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The **City Council of the City of Belleair Beach** approved a project to convert the current overhead powerlines on Gulf Boulevard to underground. The City and Utility Consultants of Florida will be contacting you regarding the easement acquisitions that are necessary to move this project forward.

There are several benefits of capital projects of this nature, including heightened use, improved safety, improved reliability, and improved aesthetics. It is also reasonable to assume that such property will experience an increase in market value as a direct result of these improvements. Here are a few of the benefits resulting from underground conversion of the existing infrastructure:

### Improved Safety

The removal of utility poles and overhead lines provides an improved safety benefit by reducing the potential of hazardous conditions in the event of natural disasters. Severe tropical storms, hurricanes, and other natural disasters can cause poles and/or overhead lines to fall and impact property, and possibly cause live electric lines to be exposed. Downed electric lines pose a potential threat of fire due to electric shock, and can restrict ingress and egress to and from all residential properties located within the City's corporate limits by impeding residents and emergency responder access within the Project Area.

### Improved Reliability

The undergrounding of the overhead facilities will also improve the reliability of utility services received. Parcels will also specifically benefit from new upgraded utility lines, cables, and appurtenant facilities installed through the proposed utility undergrounding to their service connections. This provides a higher level of reliability of utility services and reduces exposure to the elements that could cause potential damage and speed deterioration to facilities, resulting in service interruptions. Therefore, all properties within the City receive a reliability benefit from this project as this backbone system is converted from overhead to underground.

### Improved Aesthetics

In addition to the safety and reliability benefits provided by undergrounding utilities, removing the overhead facilities and utility poles that run along the project area will eliminate a heavy concentration of electrical and communication lines, thereby creating an inviting, visually pleasing, and scenic gateway for ingress and egress to all properties within the city.

Additionally, undergrounding utilities will eliminate the radical line trimming of trees which frequently results in an unsightly and unnatural appearance. This will improve the overall aesthetics for all properties within Belleair Beach. Enhancing visual appeal by removal of overhead lines will benefit the aesthetics of the City and enhance the use, enjoyment, and marketability of the properties throughout.

Properties within the project area will require blanket easement. This easement area provides adequate space to install, maintain, repair and replace electrical equipment. In some cases, the easement dimensions will vary depending on the equipment. Examples of equipment and dimensions are below.

As we move forward, our consultant will begin reaching out to individual property owners in order to obtain consent for the placement of the required easements. During this time if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our consultant:

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We look forward to advancing this project for our community and sharing in the overall benefits.

**Equipment Examples on Following Pages**

## Single Phase Transformer:

- 3.5 Feet x 4 Feet
- Installed 2-3 Inches above the ground on pad mount for Beach Underground



### 3 Phase Transformer:

- 5 Feet x 6 Feet
- Three phase transformer doors open to the front like cabinet doors



## Switchgear:

- 7 Feet x 10 Feet

