

**From:** "Brandie Schaeffer" <bschaeffer@warrentonva.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri, 15 Apr 2022 18:29:37 +0000  
**To:** "Brandie Schaeffer" <bschaeffer@warrentonva.gov>;  
"cnevill@warrentonva.gov; Town Council" <TownCouncil@warrentonva.gov>;  
"bhamby@warrentonva.gov" <bhamby@warrentonva.gov>;  
"kcarter@warrentonva.gov" <kcarter@warrentonva.gov>;  
"rcarlos@warrentonva.gov" <rcarlos@warrentonva.gov>;  
"spolster@warrentonva.gov" <spolster@warrentonva.gov>;  
"hsutphin@warrentonva.gov" <hsutphin@warrentonva.gov>;  
"jhartman@warrentonva.gov" <jhartman@warrentonva.gov>;  
"wsemple@warrentonva.gov" <wsemple@warrentonva.gov>  
**Subject:** Dominion Energy

Here is additional background information and discussion on this topic.

Thank you,  
Brandie

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**From:** Brandie Schaeffer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:35 PM  
**To:** William Semple <wsemple@warrentonva.gov>  
**Cc:** Rob Walton <rwalton@warrentonva.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Power Line Location

Bill,

I have done my best to answer your questions below and if it is easier, we can take another meeting. The complication is this is mostly a discussion between Dominion and the County at this point, and while we have a part to play our feedback is a small portion of the overall route. This is being developed and nothing has been finalized or released.

If you would not mind, I would like to forward this to all of Council to ensure we stay on the same page.

Thanks!  
B

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**From:** William Semple <[wsemple@warrentonva.gov](mailto:wsemple@warrentonva.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 2:08 PM  
**To:** Brandie Schaeffer <[BSchaeffer@warrentonva.gov](mailto:BSchaeffer@warrentonva.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rob Walton <[rwalton@warrentonva.gov](mailto:rwalton@warrentonva.gov)>  
**Subject:** Power Line Location

Brandie,

At our brief meeting on the Dominion substation project, you mentioned that one of the options available to Dominion Power was to run a high voltage transmission line

under Walker Drive. You suggested using this route might be a reasonable choice since at the same time, Walker Drive could be repaved. You also said that this option among others had already been approved by the SCC.

My statements to Dominion are that the Town's preference, as a more urbanized area, is any additional lines be underground once they hit the Town border. During the last update that I participated in, Dominion shared options and challenges showing the narrowed list of seven routes in more detail. The County staff gave feedback and I did not other than requesting underground lines. There are several options for where the lines could enter Warrenton based on the route that is preferred in the County. I do believe as long as they are underground it is a viable option for the Town but have not listed it as preferred. My feedback has been limited in scope as the impact is more to the County and allowing them to review the impacts first and remaining flexible if it is underground is the advice I am giving the Council, so this is what I meant by saying it is a reasonable option.

I never stated existing approval by the SCC, rather I stated the opposite in that this was the first stage and Dominion would be holding a work session with the County BOS in April to start the process. When I started to outline the process, you told me you were aware and were one of six to have filed on the previous case in the northern part of County stopping the lines that resulted in the expansion of the existing corridor through Culpeper County.

I'd like to know more about all this.

1. I searched the State Corporation Commission, looking for the relevant approval of various route options and found PUR-2021-00127, which was filed last June and decided (I believe) in January, but could not find anything specific to Walker Drive. If you know of any documentation or can direct me to the correct case number, I'd appreciate having the chance to review it.

There is nothing at this time as Dominion is working on options and plans to start with a work session with the Fauquier BOS in April. The purpose of holding meetings to make Council aware is ensure the first time you hear of the additional lines and proposed routes is not in the paper after the BOS meeting. I am trying to be proactive and ensure you are not caught off guard when the information is released to the BOS and subsequently the public. Last I saw they were still working and had some errors in the proposed routes regarding various small factors that would get settled between Dominion and County GIS, so there is nothing to review as they are still working on it to the best of my knowledge.

2. The only recent documents I could find on the County website were directed to an Opal substation application.

Correct, the first step for Dominion is the Opal substation and then from there lines to Warrenton substation, and then lines from the Warrenton substation to the Blackwell site.

3. I also need to know more about the differences are between repaving a road and burying a transmission line. I found only one reference to Walker Drive in

the existing CIP. While the Planning Commission work session agenda item is titled Draft FY 23-28 CIP, the only document available online is the existing 22-27 CIP.

No information has been shared with me on the construction impact and timeline with the installing of underground lines.

This is the early phase of discussion, there are possible routes being developed and from there public hearings for feedback on the routes and then a filing to the SCC for their selection. We are at least a year out based on my review of even knowing a route.

There is no question that utility installation is more impactful to timeline than just paving. Understanding the exact construction timeline will be at engineering phase otherwise it would be rough estimates based on unknowns. Broadview is a good example of why estimating timelines on major project too early just leads to more confusion of residents. When the project is large or not completely our project staff has minimal ability to estimate and or hold the third party accountable to the schedule.

For Council in these meeting the only point I'm highlighting is if Walker Drive is to be repaved in the next couple of years, and the transmission line could potentially come down Walker Drive, than rather than disturb it twice let's do it once and save the Town the money and residents headache. I have suggested such because this position is consistent with Town Council's approach on Broadview with delaying repaving and adding the utilities such as new water lines and hydrants, and possible electric for enhanced lights and fiber. This is also the goal with Main Street, to attempt to add more fiber and make water and sewer line repairs during the process, it will take more time than just transportation, but it is better than doing it multiple times. I am always looking for options to achieve savings and overlap projects to reduce overall collective impact. For us, project money is hard to come by, so we are always looking for economies of scale but would also note that when consulting for Charlottesville they also took the same approach having a longer impact rather than several different short projects. This approach saved money in the long run and was supported by the downtown businesses along the mall.

Nothing with Dominion or repaving of Walker Drive would be in the CIP which is why you are not finding anything there.

I also would like to review the draft 23-28 CIP. Selected projects were extracted for tonight's Planning Commission public hearing to confirm consistency with the Comp Plan, including the roundabout at E. Lee Street and Falmouth.

Ok, I have not had time to review everything going to the PC tonight but can circle around with Rob and Denise to see what they presented. Projects are often held in out years to assist Town staff with getting VDOT to study the options absent the Town having to hire independent consultants. Items in the CIP are a basis for a lot of what VDOT needs in consideration. The Town Council is only authorizing the projects in year one, and out years are place holders, and the design is not set, but holding in out years reduces spending burdens on the town taxpayers.

Regards,

William T. Semple  
Town Council, Ward 2  
Warrenton, VA  
cell: 1 (540)-422-5031 (government)  
office: 1 (540) 347-4378  
[wsemple@warrentonva.gov](mailto:wsemple@warrentonva.gov)