

**SHAKOPEE PUBLIC UTILITIES
MEMORANDUM**

TO: John Crooks, Utilities Manager

FROM: Joseph D. Adams, Planning & Engineering Director 

SUBJECT: Shakopee Avenue East of Marschall Road Overhead Electric Facilities

DATE: March 2, 2017

ISSUE

The City of Shakopee 2017 Reconstruction Project has generated interest in addressing access and maintenance issues with the overhead electric facilities located along the abandoned railroad right of way north of Shakopee Avenue.

BACKGROUND

Former Electric Line Superintendent Marv Athmann had suggested a project to relocate the existing three phase overhead electric power lines in this area due to the electric department's difficulty in accessing the line for tree trimming and repair during outages. Funding for this project was included in the 2017 CIP budget to coincide with the city's street reconstruction project in the area.

SPU Project Engineer Christian Fenstermacher, with assistance from the electric department, has prepared the attached report that summarizes the issues and options very well.

DISCUSSION

The results of the survey sent to the adjacent property owners have been mostly positive with a clear majority in favor of the proposed option to relocate the overhead facilities underground along Shakopee Avenue. However, not all of the respondents are in favor of the project yet with some indicating opposition. City Engineer Bruce Loney has expressed a desire that the Commission guarantee the funding for any potential assessments that are successfully challenged by property owners unwilling to sign a waiver of assessment appeal should the Council decide to make this a separate (from the reconstruction) public improvement project. A Council approved public improvement project will allow the property owners to pay their share of costs over time with interest should they choose that option.

Staff proposes to create and circulate to the property owners an official petition to the Council in support for a public improvement project and have the petition forwarded to the city for action.



REQUESTED ACTION

Staff requests the Commission accept the preliminary engineering report and adopt a position to approve of the recommendation to relocate the overhead electric facilities underground with the funding sources as outlined in the report.

Staff further requests the Commission direct staff to create and circulate a petition to the affected property owners to initiate a public improvement project and submit said petition to the city for review and action.