

# ORTEGA POINT NORTH

## Frequently Asked Questions About Converting Overhead Power Lines to Underground



### **What kind of bulbs will be used in the streetlights? There is a concern that the lights will be too bright.**

We are in the process of converting all streetlights throughout our service territory with energy efficient LED bulbs. While there may be slight color differences, the brightness is the same. The colors are selected from a spectrum decided on by COJ. The lights we will be installing as part of this project are similar to the ones currently in the Avondale Town Center. Riverside-Avondale Preservation (RAP) has been in contact with COJ to request a “warmer” color from the spectrum for their lights. We will keep you informed with what transpires from those discussions.

### **Replacement of sod was mentioned, but what about fences and walls?**

Following completion of the project, any existing pavement, grass, curb, gutter, driveways or sidewalks will be returned to pre-construction condition. This includes structures such as fences and walls. We will be in contact with property owners prior to anything major like relocating a fence or wall.

### **There are decades old shrubs and plants in the area. Will there be a chance to salvage those?**

Please contact JEA Project Outreach (665-7500) with your concerns. We will try our best not to damage things in the right of way. However, if you have something you are particularly concerned about, you may want to consider relocating these legacy plants ahead of time. Our engineers have done their best to work around these things but we are also working to move the utilities further up in the right of way.

### **I have a pole in front of my property now. Will I have three boxes in it's place?**

Please speak with a member of the project team after the meeting or call JEA Project Outreach at 904-665-7500.

### **Can the Tax Collector interest amount be adjusted? Will the finance charge go up?**

A. We set an interest rate at the beginning of the year for projects that may be approved. There is no variable rate. We hold that same interest charge throughout the project, so the 4.97% interest rate for this project will not fluctuate. We do not expect the 3.5% rate for the Property Appraiser/Tax Collector's office and the 3.5% rate for the early payment adjustment (for property taxes) to change. If you choose to pay off the total amount at the beginning, you would

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pay the total amount and no finance charges or fees would accrue. Additionally, we cannot provide a discount on a project that is already funded.

**Since the locations of transformer, etc. has been determined, did you take into account what is best for the property owner? Are you just randomly placing the equipment?**

JEA Engineers have taken a lot of time reviewing the project area. We have reviewed conditions throughout the project area and have done our best to place equipment where it will serve the community and also be less impactful to the property owner.

**What about 5G being placed on poles now. If there are no poles to put 5G on, will poles be installed to accommodate the antennas?**

Florida statutes are being followed and we have advised that we do not want the antennas placed on our poles in this project area. Please be aware that telecom can put up poles to accommodate the antennas (governed by COJ).

**My pole is in my driveway. Will it remain if I choose not to go underground with my private service?**

Yes. If you choose not to convert your individual service, you will have a pole connecting the individual line to the weather head on your home.

**What happens if my neighbor and I share a pole and one of us wants to underground the private service lateral but the other does not?**

It depends on the situation but if you provide an address, we can look into the specific concern. There is a good chance it will not be a major impact for neither property owner. This same situation came up in the last OH to UG project on Ortega Boulevard and there are three (3) poles in that project area. Take a ride down Ortega Boulevard and we believe it will be hard for you to spot the poles.

**What if JEA is sold? What will happen to this project?**

We commit that the project will be finished and carried forward. Should a sale occur, this project will be completed.

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### **What kind of meter will we have?**

Customers will keep the same meter (4-tap).

### **Can we opt-out of smart meters that are on our homes?**

There is no other option other than our advanced meters at this time.

### **Is there a mitigation fund to account for damages?**

There is not a fund. However, our contractors are aware of the extensive amount of trees in the project area and have the ability to work around root systems (we usually dig well beneath the roots). If there is any question about a specific tree, we will bring a certified arborist in. If something happens to a tree down the road, you can contact us for review. There have been no past issues with trees on our OH to UG projects. In addition, the transformers will be placed accordingly for this reason.

### **Will your insurance policy cover tree damage?**

The contractor is fully licensed and insured.

### **On Grand Avenue, what is the plan at the school crossing? Will you underground there? Maybe with a vault?**

We will work with traffic engineering to determine what is required at this location. We may install two poles to hold signals and could possibly use a vault. We encountered something similar on the Ortega OH to UG project and have been working with COJ Traffic Engineering on a solution. We can provide an example of what looks like.

### **Before you dig up yards will you notify us? There was digging recently and we were not notified.**

This meeting is your notification that construction will soon begin in your area. Expect people to be all over this project area. They will be surveying, locating utilities, digging around, workers walking through yards, loud noises, etc. We will not start the majority of the construction until after the first of the year (after the holidays).

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**If all lines going UG go to a pole at the corner of a property and the transformer is across the street, will you have to tear up the street to connect to it?**

JEA Engineers have done to great lengths regarding placement of the above ground equipment and have considered aesthetics. The good news is that the HDD method is not as invasive as open cut construction, but if you would like to look at the project plans, please see an engineer in the back.

**Will everyone go underground? How can we find out which neighbors did not sign up to go underground?**

We do not yet know who has decided to place their individual services underground. This is a personal decision and will not provide a list of property owners that signed up. Again, this is a personal decision.

**Can you recommend a contractor that can complete the undergrounding of private lines?**

Please see the neighborhood captain for more information such as the companies providing estimates for private work and possible upcoming neighborhood meetings hosted by your neighborhood captains.

Should you wish to finance the overhead to underground conversion of your private lines, please notify Project Outreach in advance regarding including this work in the special assessment.

**There are numbers on the map, do they mean anything to us?**

The numbers were used when we presented the project to City Council and are not relative to this project.