



Agenda Item Report

Meeting Type: Committee of the Whole & Common Council

Meeting Date: October 6, 2026

Item Title: Resolution No. 17-26

Submitted By: Matt Amundson, City Administrator

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

The proposed BECI 765kV transmission line has become a significant issue throughout Wisconsin, with numerous school districts, towns, villages, and cities adopting resolutions opposing the project or expressing concerns regarding its potential impacts.

While the City of Columbus is not currently located within one of the initial route alternatives identified by the developer, there has been increasing discussion regarding the use of existing transmission corridors as the project moves through the planning and siting process. The existing 345kV transmission line corridor located west of Prairie Ridge Health traverses the City and is generally situated within a 75-foot-wide easement. By comparison, the proposed 765kV transmission line would require an easement approximately 280 feet in width.

Expansion of the existing transmission corridor to accommodate a 765kV line could have substantial consequences for the City. Such a corridor would directly impact Prairie Ridge Health's future expansion opportunities, affect one of the City's identified growth areas designated in the Comprehensive Plan, and potentially reduce the development potential and property values of adjacent lands. The corridor could also create a long-term barrier to residential, commercial, and institutional growth in a strategic area of the community.

Given these concerns, I am providing the attached Resolution for the Common Council's consideration. The Resolution expresses the City's opposition to any routing of the proposed BECI 765kV transmission line through or adjacent to the City that would adversely affect planned growth areas, Prairie Ridge Health, private property owners, and the long-term development objectives identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan. This Resolution has been shared and reviewed by City staff including Randy Myrum (Utilities & Public Works Director), Mike Kornmann (Community & Economic Development Director), John Russell (Prairie Ridge Health), and Curt Hanson (Olena Investments).

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

Draft Resolution No. 17-26

Action Requested of Council:

Consider and take possible action on Resolution No. 17-26