

From the Executive Director of Parks requesting authorization to grant an easement to American Transmission Company (ATC) on County-owned land adjacent to Silver Spring Drive and I-41, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN ENGROSSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mill Road–Granville Transmission Line Project (the Project) is being constructed to strengthen the regional electric grid, improve system reliability, and meet increasing energy demand from existing customers, as well as new large-scale electrical loads; and

WHEREAS, the Project upgrades aging transmission infrastructure, adds a new substation, and prevents violations of mandatory electrical reliability standards; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) of the State of Wisconsin (the State) has formally determined that the Project is necessary to ensure an adequate and reliable supply of electric power for the region, making it critical to regional grid stability, public safety, and economic development capacity in the Southeastern State area; and

WHEREAS, the PSC required the American Transmission Company (ATC) to evaluate multiple alternatives, including alternative transmission configurations, non-transmission solutions, energy efficiency and demand response measures, a no-build option, and multiple route and corridor alignments; and

WHEREAS, the PSC rejected a more expensive alternative transmission build due to higher costs, greater environmental impacts, and increased right-of-way needs; found non-transmission options infeasible due to timing, capacity, location, and regulatory constraints; determined energy efficiency and demand response measures insufficient; and rejected the no-build option because it would leave the system in violation of reliability standards; and

WHEREAS, after evaluating corridor and route alternatives, the PSC approved the Primary Route, as it best satisfied Wisconsin State Statutory requirements by utilizing existing corridors, minimizing environmental and community impacts, reducing new right-of-way needs, and complying with the State's Energy Priorities Law, with no higher-priority alternative that is cost-effective, technically feasible, and environmentally sound; and

WHEREAS, if granted, the electric easement would be permanent (the Permanent Easement) and would provide Milwaukee County (the County) with a one-time revenue payment of \$77,974.40, calculated at \$1.60 per square foot for a total Permanent Easement area of 48,734 square feet ($48,734 \times \$1.60 = \$77,974.40$), ensuring ATC's continued access and operation of the transmission facilities, while securing fair compensation for the County; and

48 WHEREAS, the requestor has justified this easement by citing the need to
49 expand the regional electrical grid to meet demand from existing customers as
50 well as new large-scale electrical loads; and
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52 WHEREAS, no assurances have been provided that renewable energy
53 sources will be prioritized in grid expansion, nor is it evident that sufficient
54 consideration has been given to whether individual consumers will bear the
55 financial burden of new large-scale electrical loads; and
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57 WHEREAS, expansion of the grid without prioritization of renewable energy
58 sources appears, on its face, to be inconsistent with the targets stated in WEC
59 Energy Group's 2021 Climate Report and with the Milwaukee County Climate
60 Action Plan; and
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62 WHEREAS, both ATC and We Energies are regulated in part by the PSC
63 and, although separate entities, coordinate to provide essential energy services
64 to the residents of Milwaukee County; and
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66 WHEREAS, in File No. 26-419, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
67 expressed concerns regarding PSC oversight of a recent We Energies rate-
68 increase proposal, noting that rising electricity rates directly impact the finances,
69 health, and well-being of Milwaukee County residents and public services; and
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71 WHEREAS, based on the PSC's findings and determinations, and to ensure
72 compliance with State regulatory approvals and regional grid reliability, the Director,
73 Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC), recommends that DPRC, in
74 coordination with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Corporation
75 Counsel, Risk Management, DAS, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, and County
76 Executive, be authorized to prepare, review, approve, execute, and record all necessary
77 documents to formalize a Permanent Easement agreement with ATC; and
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79 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks and Culture, at its meeting of
80 May 26, 2026, recommended adoption of File No. 26-386 (vote 5-1); now, therefore,
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82 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby
83 authorizes the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, Department of
84 Administrative Services (DAS), Corporation Counsel, Risk Management, DAS, County
85 Clerk, and the Register of Deeds to prepare, review, approve, execute, amend, and
86 record all necessary documents and take any actions required to grant a permanent
87 electric easement (the Permanent Easement) to American Transmission Company
88 (ATC) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of electric service infrastructure
89 within Milwaukee County (the County); and
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91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if granted, ATC shall compensate the County with
92 a one-time payment of \$77,974.40, based on a rate of \$1.60 per square foot for the
93 48,734 square foot Permanent Easement area ($48,734 \times \$1.60 = \$77,974.40$); and
94

95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Executive and County
96 Clerk are authorized to execute, amend, and record the Permanent Easement and all
97 other documents necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution, and by doing so
98 affirm that they are executing such documents with the proper authority on behalf of the
99 County-; and

100
101 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of**
102 **Supervisors expresses its concern regarding the limited choices available to**
103 **utility customers; the financial burden of utility costs on residents, businesses,**
104 **and County operations; the negative health and wellness impacts of rising energy**
105 **costs; and the continued reliance on fossil fuel energy sources; and further**
106 **advocates for transparent, fair, and responsible utility rates and sustainable**
107 **energy practices.**
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