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**September 7, 2021**

**Xcel Project Briefing for the City of La Crosse Board of Public Works**

***Re-route of Xcel Energy electric circuits (Lax62/65) out of the La Crosse River Marsh***

**Overview**

In the fall of 2021, Xcel plans to build the first phase of a project that will remove two critical overhead electric distribution lines (Lax62/65) from the La Crosse River Marsh and replace them with a combination of overhead and underground lines originating from the La Crosse substation on Lang Drive. This project will improve reliability, allow for easier maintenance access, and provide a better nature view for those enjoying the La Crosse River Marsh.

**Need**

This project is critical to continue reliable electric service to the central area of La Crosse. In 2019 during high water, four poles along Lax 62/65 in the marsh had to be temporarily anchored because they were leaning over at a 45-degree angle. In addition, the poles along the marsh trail need more frequent maintenance due to age and condition.

**Existing circuit through La Crosse River Marsh**

The current Lax 62/65 circuit begins at Xcel's La Crosse substation on Lang Drive, travels south and then goes east through the marsh. At the Grand Crossing paved trail, it turns to the south and then leaves the marsh continuing south on the west side of East Avenue to La Crosse Street.

**Replacement Circuit**

Phase 1 (2021)– Construct overhead lines (27 poles on right of way and 2 on Xcel property) from the Xcel La Crosse substation to the south along the east side of Lang Drive. The double circuit will be built on 55' poles in road right-of-way. Trees located along this route will be removed to provide clearance for the new lines.

Phase 2 (2022) – Install an underground double circuit on the east side of Lange Dr/West Ave from La Crosse Street to Badger Street then east along Badger to East Avenue then north to La Crosse Street. After the new circuit is energized, Xcel Energy will de-energize the original circuit and remove 26 poles currently located in the marsh.