



**Tampa General Hospital Storm-Hardening Project  
Frequently Asked Questions  
July 24, 2019**

**FAQ**

**Q. What is all the construction on and near Davis Islands about?**

A. Tampa Electric and Peoples Gas are moving some of our electric lines and our natural gas line off the Plant Avenue bridge and relocating them beneath the channel. This is significant undertaking, and the project will take several months.

**Q. Why are you doing this?**

A. This is a storm-hardening project that will help protect a “critical facility” in our community after severe weather. Tampa General Hospital is the region’s only Level 1 trauma center. We are relocating its electric and natural gas service to ensure TGH will be able to provide care during and after a hurricane or other natural disaster.

This is similar to storm-hardening work we have done in recent years to benefit the Port of Tampa, Tampa International Airport, Tampa’s Tippin water treatment plant and St. Joseph’s Hospital. In each case, we have replaced or upgraded our equipment to better withstand the impacts of high wind or storm surge, to reduce the chances of power outages at these critical facilities.

**Q. How much will it cost? Who’s paying for it?**

A. Tampa General Hospital has made significant investments in storm-hardening improvements at the hospital, and Tampa Electric and Peoples Gas are investing between \$5 million and \$10 million total for our work.

**Q. What will you do if there’s a hurricane during construction?**

A. In the event of an approaching hurricane, we would ensure residents can safely evacuate Davis Islands. We would secure the work zone and safely store all equipment until the storm passes.

**Q. What will happen to the park when you’re done?**

A. After construction is complete, we will restore the park to its original condition. We will work with community members on landscape design.

**Q. How long will this project take?**

A. The project begins in July 2019 and is expected to be complete by May 2020. The work that will involve the most traffic disruption along Davis Boulevard will be complete in late October. .

**Q. Will this improve reliability for Davis Islands residents?**

A. The goal of this project is to improve the resilience of Tampa General Hospital, which will benefit the entire community. It will not affect the day-to-day electric reliability for Davis Islands residents. If a Davis Island resident is having reliability issues with electric or gas service, we are happy to address those separately.

**Q. Why can't you put the other power lines under the channel at the same time?**

A. Relocating the electric circuits beneath the channel is expected to cost between \$5 million and \$8 million. Those costs would nearly double if we were to include the additional electric circuits to feed Davis Islands residents. It is important to remember that the goal of this project is to improve the resilience of Tampa General Hospital, which will benefit the entire community. This is similar to the storm-hardening work we have done in recent years to benefit the Port of Tampa, Tampa International Airport, Tampa's Tippin water treatment plant and St. Joseph's Hospital.

**Q. What is the plan to restore power to the residents if the circuits that serve the community are damaged in a storm?**

A. If existing cables serving the island are damaged, Tampa Electric would restore electric service to residents and businesses as part of our overall storm restoration plan.

**Q. Isn't there a new law that allows utilities to install power lines underground? Can't this be considered under that new law?**

A. The new law is still in its infancy, and regulators and legislators are in the process of developing the rules and processes to use. In the future, Tampa Electric will consider which power lines have the most exposure to outages from severe weather, and which might benefit from changes such as installing lines underground.

**Q. Where are the work areas?**

A. There are two work areas for this project. The work zone on Davis Boulevard will be used to assemble pipe that will be used for electric and gas lines under the channel. On the mainland, drilling equipment has been set up in the parking lot of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church. Nearby residents and businesses should expect construction-related noise.

**Q. Will this project impact traffic?**

A. Traffic will be impacted on Davis Islands and on the mainland near the project area as follows:

**Davis Islands – electronic message boards and traffic signs will be in place to guide drivers**

- The construction work zone will use the center two lanes of Davis Boulevard to set up and assemble pipe from the bridge to Arbor Place.
- Traffic along Davis Boulevard will be restricted to one southbound lane (on to the island) and two northbound lanes (off the island) from late July through October.
  - The work area will be shortened in late September through late October.
  - The shorter work area will be set up again for one week in late December.
- During this time, left turns onto Davis Boulevard from some streets will be prohibited.

**Mainland**

- The work area was set up in the parking lot of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church the week of July 8th.
- A portion of one lane of West De Leon Street (near South Plant Avenue) will be closed for about six weeks beginning in late October.
- Additional work will take place in the right of way to connect the electric and gas lines.

**Q. How can I get more information about this project?**

A. Additional information and a project map can be found online at [tampaelectric.com/projects](http://tampaelectric.com/projects) and [peoplesgas.com/systemupgrade](http://peoplesgas.com/systemupgrade). You also can leave a message for the project team by calling 813-630-5231.