



Board Summary Report

Date: October 10, 2019

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Shannon Carter, Open Spaces Director

From: Glen Poole, Open Space Operations Manager

Subject: **Utility Easement for Public Service Company of Colorado at South Quebec Way Trailhead**

Request and Recommendation

Request the Board of County Commissioners to authorize the Chair to execute the conveyance of a perpetual utility easement with Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel) located at Quebec Way Trailhead.

Staff and County Attorney have reviewed the easement and have determined it meets the County's requirements. Staff recommends the utility easement be granted by the County.

Background

The South Quebec Way Trailhead (1900 South Quebec Way) is in the Four-Square Mile Neighborhood, adjacent to the High Line Canal and north of Iliff Avenue. The 1.3-acre trailhead site provides parking and public access to the Highline Canal Trail. The Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel) is working in the area to improve the operation and reliability of their utility infrastructure. Xcel has requested a perpetual easement to allow the placement of a new switch cabinet within the South Quebec Way Trailhead.

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Service First: The Easement supports a positive relationship between the County and the local utility company who both serve the citizens of Arapahoe County.

Quality of Life: The Easement will support reliable public utilities for the citizens of the Four-Square Neighborhood.

Discussion

The Four-Square Mile Neighborhood has numerous active housing and commercial development projects. The Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel) has completed an operations and risk assessment of their utility infrastructure in the area surrounding South Quebec Way Trailhead. Through this assessment Xcel has determined that a need exists to move a portion of their aerial switch gear underground and to add capacity to their electrical infrastructure. Xcel has identified a set of existing aerial switch gear along the right of way adjacent to the South Quebec Way Trailhead. Xcel would like to place the switch gear adjacent to the South Quebec Way Trailhead underground and the most feasible option is to place the associated switch gear cabinet within the South Quebec Way Trailhead. Open Spaces staff participated in the design and siting of the proposed switch cabinet as well as field verified

the associated easement location. The new switch cabinet and associated easement will have minimal impact to the aesthetics and public functionality of the trailhead.

Alternatives

1. Approve the Easement as submitted.
2. Deny the request for an Easement.
3. Re-negotiate the terms of the Easement.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of the utility easement will create no foreseeable fiscal impacts to the Open Spaces Fund as Xcel will be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the switch cabinet.

Attachments

Easement Agreement and Legal Description
Map of Switch Cabinet Location within the Trailhead

Reviewed By

Glen Poole, Open Space Operations Manager
Shannon Carter, Open Spaces Director
Tiffanie Bleau, Senior Assistant County Attorney