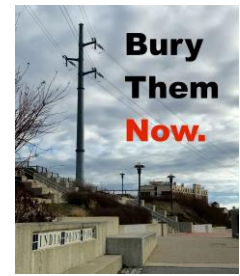




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SUMMARY: The Case for Burying the Power Lines On the Providence/East Providence Waterfront

What's at stake: the next 100 years for our waterfront. National Grid proposes to replace massive electrical towers built in 1918 with new ones that would dominate our waterfront for another century.

Civic Benefits

- upgrade four popular waterfront parks (India Pt, Bold Pt, Corliss Landing, & Seekonk River Linear Park Bridge) used by an estimated 200,000 people a year.

Environmental Benefits

- increase resilience by protecting power lines on the floodplain at the head of Narragansett Bay
- eliminate the public health risk of exposure to electro-magnetic fields for nearby residents.

Economic Benefits

- increase tourism: If just 1% of the 10 million through-travelers on I-195 were enticed by an upgraded waterfront to stop and spend \$100 here, our economy would gain \$10 million a year.
- generate 500 jobs for the burial project.
- enhance the property values and marketability of prime waterfront parcels in Providence and East Providence, increasing the tax bases of both cities for generations to come.

Public Support

- 78 organizations support burial, including state and local government agencies and business, labor, environmental, and civic groups.
- 2,100 petition-signers submit 400 comments urging burial. Summary at www.IPPfriends.org.
- seven *Providence Journal* editorials, five op-eds, and three joint letters from the Presidents of Brown, RISD, and Johnson & Wales.

Project Feasibility & Cost

- Four independent consultants have found that burial is feasible, and two others have concluded that attaching the cables under the Seekonk River Linear Park bridge is also feasible.
- \$18 million raised, more than half the most recent \$34 million estimated cost of burial.

Solution

- Additional burial funds – another \$9 million or more -- could come from ISO-New England, the regional grid. A small increase of up to 10 cents a month for the average ratepayer -- less than one tenth of 1% of the \$95 average monthly RI electrical bill – would raise enough to bury the lines.
- In other states (eg, CA, CO, and SC), investor-owned utilities have been burying strategically located lines for decades by spreading the cost among thousands of ratepayers over 20 years. Other mid-size cities (eg, Chattanooga, Louisville, Annapolis, and San Antonio) have reaped major, lasting economic and environmental benefits from burying power lines in shoreline parks.

