

# Minneapolis Street Lighting Policy Highlights

There are four sections to the Minneapolis Street Lighting Policy: Plan, Standards, Process, and Funding. The policy provides guidance and consistency to street lighting installations in Minneapolis.

## Plan

There are three street lighting area types in the City of Minneapolis, Residential, Pedestrian, and Central Business District- Centroid. These areas were defined using “Access Minneapolis” as a guide.

## Standards

Standard Minneapolis street lighting must meet performance, material and maintenance requirements. (Lighting performance requirements vary by area type. Performance is measured by light levels, light uniformity, and glare.) Currently there are four styles approved for street lighting in Minneapolis: lantern, acorn, teardrop, and shoebox. The parkway teardrop fixture will be used as part of an on-going parkway lighting renovation program.



Lantern



Acorn



Teardrop



Shoebox



Shoebox



Parkway

## Process

All street reconstruction projects will automatically include the installation of new street lighting. Property owners may petition to opt out of the automatic new street lighting when a street reconstruction project is coming. Property owners may also petition to get new street lighting early, without waiting for street reconstruction. The minimum area to be considered for an advance street lighting project is four contiguous blocks, on both sides of the street, or a business node in pedestrian areas. Both of the processes are shown below.

### Opting out of new street lighting during a street reconstruction project

When property owners adjacent to a street reconstruction project area would like to opt-out of the installation of street lighting the City will prepare a Phase II petition.

The Phase II petition will be in the form of a mailing that will define the project's boundaries, the estimated total cost, the Uniform Street Lighting Assessment rate, information about the remainder of the process, and a form to complete and return to the city. If 51 percent of the property owners in a residential area (70 percent of property owners in a pedestrian area or business node) opt-out of street lighting, then the reconstruction project will advance without including street lighting.

### **Requesting street lighting early, without waiting for a street reconstruction project**

A two-phase petition process will be used to install lighting in advance of a street reconstruction project.

Phase 1: Residents and/or property owners begin the process to install street lighting by contacting the City. The requestor will work with the city to determine project limits. The City will provide a petition that includes project boundaries, estimated project cost, and the current Uniform Street Lighting Assessment rate. Residents and/or property owners will circulate the petition for signatures and submit the signatures to the City. To be considered successful, 35% of the property owners in the affected area must have signed the petition. The petition will be reviewed and validated by the City.

Once the Phase 1 petition process is successful, the City will prepare a Phase II petition. (Phase 1 needs to be completed within 6 months)

Phase 2: The City will mail information to all taxpayers of record affected by the project. The mailing will define the project's boundaries, the estimated total cost, the Uniform Street Lighting Assessment Rate, information about the remainder of the process, and a form to complete and return to the city. If 70 percent of the property owners approve the street lighting, the City will begin the City Council approval process for the project.

### **Funding**

The installation of street lighting will be funded by assessing properties in the project area. Assessments are payable over 20 years (with interest charges on the unpaid balance on the assessment), or they can be paid in full at any time.

#### **Estimated 2009 rates per square foot of property**

Residential area	From \$.45 to \$.55
Pedestrian area	From \$1 to \$1.25
Central Business District	From \$2.50 to \$2.75

#### **Estimated assessment for a typical residential lot 40 feet by 125 feet (5,000 square feet)**

Residential area	From \$2,250 to \$2,750
Pedestrian area	From \$5,000 to \$6,250

The property owner can choose to pay all at once or spread it out over 20 years. Spread out over 20 years, the annual payments for a typical-sized lot in a residential area would be approximately \$125 per year, plus interest on the unpaid balance. Annual payments for a typical-sized lot in a pedestrian area (in a business node) would be approximately \$275 per year, plus interest on the unpaid balance.