



Department Source: City Utilities - Water and Light

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 15, 2019

Re: Public Hearing for the replacement of streetlights in the Downtown Community Improvement District

Executive Summary

This public hearing is for the replacement of streetlights in the Downtown Community Improvement District. Partial funding for this project has been allocated under project number E0180 of the Capital Improvement Program. E0180 has approximately \$270,000 in remaining funds that have already been appropriated. The City is anticipating that the Downtown Community Improvement District will contribute \$30,000 in funding giving a total of approximately \$300,000 for this project. It is estimated that 94 streetlights could be replaced with this funding level.

Discussion

In 2001 a demonstration project was started to replace the existing streetlights in the Downtown Community Improvement District (The District) with acorn style lights as shown in Exhibit A. Shortly after the demonstration was accepted, the remaining lights in the downtown area were replaced with acorn style streetlights in a partnership with The District. As part of the project, The District provided the acorn lighting hardware and the City provided for the installation. At the same time the existing steel poles were painted black to match the new hardware.

Many of the acorn lights fixtures have failed over the years and have been replaced with the standard streetlight that was available at the time. This has created a very diverse streetlight population in the downtown area. Many of the poles that were painted black, especially those that were initially galvanized, are now peeling.

Beginning in FY 2016 a CIP project to address lighting in The District was created (E0180). This project had three primary goals:

1. Underground the overhead electric streetlight circuits.
2. Installation of additional lighting for under lit areas including the alley ways.
3. Replace the streetlight infrastructure that was painted black.

Since that time, staff from Water & Light has coordinated with The District on several projects to accomplish these goals. Most of the overhead electric streetlight circuits have been removed and placed underground. The District has partnered with the City by providing wall sconces in Alley A, the North-South alley and the alley North of Broadway. The District would now like to address the streetlight infrastructure that was painted black approximately



City of Columbia

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sixteen years ago by proposing a new partnership with the City to begin to address these issues as well as add some additional elements in regards to public safety at night.

This project would consist of the strategic replacement of peeling poles and mismatched luminaires with new black powder coated poles and arms with luminaires as shown in exhibit B.

The District has offered to partner again with the City to add features to the lighting to enhance public safety at night. The enhanced safety features would include an advanced photocell controller attached to the luminaire on the lower sidewalk arm. This luminaire would have the ability to be dimmed and brightened on a separate schedule from the upper street side luminaire. The upper street side luminaire would consist of a 3000K Cooper Navion luminaire operated from dusk till dawn. The lower sidewalk arm luminaire would consist of a 6000K Cooper Navion luminaire. The lower sidewalk arm luminaire would be operated on the proposed schedule:

- Come on at dusk at a dimmed level.
- Full power at bar closing to enhance safety and discourage loitering in the downtown area.
- Return to dimmed level after ~30-45 minutes
- Off at dawn

This lighting concept was presented at the October 2018 and December 2018 meetings of the Water & Light Advisory Board. A pilot project was approved by City Council in January 2018 to allow for a proof of concept before full scale adoption. The pilot consisted of replacing six streetlights on Broadway between Hitt and Waugh as shown in Exhibit C.

An interested parties meeting was held on January 16, 2019. The public was encouraged to take the time to view the six installed streetlights, placed on Broadway between Hitt Street and Waugh Street that are currently being tested and then provide feedback. A survey was taken for those who wished to offer feedback as shown in Exhibit D. The survey appears to indicate that there is more support for the project than opposition to it.

The District has offered to cover the cost associated with the advanced photocell controllers for the project, \$30,000 as mentioned in their letter of support in exhibit E. Should the project move forward, the department would bid the materials as a package to obtain the best available pricing. The goal would be to replace as many lights as the current funding level would allow, approximately \$270,000 currently available in E0180 plus \$30,000 from The District. It is estimated that 94 streetlights could be replaced with this funding level as shown in Exhibit F.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Replace as many lights as the current funding level would allow, approximately \$270,000 currently available in E0180 plus \$30,000 from The District.

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|----------|---|
| 1/2/2018 | R5-18 Authorizing the installation of a pilot street lighting project along Broadway, between Hitt Street and Waugh Street. |

Suggested Council Action

After considering comments from the Public Hearing, City Council should direct staff to move forward with developing plans and specifications for the replacement of streetlights in the Downtown Community Improvement District as described above.