PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

ZONING CASE FINAL REPORT



DATE: November 19, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor & City Council

FROM: Planning & Zoning Commission

VIA: Mike Bell, AICP, Development Review Manager acting as Secretary of the Planning &

Zoning Commission

Christina D. Day, AICP, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: Results of Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting of November 18, 2024

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2A - ZONING CASE 2024-024 PETITIONER: ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY

Request for a Specific Use Permit for Electric Substation on 0.2 acre located 1,370 feet east of Jupiter Road and 1,065 feet south of Plano Parkway. Zoned Research/Technology Center and located within the State Highway 190/Plano Parkway Overlay District. Project #ZC2024-024.

APPROVED: 8-0					
Speaker Card(s) Received:	Support:	3 Oppose:	0	Neutral:	0
Letters Received Within 200' Notice Area:	Support:	0 Oppose:	1	Neutral:	0
Letters Received Within the Subject Property	Support:	0 Oppose:	0	_ Neutral:	0
Petition Signatures Received:	Support:	0 Oppose:	0	_Neutral:	0
Other Responses:	Support:	0 Oppose:	0	Neutral:	0

RESULTS:

The Commission recommended the item for approval subject to the following stipulations:

A masonry screening wall at least eight feet in height shall be provided to screen the electrical substation area.

To view the hearing, please click on the provided link: https://planotx.new.swagit.com/videos/320601?ts=241

MC/af

cc: Eric Hill, Assistant Director of Planning
Christina Sebastian, Land Records Planning Manager
Melissa Kleineck, Lead Planner
Justin Cozart, Sr. GIS Technician
Jeanna Scott, Building Inspections Manager
Dorothy Alatorre, Sr. Administrative Assistant - Neighborhood Services

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

STAFF PRELIMINARY REPORT: NOVEMBER 18, 2024



AGENDA ITEM NO. 2A

PUBLIC HEARING: Zoning Case 2024-024

PETITIONER: Oncor Electric Delivery Company

CASE PLANNER: Molly Coryell, AICP

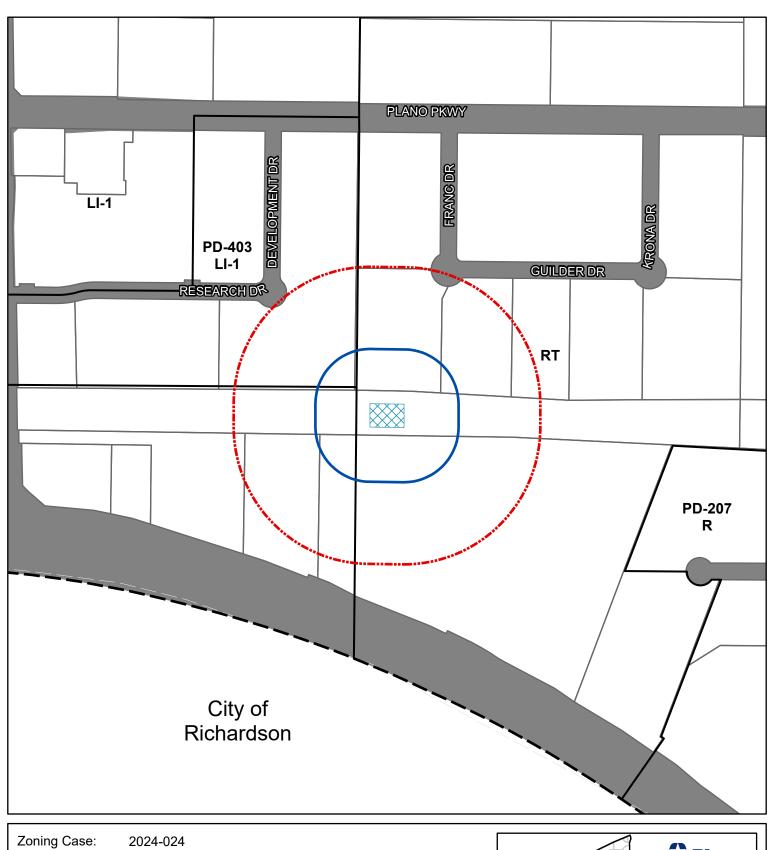
DESCRIPTION: Request for a Specific Use Permit for Electrical Substation on 0.2 acre located 1,370 feet east of Jupiter Road and 1,065 feet south of Plano Parkway. Zoned Research/Technology Center and located within the State Highway 190/Plano Parkway Overlay District. Project #ZC2024-024.

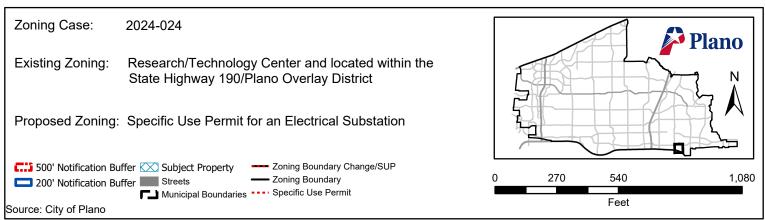
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

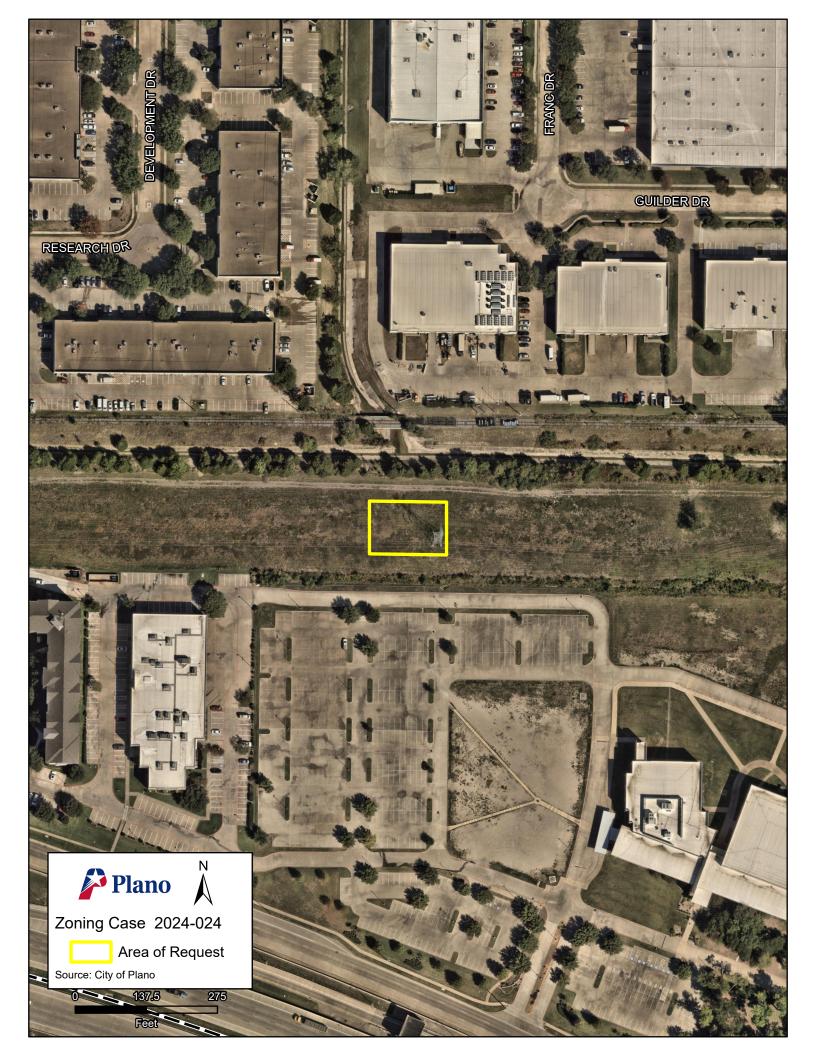
The applicant is requesting a Specific Use Permit (SUP) for an electrical substation to be located on a property with existing transmission lines. Major topics of consideration in this request include:

- Associated Data Center The subject property is located along the route of high-voltage electric
 transmission lines that generally run along the border between Plano and Richardson before
 extending farther east into Murphy. The substation is necessary to provide a data center located
 1,700 feet northeast of the subject site access to the electrical grid. A temporary power route to
 the data center is being utilized from an existing substation along Shiloh Road; however, this is
 not available as a permanent solution due to conflicting infrastructure in the right-of-way.
- SUP Restriction An 8-foot masonry wall is proposed to screen the substation from public rightof-way and adjacent properties.
- Conformance to the Comprehensive Plan The request is consistent with the Employment Centers (EM) Dashboard of the Comprehensive Plan.

For these reasons, staff is supportive of the request. A preliminary site plan accompanies this request as Agenda Item No. 2B.







STAFF PRELIMINARY REPORT – INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The applicant is requesting a Specific Use Permit for an Electrical Substation adjacent to existing transmission lines currently zoned Research/Technology Center.

<u>Zoning</u> – The subject property is currently zoned Research/Technology Center (RT). *Section 10.1300.1* (*Purpose*) of the Zoning Ordinance states the purpose of the RT district is as follows:

The RT district is intended to create a low density employment center consisting of office, research and development facilities, and limited assembly operations. RT districts should generally accommodate several users in a campus environment.

<u>Specific Use Permits</u> – *Section 6.100 (Specific Use Permits)* of the Zoning Ordinance states:

The purpose of an SUP is to authorize and regulate a use not normally permitted in a district, which could benefit, in a particular case, the general welfare, provided that adequate development standards and safeguards are established.

Additionally, 6.100 (Specific Use Permits) states the following:

The Planning & Zoning Commission in considering and determining its recommendations to the City Council on any request for a specific use permit may require from the applicant plans, information, operating data, and expert evaluation concerning the location, function, and characteristics of any building or use proposed. The City Council may, in the interest of the public welfare and to insure compliance with this ordinance, establish conditions of operation, location, arrangement, and type and manner of construction of any use for which a permit is authorized. In authorizing the location of any of the uses listed as specific use permits, the City Council may impose such development standards and safeguards as the conditions and locations indicate important to the welfare and protection of adjacent property from noise, vibration, dust, dirt, smoke, fumes, gas, odor, explosion, glare, offensive view, traffic, or other undesirable or hazardous conditions.

Proposed Use – The Zoning Ordinance defines Electrical Substation as follows:

A subsidiary station in which electric current is transformed.

Proposed SUP Stipulations – As part of this request, the following stipulation is proposed:

• A masonry screening wall at least eight feet in height shall be provided to screen the electrical substation area.

<u>Site History</u> – The subject property was developed with public transmission lines approximately 55 years ago. It was rezoned from Light Industrial-1 (LI-1) to Research/Technology Center (RT) when the RT district was established as a new zoning district in 1998.

Surrounding Land Use and Zoning

The boundaries of the SUP are located within a larger 9.7-acre tract zoned a combination of Research/Technology Center (RT) and Light Industrial-1 (LI-1) and developed with electric transmission lines.

North	The properties are zoned LI-1 and RT and developed with light-intensity manufacturing, professional/general administrative office, and office showroom/warehouse uses.
East	The property is zoned RT and developed with electrical transmission lines.
South	The property to the south is zoned RT and developed with a religious facility.
West	The property is zoned LI-1 and RT and developed with electrical transmission lines.



<u>Guiding Principles</u> – This set of Guiding Principles to the Comprehensive Plan (Plan) establishes overarching themes that apply to all policies and actions and express values for Plano Today, Plano 2050, and Plano Together. Since the principles do not stand alone but are used in concert with one another and carry across the Plan as a whole, each principle must be judged through a lens that incorporates all other principles to be fully and accurately understood. As such, the Commission is encouraged to review the full list of Guiding Principles and judge zoning requests through the lens of all principles.

Core Policies: The following policies serve as the fundamental basis for staff recommendations for zoning cases.

<u>Land Use</u>: Plano will support a system of organized land use to provide housing and employment choices aligned with the market, where new and redevelopment areas respect the viability and quality of life for existing neighborhoods, businesses, and institutions.

Redevelopment & Growth Management: Plano will protect and preserve the well-established built environment of Plano and prevent overcrowding by requiring new growth and redevelopment to respect the unique development patterns, suburban character, housing needs, infrastructure capacity considerations, and fiscal constraints of our community.

Future Land Use Map Category & Dashboard

<u>Future Land Use</u> – The subject property is located within the <u>Employment Centers (EM)</u> category of the Future Land Use Map (FLUM).

Description: The EM category applies to the business centers in the Legacy area and along the Plano Parkway/President George Bush Turnpike. The primary uses for Employment Centers are corporate office campuses, medical centers, educational facilities, technology centers, and research facilities. Limited manufacturing and warehouse uses may be allowed to support the employment centers.



A substation could support a variety of nonresidential uses, including corporate office campuses, medical centers, and technology centers. The associated plan shows this substation is intended to support a data center. The request is in conformance with the EM description.

Applicable Priorities

Priority #1: Maintaining land for employment-generating uses.

The request for the proposed substation could support a variety of employment-generating uses in the EM category. The land is owned by Oncor Electric Delivery Company and is considered TXU right-of-way. As such, very limited opportunities for further development exist. The right-of-way supplies a critical support function for the employment-generating uses in the EM category, and this request adds

functionality to the existing right-of-way property. The request supports the city's goal to maintain land for employment-generating uses by utilizing existing right-of-way for the substation, rather than developable land.

FLUM – EM Description and Priorities				
Description		Meets		
Priorities	#1: Maintaining land for employment-generating uses	Meets		
	#2: Evaluating policies to sustain the long-term viability of corporate	N/A		
	campuses			
	#3: Updating the Legacy Area Master Plan	N/A		

Mix of Uses – The proposed SUP for an Electrical Substation does not change the mix of uses in the EM designation.

<u>Desirable Character Defining Elements in EM Designation</u> – The proposed SUP for an electrical substation is to support an associated data center. No significant changes that impact the character-defining elements are proposed.

Other Comprehensive Plan Maps

The request is in conformance with the <u>Thoroughfare Plan Map</u>, <u>Bicycle Transportation Plan Map</u>, Parks Master Plan Map, and the Expressway Corridor Environmental Health Map.

Additional Comprehensive Plan Policies

<u>Findings Policy</u> – Findings are not required to approve this request.

Facilities & Infrastructure Policy

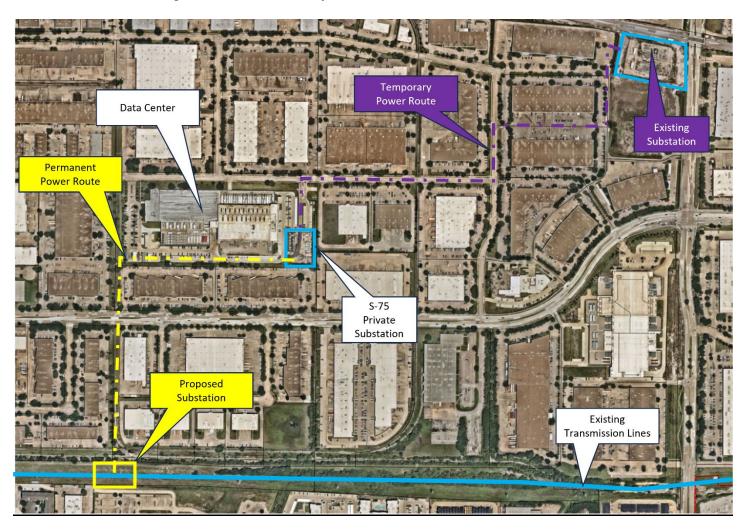
- Adequacy of Public Facilities The site will provide additional connectivity to the electrical grid for nearby properties. No major impacts on water or sewer are anticipated for the development of the substation.
- Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) A TIA is not required for this rezoning request.
- School Capacity N/A
- Public Safety Response Time Fire emergency response times will be sufficient to serve the site based on existing personnel, equipment, and facilities.
- Access to and Availability of Amenities and Services N/A

Conformance to the Comprehensive Plan Summary

Policy or Study	Analysis
Future Land Use Map and Dashboards	
Description & Priorities	Meets
Mix of Uses	No Change
Character Defining Elements	N/A
Other Comprehensive Plan Maps	N/A
Findings Policy	N/A
Facilities & Infrastructure Policy	Meets

Associated Data Center Use

The substation is necessary to serve an existing data center on a lot located approximately 1,700 feet northeast of the subject site. In August 2024, an SUP (S-75) was approved to construct a private electrical substation on the data center site in support of a recent building expansion. Power was originally requested to run from the existing Oncor substation at the southwest corner of Shiloh Road and 14th Street, as shown in purple on the map below. This request was not allowed as it relied on routing through city right-of-way that resulted in conflicts with existing water infrastructure. As a result, power is temporarily being provided from the existing substation, but this request will replace that temporary supply. The new Oncor substation proposed in this request will provide permanent power to the data center along the route shown in yellow.



Specific Use Permit Stipulations

As part of this request, the applicant is proposing an 8-foot high masonry screening wall around the perimeter of the substation. The inclusion of this screening will reduce the visual impacts of the proposed electrical substation and preserve the aesthetics of the State Highway 190/Plano Parkway Overlay District.

SUMMARY:

The applicant is requesting a Specific Use Permit for an Electrical Substation located on property with existing transmission lines. The request is generally consistent with policies within the Comprehensive Plan. For these reasons, staff supports the request.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommended for approval as submitted.

