

TOWN of BRIDGEWATER STREET LIGHT POLICY and PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Bridgewater receives citizen requests regarding the installation or activation of streetlights. The primary purpose of streetlights is to provide drivers with immediate, accurate, and comfortable visibility at night. A major cause of nighttime accidents is poor visibility. Street lights aid in reducing these accidents and facilitating the traffic flow. Another important reason to energize streetlights is providing visibility of pedestrians in densely populated areas of Town.

Citizens should realize that streetlights are provided for traffic safety, not property security. It is true that streetlights do provide some amount of personal security in densely populated residential areas. However, property security is not a primary intent and street lights are never installed for security reasons alone.

The following information explains the Town's policy and procedures on street light installation and the required criteria that warrant the installation of a street light.

STREET LIGHT COSTS

In FY2016 the Town of Bridgewater general fund paid nearly \$160,000 annually to streetlight operations. This annual cost does not include new streetlight activation or existing street light upgrades. Typically, the installation cost of a new residential streetlight can be up to several thousand dollars per streetlight depending on the location and type of construction associated with the installation (i.e. existing power). The annual tariff (operating cost) is approximately \$81(100w)-\$150(400w) per month per streetlight. Town residents can request the installation of new streetlights on private property directly from the utility company. The monthly tariff for a new streetlight on private property is paid for by the resident.

STREET LIGHT POLICY

It is the intent of the Town of Bridgewater that any new street lights or energized lights in residential areas meet a list of warrants for public safety.

In accordance with the Town of Bridgewater's policy, lights are recommended in commercial districts, and generally within major and minor arterials throughout Town:

- Every six hundred (600) feet on one side of the street.
- At major street intersections and intersections with collector roads.
- At cross walks on either side, or both sides, of the street.
- When other criteria are not otherwise applicable in areas of congestion, or high volumes of traffic and pedestrian circulation.
- Or, in an area recognized for a hazardous or dangerous condition as demonstrated through crash rates, collisions, pedestrian/cycling incidents and other empirical data.

STREET LIGHT REQUEST

A request for street lighting where no lighting currently exists shall first be evaluated for the need to install a light system on the roadway or area, in accordance with the warrants described herein. Installation of a single independent light will only be approved on the individual merits upon completion of an evaluation validating a lighting concern or omission.

It is the responsibility of the individual making the street light request to complete the attached Street Light Request Form and to ensure that the request contains the following information:

Requestor's **name, address, telephone number, email address** and **reason** for requesting the street light installation:

- **Exact location** (street address or pole number) of the requested street light (e.g., pole between 628 & 632 Elm Street);
- If no pole number is visible on the requisite pole or no pole is currently in the proposed location, identify the nearest **Pole number and cardinal direction** of the closest adjacent existing street light;
- **Drawing or sketch** (on a separate sheet) showing the approximate location of the requested street light, street width, and distance of the existing street light(s) to the requested street light;
- **Petition** with the names, addresses, phone numbers, and signatures of residents on both sides of the street within 200 feet of the proposed street light, whether in support or opposed to the installation of the street light;
- **Submittal** of street light requests shall be through the Town Manager's Office at 66 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324; or electronically through the Roadways Office page at <http://www.bridgewaterma.org/175/Roadways> .

Important: The submitted petition must indicate at least a 75% majority of residents support the requested installation of the street light.

STREET LIGHT EVALUATION

The intent of this policy is to evaluate all requests as to the need for lighting of streets within the Town of Bridgewater to ensure the safety of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. All street lighting installations shall be in accordance with the design criteria as described in the Municipal Code of the Town of Bridgewater, as referenced above. Any exception to the design criteria will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

- All submitted street light requests shall be considered by the Transportation Committee for review, approval or denial. The Transportation Committee will issue a final determination on each street light request
- If the requested street light is approved by the Transportation Committee, the Roadways Office will then contact National Grid for the approved street light to be activated.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** All approved streetlights are installed subject to Town budget constraints.

STREET LIGHT INFORMATION

For more information about street lighting, contact the Town of Bridgewater Public Works Department, Roadways Office at 508-697-0931 or <http://www.bridgewaterma.org/175/Roadways>

To report a street light outage, contact National Grid Massachusetts at 1-800-322-3223.