transmission line



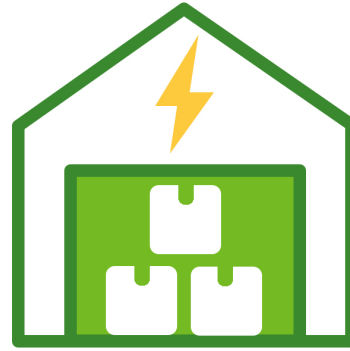
- Upgrade Ameren Illinois' Benton Northwest Substation
- New transmission line will connect Ameren's existing Benton Northwest Substation to SIPC's Franklin Junction Substation
- Project in-service and providing benefits to local communities in late 2028



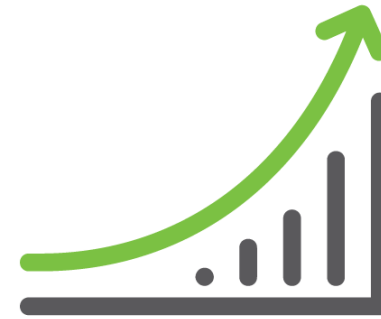
Project Benefits



Improves energy
reliability for local
communities and
the surrounding
region



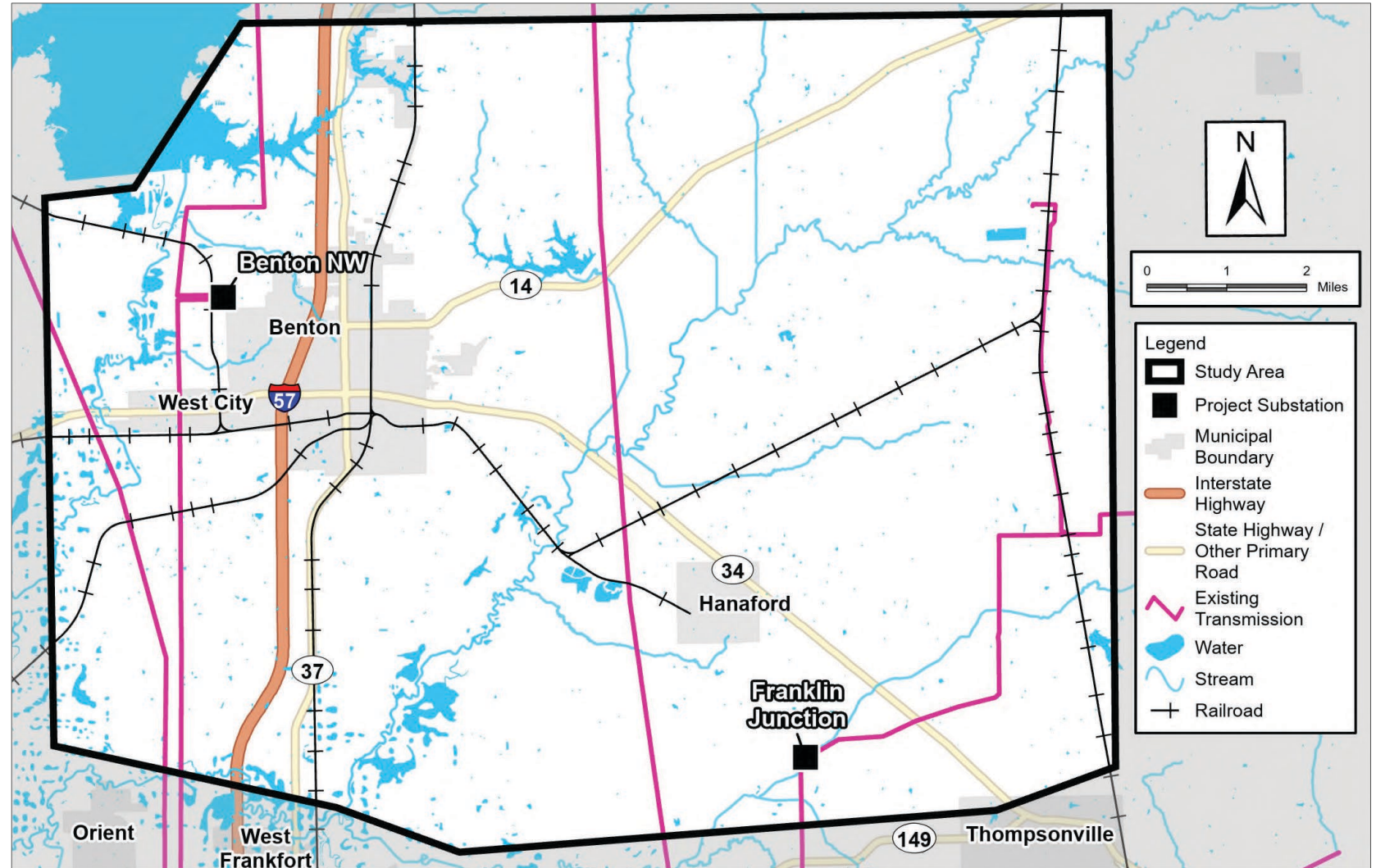
Improves resiliency to
minimize power
limitations and
impacts to local
communities



Supports
long-term
economic growth
in the region

Study Area

Public input is an important part of the transmission line route selection process. You may provide input by entering a comment on the interactive map on the project website, calling the project hotline or emailing the project team. Contact information can be found in this presentation as well as at the project website.



Overview of the Routing Process

STEP 1: DEFINE STUDY AREA – COMPLETE

Our team started by using data from publicly available data sources to create our Study Area. We considered existing utility corridors, resource areas, natural environment data and field survey data to develop a Study Area that provides feasible routing opportunities.



STEP 2: DEVELOP ROUTE SEGMENTS – COMPLETE

Next, our team used data collected from our stakeholders and federal, state and local agencies, as well as the four categories of routing criteria – Opportunities, Sensitivities, Technical Guidelines, and Statutory Requirements – to develop potential Route Segments.



STEP 3: DEVELOP PRELIMINARY ROUTE ALTERNATIVES – WE ARE HERE!

Using the routing criteria as well as input received from stakeholders and community members during our first round of engagement, our team developed Preliminary Route Alternatives.



STEP 4: IDENTIFY PREFERRED ROUTES

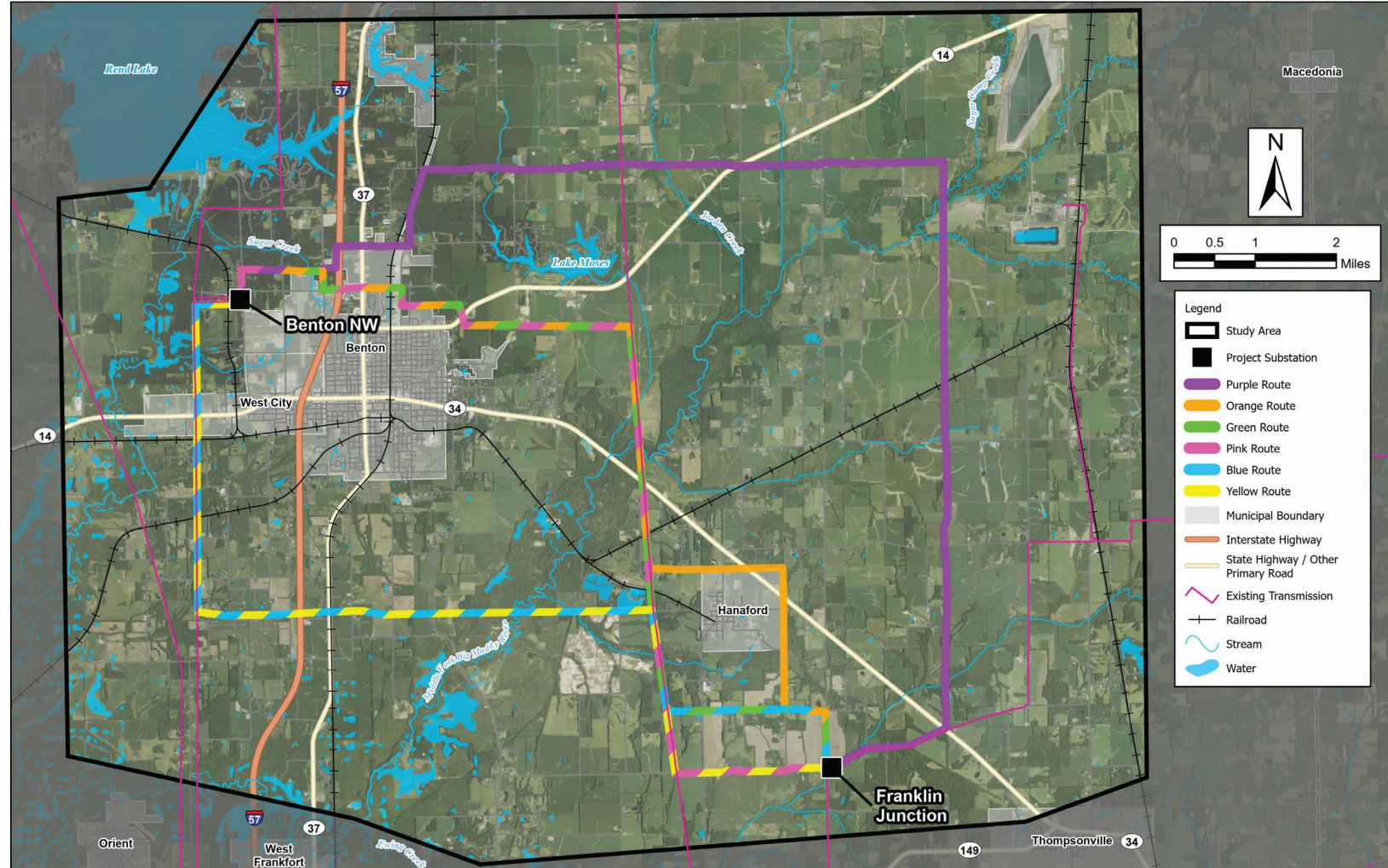
Using routing criteria and input collected from the second round of engagement, our team will identify Preferred Routes and present them at the third round of open houses. Finally, using the data and input collected from the third round of engagement, our team will select a “Primary Route” and an “Alternate Route” for the Project to include in the application to the ICC.



Preliminary Route Alternatives

The map shows Preliminary Route Alternatives that have been defined in the Study Area.

The next step will be to narrow these Preliminary Route Alternatives down and identify Preferred Routes for Ameren to present at the third round of public open houses in October 2026.



Anticipated Schedule

2026

- Gather public and agency input
- Route siting studies
- Final proposed routes identified

2027

- File routes with Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC)
- Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN) decision
- Easement acquisition
- Environmental surveys and permitting
- Pre-construction activities

2028

- Line construction
- Complete upgrades at Benton Northwest Substation
- Project in service
- Restoration (through spring 2029)



Routing + Public Engagement

Routing Process & Outreach

Gather and
Review Data
(Ongoing)

Route
Segments

We are
here!

Preferred Route
Alternatives

Study
Area

Preliminary Route
Alternatives

File Two Route
Options with ICC

Routing

Our goal is to take advantage of Opportunities while understanding and minimizing impacts to Sensitivities and adhering to Technical Guidelines and Statutory Requirements.

Opportunities



Sensitivities



Technical
Guidelines



Statutory
Requirements



Routing



OPPORTUNITIES

Linear features that are oriented in the direction of the project:

- Field lines
- Property lines
- Section lines
- Roads
- Utility corridors



SENSITIVITIES

Area resources or conditions that may require additional review and consideration:

- Agricultural conflicts
- Airports/VOR
- Cemeteries
- Communication Towers
- Conservation Areas/
Nature Preserves
- Contaminated Areas
- Cultural/Historic
Resources
- Planned Development
(future)
- Floodplains (*more difficult
construction and many times
have sensitive species*)
- Forest/Grassland
- Hospitals
- IL DNR Resource Lands
- IL DNR State Parks
- Levees/Dams
- Mines/Quarries
- Pipelines*
- Railroads*
- Recreation/Tourism
- Religious Facilities
- Residences (*especially
large clusters of homes*)
- Scenic Roads
- Schools/Daycares
- Sensitive Crops
- Sensitive Species
- Streams/Wetlands
- Wells

**Linear features with additional precautions and studies needed*

Public Engagement



Public Open Houses – In Person and Virtual

- July, September and October 2026



Individual Landowner and Stakeholder Discussions



Online Engagement

- Comment map
- Project website
- Hotline and email



Email and Direct Mail

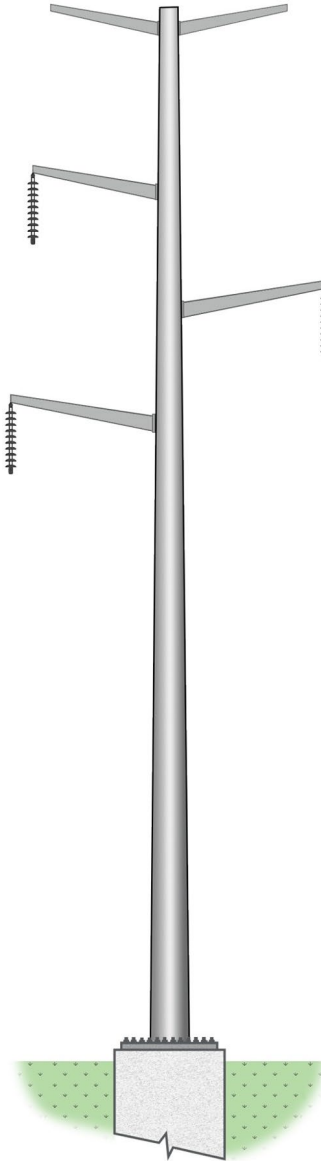
Construction



Structures

Benefits of galvanized steel monopoles

- Galvanized layer protects steel from corrosion
- Higher clearances compatible with agricultural activities



Typical 138 kV Steel Monopole Structures*

- Height: 80-120 ft.
- Span: 700-800 ft.
- Structures/mile: 7-8
- Conductor ground clearance: 21 ft. (minimum)
- Easement width: 100 ft.

**Note: This graphic is not to scale. The number of arms on a typical structure and the sizing of the structure may vary depending on the final route.*

Construction Process

- The transmission line will be built in intermittent phases and will not be constant on landowners' property during the construction period.
- There will be six major stages of construction.
- We will provide more information before construction begins.



1 Survey structure locations, soil borings, vegetation clearing and construction access



2 Drill hole and pour foundation, as needed



3 Assemble structure on the ground



4 Lift and place structure



5 String wires



6 Restore easement corridor, energize line and remove temporary access

Vegetation Management



Vegetation Management

- Safety and reliability are the driving factors behind managing trees and other forms of vegetation around our transmission lines. Trees and other vegetation can damage the line and hinder our ability to deliver electric services safely and reliably. They can make the job of storm restoration more difficult, extend restoration times, and pose additional hazards to line crews.
- To protect the public and reduce the risk of extended power outages, Ameren has a vegetation management program designed to ensure proper clearances around the lines as required by federal and state agencies. The program reduces the potential for damage and allows access for crews to maintain and repair transmission equipment.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MAY INCLUDE:



BRUSH MOWING AND/OR REMOVAL



MANUAL AND AERIAL TRIMMING



CONTROL OF INCOMPATIBLE VEGETATION



APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE TREATMENTS



Environmental & Agency Coordination

Agency and Municipal Coordination



Village of Hanaford
Browning Township
Benton Township
Ewing Township
Northern Township

Denning Township
Frankfort Township
Eastern Township
Barren Township
Cave Township





Real Estate

Real Estate

An easement is an interest or right to use the land of another for a specific purpose. Ameren will be seeking to obtain easements from affected landowners for the construction, operation and maintenance of the electric transmission line. The typical easement width for the new structures is 100 feet.

EASEMENT ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR THE TRANSMISSION LINE

Ameren's real estate team will have several land agents assisting landowners during the entire real estate process. Discussions with landowners will include topics such as:

- LAND SURVEYS AND STUDIES
- ACCESS ROADS
- STRUCTURES/LINE DESIGN
- RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING
- COMPENSATION
- PROPERTY RESTORATION

Online Comment Map



We want to hear from you...

Please click on the link below to be directed to the project website. Your input is very important. Click on the Interactive Map. You can zoom into any property or use the address search feature and then drop a pin to add your comments.



<https://www.ameren.com/LakelandArea>



Please Contact Us



LakelandAreaReliability@etc-online.com



Toll-free 833.478.7733



Ameren.com/LakelandArea

Thank You