Southeast Circuit 207 Pole Upgrade and Conductor Replacement Storm Hardening Project

JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
August 14, 2020

The Federal Housing and Urban Development Agency and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) consideration to provide funding in the form of mitigation from Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT) in response to Hurricanes Hermine (2016), Matthew (2016), and Irma (2017). Funds will be provided in accordance with Federal Registry / Vol. 84, No. 169 / Friday August 30, 2019 / Notices pages 45838-45871. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) allocation as described in Public Law 115-123.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 HUD is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires HUD to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:
Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU)

Project Title:
Southeast Circuit 207 Pole Upgrade and Conductor Replacement Storm Hardening Project

Location of Proposed Work:
The areas affected by this project in zip code 32641 consists of the following locations:

Approx. Address	Latitude	Longitude	Fuse Pole Number
2030 E University Ave.	29°39'7.024"N	82°17'51.244"W	16313
2429 E University Ave.	29°39'6.339"N	82°17'32.218"W	16318
2500 E University Ave.	29°39'6.422"N	82°17'28.85"W	16320
2600 E University Ave.	29°39'6.388"N	82°17'24.588"W	16322
115 SE 13th St.	29°39'0.408"N	82°18'31.082"W	16992
2000 E University Ave.	29°39'7.238"N	82°17'57.185"W	17539
400 NE 25th St.	29°39'17.856"N	82°17'31.98"W	18376
604 NE 25th St.	29°39'25.331"N	82°17'32.137"W	18378
NE 25th St. and NE 8th Ave.	29°39'32.923"N	82°17'32.103"W	18380
1702 NE 3rd Ave.	29°39'13.782"N	82°18'10.498"W	18588
2841 E University	29°39'6.421"N	82°17'14.425"W	19823
200 SE 17th St.	29°39'1.992"N	82°18'11.179"W	23583
2 NE 17th St.	29°39'7.412"N	82°18'11.08"W	24504
5000 E University Ave.	29°39'6.31"N	82°15'57.584"W	24549
5121 E University Ave.	29°39'6.218"N	29°39'6.218"N	24553
3809 E University Ave.	29°39'6.354"N	82°16'36.284"W	26315
6900 E University Ave.	29°39'6.814"N	82°14'41.882"W	30306
302 NE 25th St.	29°39'15.381"N	82°17'31.915"W	33610
540 NE 25th St.	29°39'22.601"N	82°17'32.003"W	33903
4707 East University Ave.	29°39'5.921"N	82°16'5.894"W	36698

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Prior tropical storm experience has demonstrated that windblown debris has caused power outages in these neighborhoods during hurricanes and in normal course of business afternoon storms. This HUD / DOE funded project will greatly lower the probability of a power outage and facilitate the resilience of all of these facilities.

Replacement of aging and lower breaking strength poles with newer, higher breaking strength, class 2 and 4 poles, decreases the chance of lengthy restoration time because of a broken pole. Replacement of a broken pole during a storm can triple or even quadruple restoration time. Replacement of bare copper primary with insulated tree wire conductor greatly reduces the chance of an interruption from windblown debris. Another collateral gain of these projects is that linemen who would have had to work to restore power for these interruptions to Southeast Gainesville customers are now available to restore power to other customers thusly reducing the overall length of time for total restoration for all customers.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to these projects that have been and will be considered are 1) take no action alternative, 2) doing only some or parts of the proposed projects and 3) is to convert everything from overhead facilities to underground facilities.

These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) *the needs of the community would not be served if we take no action since tropical storm caused power interruptions are prevalent in our area and any cost-effective mitigation measure to improve restoration time and improve human safety should be taken*; Alternative 2) would lessen the reliability and resilience of the grid to feed these critical customers and Alternative 3) is prohibitive because of cost and quality of the product. The capital investment cost for distribution voltages to convert overhead facilities to underground could be from three (3) to five (5) times as much as and the expected life of underground facilities is 30 to 35 years while overhead wood pole construction is 50 to 60 years.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Economic Opportunity, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Fernando Martins, Principal Electric Engineer (352) 393-1596
Gainesville Regional Utilities MartinsFA@gru.COM

DEO will take comments via USPS mail or email at: cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com
Attention: Office of Disaster Recovery Florida Department of Economic Opportunity 107 East Madison Street; The Caldwell Building, MSC 160 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100