



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

COUNTY BOARD ROOM  
GOVERNMENT CENTER  
RED WING, MN

JANUARY 16, 2024  
8:30 A.M.

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 266 673 214 074  
Passcode: wknxqK

OR CALL IN  
[+1 872-240-8960,,925976225#](tel:+18722408960)

PHONE CONFERENCE ID: 925 976 225#

Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Line Project

Documents:

[MMRT\\_Presentation\\_Goodhue\\_1-9-2024.pdf](#)



# Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Project

## Overview

January 2024

# Improving Transmission Infrastructure In Minnesota and the Upper Midwest

The Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Project is one of several long-range transmission project identified by MISO, the regional grid operator, to support energy needs in Minnesota and throughout the region. Transmission line projects, like this one, strengthen the grid by:



Adding transmission capacity to accommodate increasing amounts of renewable energy generation as traditional generation resources retire.



Improving reliability and system resilience in the Upper Midwest.



Creating greater access to low-cost renewable energy.



Upgrading and updating infrastructure facilitates more jobs and increases tax revenue for cities and counties in southern Minnesota.



Supporting regional economic growth through new energy infrastructure.

# 2023 ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

- 9 in-person open houses
- 3 virtual open houses
- 2 self-guided virtual open house
- 2,700 website visits
- 33,000+ postcards mailed
- 86,000 people reached with 22 newspaper ads
- 137,000 people reached with Facebook posts
- 302 total comments received

## TOP COMMENT TOPICS



### Routing

122 Comments



### Information Request

92 Comments



### Proximity to Homes/Structures

70 Comments



### Environmental Impacts

35 Comments

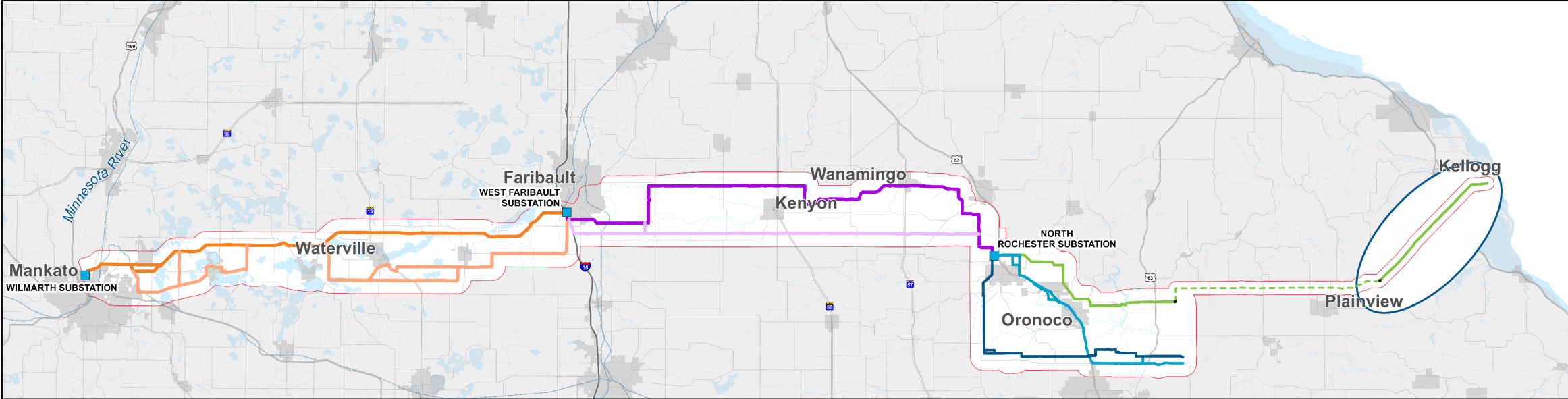


### General

20 Comments

# Project Map

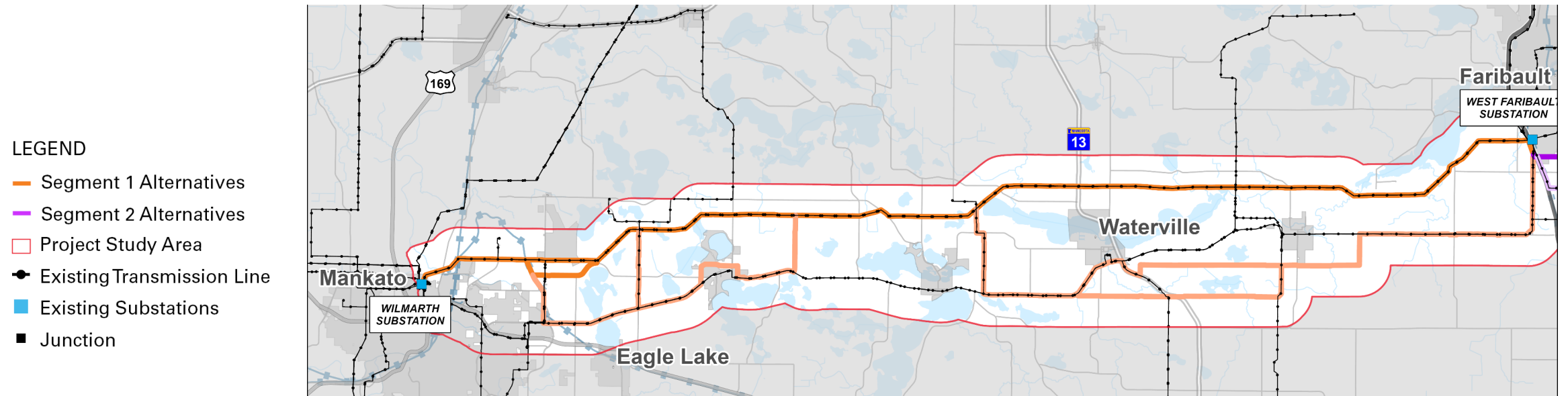
One project with four distinct segments.



# Project Segments

## Segment 1

**Build about 40 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in existing transmission corridors between the Wilmarth Substation in Mankato and the West Faribault Substation in Faribault.**



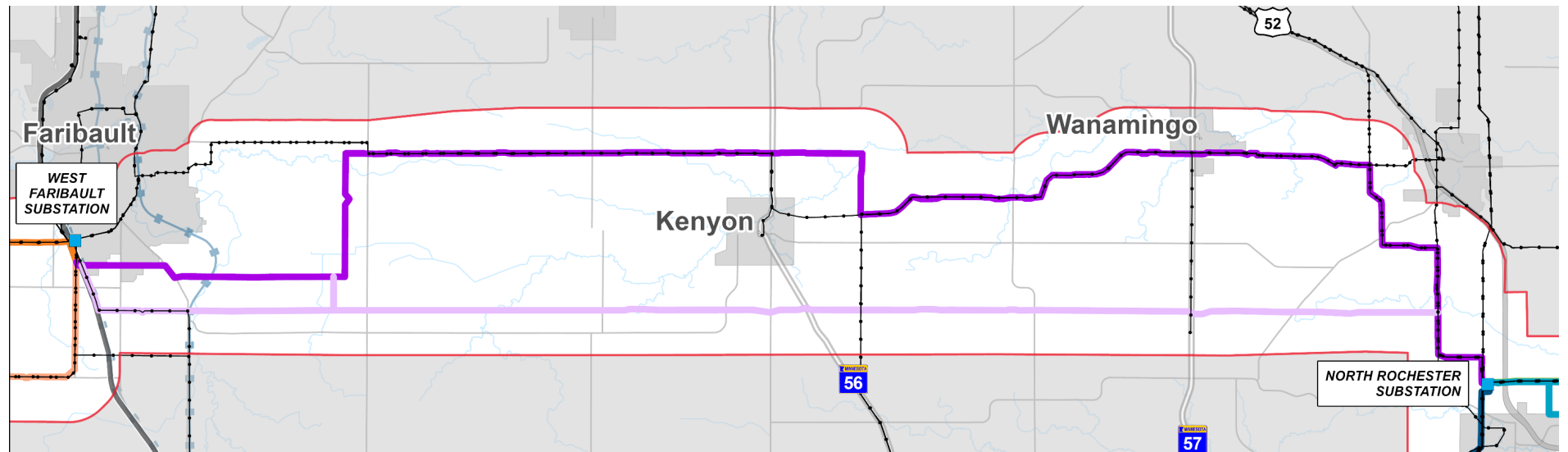
# Project Segments

## Segment 2

**Build about 35-40 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in either a new corridor and/or in existing transmission corridors from near the West Faribault Substation to the North Rochester Substation near Pine Island.**

### LEGEND

- Segment 1 Alternatives
- Segment 2 Alternatives
- Convert 161 KV to 345 kV
- Segment 4 Alternatives
- Project Study Area
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Substations
- Junction

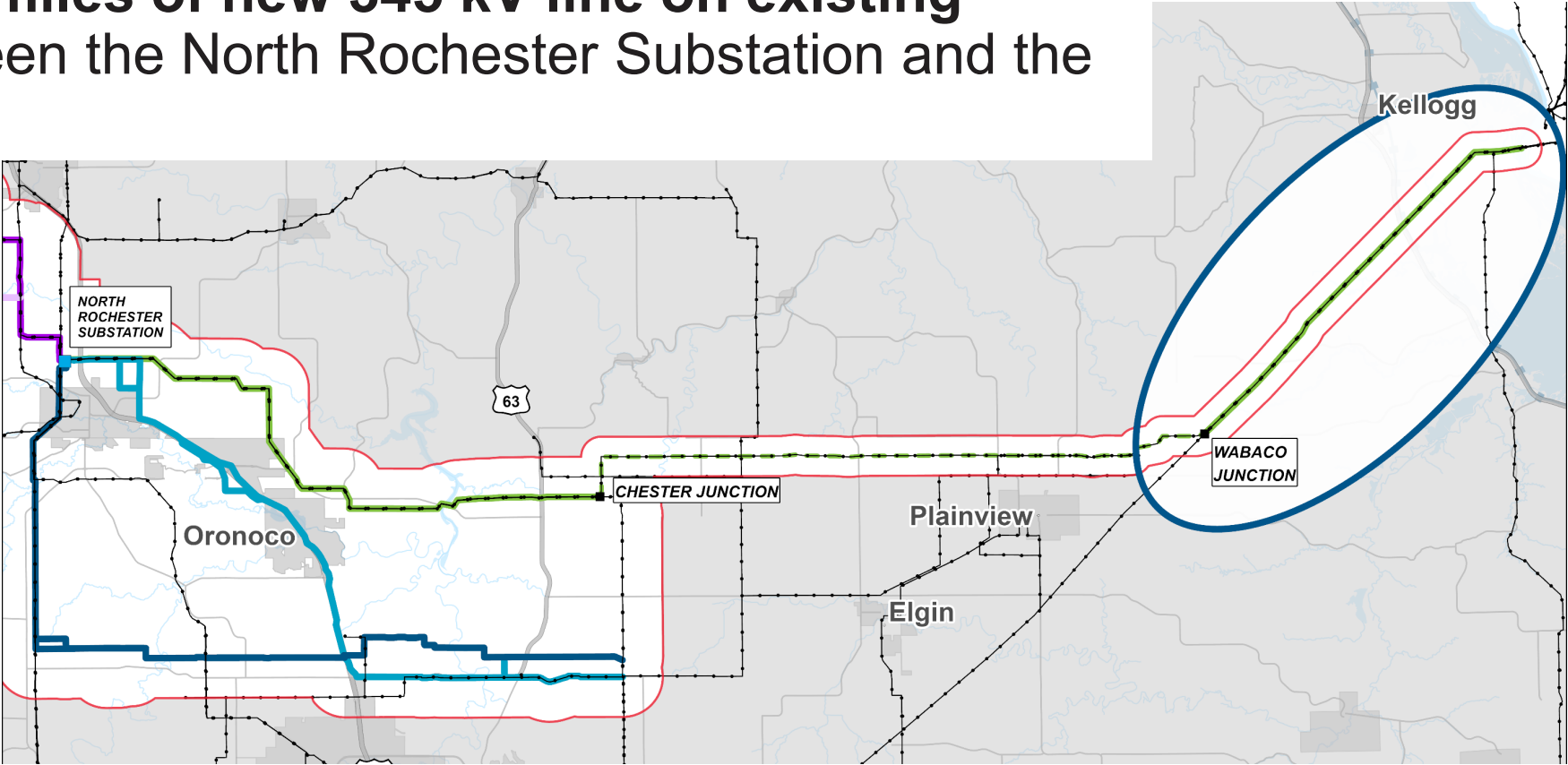


# Project Segments

## Segment 3

Convert about 26 miles of 161 kV line to 345 kV line and install about 16 miles of new 345 kV line on existing structures between the North Rochester Substation and the Mississippi River.

- LEGEND
- Segment 2 Alternatives
  - Segment 3 Alternative:
    - Add new 345 kV
    - Convert 161 KV to 345 kV
    - Segment 4 Alternatives
  - Project Study Area
  - DPC 161 kV Alternatives Study Area
  - Existing Transmission Line
  - Existing Substations
  - Junction





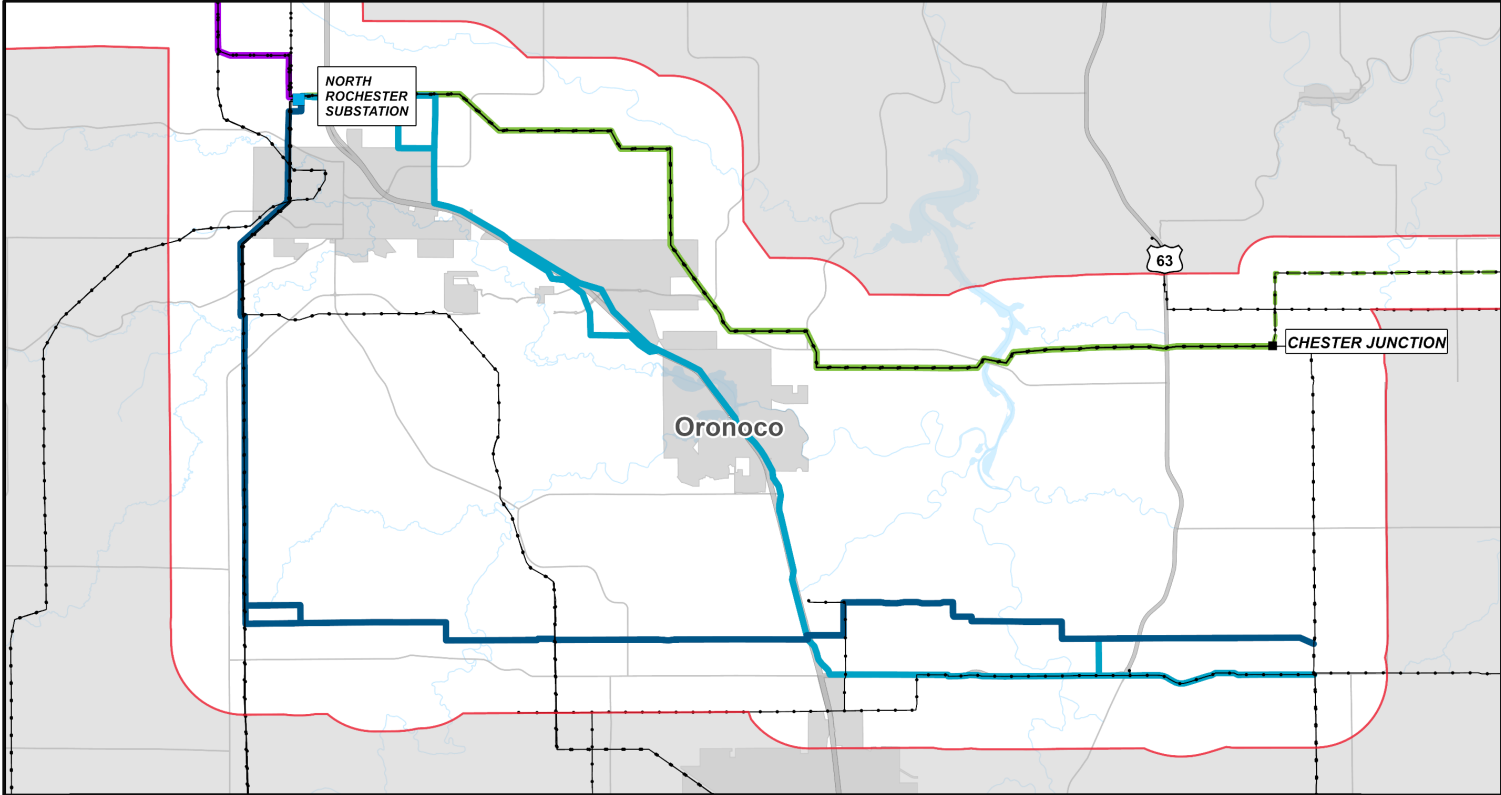
# Project Segments

## Segment 4

Build about 20 miles of a new single-circuit 161 kV line from the North Rochester Substation to an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester.

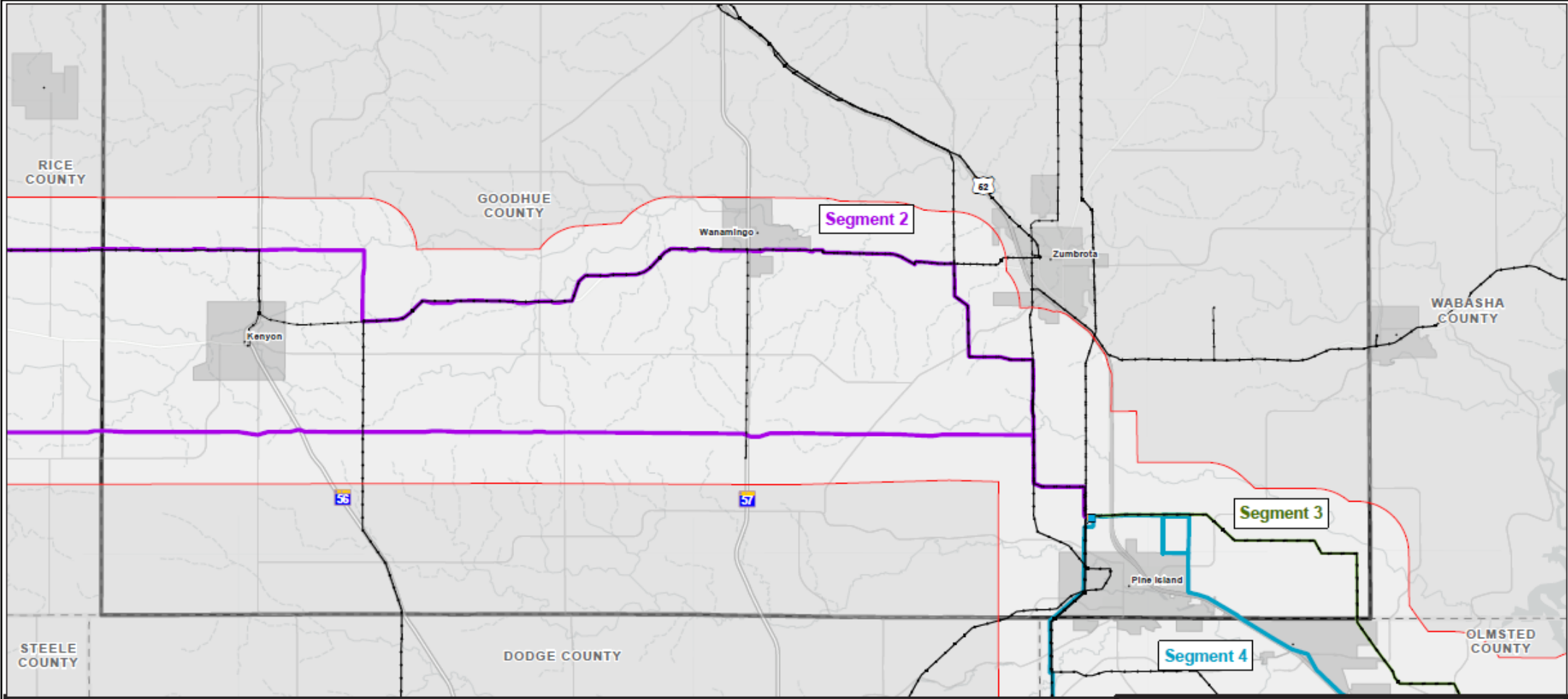
LEGEND

- Segment 2 Alternatives
- Segment 3 Alternative:
  - Add new 345 kV
  - Convert 161 kV to 345 kV
- Segment 4 Alternatives
- Project Study Area
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Substations
- Junction



# Goodhue County Segments

Includes portions of Segments 2, 3 and 4 and the North Rochester Substation



# Project Partners

- We're working with utility partners to develop portions of the project.
- **Development details:**
  - Xcel Energy will develop and own the infrastructure in Segments 1 and 2.
  - All project partners will participate in Segments 3 and 4.
  - All segments will be permitted together.
  - Dairyland Power will develop and permit a related project separately: the relocation of the 161 kV portion east of Plainview.



# Anticipated Project Schedule



**2022**

- Project identified by MISO



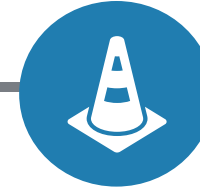
**2023**

- Route development process begins
- Public and stakeholder engagement
- Preliminary engineering



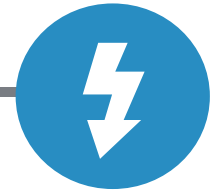
**2024-2026**

- Submit Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application
- Minnesota permitting review (including public engagement)
- Final engineering
- Negotiate with landowners to secure easements
- Obtain other required permits
- Continued public and stakeholder engagement



**2026-2028**

- Construction



**2028**

- In-service and restoration



## Routing Process

Our route selection process is a multi-step analysis that identifies route alternatives that minimize impacts to humans and the environment.

The process generally includes:

- Developing preliminary route options.
- Refining and field verifying preliminary route options – **we are here.**
- Submitting proposed routes to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

*Note: this process is flexible and steps may be revisited based on additional data and feedback from landowners, the public, local governments, Native American Tribes and resource agencies.*

# Permitting

**We expect to apply for a combined Certificate of Need and Route Permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in early 2024.**

## **Certificate of Need Application**

This describes why the project is needed, the issues building it will solve, and includes details such as engineering, operational details, environmental impacts and alternatives considered before submitting the application.

## **Route Permit Application**

This type of project requires at least two feasible proposed routes. The application includes proposed routes, significant information about each route option, including construction, maintenance and operations considerations, the land use considerations that went into developing the route, and other factors that were evaluated.



# Regulatory Process

Public meetings and hearings will be held throughout the project area. Some of those meetings will discuss the scope of the environmental assessment, and at public hearings, local landowners can comment about the overall project.

Landowners, local officials and other stakeholders can also submit written comments to the PUC.

**Following this process, the PUC will hold a public meeting to decide on the Certificate of Need and Route Permit, with a decision expected in 2024 or 2025. The PUC may select one option, or a combination of the options identified.**

# Working with Landowners

## Easement

Easements are a permanent right authorizing a utility to use the Right-of-Way (ROW) to build and maintain a transmission line.

Landowners are paid fair market value for the easement and can continue to use the land for most purposes so long as their use does not interfere with the operation and maintenance of the transmission line.

## Right-of-Way

A right-of-way (ROW) is the actual land area acquired for a specific purpose, such as a transmission line, roadway or other infrastructure.

Land uses in the easement area may be restricted based on types of activity, but after construction, agricultural activities can continue outside of the small area occupied by the transmission structures.





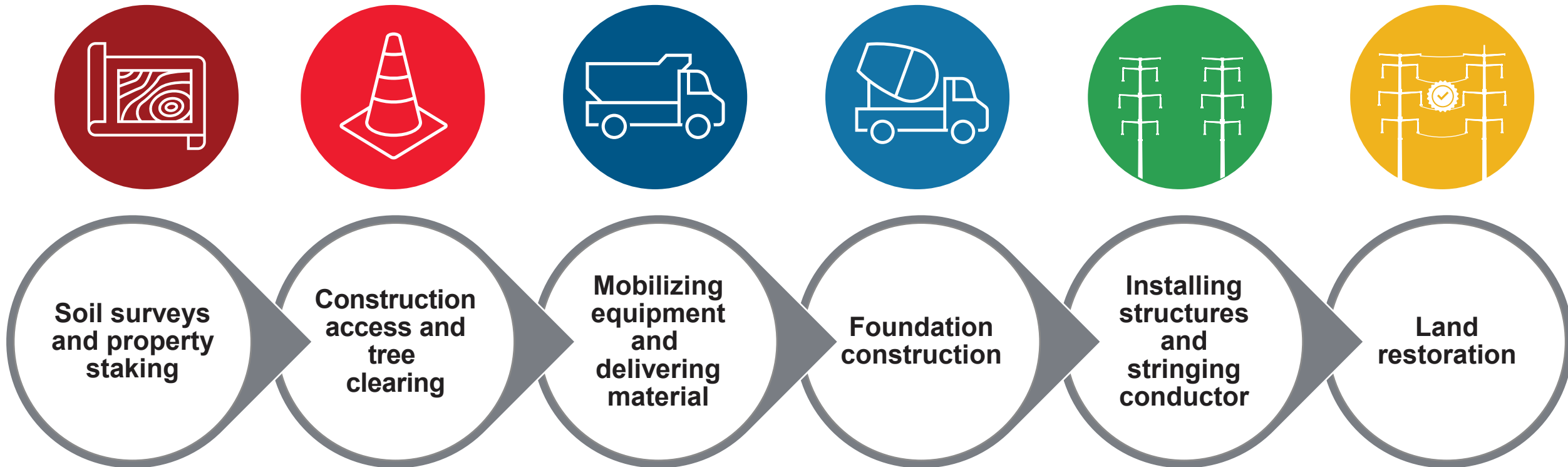
# Transmission Line Infrastructure

## Our anticipated design includes:

- Steel transmission structures
- Single-pole style for most structures
- Typical pole height is 100-150 feet, depending on the terrain
- **345 kV segments**
  - Typical ROW width is 150 feet
  - 800 – 1,200 feet between structures
- **161 kV segments**
  - Typical ROW width is 80 – 100 feet
  - 300 – 500 feet between structures

# Typical Construction Process

Our typical transmission line construction process includes the following steps:



# CONNECT WITH US!

If you have questions or need more information, our team will collect your feedback through our website, email and hotline. We'll respond to your comment as quickly as possible.

- Visit: [mmrtproject.com](https://mmrtproject.com)
- Email: [contact@mmrtproject.com](mailto:contact@mmrtproject.com)
- Call: 800-853-3365