

# Blackburn Road – West Union Street Transmission Improvements Project

AEP Ohio representatives plan power grid upgrades to improve electric reliability for customers in Athens by upgrading approximately 1 mile of transmission line. Crews expect to begin construction in spring 2026 and conclude by fall 2028.

## What

The project involves relocating and modernizing about 1 mile of underground 69-kilovolt transmission line.

## Why

The improvements:

- Enhance electric reliability of the power grid by upgrading equipment to meet modern standards.
- Increase electric capacity to support the community's growing demand for power by installing a new conductor and insulated materials on the underground transmission line.
- Strengthen the local power grid by reducing the risk of service disruptions and future outages.

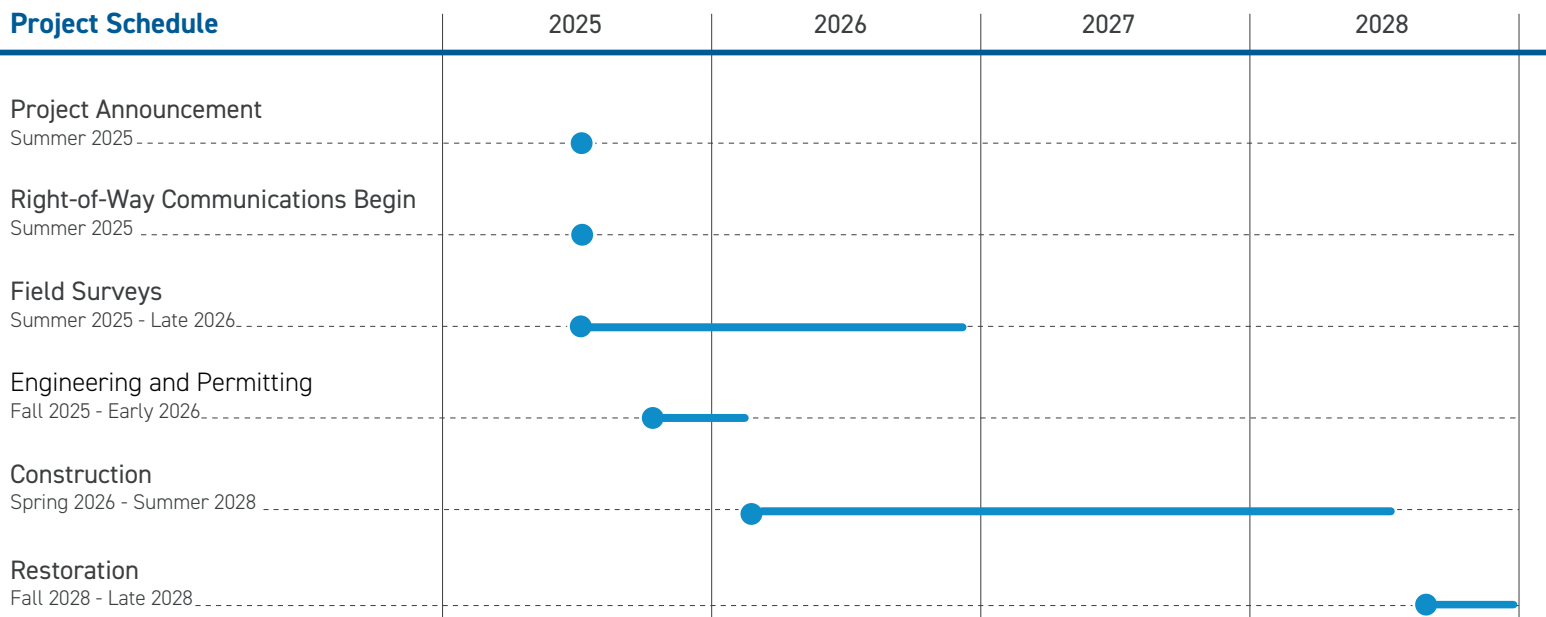
## Where

The project area includes:

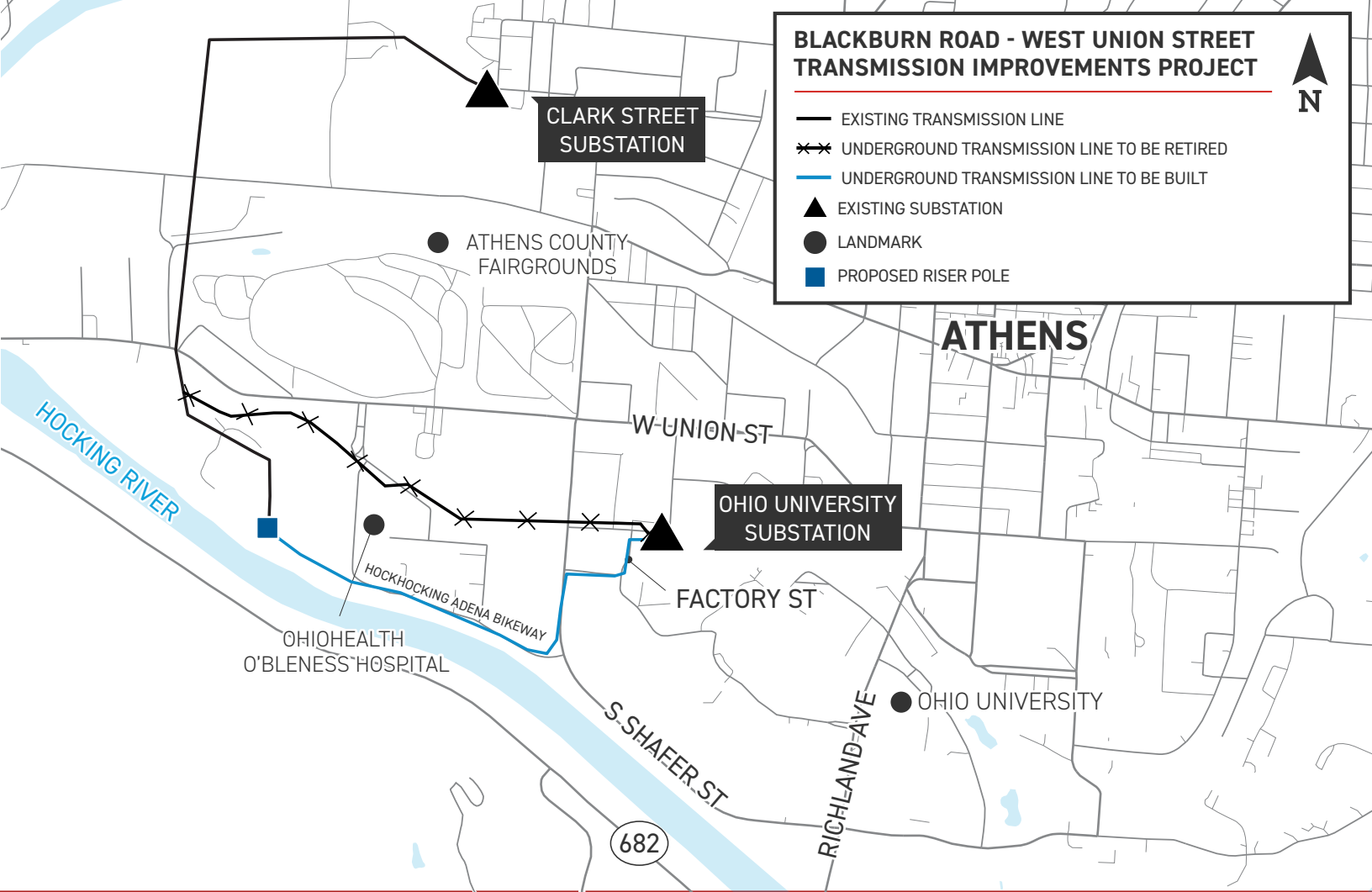
- City of Athens
- Athens Township
- Athens County

Company representatives plan to acquire easements along the underground power line route. Easements are defined land rights that provide the utility with access needed to safely build, operate and maintain its transmission lines.

## Project Schedule



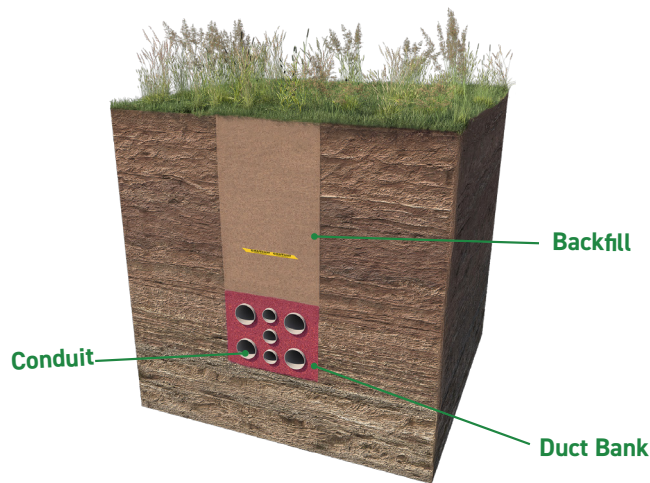
*\*Timeline subject to change.*



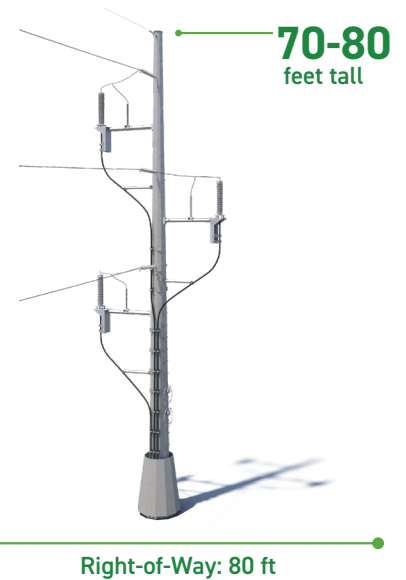
## Underground Transmission Facilities

Located within a 45 foot right-of-way, crews plan to build the new transmission line 5-8 feet beneath the surface. Its route travels through underground conduits. Conduits are protective tubes or piping systems enclosed in concrete to provide an extra layer of protection around the power line.

Underground transmission lines are not visible once construction is completed. The only structures visible are the riser poles that elevate the line to connect with local infrastructure.



## Proposed Riser Pole



*\*Exact underground facilities, depth and right-of-way requirements may vary.*



**We value your input. Please send comments and questions to:**  
 MICAELA HARRIS (POWER ENGINEERS, INC.) • PROJECT OUTREACH SPECIALIST  
 OUTREACH@AEPTRANSMISSION.COM • 833-689-3375

[AEP OHIO.COM/Blackburn](https://aepohio.com/Blackburn)

8/12/2025