



17th Street Overhead to Underground Project

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the 17th Street construction project?

The 17th Street project will eliminate overhead power lines along a roadway for the city of Lincoln, which sees high traffic volumes. Burying existing overhead distribution meets the Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan statement, "Within the City of Lincoln, wherever feasible and affordable, implement a phased program to relocate overhead utility lines underground." This project is a continuation of the Overhead to Underground program initiated by the LES Administrative Board in 2005.

What is the benefit to Lincoln of moving power lines underground?

Installing underground electrical facilities can enhance system reliability by reducing exposure to many common outage causes such as storms, tree debris, vehicle/pole accidents and animal interference. Neighborhoods also benefit by improving aesthetics.

Is this a city project?

This project is initiated and budgeted for by LES.

How will my property be affected?

Properties in the project area will see construction crews boring, installing new cables and removing the old overhead lines.

How will traffic be affected?

LES will work closely with the city to facilitate lane closures along 17th Street when construction requires it.

When will construction begin?

Construction will begin in spring 2022.

When will construction end?

Construction is anticipated to be complete by fall 2022.

Will LES perform the work or will another construction crew be hired?

LES anticipates completing this work using LES staff. If a conditions require a construction crew, LES will select a construction company using its normal project bidding process. LES inspectors will be on-site throughout construction.



Will I be notified when construction is approaching my property?

Yes. Be on the lookout for construction postcards to arrive two to four weeks prior to construction beginning on your property. If an easement is needed, our Land Management professionals will reach out to you to explain the project needs.

Will I experience power outages during construction?

We do not anticipate extended outages with this type of construction. Your power will be out for a short time when electricity is switched from the overhead lines to the new underground cables.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Contact LES at 402-475-4211 with any additional questions.