

RESOLUTION NO. 17-26

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED 765 kV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus is a growing community committed to responsible planning, economic development, quality of life, environmental stewardship, and the protection of private property rights; and

WHEREAS, a proposed 765 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line corridor has been identified for study and potential development in proximity to the City of Columbus and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of maintaining a reliable and resilient electric transmission system to serve residents, businesses, industries, and critical public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan establishes a long-term vision for orderly growth and development, including the preservation of developable land, protection of community character, promotion of economic development opportunities, and efficient provision of municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of a 765 kV transmission corridor in the vicinity of the City has the potential to create significant land use constraints, limit future residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional development opportunities, and adversely affect areas identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan for future growth and expansion; and

WHEREAS, the uncertainty associated with the siting of a transmission corridor may discourage private investment, reduce property values, impede economic development efforts, and negatively impact the community's ability to attract new residents and employers; and

WHEREAS, Prairie Ridge Health is one of the City of Columbus' largest employers and a critical healthcare provider serving residents throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Prairie Ridge Health has made substantial investments in facilities, technology, workforce development, and long-term service delivery within the community, contributing significantly to the local and regional economy; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure projects of this magnitude located near existing or future healthcare and employment centers may adversely affect future campus expansion opportunities, workforce recruitment efforts, community attractiveness, and long-term economic development objectives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus has invested considerable public resources in planning for future growth, infrastructure expansion, housing development, business recruitment, and community development initiatives that could be adversely affected by the siting of a 765 kV transmission corridor near the City; and

WHEREAS, alternative transmission routes and solutions should be thoroughly evaluated to avoid or minimize impacts on established communities, planned growth areas, healthcare facilities, employers, agricultural operations, and environmentally sensitive lands; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Columbus formally opposes the siting of a proposed 765 kV electric transmission line corridor in or near the City of Columbus where such corridor would adversely impact planned growth areas, economic development opportunities, residential neighborhoods, healthcare facilities, agricultural lands, or community infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council finds that utilization of the 345 kV corridor is inconsistent with the goals, objectives, and future land use recommendations contained within the City of Columbus Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan and may significantly hinder the City's ability to accommodate future population growth, housing development, commercial expansion, and industrial development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council expresses significant concern regarding the potential impacts of the 345kV corridor on Prairie Ridge Health, its future expansion opportunities, and its continued role as a major employer and essential healthcare provider for Columbus and the surrounding region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council urges all state and federal regulatory agencies, transmission developers, utilities, and decision-making bodies involved in the planning and siting process to fully consider the impacts on the City of Columbus, Prairie Ridge Health, local businesses, landowners, agricultural operations, and future growth areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City encourages the evaluation of alternative routes and meaningful consultation with affected local governments and stakeholders before any corridor selection is finalized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Governor of Wisconsin, members of the Wisconsin Legislature representing the City of Columbus, affected utilities, Columbia County, Dodge County, Prairie Ridge Health, and any other agencies or entities involved in the review of the proposed transmission project.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2026
CITY OF COLUMBUS, Columbia County,
State of Wisconsin

Joseph Hammer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan L. Caine, Clerk