

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
POLICY FOR
EXTENSION/UPGRADE/UPKEEP OF
STREET LIGHTS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the orderly extension and/or upgrades of the Township's street lighting system. This policy, and its periodic amendments, shall supersede all applicable previous policies pertaining to the Township's street light system whether written or oral.

POLICY:

A: Public Streets

Lower Merion Township purchased the existing street lighting system from the Philadelphia Electric Company in April of 1989. In an effort to establish the procedures for the maintenance, upgrade and extension of the system, the following parameters and procedures will be followed:

1. The Public Works Department will be responsible for the routine maintenance of the existing street lighting system.
2. Requests for expansion and/or upgrades will only be considered if seventy-five percent (75%) of the affected property owners petition the Township for the expansion or upgrade.
3. All requests for street light expansion and/or upgrades must be received in writing by the Public Works Department. Public Works staff will review the request and provide a recommendation for approval or denial to the Public Works Committee if a minimum score of 70 points is reached based on the following list of prioritization parameters and the available funding allocated in the Township's Capital Improvement Program.
 - a. The amount of criminal activity documented by police reports. (30 points)
 - b. Vehicular accident history in the vicinity documented by police reports. (30 points)
 - c. Amount of pedestrian traffic. (15 points)
 - d. Type of public neighborhood activity, i.e. proximity to public facilities such as senior citizen centers, parks, and playgrounds. (15 points)
 - e. Fill-in where existing lights may be inadequate. (10 points)

4. The standard light for all primary streets throughout the Township will be the cobra head type light. ~~Specifications for this type light are attached and made part of this policy.~~
5. The standard light for all secondary and tertiary streets throughout the Township with existing utility poles will be the cobra head style light.
6. The standard light for all secondary and tertiary streets throughout the Township without existing utility poles will be the colonial style light. ~~Specifications for this type light are attached and made part of this policy.~~
7. A third type of light will be specified for ~~all~~ streets within a ~~certified~~ business district.
8. Relocation of an existing street light due to construction on private property shall be at the expense of the requesting property owner.
9. As technology changes, specifications for street lighting hardware will be amended by Public Works staff and be made part of this policy.

B: Private Streets

1. The Township's obligations with respect to street lights on private streets will be governed by the following:
 - (a) The request for the Township to assume responsibility for maintenance and/or utility expenses must originate with a petition signed by 75% of the affected property owners.
 - (b) The private street must be open at all times to the public without restriction.
 - (c) The Township will not pay for the installation or upgrade of street lights on private streets.
 - (d) The Township may assume responsibility for maintenance of the street lights provided the above criteria are met and:
 - (1) The street lights meet the Township's current specifications for public street lights.
 - (2) Such expenses do not exceed the maintenance cost of Township-owned street lights of similar wattage.
 - (3) The public utility provider and the Township are able to agree that the Township will assume such responsibility.
 - (4) The Township deems the street lights to be desirable using the same criteria that the Township uses to assess the need for street lights on a public street.

(e) The Township may assume responsibility for payment of the public utility expenses associated with the operation of street lights provided the above criteria are met and:

- (1) Such expenses do not exceed the utility cost of Township-owned street lights of similar wattage.
- (2) The street light is properly maintained by its owners (unless maintenance responsibility has been transferred to the Township).
- (3) The electrical circuit on the private street separates street lights from all other electrical facilities.
- (4) The public utility provider and the Township are able to agree that the Township will assume such responsibility.
- (5) The Township deems the street lights to be desirable using the same criteria that the Township uses to assess the need for street lights on a public street.