

## 2014 Council Study Issue

### DPW 14-09 Reduction of Excessive Lighting in the Downtown Area

**Lead Department** Department of Public Works

**Sponsor(s)** Sustainability Commission

**History** 1 year ago: 2 years ago:

1. **Scope of the Study**

a. What are the key elements of the study?

This study issue would evaluate the impact of reducing lighting levels on the Mathilda Overpass, Sunnyvale Avenue, and elsewhere in the downtown area to reduce energy consumption and demonstrate the City's commitment to energy efficiency to the community.

Sustainability Commissioners have commented on several occasions that the downtown area appears to have too many lights and that the lighting levels seem excessive. The Commission has expressed that the number and type of lights gives the wrong message to the public. They have inquired on numerous occasions about what can be done to reduce the lighting levels and decrease energy use, including ideas such as an energy efficient retrofit of the lights, removing half of the bulbs, or even removing streetlights. A modification to lighting levels in the downtown area affects a number of stakeholders and would be inconsistent with approved Council documents. As such, staff would need policy direction from the Council to pursue the concept.

This study would identify and engage key stakeholders regarding the perception of excessive lighting in the downtown area, alternatives for reducing excessive lighting and associated costs, identifying the appropriate lighting standards, and identifying the impacts and benefits of reducing lighting in the referenced downtown area.

b. What precipitated this study?

This study issue was proposed by the Sustainability Commission and has been the topic of discussion at multiple meetings.

c. Is this a multiple year project? No Planned Completion Year 2014

2. **Fiscal Impact**

a. Cost to Conduct Study

i. Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost)

Major  Moderate  Minor

ii. Amount of funding above current budget required \$75,000

Will seek budget supplement  Will seek grant funding

iii. Explanation of Cost: The cost associated with this study would be for consultant services to evaluate the current lighting levels and standards, perform a photometric analysis, develop options for reducing levels and cost estimates for the options, update lighting standards, and help with stakeholder and community outreach.

b. Costs to Implement Study Results

- No cost to implement.
- Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.
- Some cost to implement. Explanation:

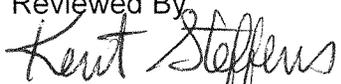
3. **Expected participation in the process**

- Council-approved work plan
- Council Study Session
- Board/Commission Review by:  
Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission

4. **Staff Recommendation**

a. Position: Drop

b. Explanation: The City is currently analyzing options for converting all of the City's streetlights to LED technology. As part of this process staff will have the opportunity to review appropriate lighting levels in the downtown including possible reductions. In addition the options will also look at costs and funding opportunities. The proposed study issue replicates work that's already in progress.

Reviewed By:	Approved By:
 10-8-13	 10-28-13
Department Director      Date	City Manager      Date