

Mountlake Terrace Draft Street Lighting Policy

POLICY: Street Lighting DRAFT

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the installation of street lighting facilities on existing or new utility poles located in City right-of-ways.

BACKGROUND: As of 2005 the City pays the energy bill on about 1,123 streetlights, of which about 133 belong to the City, the other 990 belong to Snohomish County PUD. Additional street lights are normally added to existing PUD poles. Where a definite need exists for a new light but no utility pole exists, an evaluation may be done of the feasibility of a new pole and light, including how it would be funded.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION:

The objective in providing residential street lighting is for the purpose of illuminating the roadway and is intended to:

- Supplement vehicle headlights, extending the visibility range beyond their limits both laterally and longitudinally.
- Improve the visibility of roadway features and objects on or near the roadway.
- Delineate the roadway ahead.
- Reduce the apprehension of those using the roadway.
- Provide for additional pedestrian safety.

It shall be understood that the general purpose of roadway lighting is to provide improved visibility for the various users of the right-of-way, not to provide security lighting for private property.

When a request is made for an additional streetlight and the distance between existing streetlights is 300 feet or less, the City will conduct an engineering study to determine if the characteristics of the area warrant a new light. As noted above, where no utility pole exists the study will also include a funding feasibility analysis. For the City to consider bearing the cost of a new pole and light, the study must find that a significant safety problem exists that can only be remedied by the addition of a new streetlight.

An additional consideration of placing a new light that will be evaluated is the impact on adjacent property owners. Adjacent neighbors may find a new light shining into their home unacceptable. While a clear safety issue may override these concerns, they still will be accounted for.

Approved by:

Date:

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Director of Engineering Services

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