DC PLUG: Project Review & Current Status
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The DC PLUG initiative started in August of 2012 with the establishment of the Power Line Undergrounding Task Force by Mayor Vincent Gray. The plan is a multi-year program designed to underground up to 30 of the most vulnerable overhead distribution lines in the District, spanning over 6-8 years. The task force recommended a partnership between Pepco and the District of Columbia, where the key stakeholders (Pepco, The District & DDOT) would share responsibilities to fund, develop and implement the ambitious but necessary plan of undergrounding some of the District’s most vulnerable powerlines. The 1st Biennial Plan was approved by the Public Service Commission in November 2017, with the project work beginning in early 2019.

To-date, construction of Feeder 308 which services Tenleytown, Friendship Heights and American University Park neighborhoods in Ward 3 was completed in May 2020 with transformer load testing through October 2020. All underground transformers are energized and are currently serving Pepco customers as of November 2020. Additionally, Feeder 14900 which services Hawthorne, Barnaby Woods, Chevy Chase & Friendship Heights neighborhoods in Ward 4 (also known as the Oregon Ave Reconstruction Project) is scheduled to begin in Q3 2021 with completion in Q4 2022.

Four remaining feeders are still in the planning phases from the 1st Biennial Plan scheduled to be undergrounded. Feeder 368 that services Benning Ridge, Fort Dupont Park, Dupont Park, Civic Betterment, Marshall Heights & Fort Davis neighborhoods in Ward 7; and Feeder 14578 that services Congress Heights, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington Highlands & Bellevue in Ward 8 are actively in the civil design stages with stakeholders as of 2021, with Notice to Proceed orders from the PSC for Feeder 15009 that services Hawthorne, Barnaby Woods, Chevy Chase & Friendship Heights neighborhoods in Ward 4 and Feeder 14007 that services Brookland, Michigan Park & Woodridge neighborhoods in Ward 5 having not yet been issued. For more information on the DC PLUG initiative, including current status, visit dcpluginfo.com.