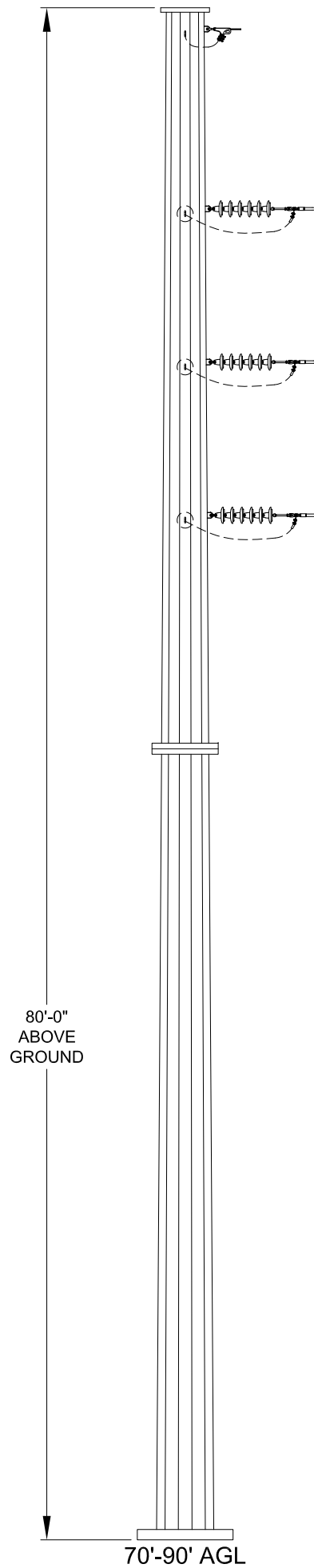
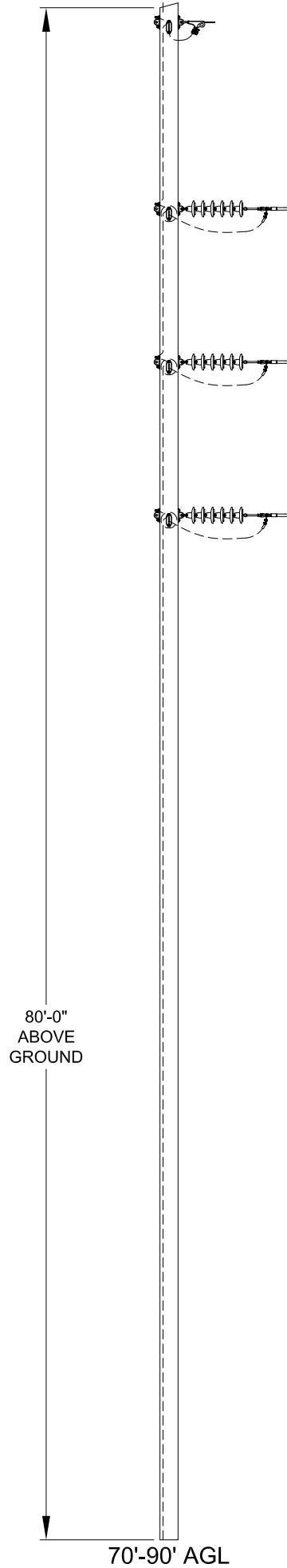


# **ATTACHMENT A**

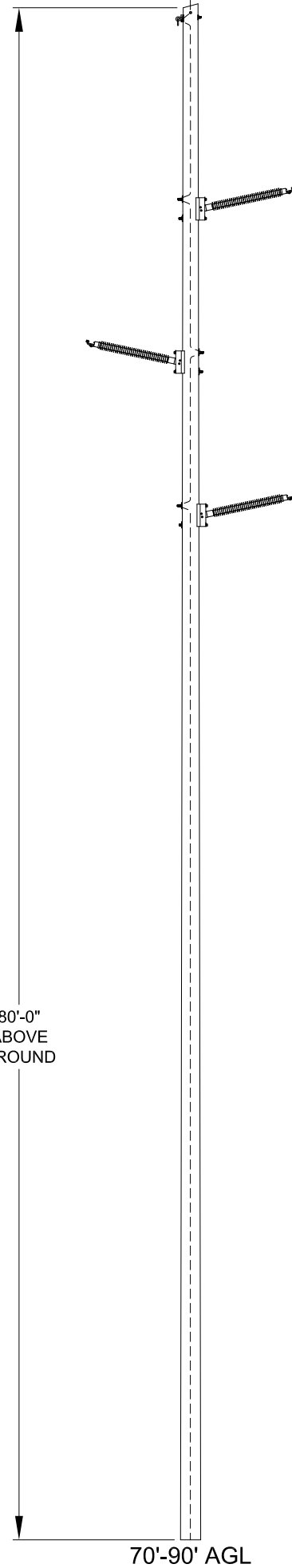
TYPICAL 115 kV  
STEEL DEADEND STRUCTURE



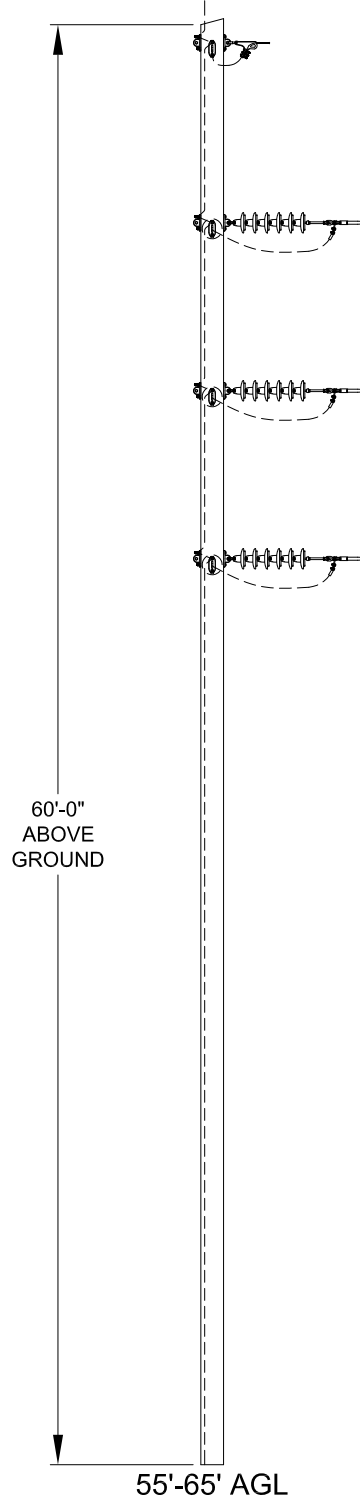
TYPICAL 115 kV  
DEADEND STRUCTURE



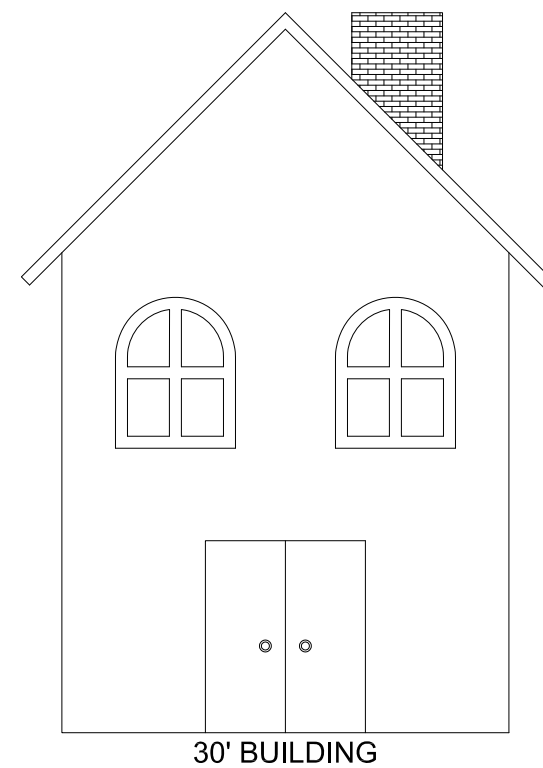
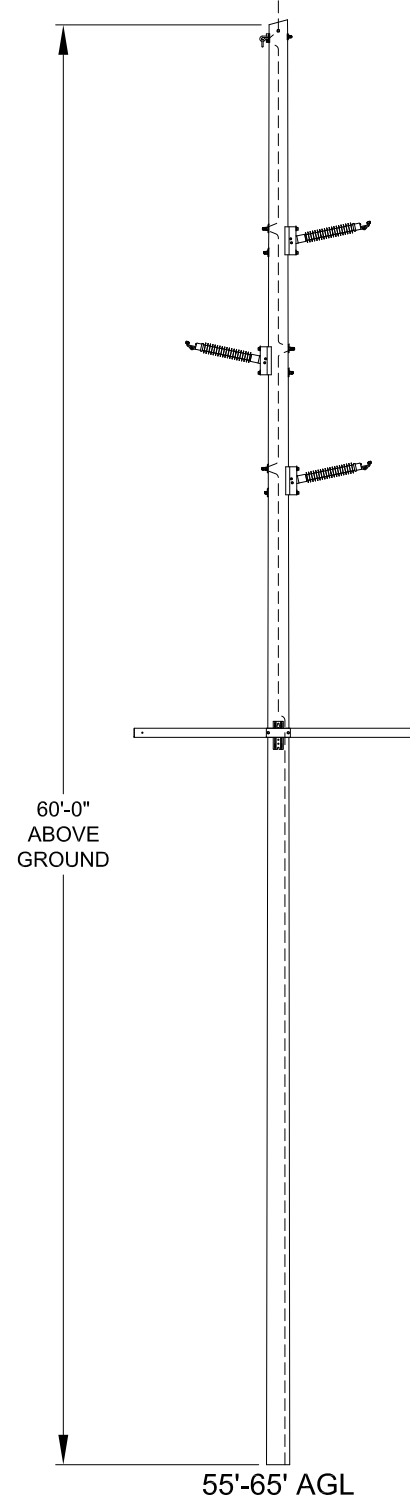
TYPICAL 115 kV  
TANGENT STRUCTURE



TYPICAL EXISTING 69 kV  
DEADEND STRUCTURE



TYPICAL EXISTING 69 kV  
TANGENT STRUCTURE





















# **ATTACHMENT B**

**From:** [Matt Glaesman](#)  
**To:** [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)  
**Cc:** [Nate Keller](#); [Aukee, Dale GRE-MG](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Expansion and Extension of 73rd Ave  
**Date:** Monday, September 26, 2022 10:28:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good Morning Mark – Your assessment is fair. The concepts have been planned, but have not been scheduled in our Capital Improvement Plans.

However, Nate and I are faced with increasing interest in both residential (yellow attached) and commercial/industrial (purple attached) development in the area. The Westwood Parkway area is fully developed leading to inevitable utility and roadway connections in the highlighted area in the next 5 years. Municipal utilities exist to the edge of these sites now.

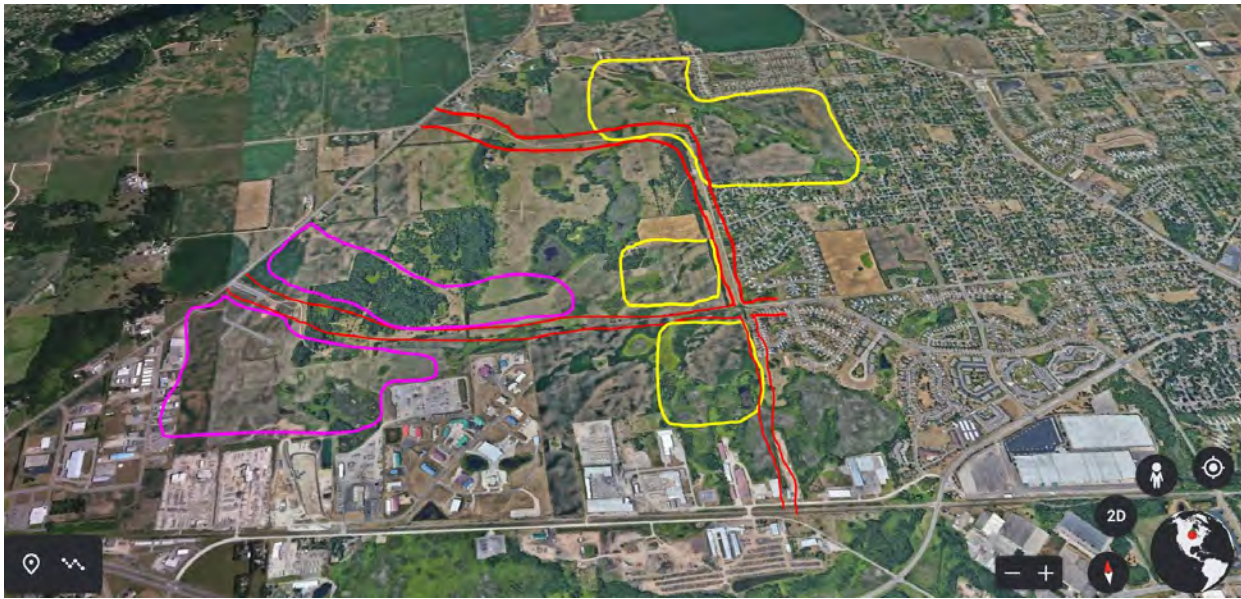
Westwood Parkway in St. Cloud is currently a 120 foot right of way, which is the Land Development Code standard for an Urban Parkway or Rural Minor Arterial. Continuation of this width is appropriate given St Joseph’s planned industrial use on the west end of the corridor.

The existing plats north of Westwood Parkway dedicated 40 feet east of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North centerline. A total right of way width of 80 or 100 feet is appropriate in this area, meaning that another 40- 60 feet would be dedicated west of the centerline for the anticipated movements in the area. If the West Metro Corridor improvements do place the beltway on this alignment the 100 foot right of way or more would be required.

Might be easier to talk about this if you all, Nate, and I wanted to schedule a virtual meeting.

Thanks!

Matt



**From:** Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2022 9:34 AM  
**To:** Matt Glaesman <Matt.Glaesman@ci.stcloud.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Nate Keller <nkeller@cityofstjoseph.com>; Aukee, Dale GRE-MG <DAukee@GREnergy.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Expansion and Extension of 73rd Ave

**The Sender "Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG" <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com> is external to the St. Cloud email system. Use caution when replying and opening attachments/hyperlinks. St. Cloud IT Dept.**

Matt,

Thanks for this information. I've dug into the documents and see that the 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave expansion and extension alternative (C2) is ranked the lowest alternative, but a decision on the north segment has been tabled for further studies. Can you provide any more updates on the north segment?

Great River Energy would appreciate any further information you have regarding the timing and selection of the north segment. If you need anything further from us so that our existing and planned facilities are incorporated into any further studies or analysis, please let me know.

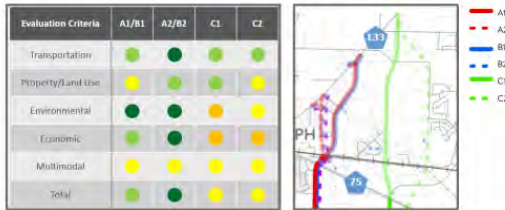
[Southwest Beltline Corridor Study Final Report \(stcloudapo.org\)](#), Dec 2021  
PDF pg 15 of 283:



**NORTH SEGMENT**

In the north segment, the A2/B2 alternative, shown by the red & blue dashed lines ranked highest. This alignment is the shortest distance and therefore the lowest cost to construct and provides the most transportation benefit. The following are a few key items to note about the alternatives:

- C1 and C2 would require construction of more miles of new roadway
- C2 is closer to existing established residential neighborhoods which the City of St. Cloud did not find desirable
- C1 and C2 had significantly more impacts to existing wetland and aquatic resources
- All alignment alternatives cross the Northern Lines Railway (NLR) rail line, however C1 and C2 cross the NLR rail line east of where a transload facility is planned which potentially may mean increased rail traffic in the future



PDF pg 19 of 283 Figure "NOTE: NO FINAL RECOMMENDATION WAS DETERMINED FOR THE BELTLINE SEGMENT BETWEEN CSAH 75 AND CSAH 133. ADDITIONAL EVALUATION WILL BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE".

Thanks,  
**Mark Strohfus**  
 Transmission Permitting, Project Manager  
 Great River Energy  
 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  
 Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
 Tel: 763-445-5210 | Cell: 612-961-9820  
[MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com)

**From:** Matt Glaesman <[Matt.Glaesman@ci.stcloud.mn.us](mailto:Matt.Glaesman@ci.stcloud.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 2:37 PM  
**To:** Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <[MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com)>  
**Cc:** Aukee, Dale GRE-MG <[DAukee@GREnergy.com](mailto:DAukee@GREnergy.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Expansion and Extension of 73rd Ave

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 Hello Mark -

Thanks for following up regarding our comments.

The concept of a west-east and north-south connection along 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South appears in several St. Cloud APO and area cities' planning and zoning documents over the past 20 years. Pages from these documents are attached showing the potential corridor.

More regarding the recent studies specifically looking at the Southwest Beltline alternatives can be found at: <https://stcloudapo.org/documents-resources/urban-belt-line-corridor-plans/>

Let me know if you have any other questions or would like to schedule a time to discuss in more detail.

Have a great day!

Matt

**From:** Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <[MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:14 AM  
**To:** Matt Glaesman <[Matt.Glaesman@ci.stcloud.mn.us](mailto:Matt.Glaesman@ci.stcloud.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Aukee, Dale GRE-MG <[DAukee@GREnergy.com](mailto:DAukee@GREnergy.com)>  
**Subject:** Expansion and Extension of 73rd Ave  
**Importance:** High

**The Sender "Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG" <[MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com)> is external to the St. Cloud email system. Use caution when replying and opening attachments/hyperlinks. St. Cloud IT Dept.**

Hello Matt,

I'm interested in more information on St. Cloud's plans to expand and extend 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave, which you mention in your filing (attached) to the PUC Docket for our plan to upgrade our existing 69-kV transmission in St. Joseph to 115 kV. Your comments state:

"The adopted St. Cloud Comprehensive Plan designates Westwood Parkway and County Road 134 as Minor Collector roadways which should be connected by 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North in similar design and capacity. The City of St. Cloud's Land Development Code requires a 100 foot right of way for Minor Collector roadways. 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North currently exists within a 66 foot right of way. The transmission line design and alignment should account for a westerly right of way expansion from 66 feet to 100 feet so as to avoid purchase and/or condemnation of easements on existing residential parcels east of the corridor."

I've searched St. Cloud's web page and can only find the 2015 Comprehensive Plan (<https://www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/10429/2015-Comprehensive-Plan---Chapter-7---Transportation---Mobility?bidId=>), but I cannot find any reference to Westwood Parkway or 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Please send me the appropriate document(s) that you refer to in your comments. We are also interested in any additional information such as maps, detailed plans, schedule, budgets and funding.

Once we have a chance to review these documents, we'd like to have a conversation with you.



Feel free to contact me with any comments or questions on this matter or Great River Energy's transmission line project.

Sincerely,

**Mark Strohfus**

**Transmission Permitting, Project Manager**

Great River Energy

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

Tel: 763-445-5210 | Cell: 612-961-9820

[MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com)

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# CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

[www.cityofstjoseph.com](http://www.cityofstjoseph.com)

November 1st, 2022

Mark Strohfus and Dale Aukee  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718

**RE: Great River Energy Power line**

Sent via email to: [mstrohfu@greenergy.com](mailto:mstrohfu@greenergy.com) and [daukee@greenergy.com](mailto:daukee@greenergy.com)

Dear Mr. Strohfus and Mr. Aukee,

The city of St. Joseph is providing this letter as a way to communicate our comments on the proposed Power line project. The city of St. Joseph and St. Cloud both hold a common position regarding future road right of way needs in the corridor area and have discussed these needs jointly.

Specifically, the city of St. Joseph has the following comments:

- Within the city's transportation plan we identify Mullen Rd/73<sup>rd</sup> Ave as an existing and future Community/Major Collector road.
- Westwood Parkway is identified as a Minor Arterial.
- Our Transportation plan identifies three different geometric configurations (see exhibit A) for Collector geometry/right of way and would consider 80 to 100 feet of ROW dedication.
- For Minor Arterials like Westwood Parkway our Transportation Plan identifies three geometric options with 120-150 feet for right of way dedication for a 4-lane urban, divided road.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments more.

Sincerely,

*Nate Keller*

Nate Keller  
Community Development Director  
[nkeller@cityofstjoseph.com](mailto:nkeller@cityofstjoseph.com)

Enclosed: Exhibit A – Geometric Configurations from St. Joseph Transportation Plan

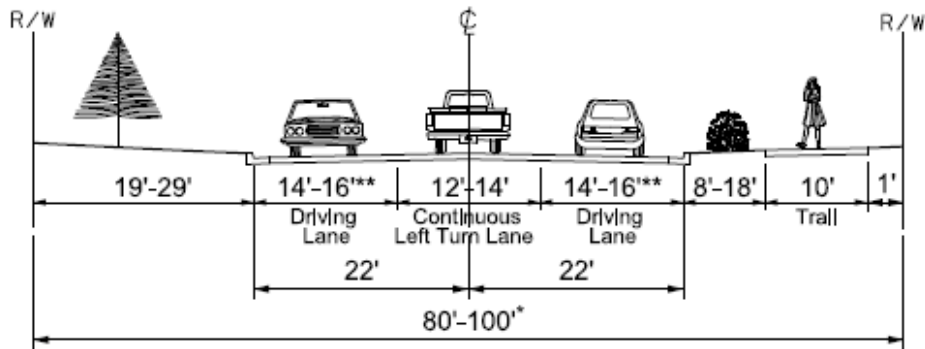




# CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

www.cityofstjoseph.com

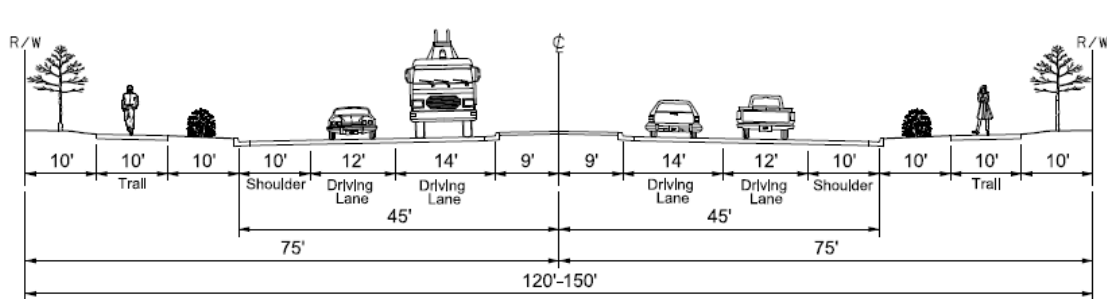
## Exhibit A



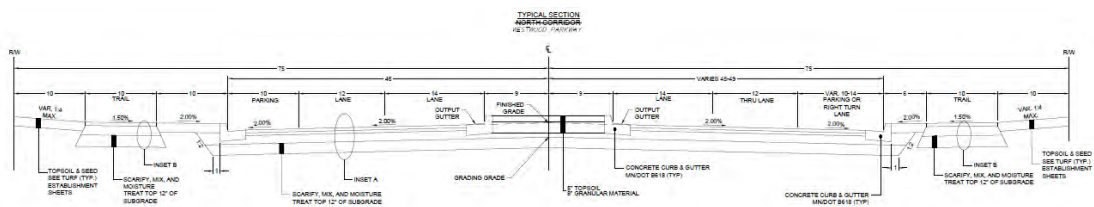
### Community Collector (Three-Lane Urban)

\* 100' width allows adding right turn lane at intersections,

\*\*12' lane and 4' shoulder



### Minor Arterial (Four-Lane Urban Divided)





# **ATTACHMENT C**



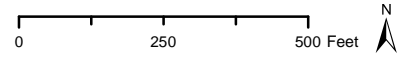


Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

GIS Data sources include:  
MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT,  
and Great River Energy

- Great River Energy**
- Proposed 115-kV transmission line replacing existing 69-kV transmission line
  - Existing 69-kV transmission line
  - - - Project route

**ST-WW 69-kV to 115-kV Conversion  
Proposed Project**







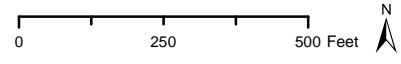
GIS Data sources include:  
 MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT,  
 and the Great River Community

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the Great River Community

**Great River Energy**

- Proposed 115-kV transmission line replacing existing 69-kV transmission line
- Existing 69-kV transmission line
- - - Project route

**ST-WW 69-kV to 115-kV Conversion  
 Proposed Project**







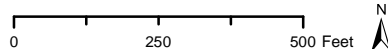
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

GIS Data sources include:  
MNGEO, MNDNR, MNDOT,  
and the Great River Energy

**Great River Energy**

- Proposed 115-kV transmission line replacing existing 69-kV transmission line
- Existing 69-kV transmission line
- Project route

**ST-WW 69-kV to 115-kV Conversion  
Proposed Project**





# **ATTACHMENT D**



**From:** [Schmidt, Kevin \(DOT\)](#)  
**To:** [Voss, Steven \(DOT\)](#); [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#); [Anderson, Benjamin](#)  
**Cc:** [Cruikshank, Thomas \(DOT\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Application of GRE for a Route Permit to Rebuild the Existing 69-kV ST-WW Transmission Line to 115-kV in Stearns County  
**Date:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 6:27:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[FACT SHEET ST-WS rebuild 8.25.22.pdf](#)

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Mark

Check with Stearns County as I think they have an easement to carry a trail on BNSF's fee. MnDot has nothing to do with this track in this area.

I assume the BNSF JLL company has the authority to issue new permits to cross the trail and train track using a permit



**From:** Voss, Steven (DOT) <steve.voss@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 4:00 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Kevin (DOT) <kevin.schmidt@state.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>; Cruikshank, Thomas (DOT) <Thomas.Cruikshank@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Application of GRE for a Route Permit to Rebuild the Existing 69-kV ST-WW Transmission Line to 115-kV in Stearns County

Hi Kevin,

Please see below and attachment. This 115 KV transmission line upgrade proposal does not appear to affect our State trunk



highway right-of-way from my initial review. Both Tom and I have a meeting conflict for next Monday (10/10) when there is a virtual meeting to discuss this proposal in more detail. I wanted to route it to you to see if you saw any concerns from your end requiring our attention; and if there were, could have someone available to attend the meeting. If you have no concerns, I suspect out attendance would not be necessary.

Thanks,

Steve

Steven Voss | District Planning Director  
MnDOT District 3 Office | 7694 Industrial Park Road  
Baxter, MN 56425-8096  
Phone: (218) 828-5779 | Email: [steve.voss@state.mn.us](mailto:steve.voss@state.mn.us)



---

**From:** Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <[MStrohfu@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfu@GREnergy.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 7:35 AM  
**To:** Voss, Steven (DOT) <[steve.voss@state.mn.us](mailto:steve.voss@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Application of GRE for a Route Permit to Rebuild the Existing 69-kV ST-WW Transmission Line to 115-kV in Stearns County

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Good Morning Steve,

As noted in Stacy's email below, if you're not the appropriate contact for this project, please forward it to the appropriate MNDOT contact.

I've attached the most recent Fact Sheet for Great River Energy's (GRE) proposed 115-kV transmission line in St. Joseph, MN. We have an existing 69-kV transmission line in this area, and we are hoping to rebuild it to 115 kV using our existing ROW. St. Cloud has recently informed us that they are looking at expanding, and possibly extending, 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave, which would impact our existing ROW. We are working with them to better understand their plans and have a virtual meeting with them on Oct 10 at 1:00-2:00. Let me know if you or one of your staff would be interested in joining this meeting.

As to Stacy's comment about the Wobegon Trail, our proposed transmission line would cross the trail approximately 1.75 miles east of CR 133. This information will be helpful though if stakeholders think we should also evaluate an alternative route to the west. Our proposed trail crossing has a single span of more than 200 feet with structures south of CR 134 and north of 304<sup>th</sup> Street, well outside of a 100-foot trail ROW.

Pat Glaesman, St. Cloud Community Development Director, provided me some document links for the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization. In reviewing those documents, I noted that they plan to expand CR 133 to a 4-lane undivided highway in the 2024 – 2029 timeframe. I don't see that project in the Dist 3 Future Projects through 2025 summary link provided by Stacy. GRE would nevertheless like to consider this project in our Project design. It's not clear to me if MNDOT has a role in the design of the expanded road, and I'd appreciate your thoughts on this or any education you can offer on how state and local road planning is conducted and coordinated.

If you have any questions or would like to join our Oct 10 meeting, please contact me.

Thank You,

**Mark Strohfus**  
**Transmission Permitting, Project Manager**  
Great River Energy  
12300 Elm Creek Boulevard



Maple Grove, MN 55369-4718  
Tel: 763-445-5210 | Cell: 612-961-9820  
[MStrohfu@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfu@GREnergy.com)

---

**From:** Kotch Egstad, Stacy (DOT) <[stacy.kotch@state.mn.us](mailto:stacy.kotch@state.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Strohfu, Mark GRE-MG <[MStrohfu@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfu@GREnergy.com)>  
**Subject:** Application of GRE for a Route Permit to Rebuild the Existing 69-kV ST-WW Transmission Line to 115-kV in Stearns County

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Good Afternoon Mark,

Per our phone conversation this morning, below are the items and information for your use/records:

Response from MnDOT District 3B Transportation Specialist –

*Looking at the mapping, in St Joe the only right of way [possibly] affected for MNDOT would be the Wobegon trail. District 3B's portion of the Railbank /Wobegon Trail starts at CR 133 and goes west to Osakis. The right of way on the trail in St Joe is 50 ft on each side from centerline of the trail, 100 ft total.*

MnDOT District 3 Future Project Page –

[Future construction Central Region - District 3 - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)

MnDOT District 3 Planning Contact –

Steve Voss - MnDOT District 3 Planning Director (he may not be THE one, but will be able to guide you accordingly)  
[steve.voss@state.mn.us](mailto:steve.voss@state.mn.us) 218-828-5779

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance,

*Stacy Kotch Egstad*

Utility Routing & Siting Coordinator | Office of Land Management

**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

395 John Ireland Blvd Mailstop 678

St. Paul, MN. 55155

O: 651-366-4635

[mndot.gov/](http://mndot.gov/)



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**From:** [Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG](#)  
**To:** [Anderson, Benjamin](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Application of GRE for a Route Permit to Rebuild the Existing 69-kV ST-WW Transmission Line to 115-kV in Stearns County [Stearns Cnty - Webegon Trail]  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 19, 2022 12:11:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

---

Good afternoon Ben,

You are correct that the proposed line would simply span over the trail with the structures south of CR134 and north of 304<sup>th</sup> Street.

I don't anticipate closing the trail. When we string the new conductor and shield wire, we'll likely just have somebody walk the stringing rope across the trail when there is no traffic. This stringing rope would be used to pull the conductors across the roads and trail, keeping it all above the road/trail surfaces. If necessary, temporary structures might be erected within the spanned distance to prevent the lines from sagging.

Our vertical clearances generally exceed 25 feet, so your requirement should not be a problem.

Thanks for your feedback. If you have any questions now or in the future, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Mark Strohfus**

**Project Manager, Transmission Permitting**

12300 Elm Creek Boulevard

Maple Grove, MN 5536-4718

D: 763-445-5210

C: 612-961-9820

[MStrohfus@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfus@GREnergy.com)

---

**From:** Anderson, Benjamin <Benjamin.Anderson@co.stearns.mn.us>

**Sent:** Friday, October 7, 2022 2:17 PM

**To:** Schmidt, Kevin (DOT) <kevin.schmidt@state.mn.us>; Voss, Steven (DOT) <steve.voss@state.mn.us>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <MStrohfu@GREnergy.com>

**Cc:** Cruikshank, Thomas (DOT) <Thomas.Cruikshank@state.mn.us>

**Subject:** RE: Application of GRE for a Route Permit to Rebuild the Existing 69-kV ST-WW Transmission Line to 115-kV in Stearns County [Stearns Cnty - Webegon Trail]

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Mark,

Good afternoon! We do have a permanent easement from BNSF to have the trail within their ROW. From what I gathered the line would only span over the trail and no work would be completed within the trail ROW (20ft to the south of the existing chain-link fence). Is that correct? Do you foresee any reason that the trail would have to be closed during the upgrade? As it is an existing structure our only requirement is that the new line is at least 22ft above the trails surface.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Ben Anderson  
Parks Director  
Stearns County Parks

1802 County Road 137  
Waite Park, MN 56387  
320-654-4725

*Stearns County Mission: "Provide Exceptional Public Services to Assure a Safe, Healthy, Vibrant County for All"*

---

**From:** Schmidt, Kevin (DOT) <[kevin.schmidt@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.schmidt@state.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 6:26 PM  
**To:** Voss, Steven (DOT) <[steve.voss@state.mn.us](mailto:steve.voss@state.mn.us)>; Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <[MStrohfu@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfu@GREnergy.com)>; Anderson, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Anderson@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:Benjamin.Anderson@co.stearns.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Cruikshank, Thomas (DOT) <[Thomas.Cruikshank@state.mn.us](mailto:Thomas.Cruikshank@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Application of GRE for a Route Permit to Rebuild the Existing 69-kV ST-WW Transmission Line to 115-kV in Stearns County

Mark

Check with Stearns County as I think they have an easement to carry a trail on BNSF's fee. MnDot has nothing to do with this track in this area.

I assume the BNSF JLL company has the authority to issue new permits to cross the trail and train track using a permit



**From:** Voss, Steven (DOT) <[steve.voss@state.mn.us](mailto:steve.voss@state.mn.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 6, 2022 4:00 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Kevin (DOT) <[kevin.schmidt@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.schmidt@state.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Strohfus, Mark GRE-MG <[MStrohfu@GREnergy.com](mailto:MStrohfu@GREnergy.com)>; Cruikshank, Thomas (DOT) <[Thomas.Cruikshank@state.mn.us](mailto:Thomas.Cruikshank@state.mn.us)>



# **ATTACHMENT E**



## Formal Natural Heritage Review - Cover Page

See next page for results of review. A draft watermark means the project details have not been finalized and the results are not official.

**Project Name:** Proposed ST-WS 115-kV transmission line and substation upgrades

**Project Proposer:** Great River Energy

**Project Type:** Utilities, Transmission (electric, cable, phone)

**Project Type Activities:** Tree Removal;Wetland impacts (e.g., discharge, runoff, sedimentation, fill, excavation)

**TRS:** T124 R28 S6, T124 R28 S7, T124 R29 S1, T124 R29 S12, T125 R29 S36

**County(s):** Stearns

**DNR Admin Region(s):** Central

**Reason Requested:** PUC Site or Route Application

**Project Description:** Rebuild and upgrade the existing ST-WS 69kV overhead transmission line to 115kV.

**Existing Land Uses:** Light industry, commercial and residential

**Landcover / Habitat Impacted:** Commercial and agricultural

**Waterbodies Affected:** None

**Groundwater Resources Affected:** None - Project will only entail imbedding new transmission structures approximately 15 feet into the ground.

**Previous Natural Heritage Review:** No

**Previous Habitat Assessments / Surveys:** No

### SUMMARY OF AUTOMATED RESULTS

Category	Results	Response By Category
<b>Project Details</b>	No Comments	No Further Review Required
<b>Ecologically Significant Area</b>	Comments	Protected Wetlands: Calcareous Fens
<b>State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species</b>	No Comments	No Further Review Required
<b>State-Listed Species of Special Concern</b>	Comments	Recommendations
<b>Federally Listed Species</b>	No Records	Visit IPaC For Federal Review