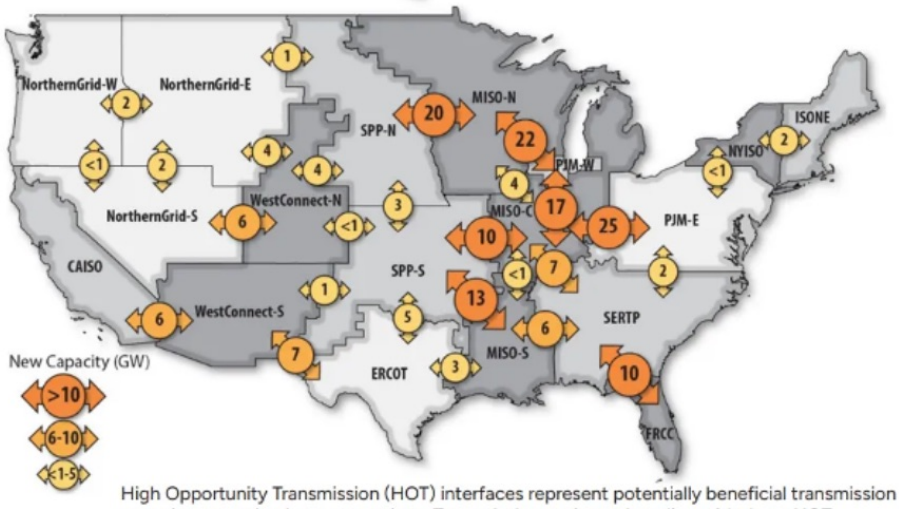
Americans for a Clean Energy Grid

ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES AT THE *PACE* OF TRUST

Expanding the transmission grid quickly to meet growing demand requires not just technical expertise, but also strategic community engagement. Without broad community support, a transmission project can face long and expensive delays, sometimes to the point where a project is no longer feasible.

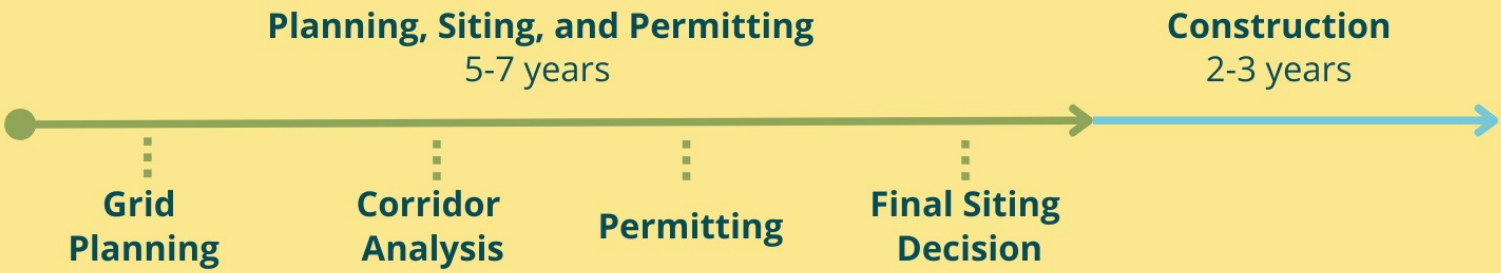


High Opportunity Transmission (HOT) interfaces represent potentially beneficial transmission capacity expansion between regions. Transmission projects that align with these HOT interfaces could serve as a starting point for accelerated transmission expansion studies.

Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, in partnership with DNV developed principles through conversations with transmission developers as well as agricultural, nature and environment, environmental justice, Indigenous, and labor advocates. These principles aim to enable the timely expansion and upgrading of the U.S. electric grid through building trust and collaborating with a wide range of community groups.

These recommendations will be issued in a report in early 2025 titled *The PACE of Trust: A framework by community voices for advancing transmission.*

The end goal: Better community engagement can shorten the time it takes to approve and build transmission projects, making them more likely to succeed and offering significant value to businesses, families, and communities. Under the current timeline, it often 10 years or more for a transmission line to be developed.



ACEG's report will offer several consensus-based best practices for community engagement and benefits, helping to resolve potential issues early on and find solutions that work for everyone, as part of the *PACE* framework.

P **articipation and engagement of communities**

A **ccountability and good governance**

C **ommunication, transparency, and trust**

E **conomic and non-economic benefits**

Key Recommendations

1. **Establish** a national forum or roundtable to discuss specific challenges in hiring locally and building a skilled workforce for transmission projects.
2. **Pre-identify** environmental best practices that can be used when building transmission lines.
3. **Develop** a methodology for assessing and valuing the impact of transmission lines on agricultural land, which can also apply more broadly to other types of land.
4. **Identify** funding mechanisms and accommodations to enable community-based organizations to participate meaningfully and provide informed feedback in the transmission development process.
5. **Provide** clear, accessible, and timely public notice to communities when planning large transmission development projects.
6. **Consider** developing programs, ideally through an Office of Public Participation, that fund local workforce development in impacted communities.
7. **Consider** requiring utilities to include community benefits agreements in large, rate-based projects that involve significant public or ratepayer funds or affect many residents, particularly in disadvantaged areas.