Ameren TRANSMISSION
City of Highland Department of Light & Power
Sursee-AvistonProject.com 833.4.SURSEE (833.478.7733)
@ Sursee-AvistonProject@Ameren.com

Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project

December 2022

Improving energy reliability in your community

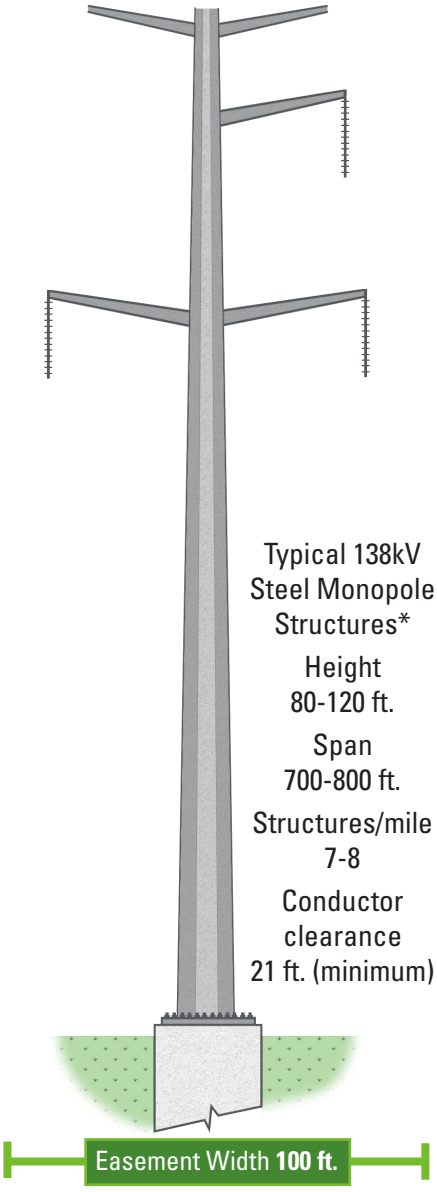
Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI), in collaboration with the City of Highland, is proposing the Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project to improve energy reliability for local customers in Madison, Clinton and St. Clair counties. This project includes the construction of a new approximately 15-mile 138 kV transmission line to connect the existing Aviston substation in Clinton County to the new Sursee substation to be located west of Highland in Madison County. It includes upgrading the Aviston substation and will strengthen our grid by creating an additional pathway of energy.

New projects, like the Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project, help us serve, support and invest in our local and regional communities' future energy needs.

Project Benefits

The Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project will benefit the local area by:

- Providing reliable energy for the City of Highland, and Madison, Clinton and St. Clair county areas
- Improving resiliency to minimize power limitations and impacts to local communities
- Reinforcing local distribution electric service for homes, businesses and agricultural customers
- Supporting continued area growth



*At this time, we anticipate using steel monopole (single pole) structures. Typical information about these types of structures is provided above. Note, this graphic is not to scale and the number of arms on a typical structure may vary depending on the final route.

Schedule

2022

- Gather public and agency input
- Engineering and permitting

2023

- Final route(s) identified
- File route(s) with ICC
- Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN) decision
- Environmental surveys and permitting
- Easement acquisition process

2024-2025

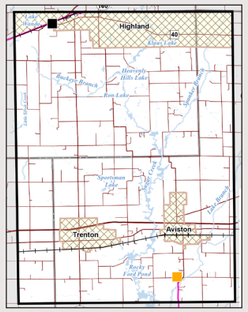
- Preconstruction activities
- Construction
- Project in service December 2025

OVERVIEW OF THE ROUTING PROCESS

Routing a transmission line is a phased process that involves collaboration with agencies, community members and landowners to collect information that helps our team understand and identify opportunities and sensitivities within Madison, Clinton and St. Clair counties. Please review the steps below to see how we came up with our Preliminary Route Alternatives.

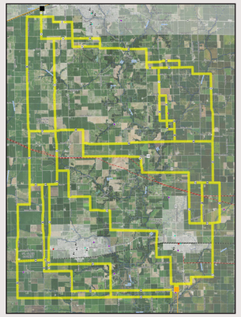
STEP 1: DEFINE STUDY AREA

Our team started by using data from publicly available data sources to create our Study Area. We considered existing utility corridors, existing land use, resource areas, natural environment data and field survey data to help minimize impacts while providing a feasible route opportunity.



STEP 2: DEVELOP ROUTE SEGMENTS

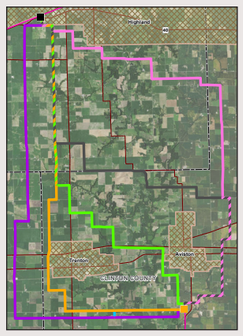
Next, our team used data collected from our stakeholders and federal, state and local agencies, as well as the four categories of routing criteria – Opportunities, Sensitivities, Technical Guidelines, and Statutory Requirements – to develop potential Route Segments.



STEP 3: DEVELOP PRELIMINARY ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

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

WE ARE HERE!



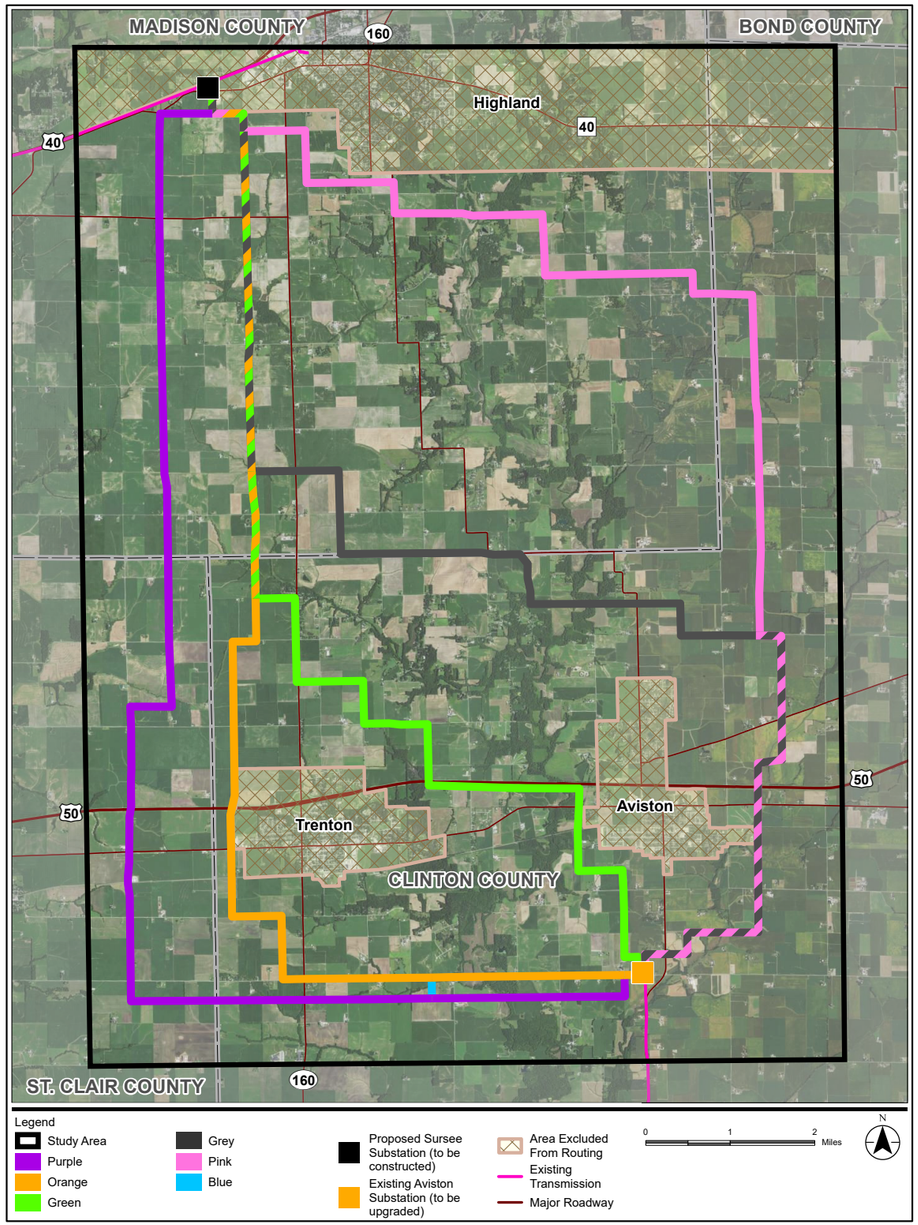
*See map on page 5 for more details

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Community leaders and members of the public have various opportunities to provide input during each phase of the routing process as preferred and alternate route(s) are defined and submitted for certification by the Illinois Commerce Commission in early 2023. Please see page 6 for an overview of the community feedback gathered after the first round of open houses. The project team will continue to engage the local community as the project progresses.

MAP OF PRELIMINARY ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

The map below shows preliminary route alternatives that have been defined based on the potential route segments presented to the public at the October open houses. The next step will be to narrow these route alternatives down and name one "preferred route" and "alternate route(s)" to present in the application to the ICC.



DISCLAIMER: This high-level map depicts preliminary route alternatives as 500-foot wide corridors. The requested easement width for the transmission line will be 100 feet. The information provided on this map is for discussion purposes only. Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) is not bound in any way to the representations reflected on this map. This map does not represent a final determination by ATXI as to route selection, and ATXI is not restricted or barred from modifying or deviating from the routes proposed, or considering new or different routes. Illinois Commerce Commission Staff or other parties may also propose new or modified routes. All routes are subject to change pending Illinois Commerce Commission approval.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project needed?
Communities in the City of Highland, Madison and Clinton County areas are each currently supported by one ATXI 138 kV transmission line that serves as the backbone for the energy system. Continuing to rely on a single transmission source could, in the event of a failure, result in power limitations that cause extended restoration times and community wide impacts. As we continue to serve, support and invest in our communities, new projects – like the Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project – allow us to continue supporting future energy needs.

Where is the energy going that will be carried on the line?
Transmission lines are similar to the interstate highway system in the way they allow energy from generators to travel short or long distances, as needed, at any given moment. Ultimately, the energy carried on the line will be used to support electric customers in the project area, as well as throughout the regional grid.

How does electricity arrive at my home?
As communities grow and new sources of energy are developed, substations are built or upgraded to meet the energy demand and expand the system's ability to handle more energy from various points of generation. After the energy is generated, it is sent to substations via transmission lines. The substations then convert the energy to a lower voltage and send the electricity to area homes and businesses through distribution lines.

What is energy reliability?
Energy reliability is providing more "options" for energy during an event when part of the system becomes weak or is damaged due to weather, a vehicle accident or other factors. If you think of the energy system, specifically our transmission system, as an interstate highway of energy, the Sursee-Aviston Project will provide an additional pathway of energy. Should one of those roads close due to weather or an outage of some sort, there's another loop that feeds the local communities with energy.

Our service has been reliable so far, do we really need the new Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project?
Yes. Continuing to rely on an existing single radial feed in each community is no longer practical.

What is an easement?
An easement is an interest or right to use the land of another for a specific purpose. ATXI and our partners will be seeking easement rights from affected landowners for the construction, operation and maintenance of the electric transmission line.

How will I know if you need an easement from me?
After collecting data and input from the community through our public outreach and planning phases, one or more routes will be developed and filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) as a part of ATXI's request for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). During the CPCN application process, a final route will be developed and approved by the ICC. Once a CPCN is granted, ATXI representatives will begin contacting landowners for the purpose of conducting good faith negotiations for an easement for the new line.

Can transmission lines be installed underground rather than carried on poles?
We do not plan to build this line underground. Costs associated with building underground transmission lines are significantly higher than the construction of an overhead transmission line. There would also be significant costs associated with maintaining an underground line. In terms of longevity, the anticipated service life of an underground transmission line is roughly half of an overhead line and not easily maintained. To maintain our customers' energy needs now and in the future, we have an obligation to pursue infrastructure projects that are technically and financially prudent and in the long-term best interest of our customers.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is compensation for an easement calculated?
Details of the Project, what property rights are needed, location of the easement, and compensation will be discussed with each landowner. Landowners will receive a one-time easement payment. Payment is made in the form of a check shortly after the time that each landowner provides an executed easement to ATXI. In most cases, landowners will be offered an advance payment (by ATXI at the time of easement payment) for property restoration and for anticipated crop loss on agricultural land (if applicable).

Can I farm under the line?
An easement allows ATXI to use another person's property to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line on the right of way (ROW). Landowners can generally continue to use their property within the ROW as long as it is compatible with the purpose of the easement (i.e., the transmission of electricity). Ameren is requesting 100 ft. of ROW for this project. In some cases, additional access easements for construction and maintenance may be required. All uses that do not conflict with the transmission line rights remain with the landowner.

What will the structures look like?
We anticipate using galvanized steel monopole structures. The structures will range between 80-120 ft. tall, depending on terrain. We estimate 7-8 structures per mile with an average span range of 700-800 ft. between structures. Structures will be direct embed or drilled pier foundation dependent upon further survey data. The conductor wires will be at least 21 ft. above ground/grade to meet or exceed the minimum clearance required by the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

Can you add lines to existing poles?
Currently, there are existing Ameren transmission lines in the area that may provide an opportunity to co-locate the new Sursee-Aviston Transmission Project line with the existing lines. We are studying these potential corridors and lines as opportunities based upon several factors, including operations, constructability, cost and design standards.

Can you decrease the structure height?
The structure height is based on the distance between poles (span) and clearances needed. If we decrease the span, we may have shorter structures, but more poles would be required. If no obstructions are present and the area spanned is flat, such as a field, the structure heights could be on the lower end of the 80-120 ft. range. The typical pole height for crossing roads, bridges and distribution lines is around 120 ft.

How close can you get to a building?
We don't allow any buildings or sheds in the easement area, which is typically 100 feet. Outside of our easement, ATXI cannot restrict future development. Avoiding residences is always a sensitivity we take into consideration.

How close can you get to a road?
This is dependent upon the specific road, the jurisdiction and their permitting requirements. Ideally, our structures are set outside of road corridors to avoid future road expansion and comply with traffic safety standards. An easement can sometimes start in the center of the road, which means our structure would be 50 ft. from the road center. This could put the pole far enough away to avoid traffic and potential road expansion, and the wires would not be directly over the road.

When will a preferred route be selected?
A preferred route will be identified by the project team and submitted for certification by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) in early 2023. The ICC will review the preferred route and could make revisions before approving and determining the final route. (See project schedule on page 1.)

When will the new substation and power lines be built?
Once a final route has been approved by the ICC, we will begin real estate negotiations and anticipate construction to begin in early 2024. The goal is for the new line to be in service around December 2025.

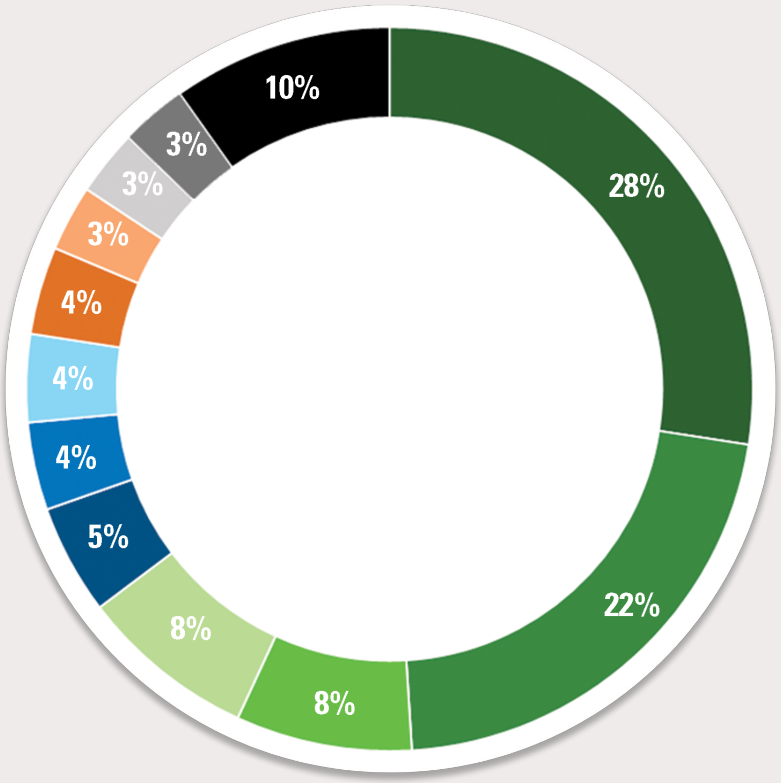
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

As previously mentioned, community feedback is an important part of the routing process. This feedback is used to develop a route for this new line and energy investment.

Since we first communicated this project in September 2022, there have been various ways to provide feedback including: meetings with community stakeholders, three public open houses as well as a virtual open house, a project website with an interactive map and comment form, a toll-free hotline and a designated project email address. So far, we have received nearly 300 public comments. All of the feedback leading up to the next round of open houses (December 2022) has been reviewed and carefully considered in the development of the Preliminary Route Alternatives.

First Round of Open Houses - Sensitivities Poster Results

During the open houses held in October, we asked community members and stakeholders to identify which sensitivities are most important to them. The figure below depicts the results of that exercise, which revealed that the number one concern/sensitivity of the project is "proximity to residences" followed by "agricultural conflicts."



28%	Proximity to Residences
22%	Agricultural Conflicts
8%	Planned Development (future)
8%	Wells
5%	Conservation Areas
4%	Communication Towers
4%	Schools/Day Care Centers
4%	Streams/Wetlands
3%	IL DNR Resource Lands
3%	Sensitive Crops
3%	Sensitive Species
10%	Other
2%	Cemeteries
2%	Mines/Quarries
2%	Pipelines
1%	Floodplains
1%	Hospitals
1%	Levees/Dams
1%	Scenic Highways