



# Peters Township Street Light Policy

---

Resolution #04-03-20

Date of Adoption: April 27, 2020

## A. Statement of Purpose

Peters Township Council has adopted this policy for the purpose of defining conditions under which the Township will install new street lights on public streets (both state and local) throughout the Township.

## B. Introduction

Throughout the Township, there currently exist street lights that illuminate both state and local roadways. The illumination offered by street lights provide safety and security for motorists and pedestrians along these roadways. This makes street lights an effective public safety tool for the Township. The safety offered by these lights, however, must be balanced by the desire to not inconvenience residents or business with the negative effects of light pollution. The terms “arterial”, “collector”, “connector”, and “local” roadways in this policy shall be defined as they are in Chapter 440, Part 3 of the *Code of Peters Township*.

## C. Installation and Maintenance of Street Lights

Within the Township, at the time of the adoption of this policy, all street lights are installed and maintained by West Penn Power, a FirstEnergy Corporation subsidiary. The Township pays West Penn Power for the maintenance and utility service to the existing street light network, and for the installation of any new street lights.

## D. Establishment of Street Light Committee

The installation of new street lights on existing roadways within the Township shall be determined by the Street Light Committee. This committee shall consist of the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Public Works Director, Planning Director, and Assistant Township Manager. On an annual basis, beginning in 2020, the committee shall establish a list of up to five (5) locations within the Township that warrant the installation of a street light. This list shall be established by April 30<sup>th</sup> of the year in which the Committee meets.

## E. Criteria for Street Light Installation

The Street Light Committee shall take the following criteria into account when evaluating locations along public roads to install street lights:

1. The classification (arterial, collector, connector, or local) of the principal roadway upon which the illumination from the street light will occur. In the case of an intersection, the roadway with the higher classification will be used for the purpose of this determination.
2. Whether the street light location is at an intersection. All other criteria being equal, it shall be the priority of the Township that intersections receive street lights over stretches of roadway.
3. The geometry of the roadway in the location that is being considered for a street light.

4. The topography of the land within a radius of 100 feet from the proposed location of the street light.
5. The vehicle crash history, both reportable and non-reportable, in the vicinity of the proposed location of a street light.
6. Whether or not the proposed location of street light is along a Public Works priority snow plowing route.
7. The proximity of residential development, or at the time of the Committee's meeting, proposed residential development to the potential street light location.
8. The proximity of pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks or trails, and the connectivity of those pedestrian facilities to residential development, to the location of the proposed street light.
9. Ability to install a proposed street light upon an existing pole, as well as ownership of the land at the location upon which a street light is proposed.
10. Proximity of the proposed street light to the existing street light network upon a roadway.
11. Any potential ill-effects from glare into neighboring residential properties from a proposed street light. These effects shall be, to the greatest extent possible, mitigated by the location of the street light.

**F. Establishment of Street Light Priority List**

The list of up to five (5) locations for street light installation, once approved by the Street Light Committee, shall be submitted to the Township Manager. It shall be the goal of the Township to install at least two (2) street lights from this priority list on an annual basis. It shall be the duty of the Manager to ensure adequate funds in the annual operating budget to install street lights to meet this goal.

**G. Public Input on Street Light Locations**

Nothing within this policy shall prohibit input on locations for which a street light should be installed by a resident of Peters Township. Residents seeking to provide locations for street lights should address their correspondence to the Assistant Township Manager, who shall share this information with the rest of the Street Light Committee.

**H. Street Lights in New Developments**

When proposed residential development occurs within the Township connecting to public roadways, the Planning Department shall use the criteria established above to determine if street lights should be installed at locations where the development connects with the existing public roadway system. It shall be the policy of the Township that principal points of ingress/egress from a proposed residential development shall have street lights installed. Only upon recommendation from the Planning Department shall the Township consider waving this requirement. This recommendation should provide a detailed listing of the reasons for which a street light would not need to be installed at one or several principal points of ingress/egress to the potential development, and this consideration shall be made by Council or Planning Commission during the Preliminary Land Development Approval process.

## **I. LED Street Lights**

The Township currently has an agreement with West Penn Power that all street lights installed within the Township contain light-emitting diode (LED) lamps. This agreement is hereby incorporated into this policy as "EXHIBIT A". Should this agreement be amended or a subsequent agreement governing street light lamps be signed, this policy shall be automatically amended to incorporate this amended/new agreement as "EXHIBIT A".