

DRAFT Streetlight Policy - Prince George County, Virginia

A. Policy Intent:

The intent of this policy document is to:

- Provide both developers and county residents clear guidance on the street light policy as a guide to use when planning to install streetlights in subdivisions and in business and industrial parks
- Provide County Staff, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors members with a guide to use for evaluating all street light requests in the County by pursuing lighting standards that are efficient in the use of County funding and resources and overall sustainability within the County
- Ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and county safety and lighting laws, as well as follow industry standards and best planning practices, while preserving reasonable oversight for the County to ensure the well-being of those living, working and visiting Prince George County
- Provide clear guidance to County departments and other agencies that County-initiated streetlight requests must be coordinated with the Finance Department and Planning Staff through the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) process, and must adhere to this policy in all respects for funding purposes. Non-conforming streetlight plans must be presented to the Board of Supervisors by the requesting department or agency in a separate agenda item outside of the CIP Plan, requesting an exception to the policy for streetlight approval

B. Purpose and Definitions:

The primary purpose of street lighting is to help motorists to identify obstacles, provide adequate visibility of both pedestrians and cyclists, and assist in visual search tasks, both on and adjacent to the roadway.

County Service Area – The County Service Area is a defined area within the Prince George Planning Area that encourages planned growth and development that is connected to County utilities, and contains state-maintained roads where streetlights and sidewalks would be placed within the public right-of-way.

Streetlight – a light that is mounted on a pole, constituting one of a series of streetlights, and spaced at intervals along a public street or a highway with the purpose of lighting the public right-of-way. “Streetlight” does not include “security light”, which serves an individual property.

C. New Streetlight Installations Within the County Service Area

New streetlights in the County are installed by the developer as approved as a part of the development plans for new subdivision developments. Streetlight standards shall be coordinated by the developer with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Standards for Roadway Lighting Manual and each new streetlight shall be within the right-of-way of a public street for VDOT acceptance of the state roads. The developer works with either Dominion Energy or the Prince George Electric Cooperative and follows their lighting specifications and their requirements on installing the streetlights within their development.

This section includes Non-residential streetlights that are installed by the developer within business and industrial parks. One streetlight shall be placed at all intersections and in all cul-de-sacs located on state maintained roads. Streetlights located in the rights-of-way of public roads serving non-residential uses

will be accepted based upon approved streetlight plans, and for County-initiated projects, based on budgets prepared by General Services as a part of the Capital Improvements Plan process. Monthly electric costs are the responsibility of the developer until the roads are turned over to VDOT and the streetlights to the County.

D. New Streetlight Installations Outside of the County Service Area

County Residents and Businesses may request additional streetlights based upon the following policy:

A petition shall be filed with any request for the installation of a streetlight. If the streetlights are not in a platted subdivision or if the light(s) are part of an addition of three (3) lights or less to an existing streetlight system, whether in a subdivision or not; then the petition shall include the signature of the owner of any dwelling which is located on a lot or parcel within 150 feet of the proposed location of each streetlight. If the request is for the installation of a streetlight system for an entire platted subdivision or an identifiable section of a subdivision with 10 or more lots, then the petition shall include the signatures of the owners representing 75% of the subdivision or the section of a subdivision to be served by the proposed streetlights. The proposed streetlights must serve a minimum of three (3) dwelling units or as necessary to illuminate an intersection of public roads or lots located within a cul-de-sac. The monthly electric costs are the responsibility of the developer or property owner.

E. Streetlights in Service in the County prior to Policy

Streetlights whose monthly electric costs have been paid for by the County prior to the date of this policy will continue to be paid for by the County, so long as they are located along public roads and are limited to one light per intersection or the end of a cul-de-sac. Those existing streetlights which do not conform to these requirements will exit County responsibility six (6) months after the approval of this policy, with notification given by General Services and then it will be up to the property owner to pay the electric bill.

F. Private Security Light Installations Outside of the County Service Area

County residents and businesses may request private security lights through either Dominion Energy or Prince George Electric Cooperative, based upon the policies and procedures that each company has for the installation of security lighting, which would be added to their private electric bill on a monthly basis. The County will not provide electrical lighting costs for security lights on private property, including those previously serviced by the County prior to the establishment of this policy. General Services staff will assist those requesting such lighting to make an application with their electrical service provider to obtain the desired private security lighting on their property.

G. Public Safety Streetlight Requests Countywide

When a request of additional street lighting is made based upon public safety or traffic concerns, the Chief of Police shall conduct an analysis of public safety or traffic problems in the defined area, such as the street intersection, where such problems could reasonably be expected to be alleviated by adding street lighting. The Chief of Police shall require a petition from at least 75% of the property owners in the area to be served requesting or supporting the additional street lighting for public safety or traffic issues. The Chief of Police and Director of General Services shall present a report and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Please contact the Department of General Services at 804.722.0775 or www.princegeorgecountyva.gov