

MANKATO-MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

INFORMATION SHEET
MINNESOTA

May 2023



About

The Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Line Project will improve reliability, deliver low-cost renewable energy and provide other regional benefits by building new and more resilient 'backbone' electric transmission infrastructure to serve customers.

This project is part of a portfolio of long-range electric transmission projects identified by the regional grid operator, MISO, to strengthen the overall grid, ensuring customers receive the electricity they need as aging generation plants are retired and new wind and solar energy plants are built.

Project Details

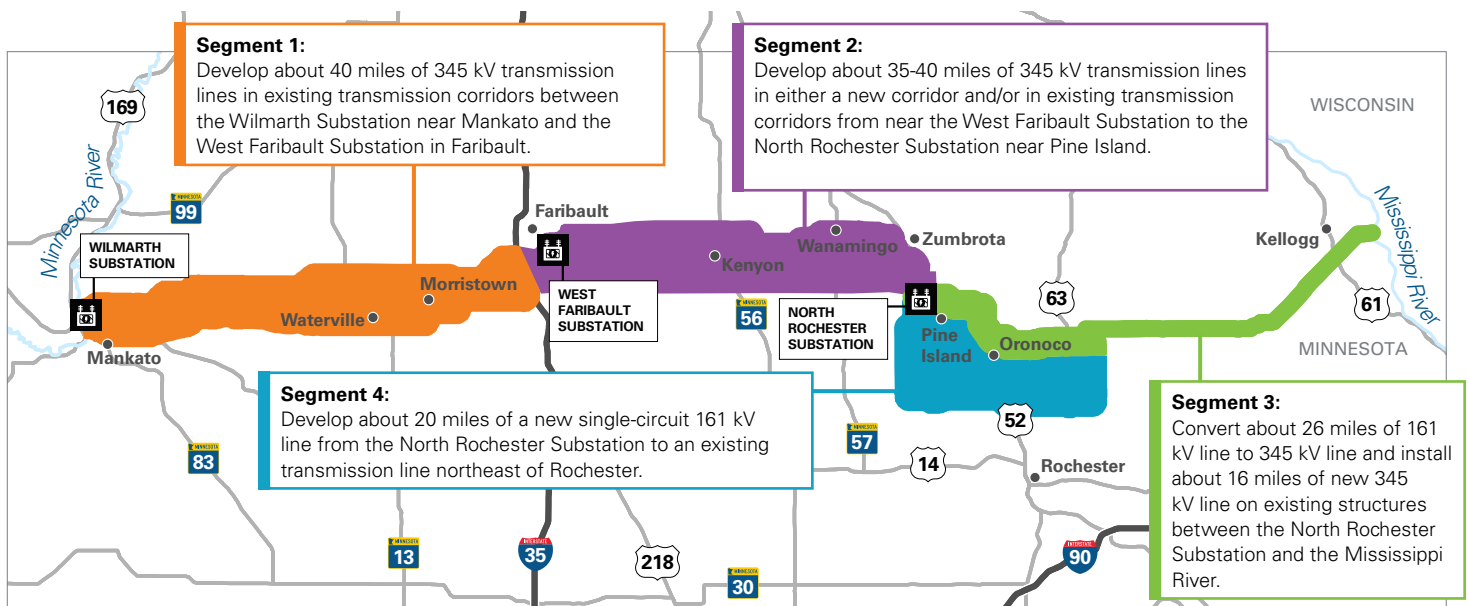
The Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Project includes about 120 miles of new and upgraded 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines between the existing Wilmarth Substation located in Mankato, Minnesota, and a connection point at the Mississippi River near Kellogg. It also includes building about 20 miles of new 161 kV transmission lines between the existing North Rochester Substation near Pine Island, Minnesota, and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester, which must be added to install the new 345 kV infrastructure.

Routing Process

Our route selection process is a multi-step analysis that identifies route alternatives with minimal impacts to humans and the environment. Preliminary routes are evaluated to identify potential impacts, including proximity to homes, opportunities to share corridors (including roads and other transmission lines), impacts to agriculture, locations of protected lands and resources, aesthetics, and other concerns.

Once preliminary routes are identified, we gather input from the local landowners, government officials, Tribes, and state and federal agencies to help refine the routes. Your input about specific constraints or challenges on preliminary routes, or identification of alternative route opportunities, is especially helpful as we develop the project. This input will be incorporated into the refined routes, which will then undergo a more detailed analysis. All of the information we review and comments we receive will help identify the routes which we will propose as part of a Route Permit we will submit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for review.

This project includes four segments:



This map is a general graphic and may not show exact locations.

Project Benefits

This project will provide several benefits in southern Minnesota and throughout the Upper Midwest:

- Adding transmission capacity to accommodate delivery of increasing amounts of renewable energy generation as aging traditional generation resources retire.
- Increasing the reliability and resilience of the Upper Midwest energy grid by developing new high-voltage connections to key substations that serve customers throughout southern Minnesota.
- Enabling greater access to low-cost renewable electricity.
- Upgrading and updating infrastructure supports local businesses and industries with reliable, affordable, resilient electricity.
- When possible, we hire local construction workers and companies for construction services, including cement, concrete, equipment rental and related services. Similar projects have shown that hundreds of workers and companies participate in these projects, providing benefits to the local economy.
- Building new transmission lines encourages construction of wind and solar power to bring more low-cost renewable electricity to help meet the electric needs of our state. These projects provide construction jobs, lease revenue for farmers and increased tax base to support communities.

Schedule

We will work closely with landowners, members of the public, local government officials, Tribes and resources agencies as the route development and regulatory processes move forward.

2022

- Project identified by MISO

2023

- Planning
- Route development
- Public and stakeholder engagement
- Preliminary engineering
- Submit Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application

2024 – 2026

- Minnesota permitting review (including public input)
- Final engineering
- Negotiate easements
- Other required permits
- Continued public and stakeholder engagement

2026-2028

- Construction

2028

- In-service and restoration

QUESTIONS?

We want to hear from you.

 **Call:** 800-853-3365

 **Visit:** MankatoMississippiRiverTransmission.com

 **Email:** Contact@MankatoMississippiRiverTransmission.com

