

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]UDC Amendments-Underground Transmission Line Relief C8-22-04, Special Exceptions

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 3:40:24 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: PlanningCommission

To: Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: Erin Posthumus <erinposthumus@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 3:39:42 PM (UTC-07:00) Arizona

To: PlanningCommission <PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]UDC Amendments-Underground Transmission Line Relief C8-22-04, Special Exceptions

I am a resident of Jefferson Park, Tucson's 31st Historic District. I live at the corner of Waverly and Vine, which would be directly underneath 85-110 foot industrial power poles if TEP is permitted to run lines from the substation down Vine Ave to Grant. The neighborhood has been working for over a decade to establish Vine Ave as a Green Corridor for residents, nearby neighbors, and visitors to use for walking and biking.

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the Unified Development Code.

These exceptions would set a dangerous precedent in allowing utilities to bypass any city ordinance that slightly inconveniences the utility's pocketbook. The establishment of City Gateway Corridors and Scenic Corridors should carry some weight, and prevent the installation of above ground large industrial poles.

Erin Posthumus
1445 E Waverly St, Tucson, AZ 85719

I strongly support the suggestions of the Undergrounding Coalition Committee stated here:

Here are the exceptions we should OPPOSE:

(TEP's language is in red, Steering Committee responses are in blue.)

12-d. An exception where - **existing high-voltage transmission lines, vertical structures, or buildings in area that already compromise the viewshed.** **No (See the awful visual impact of the current doubling up of poles on Grant from Alvernon to Swan).**

12-h. An exception where -**Proposed transmission lines provide electrical service to critical customers where overhead lines are strongly recommended for specialized operations; examples include but are not limited to: provision of electricity to Davis Monthan AFB or other installations necessary to the national defense, hospitals, research facilities, etc.** **No. We object categorically that hospitals and research facilities would be considered in the same manner as military facilities. We also oppose overhead lines at hospitals and research facilities and remain neutral about Davis Monthan and military facilities.**

12-i. An exception where - **Proposed overhead transmission lines, rather than undergrounded transmission lines on a particular route, would avoid undesirable aesthetic, viewshed, or other adverse impacts that would result from facilities being located on an alternative route.** **No. (This criterion, if implemented as written, would convert gateway and scenic routes from being special routes the Code intends them to be, to being subsidiary to other routes instead).**

12-k. A Special Exception request to relieve the requirement to underground transmission lines that meets the findings established by UDC section 3.4.5, Findings and which also

meets criteria a, e, and g of this subsection is deemed to presumptively meet the required findings for approval. **No. (There should always be full public review *without prejudice* of any proposed exception).**

Here are the exceptions we should ADD:

The amended preface and four new criteria are as follows:

12. Transmission lines may be relieved of their requirement to be underground per UDC section 5.3, Scenic Corridor Zone (SCZ) or section 5.5, Gateway Corridor Zone (GCZ) in accordance with UDC section 3.4.3 Zoning Examiner Special Exception Procedure. In addition to the required findings of UDC section 3.4.5, the criteria for Special Exception consideration includes the following, **with the understanding that an exception will be permitted only as long as none of the other following criteria are violated where the criteria are relevant:**

ADD 12-l. The effects that can be expected from permitting any of the exceptions listed herein or any combination of those exceptions when added together must remain consistent with the overall purpose and integrity of the gateway/scenic route, unless it is technologically impossible and/or clearly financially cost prohibitive.

ADD12-m. Notwithstanding any of the above criteria, above ground transmission lines are not allowed in or alongside historic areas (as defined by or listed in the National Register of Historic Places, properties or districts, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Zones, City of Tucson Historic Landmarks, or Neighborhood Preservation Zones).

ADD12-n. Utility cannot obtain relief from Gateway/Scenic ordinances by routing through adjacent residential neighborhoods.

ADD 12-o. Any new above-ground utility that is permitted must be designed, constructed, and also maintained to be as unobtrusive as possible.

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Changing The Scenic Gateway Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 4:13:35 PM Mountain Standard Time
From: PlanningCommission
To: Daniel Bursuck, Koren Manning

From: Molly Mckasson Morgan <memckasson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 4:12:55 PM (UTC-07:00) Arizona
To: PlanningCommission <PlanningCommission@tucsonaz.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Changing The Scenic Gateway Ordinance

Dear Commission Members--I am writing to urge you not to change the conditions for undergrounding electric towers along gateway corridors.

It would be a disaster for the heart of the city--negating years of city policies(and funding priorities) that were created to make the inner city more liveable and sustainable. High power lines down Campbell will sterilize one of the most desirable places in the whole basin to raise a family.

It would show homeowners and businesses that the protection they thought they had from city planners was only temporary. That their government has no intention of maintaining a high quality of life inside the City. That they may as well move out of the city if quality of life is what they want.

On the westside of town, running high power lines through beautiful stretches of Sonoran Desert would be another betrayal. And perhaps another reason to move out of the city and into the County--thus defeating the sustainable benefits of urban density which for years have been the cornerstone of Tucson planning.

Why would you even consider such a change to the current Gateway requirements when it is a loss for everyone in the city?

I hope to be at the hearing tonite and to hear this destructive idea defeated. HIGH POWER LINE WIRES SHOULD HAVE TO GO UNDERGROUND IN SCENIC CORRIDORS. The Mayor and Council had it right in the past. I urge you to continue their insightful protection.

Thank you--Molly McKasson 2888 E. 4th St.