

MEMORANDUM

January 20, 2023

From: Bryan Livingston, Mayor of Argyle

To: Argyle Town Council and Town of Argyle

Subject: Oncor Transmission Line Opposition Progress Report

Today is the negotiated deadline for Oncor to receive public comment on the route map that was provided to the public in early December. If you have not found the time to file your comment form yet, please do so today or at the latest over the weekend. If you have questions or need assistance to complete the form, which you can find in fillable pdf form at [argyletx.com](http://argyletx.com), please do not hesitate to give me a call at 817.689.0478. We need to sprint to the end of the comment period. I am overwhelmed by the number of citizens who have already responded with thoughtful and articulate comments. **Thank you for Speaking Up, Argyle!**

- A. **Comment submissions.** The town staff has done a terrific job of bringing together our in-house efforts with the outside consulting resources that we needed to mount an effective public information effort. The Speak Up Argyle social media campaign has made thousands of impressions and the mailers have encouraged citizens to respond. As of Wednesday, Oncor has received over 1,400 comment forms, approximately 1,200 of those from Argyle. We can do better still, and I am confident that we will. We have seen a steady ramp up in submissions in the last few days.
- B. **News media attention.** Our PR firm has been briefing local and regional news media effectively, yielding two stories this week. Fox 4 ran a story on Tuesday and Wednesday (<https://www.fox4news.com/news/argyle-residents-fighting-against-oncors-proposed-20-mile-transmission-line-through-town>) and KRLD radio covered the Oncor story yesterday (<https://www.audacy.com/krlD/news/local/upcoming-oncor-transmission-line-causing-concern>).
- C. **Oncor – US Army Corps of Engineers Meeting.** Congressman Michael Burgess invited representatives from Oncor and the USACE to meet with him and Mayor

David Retting of Northlake, Mayor Derek France of Flower Mound and me yesterday. The meeting resulted in a commitment by Oncor and the Corps to work together to identify potential crossings of Corps property that could be feasible for inclusion in the southern alternative route that Northlake and Argyle have suggested. There are big challenges involved in considering a potential southern alternative driven by environmental requirements and other considerations. But we took the first step to get both Oncor and the Corps to make a serious assessment of what actions would be required to plan and engineer a transmission corridor that crosses Corps property.

- D. **Argyle Direct Engagement with Oncor.** Argyle is communicating with Oncor through the attorney hired by staff, Mr. Thomas Brocato. His activities up to now in the process have been to advise the staff on steps Argyle can take to increase the chances of the D3 and D4 segments being removed from the May 24 filing to the Public Utilities Commission by Oncor. He has confirmed that our best course is to maximize public comment and to engage with Oncor's legal advisor on removing the D3 and D4 segments and exploring the southern alternative. His initial conversations with Oncor have suggested that Oncor will continue to resist the southern alternative on the basis of the time required to complete an environmental review and the cost of the more expensive towers required to traverse Corps property that is designated environmentally sensitive. Mr. Brocato's interactions with Oncor were helpful in shaping the Argyle and Northlake approach that brought them to the table with the Corps in the meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. He will follow up next week with Oncor to confirm that they are moving ahead with the Corps to evaluate possible crossings.
- E. **Oncor Comments During Flower Mound Town Council on January 19<sup>th</sup>.** An Oncor representative stated in a work session before the Flower Mound Town Council that no routes in Argyle would "require the condemnation of a home" and "we have no routes (where) a home is within the easement area". These firm statements conflict with information provided earlier, so I have asked staff to request a written confirmation from Oncor that the D3 and D4 segments will not result in the loss of homes in Argyle or the town's extraterritorial jurisdiction.