

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 13, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Informational report on entering into a potential easement with American Transmission Company (ATC).

File Type: Informational Report

REQUEST

Informational report on entering into a potential an easement with American Transmission Company (ATC) on County-owned land adjacent to Silver Spring Drive and I-41.

POLICY

§ 59.17(2)(b)3., Wis. Stats., states that the “county board may continue to exercise the authority under s. 59.52(6) with regard to land that is zoned as a park...”. In the law of property, authority over “land” include authority over all rights appurtenant to the land.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

The Mill Road–Granville Transmission Line 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. The project upgrades aging transmission infrastructure, adds a new substation, and prevents violations of mandatory electrical reliability standards.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) has formally determined that this project is necessary to ensure an adequate and reliable supply of electric power for the region. The project is therefore a critical component of maintaining grid stability, public safety, and economic development capacity in southeastern Wisconsin.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) required American Transmission Company (ATC) to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of alternatives to the Mill Road–Granville Transmission Line Project, including alternative transmission configurations, non-

transmission solutions, energy efficiency and demand response, a no-build option, and multiple route and corridor alignments. The PSC rejected a more expensive alternative transmission build due to higher costs, greater environmental impacts, and increased right-of-way needs, and found that non-transmission options, including new generation and non-wire alternatives, were not feasible due to timing, capacity, location constraints, and regulatory limitations. Energy efficiency and demand response measures were determined to be technically and economically insufficient to resolve the identified reliability deficiencies, and the no-build option was rejected because it would leave the system in violation of mandatory reliability standards. After evaluating corridor and route alternatives, the PSC approved the Primary Route, concluding it best satisfied statutory requirements by using existing corridors, minimizing environmental and community impacts, reducing new right-of-way needs, and complying with Wisconsin's Energy Priorities Law, with no higher-priority alternative that was cost-effective, technically feasible, and environmentally sound.

If this potential easement moves forward, Parks will come back to the board to seek approval. The electric easement to American Transmission Company (ATC) would be permanent and provide Milwaukee County with a one-time revenue payment of \$77,974.40. This amount is based on a rate of \$1.60 per square foot applied to the total easement area of 48,734 square feet ($48,734 \times \$1.60 = \$77,974.40$). The permanent easement would ensure ATC's continued access and operation of the transmission facilities while securing fair compensation to the County for the use of the property.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability

FISCAL EFFECT

Revenue of \$77,974.40 will be realized based on the \$1.60 per square foot for the 48,734 square foot easement ($48,734 \times \$1.60$)

TERMS

- Permanent Easement
- Right of Entry Permit Required for all work
- \$1.60 per square foot for the 48,734 square foot Easement

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

PREPARED BY:

Robert Senglaub, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks *guy smith*

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft Easement
Easement Map
PowerPoint

CC: David Crowley, County Executive

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Committee on Parks & Culture Chairperson
Steve Taylor, Committee on Parks & Culture Vice Chairperson
Priscilla Coggs-Jones, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Jack Eckblad, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Anne O'Connor, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Allyson R. Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB
Sandy Saltzstein, Research and Policy Analyst