

# CITY OF BRISTOL – PUBLIC WORKS

## **16.25 CITY STREET – STREET LIGHT REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Policy Name**

16.25 City Streets – Street Light Requirements

### **2. Policy Statement**

The City of Bristol owns street lights along City streets. This policy defines the recommended spacing and location of street lights on city streets, utilized to process requests for additional lights. These criteria shall be used to determine the location of new lights on new roads being built in accordance with City Planning Commission approval. The policy also provides specifications for light fixtures, poles, and brackets.

It should be noted that the City street light standards DO NOT include a requirement to meet a specified lumen. In addition, the purpose of street lighting is NOT to provide lighting outside the City roadway right of way, or to increase lighting to prevent criminal activity. The sole purpose of a street light is to provide lighting on the street roadway and sidewalk area.

The distance between street lights varies based on land use (residential, commercial, industrial), and roadway geometry (curve, cul-de-sac, intersection). However, City street lights shall, in general, be spaced approximately 350 ft apart in residential areas, and 150 ft apart in commercial areas, utilizing 25-watt street light fixtures with 35 ft poles. In areas of curves, crosswalks, and intersections, additional lights shall be added.

### **3. Policy**

- A. Existing Light Maintenance: The Department of Public Works shall maintain all existing street lights. The Department utilizes the services of a private contractor to perform the work, in accordance with a yearly contract. Maintenance work cost shall be based on a unit cost established in the bid. Although the City owns and maintains City street lights, power is provided by Eversource Electric. Therefore, when street lights are NOT receiving power, repairs are required by Eversource Electric. In areas serviced with underground electric, Eversource Electric typically takes 2-3 months to restore/provide electrical power. Once Eversource power is provided, DPW shall arrange for additional repairs (if required).

DPW repair/maintenance shall include existing lights on standard, wooded 35 ft. tall, decorative, un-metered poles within subdivisions serviced with underground electric. DPW also maintains street lights on aluminum poles located in the downtown area, along with decorative metered lights on streetscapes. Existing streetlight maintenance does not include lighting provided by buildings or lighting within parking lots. Street light maintenance includes lights within the City's right

of way and State roads that provide lighting to City or State roads (including streetscapes on State roadways).

Upon receiving a request from property owners, the DPW shall evaluate and install screens and baffles to direct/shade light away from private property, if required.

- B. Requests for New Street Lights on Existing Streets – The Department of Public Works shall evaluate all requests for additional street lights. Additional lights will only be approved by the Department to provide additional lighting to the roadway. The purpose of street lights is NOT to increase or provide increased security to private property or to deter crime. In areas serviced with overhead utilities, and on existing poles, consideration will be given to install additional lights at roadway intersections, curves, and if a street light is not currently installed on every other pole. In areas serviced by underground electric with poles dedicated to supporting street lights, DPW will give consideration to installing additional street lights when spacing is greater than 400 ft. apart.

It should be noted that City-installed and maintained street lights are NOT required on all City streets, and pursuant to City standards, there is not a specified required lumen that City street lights are required to provide. Pursuant to this policy, the City will provide street lights in order to provide lighting on City-designated roadways, however, the City is not required to provide a specified intensity (level) of lighting on City roads, and reserves the right to provide no street lights on designated City streets.

- C. New Street Lights on Proposed City Streets: All City streets shall be equipped with street lights prior to acceptance by the City Council. The number and spacing of street lights shall vary based on proposed use roadway classification. In commercial or industrial areas, spacing of street lights installed on 35 ft tall poles (25-watt fixtures with 6 ft arms) shall be installed at a maximum of 150 ft. apart. Street lights installed along residential streets shall have a maximum spacing of 350 ft (28 ft poles height above grade, 20-watt fixtures, 6 ft arm). The number and spacing may be revised based on wattage of fixtures. Street lights shall be installed at all intersections and curves, including intersections with existing streets.

Street lights installed on decorative or non-utility wooded poles (35 ft tall, 12 inches diameter at grade) will not be approved. All new street lights shall comply with current City specifications as indicated below, installed on 35 ft tall 12-inch diameter (at grade) wooded poles, approved by Eversource Electric. All street light fixtures shall be low energy LED type fixtures GE Roadway as specified below:

1. Type E 125 W LED
2. Type B 25 W LED
3. Type D 25 W LED
4. Type B 41 W LED
5. Type D 41 W LED
6. Type E 41 W LED

7. Type E 88 W LED

All street lighting plans shall be approved by the DPW Engineering Division prior to installation and street acceptance by City Council.

Wooded poles supporting street lights shall have the following specifications:

- a. Pole Length: 35 ft.
- b. Pole Height above ground: 28 ft.
- c. Buried Depth: 5.5 ft.
- d. ANSI Class: 2
- e. Species: Southern Yellow Pine
- f. Treatment: CCA
- g. Circumference: 25 inches (min at pole top), 35.5 inches (min 6 ft from butt).  
Street light support poles in areas of City streetscapes and downtown commercial districts shall be 28 ft aluminum poles (10-inch diameter).

- D. **Removal of Street Lights:** The Department of Public Works reserves the right to remove existing street lights, subject to Board of Public Works approval.

**4. Responsible Division**

Department of Public Works Engineering Division and the Director of Public Works

**5. Approval authority:**

Board of Public Works

**6. Approval Date:**

March 20, 2025

**7. Effective Date:**

March 20, 2025