

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TINY



ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

STREET LIGHT POLICY		Number: PW-023
Effective Date: Feb 12, 2018	Revision Number: 0	Page: 1 of 5

Policy Statement

Street lights located within communities are intended to provide illumination on public streets and pedestrian crossings within the Township of Tiny. Secondary benefits of street lighting include perceived personal security, lighting of property and public safety, understanding that street lighting is a discretionary action.

Council deems it important to provide and improve street lighting for communities within the Township to assist in providing safe vehicular and pedestrian travels, while including guidelines and best practices to address the dark sky initiative and program.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a policy and method to address request for the installation of new Street Lights within the Township of Tiny. The policy is to help establish a consistent and standardized process to evaluate and prioritize the installations; it is intended to provide a procedure for review and approval/denial of the request. Street lights are installed for the purpose of vehicular traffic, pedestrian and vehicle safety, and where appropriate all new installations will take into account the International Dark Sky Initiatives, RASC Dark Sky Program and guidelines.

The policy will assist in evaluating and prioritizing requests for street light installation. Street light requested for protection of private property will not be considered.

Scope

This policy applies to the installation of all new street lights that meet current LED specifications within the jurisdiction of the municipality. The management of these lights will be by the Public Works Department for the Township of Tiny.

NOTE: the scope excludes new developments where the installation of street lights is a requirement under the development agreement.

Definitions

“Council” means the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Tiny.

“International Dark Sky Initiative” means the international organization that focusses on reducing light pollution and the potential negative environmental impacts to help and protect and preserve the night sky for the use of nocturnal wildlife in its natural habitat, to reduce artificial light glare, to reduce energy consumption and to increase the visibility of the night sky.

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“Director of Public Works” means the Director of Public Works or designate for the Corporation of the Township of Tiny.

“Dark Sky Preserves” (DSP) means the designation as provided under the RASC Dark Sky Program with the goal to promote the reduction in light pollution, demonstrate night time lighting practices, improve nocturnal environment of wildlife, protect and expand dark observing sites for astronomy and provide accessible locations for the general public to experience the naturally dark night sky.

“LAS” means the Local Authority Services.

“LED” means Light Emitting Diode technology as provided through the CREE lighting specifications or equivalent and as approved by the Public Works Department.

“Nocturnal Preserves Program” (NP) means the designation as provided under the RASC Dark Sky Program with the goal to promote the reduction of outdoor lighting and improve the nocturnal environment for wildlife, and to help provide accessible locations for the public to experience the naturally dark night.

“Public Works Department” means the Public Works Department for the Corporation of the Township of Tiny.

“Royal Astronomical Society of Canada” (RASC) Dark-Sky Program means the guidelines and designations used throughout this Policy. It encompasses the Dark Sky Preserves (DSP), Urban Star Parks (USP) and Nocturnal Preserves (NP) preserves.

“RTE” means RealTerm Energy Corporation, the Township of Tiny vendor for LED lighting.

“Street Light” means an outdoor light or a series of outdoor lights that can be attached to poles, are spaced at intervals along a Township road or roadway and are illuminated from dusk to dawn.

“Township” means the Corporation of the Township of Tiny.

“Urban Star Parks” (USP) means the designation as provided under the RASC Dark Sky Program with the goal to make accessible areas relatively free of glare for the enjoyment of the night sky and to demonstrate good nighttime lighting practices.

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Procedure for the Street Light Policy

This policy will work in coordination with the Township of Tiny’s Engineering and Design Standards, Best practices, LED technology program and Dark Sky Initiatives.

Inventory

All current street lighting and proposed future street lights will be entered into the Street Light Database layer by the GIS/IT Technician. This database will be operated and maintained by the IT Department, with assistance from the Public Works Department.

Criteria for New Street Light Installation

The Township will consider the installation of new street lights within the Township of Tiny based on the following criteria:

1. Safety

The main criteria for the installation of new street lights will be based on public safety. To determine if an area should have a street light, the Public Works Department will review various factors including, but not limited to:

- The night time business activity and/pedestrian activity;
- History of accidents;
- Average vehicle counts and speed zones;
- Municipal engineering standards;
- Intersecting road authorities, if applicable, and their respective criteria;
- Potential hazards;
- Availability of hydro service;
- Availability of existing poles;
- Other methods of increasing safety such as the use of signs, reflectors, that may not produce sufficient warning;
- Weather impacts/history;
- Budgetary constraints; and
- Potential for light pollution and negative impacts, if any, upon existing residences (dark sky friendly)

2. Traffic Volumes

The traffic volumes at intersections will be reviewed by the Public Works Department when considering the installation of additional street lights. Increased traffic volumes may also justify the need for revised street lights.

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3. Public Requests

Requests may be received by the Township for additional street lighting for various reasons, including the request for additional and/or fewer lights, rearrangements of lights and the refurbishment of lights.

To provide uniformity, residents requesting additional street lighting may follow the below process:

- 1) Written requests for new street lights and/or changes in existing street lights on existing roadways must be made to the Director of Public Works. Requests should include the primary concerns and an individual contact for follow up. When an organized group is active, the request shall be submitted by that entity.
- 2) Upon receipt of the street light request, the Public Works Department will conduct a field survey of the requested site. This survey may include determining the existing lighting conditions (analysis of the number of street lights, locations, spacing, fixture type, poles; and any other pertinent information). The data included within this survey will make up the content of the street light database.
- 3) Inspections may take place during evening hours if deemed appropriate. The results of the field survey and inspection will be presented to the Director of Public Works for analysis.
- 4) The Public Works Department will determine the type and installation details of the lighting, including determining the luminaire type, wattage, mounting height, light distribution pattern and will ensure that where possible, existing poles will be used in order to reduce installation costs.
- 5) Wherever practicable, the Dark Sky Initiatives and Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Dark Sky program and guidelines will be implemented to help reduce light pollution and negative environmental impacts. This consideration will not apply to areas where safety is paramount.
- 6) If, in the opinion of the Director of Public Works, the installation is recommended, the Director will determine the specific location of the street light, or replacement of the existing street light if appropriate, and incorporate into the street light database.

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- 7) Once the location has been approved, the project will be prioritized on the new street light installation list. The installations requested on this list will be completed based upon yearly Capital Budget allowances.
- 8) If, and based upon good Engineering Practice and review, the request has been denied the Director of Public Works or designate shall inform the property owner(s), petitioners, requestors of said response.
- 9) The applicant may appeal the denial to the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Tiny
- 10) Public Works to look to Council for Capital Planning or Reserves to fund all approved requests that were not part of that year's budget.
- 11) Light specifications will be reviewed based on usage (i.e. vehicular, residential, pedestrian, play areas (rinks, tennis etc.)).

Street Lighting Units

All street lighting within the Township of Tiny shall conform to approved Tiny Engineering and Design standards and the lights shall be LED with the current approved type being "CREE". CREE specifications or equivalent as approved by Public Works are attached as "Schedule A".

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 community of the Township of Tiny. Such considerations will include new environmental technologies as they become available and are feasible for the municipality.

Solar LED Lights may be proposed on a trial basis within certain Capital projects.