



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: January 4, 2006
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Minneapolis Street Lighting Policy and Visibility Study Update**

Recommendations

Receive and File

Previous Directives:

- February 1, 2005 – Removed moratorium on new lighting petitions for capital improvement reconstruction projects.
- December 14, 2004 – The Council directed Public Works to proceed with the Best Management Practices work and return to Committee in February with a working plan for the development of visibility standards.
- October 12, 2004 – The Council received a progress update of the Draft Street Lighting Policy and community feedback.
- July 27, 2004 – The Council received an overview of the 2004 Draft Street Lighting Policy dated July 19, 2004, requested Public Works to begin the community involvement process, and to return to committee with an update on October 12, 2004.
- December 13, 2002 – Council adopted the Standard Street/Alley Wood Pole System and again allowed for wood pole lighting petitions; the rest of the Lighting Policy was postponed.
- August 9, 2002 – The Council directed Public Works to gain neighborhood input, cease new petitions, and review Orfield proposal.
- June 13, 2002 – 2002 Draft Minneapolis Street Lighting Guidelines were presented and postponed at TPW.
- December 1, 1999 – Draft Street Lighting Policy discussed and postponed at TPW.

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Approved by: _____
Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Jon Wertjes, P.E., Director, Traffic and Parking Services

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- X** No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information:

Street Lighting Visibility Study

Public Works began contracts with two consultants to perform lighting visibility studies in Residential and Pedestrian Districts. Orfield Laboratories is working on Residential Districts and Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. is working on Pedestrian Districts. The goal of the study is to develop and determine performance criteria and methods that would define and increase nighttime lighting visibility. Public Works has met with each consultant to observe what has been accomplished so far in the study.

Residential Lighting Districts

Orfield Laboratories is currently refining their model and will be doing some additional data collection and will soon begin the jury process to gather input. There are approximately 2½ months of work remaining for Orfield to complete their portion of the study. This includes the jury process.

Pedestrian Lighting Districts

Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. has completed their model. They have also met with Public Works to review fixtures that will be used in the model as alternatives to the current city fixtures.

Tasks that need to be completed include the jury review of the model of the existing standards and potential modifications, field implementation of the preferred alternative, jury review of the modified field conditions, and preparing performance specifications. This work will take 4 to 6 weeks.

Schedule

The initial schedule for the lighting visibility study was for completion in 6 months, beginning in February 2005 and completion by August 2005. The selection of the consultants, preparation of contract, and the signature process delayed the start of the studies until mid- to late July 2005.

Each consultant has the jury process remaining. The review of the modeled lighting alternatives by the jury will be started in January 2006. This will be followed by the jury's preferred alternative being implemented in the field for a test period and additional review by the jury. Snow cover is currently a factor, both firms' models were done with no snow cover and that can alter the jury's reaction to the test lighting and how it relates to what was modeled. The field implementation portion of the lighting visibility study should begin in mid to late February. Coordinating the schedule of jury members, weather, and procurement of sample fixtures to test in field are examples of factors that may delay the estimated schedule. The street lighting visibility study is anticipated to be complete in March 2006.

Street Lighting Policy

The Street Lighting Policy standards will be updated following the results of the Visibility Study because they will affect the lighting standards used. The results of the study may have a cost implication to the city (e.g., fixture, operation, and maintenance costs) that will need to be reviewed.

Information regarding the Xcel Energy Service Contract and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board standards will be included in the Policy.

Xcel Energy has drafted a new Street Lighting Service Contract as well as a supplemental letter to cover issues not covered in the formal document. These documents are currently being reviewed by Xcel Energy's legal department. After Xcel's legal review the city will have the opportunity for review and comment.

The standard fixture and lighting levels for parkways will be included in the Street Lighting Policy.

The cost implications of including pedestrian street lighting with street reconstruction projects are currently being evaluated. When including pedestrian street lighting in road reconstruction projects, the assessed amount could range from 0% to 100% of the cost of the lighting. When this information is complete, it will be included in the Minneapolis Street Lighting Policy.

The draft Minneapolis Street Lighting Policy should be complete in May 2006, contingent on the completion of the lighting visibility study, and discussions with Xcel Energy and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

cc: Jon Gurban, Michael Schmidt, Judd Rietkerk - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Barbara Sporlein, Jack Byers - CPED
Rhonda Rae, Steve Mosing, Dennis Bechard – Public Works
Gail Plewacki, Communications
Ed Backstrom, City Attorney's Office