

TOWN OF ABERDEEN STREET LIGHTING POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to adopt an official policy for the Town of Aberdeen pertaining to the installation of streetlights for the purpose of traffic safety and crime control. The policy will also assist with determining objectively if an area has “enough” light. All improvements to existing streetlights and/or erection of new streetlights by the Town will depend on funds available in the fiscal budget.

Coverage

This policy, upon adoption, shall apply to all public right of ways within the municipal limits of the Town of Aberdeen, within all new subdivisions in the Town’s Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) which requires the Town’s approval and any public right of way annexed in the future, until such time that the Policy Statement is altered, modified or rescinded by the Board of Commissioners.

Definitions

Major Road – That part of the roadway system that serves as the principal network for through-traffic flow. The routes connect areas of principal traffic generation and important rural roadways leaving the city. These routes are often know as “arterials,” “thoroughfares,” or “preferentials.” They are sometimes subdivided into primary and secondary; however, such distinctions are not necessary in roadway lighting.

Collector Street – Roadways servicing traffic between major and local streets. These are streets used mainly for traffic movements within residential, commercial and industrial areas. They do not handle long, through trips. Collector streets may be used for truck or bus movements and give direct service to abutting properties.

Local Street – Local streets are used primarily for direct access to residential, commercial, industrial or other abutting property. They make up a large percentage of the total street system, but carry a small proportion of vehicular traffic.

Policy

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Aberdeen hereby establishes the following policy.

- A. The owner, developer or subdivider of a site plan or subdivision shall be required to install street lighting via underground contribution, unless specifically approved otherwise by the Public Works Director, along all proposed streets and along all adjoining existing streets and thoroughfares in accordance with this policy.
- B. All underground and other electrical distribution systems for street lighting within the corporate limits of the Town of Aberdeen and its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction shall be installed according to the following standards:

1. Underground service for the light fixtures shall be installed by the developer in conformance with Progress Energy and the Town of Aberdeen standards at the developer's expense.
2. The placement of street lighting fixtures in residential areas shall be at each street intersection and at 400 to 600 foot intervals unless:
 - a. The roadway length is less than 400 feet but more than 200 feet in which case a street light will be provided at the end of the street; or
 - b. Where the roadway length is less than 200 feet and a street light is placed at an intersection and no natural features create a problem, no street light will be placed at the end of the roadway; or
 - c. The vertical and horizontal street alignment or natural features necessitate shorter spacing intervals.
3. The Town Public Works Director using predetermined criteria such as nighttime business activity and/or pedestrian activity will determine new project locations. For existing residential or commercial areas to qualify for improvements, the existing lighting area must pose serious safety concerns as determined by the Public Works Director, Chief of Police and Town Manager. For solicited improvements, 2/3 of the property owners abutting the street must sign a petition requesting upgraded lighting. The petitioners must also agree that existing lights may be moved and trenching may be necessary. Petitions will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis, as funds become available.
4. The placement of street lighting along major roads, local streets and collector streets and in non-residential areas shall be in accordance with the latest revision of the Illumination Engineering Society's "American National Standard for Roadway Lighting".
5. When fiscally possible, a streetlight shall be provided at all street intersections.

C. Street light fixtures shall conform to the following:

1. All fixtures in residential areas shall be 9500 lumen cut off enclosed high-pressure sodium lamps on Progress Energy fiberglass poles twenty-five (25) feet in height.
2. All fixtures along thoroughfares shall be 16,000 or 28,500 lumen cut off enclosed high-pressure sodium lamps on Progress Energy fiberglass poles thirty (30) feet in height or 50,000 lumen cut off enclosed high-pressure sodium lamps on Progress Energy standard fiberglass poles thirty-five (35) feet in height. The 16,000 or 28,500 lumen fixtures shall be placed in residential areas when spillover from the 50,000 lumen fixtures would be excessive.

3. Acceptable fixtures shall be flat lens, cobra head or shoebox style except where a developer requests to use decorative or private street lighting (see Section G). If fiberglass poles are not available, exceptions may be made for the use of other special metals, wood poles or decorative metal poles.
4. Street lights will be mounted on existing overhead distribution poles wherever practical.

D. Authorization for street light installations shall occur at such time as:

1. A developer, through the Town of Aberdeen requests the installation of streetlights prior to the issuance of any Certificate of Occupancy. The developer shall incur a monthly electrical expense billed from Progress Energy equal to the monthly electrical expense incurred by the Town of Aberdeen for each street light installed. The developer will be billed by Progress Energy for the period beginning with installation of the street light and ending with notification to the Town of Aberdeen by the Developer, of issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy in the immediate area of each street light location.
2. A Certificate of Occupancy is issued in the immediate area of the proposed street light location.
3. A major road, local street or collector street is constructed or widened as part of development. Thoroughfares, marginal access streets and collector streets that are constructed or widened by the Town of Aberdeen shall be lighted immediately after construction, dependent on the availability by the Director of Public Works.

E. Street lighting facilities and street lights shall be installed by the developer on any roadway, portion of roadway or widening prior to the Town of Aberdeen's acceptance of that roadway for routine maintenance unless otherwise approved by the Director of Public Works.

F. Residents along a street may request the relocation of a street light provided that the proposed street light location meets Town standards and the relocation is approved by the Director or Public Works. Residents living at the cul-de-sac end of a street may request the replacement of an existing 5800 lumen light fixture with a 9500 lumen light fixture. A petition, signed by all persons owning property fronting on the street within the boundaries of the next closest installed or proposed street lights, shall be required. Also, the relocations or replacement cost and all facilities abandoned costs must be paid in full to Progress Energy in advance by the resident(s) requesting the relocation or replacement.

G. A developer may request to use decorative or "private" street lighting within a development provided:

1. Street light fixture types and locations must meet the criteria set forth in this policy and must be approved by the Town of Aberdeen.

2. The developer and/or Homeowner's Association shall be responsible for all installation costs and monthly operating costs associated with private streetlights.
 3. The developer and/or Homeowner's Association shall be responsible for any costs associated with the deletion of the private streetlights and any costs associated with installing the Town's standard street lights prior to the expiration of franchise contract with Progress Energy.
 4. The Developer shall include all responsibilities of the Homeowner's Association pertaining to the street lighting in the development covenants. The developer shall inform all purchasers of property in the development of these same responsibilities.
 5. Decorative lighting shall not be used on major roads.
 6. Developers of private streets shall be required to install private street lighting in accordance with this policy, with the exception that the Homeowner's Association will not have the option of deleting the private street lighting at any time in the future.
- H. The subdivider, developer, Homeowner's Association or other responsible organization representing a subdivision development will be responsible for the installation, maintenance and power consumption for all landscape lighting or any other device or fixture requiring electrical power.
- I. As new street light technology becomes available, it shall be reviewed and considered in relation to this policy's provisions and its benefit(s) to the Town and its citizens
- J. As opportunities occur whenever overhead wiring or poles must be replaced, it is the policy of the Town of Aberdeen that, if practical, the overhead wiring be placed underground. When not practical, all electrical, telephone and cable wiring be located on only one pole on one side of the street as opposed to both sides of the street.

Duly adopted this the _____ day of _____, 2004.

Mayor Elizabeth B. Mofield

Attest:

Nancy M. Matthews, Town Clerk