



To: Mayor and Council

Agenda Item #: V. D.

From: Jordan Gilgenbach, Communications Coordinator

Action

Date: April 21, 2015

Discussion

Subject: "Speak Up, Edina" Report

Information

Action Requested:

Receive report on March 2015 "Speak Up, Edina" discussion about street lighting.

Information / Background:

Since June 2012, the City of Edina has used the online engagement website, www.SpeakUpEdina.org, to collect ideas and opinions from residents. One of the City Council's six strategic priorities for 2014-2015 is Communication and Engagement: "To clearly understand community needs, expectations and opinions, the City will consistently seek the input of a broad range of stakeholders in meaningful and interactive communication." A goal of that is to host a monthly discussion on www.SpeakUpEdina.org.

In March 2015, the discussion topic centered on Edina's level of street lighting. In this discussion, the City posed the following questions:

- What do you think about the current level of street lighting?
- Do you think more street lighting is needed? If so, where? Where could fewer lights and less light be used?
- What kind of street lighting do you prefer?

The discussion was open for comments between Feb. 26 and April 2, 2015. During that time, 22 comments were made. Additionally, 1,080 users visited the site 1,392 times, garnering 5,664 page views. Note, during this same period, a discussion on the Redevelopment of the Former Public Works Site and the Wooddale/Valley View draft Small Area Plan was also active. All but one commenter in this discussion were from Edina.

Attached are the comments for the discussion.

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This Discussion channel is currently closed.

Discussion: [Street Lighting](#)

Public street lighting helps provide residents with a feeling of safety and security at night. However, some believe that street lighting is invasive, bothersome or wasteful.

The City is interested in what you think about street lighting.

NOTE: The City is not proposing any changes to local law at this time. By using this onli...

3 Topics 22 Answers Closed 2015-04-02

[View Discussion](#)

Topic: [Level of Lighting](#)

What do you think about the current level of street lighting?

8 Responses

8 Responses



[David Frenkel](#) 28 days ago

upgrade to LED lighting.

4 Supports

comment...

Reply to David Frenkel



Joel Stegner, Community volunteer 28 days ago

Street lighting is done for specific reasons. One reason that doesn't get enough attention is pedestrian safety. Given how much of our city is lacking sidewalks, it is particularly dangerous for people to walk at night in the street if the street is not adequately lit. In this situation, there are two bad outcomes - walkers put themselves in danger or people are afraid to walk outside after dark. Now that the city has adopted Living Streets thinking, the issue of street lights should also include the issue of sidewalk lighting - in neighborhoods and in city parks. Given how many two adult working households we have and with a high level of dog ownership, there are many people who need to walk their dogs after dark, so adequate sidewalk lighting wherever there is the potential for a lot of pedestrian traffic is ideal. Of course, lighting doesn't have to be perpetual, if there are motion activated light systems affordable to city budgets.

3 Supports



Cynthia Miller 26 days ago

I agree w/Joel + others thus far for the same reasons. We live in far East Edina near a dog park. Many times we have nearly hit walkers/bikers after dark EVEN IF they are wearing light colored clothing (sadly, MANY do NOT!!!). Also, many visitors + even EMERGENCY PERSONNEL can't even SEE the house numbers, no matter how large or light colored they might be! Good lighting is proven to deter crime + break-ins, which are increasing here. If Edina is to be part of the "Living Streets Program", then streets need to safe + accessible where there is significant pedestrian use. This may not include ALL neighborhoods!

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Cynthia Miller

comment...

Reply to Joel Stegner



Arnold Bigbee 28 days ago

Living in Edinborough condos, level of lighting is good. Can't be too much for my neighborhood. It is irritating when lights are on during daylight hours on streets and at Centennial Lakes Park.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Arnold Bigbee



Sara Massman Smalley 27 days ago

Completely agree with Joel. I hate how dark our neighborhood is at night; it just isn't pleasant to walk or be outside. Streetlights add both safety and charm if done right.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Sara Massman Smalley



[Ann Bodensteiner](#) 27 days ago

Our area lacks sufficient evening lights-- too many large dark stretches.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Ann Bodensteiner



[DA Crawford](#) 26 days ago

comment...I agree that the level of lighting is extremely low. Not only is it dangerous for the walkers, it's equally dangerous for anyone driving through. No one wants to be the one to hit someone or a pet. With summer coming there will be more vehicle traffic.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to DA Crawford



[David Krueger](#) 25 days ago

At a minimum, I think we should have street lights wherever there are sidewalks. It would be nice for heavily traveled streets to have streetlights whether they have sidewalks or not.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to David Krueger

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3 Topics 22 Answers Closed 2015-04-02

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Topic: [More or Less](#)

Do you think more street lighting is needed? If so, where?

Where could fewer street lights and less light be used?

6 Responses

6 Responses



[Joel Stegner](#), Community volunteer 28 days ago

The answers is probably both. In places where there is a lot of activity, the lighting level may be very inadequate. However, there may be areas of the city that are overlit. To generalize about the city as a whole is very simplistic thinking. A detailed study of lighting levels throughout the city is really needed before the city can make an informed decision. Of course, there are people who want less light on their street to serve their personal agenda, but street lights are just like sidewalks on public right of aways. The neighbors should never have veto power of any project that serves a significant community purpose. That is not to say that the light cannot be produced more efficiently or more directed toward where the people are driving or walking, without directing a lot of light at residences. That said, the city should consider ways to make it easier for people trying to locate street address on dark residential streets to do so - by shedding light on street signs and asking homeowners to have

prominent house numbers on building exteriors.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Joel Stegner



Andrew Brown 27 days ago

I paid \$16,000 for street & sewer reconstruction and my property evaluation has gone up by 18% the last two years each. Now I have a school bond referendum. Enough!!! I'm tapped out!!! Stop Spending

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Andrew Brown



Jennifer Hennemuth 27 days ago

I also agree that the answer to this question is rather specific to where, exactly, more or less street lighting is to be proposed. On streets with heavier traffic that might be inclined to also have heavier foot and bike traffic, then more street lighting may be advantageous. On the flip side, I don't see a specific need for residential streets to have more lighting as foot and bike traffic is less likely to encounter a high level of automobile traffic after dark and I believe that more street lighting on residential streets could be an annoyance at night to residents by shining in and on their homes constantly. I also think that part of the enjoyment of taking an evening stroll is the fact that it is dark and you can see the stars and enjoy the evening on a peaceful, residential street.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jennifer Hennemuth



Cynthia Miller 25 days ago

Again, I agree w/Joel + Jennifer.....different neighborhoods might have very different needs...but ALL neighborhoods should have ENOUGH lighting to provide safety for residents, children, emergency personnel + guests

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Cynthia Miller



Kirsten Gullickson 19 days ago

I feel that safety is a priority. While walking at night, or during the morning in the winter when it is dark, I feel much more comfortable being on

the neighborhood streets that have adequate lighting. There are streets on which adding just one street light would be sufficient. I agree that a detailed study of the city's lighting levels would be beneficial, and I also agree that residents should not be able to veto lights being installed on their street if the city has determined that more lighting is needed.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Kirsten Gullickson



Joan McMillan 15 days ago

The corner of 76th & Edinborough Way has 6-yes six- tall -four of the arched type and two normal high streetlights. I have tried to bring attention to this arrangement with many persons in the city government because this is a waste of money and we never get to experience "night". I have spent years looking for other Intersections in Edina with so many street lights-but have not found one yet! Most do not even have the four large semi-four types let alone the extra two normal street lights. I don't feele this lighting is necessary.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Joan McMillan

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Topic: [Type of lighting](#)

What kind of street lighting do you prefer?

8 Responses

8 Responses



[David Frenkel](#) 28 days ago

upgrade to LED lighting

3 Supports

[Reply to David Frenkel](#)



Joel Stegner, Community volunteer 28 days ago

Upgrade to LED lighting. When it comes to sidewalks, different solutions may be available from the ones that are perfectly used that involve lighting on shorter poles with motion detection.

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Joel Stegner



Arnold Bigbee 28 days ago

We need to get to LED lighting ASAP. Look at the gains we made at Edinborough Park by migrating to new lighting.

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Arnold Bigbee



Lisa Nelson 27 days ago

Make sure that lights are truly downward focused, so we have less light pollution, but maximum visibility on the street and sidewalk.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Lisa Nelson



John Hamilton 27 days ago

We have an excellent opportunity to upgrade our street lighting to an ornamental pole top LED downlight with buried service wiring when our streets are re-done but this opportunity is often not selected by neighborhoods. We need to find a way to make the change more palatable; or perhaps not an option. The old wooden poles and cobra-heads are just not an acceptable option in the 21st century.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to John Hamilton



[Jennifer Hennemuth](#) 27 days ago

I will agree that more decorative, ornamental lighting adds something extra to the "living street" concept. Personally, I am not a huge fan of LED lighting in general, but would not necessarily be opposed to it depending upon further proposals.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Jennifer Hennemuth



[Dave Bender](#) 27 days ago

I'm a strong proponent of the notion that light reduces crime, but I'm also sympathetic to the issue of light pollution. I think the city should look into street lighting that responds to presence -- on if there's a car within range or if people are nearby, fade to off or lower when the movement subsides. The technology seems like it exists. Less clear is whether there are tested commercial products that can do this on city streets. (I'm thinking this is for the less-trafficked neighborhood streets, not any of the main thoroughfares.)

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Dave Bender



[Cynthia Miller](#) 25 days ago

I think correctly focused, community LED lighting that is both decorative AND functional should be done for neighborhoods that need it for safety is the best solution. In the 21st century there should be solutions that provide safety, enhance the neighborhood appearance + home value WITHOUT causing light pollution!

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Cynthia Miller

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