

STREETLIGHTING DESIGN GUIDELINES, INSTALLATION PROCEDURES, AND SPECIFICATIONS BRIEFING

Description

The Streetlighting Design Guidelines, Installation Procedures, and Specifications document is the result of a collaborative effort by MCDOT and Montgomery Planning, funded by a MWCOG Transportation-Land Use Connections grant.

MCPB

Item No. 7

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2425 Reedie Drive

Floor 14

Wheaton, MD 20902

EG	Eli Glazier, Transportation Planner III, Countywide Planning & Policy Division eli.glazier@montgomeryplanning.org , 301-495-4548
DA	David Anspacher, Transportation Planning Supervisor, Countywide Planning & Policy Division david.anspacher@montgomeryplanning.org , 301-495-2191
JS	Jason Sartori, Chief, Countywide Planning & Policy Division jason.sartori@montgomeryplanning.org , 301-495-2191

LOCATION

Countywide

MASTER PLAN

Pedestrian Master Plan (In Progress)

AGENCY

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)

Summary

- The Planning Board will receive a briefing from Planning and MCDOT staff about the newly developed Streetlighting Design Guidelines, Installation Procedures, and Specifications document.

SECTION 1 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Through discussions over the past several years, Montgomery Planning and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation identified upgrading the county’s existing streetlight standards as an important strategy to advance the county’s Vision Zero initiative, implement the principles in the *Complete Streets Design Guide*, and ensure private developments are constructing high-quality public space lighting, in line with streetscape improvements envisioned in *Thrive Montgomery 2050* and the Growth and Infrastructure Policy. Improvements to lighting standards are an important recommendation in the Planning Board Draft of the Pedestrian Master Plan given the prevalence of nighttime pedestrian crashes at intersections identified in the department’s [Predictive Safety Analysis](#). The Planning Board Draft of the *Pedestrian Master Plan* specifically recommends developing lighting standards for each *Complete Streets Design Guide* street type and trails (Key Action B-5a).

New standards are necessary to allow the county to ensure that people traveling through the county by any mode can do so safely with the benefit of adequate illumination. Upgrading these standards is an opportunity for Montgomery Planning and MCDOT to incorporate national best practices.

To achieve this goal, in February 2022, MCDOT and Montgomery Planning applied for consultant support through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ Transportation-Land Use Connections planning grant program. This application was successful, and the *Streetlighting Design Guidelines, Installation Procedures, and Specifications* document detailing updated street lighting standards and specifications was completed in June 2023.

The document achieves the goals articulated above in three ways:

1) Identifies specific photometric targets for different locations within the streetscape based on the specific street’s Complete Streets Design Guide classification.

This is a change from the existing approach that provided streetlight spacing ranges depending generally on land use and street width. By identifying measurable lighting outputs, the updated standards ensure that future street lighting provides sufficient illumination.

2) Consolidates all MCDOT lighting specifications in one document

This streamlines the lighting design process for private development by acting as a centralized resource for all technical information, including what types of poles, fixtures, and luminaires are appropriate for specific areas of the county.

3) Allows for context-sensitivity near environmental and cultural resources

The targets identified in the updated lighting standards are not obligatory. The document allows designers discretion to provide less illumination, illumination that is a different color temperature, or no illumination in response to site-specific issues like proximity to certain habitats or historic properties.

The complete document can be found in Attachment A.

SECTION 2 – ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: *Streetlighting Design Guidelines, Installation Procedures, and Specifications* document