

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

By Schiff, Lilligren and Gordon

Regarding Xcel Energy's Midtown High Voltage Power Line Proposal.

Whereas, Xcel Energy has proposed the "Hiawatha Project," a project in which Xcel Energy would construct and operate high voltage power lines along the Midtown Greenway and/or a nearby parallel roadway between Hiawatha Avenue and I-35W and construct two new substations--one near Hiawatha Avenue and one near I-35W; and

Whereas, some businesses in the Lake Street/Midtown Greenway corridor have experienced electricity quality or supply issues that have adversely affected them; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis supports the continued economic development in the Lake Street/Midtown Greenway corridor with higher density developed as encouraged through the City's Midtown Greenway Land Use and Development Plan; and

Whereas, the Midtown Greenway is a regional amenity and public space which serves thousands of users daily most months of the year and has served as the catalyst for development along its edges; and

Whereas, high voltage power lines are incompatible with the character of neighborhoods in Midtown, creating visual pollution in the corridor, negatively impact property values and diminishing the potential for future development; and

Whereas, at least four community organizations in the impacted area have opposed the project and/or called for delaying it to allow for studying alternative methods of abating power requirements or supplying the electric power as well as load management through means such as Smart Grid; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis' Sustainability Initiatives related Climate Change and Renewable Energy support the pursuit alternatives to traditional methods of supplying electricity for users in our city; and

Whereas, Xcel Energy is working on a needs assessment for the Hiawatha Project that would accompany its permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission but whose content has not yet been completed or made public;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis believes that the time is now to pursue the production of electricity more responsibly, the delivering of electricity more intelligently, and the consuming of electricity more efficiently.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis recommends that Xcel Energy delay its routing permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for the Hiawatha Project and provide greater detail regarding the current and future electricity needs that the project is planned to address, as well as a thorough analysis of aggressive alternative methods to abate and/or supply the electricity that is needed.

Be It Further Resolved that if such an analysis is undertaken and fails to yield a successful alternative approach to the need for high voltage power lines in Midtown; that the preferred route for the new high voltage transmission lines is underground below 28th Street East.