

**Board of Supervisors
Policy
Citizen Petition Streetlight Program
Fairfax County, Virginia
August 1999
Updated: October 2010**

A. Program Overview

The purpose of the Citizen Petition Program is to provide crime deterrence and to promote pedestrian and vehicular safety. The County pays the utility companies for the operation of streetlights. Subject to the availability of funds, the County may also pay for the installation of new citizen petitioned streetlights at approved locations. Periodically, when funds are available, petition requests from individual property owners and homeowner associations for new streetlight installations will be accepted by the County, and evaluated with other citizen petition requests received Countywide for possible funding consideration. The current status of available County funding for new streetlight installations can be obtained at the following County web page:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/streetlight-citizen-petition-program>

Communities may choose to make a non-reimbursable contribution for the installation of streetlights, and the County will pay the operation and maintenance costs for these streetlights (See Section C, Special Streetlight Programs).

B. General Conditions

1. Contingent upon the availability of County funds for the installation of new streetlights, there will be no direct cost to the property owners for the installation of the requested streetlights.
2. The County will provide for all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of eligible streetlights.
3. Fairfax County shall determine the location of all requested streetlights required to properly illuminate the petitioned area. In order to adhere to adopted illumination engineering standards and criteria, and to conform with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards, the number and location of streetlights required to properly light a given area will require a specific number of streetlights installed at a uniform horizontal spacing. For a typical residential street, the required distance between proposed streetlights is normally 150 to 200 feet apart for cobra head fixtures and 160 feet apart for colonial style fixtures.
4. The petitioners have the option of reviewing the final streetlight layout prepared by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) prior

to the submission of the installation order to the utility company. A special notation is included on the Standard Petition Form for the petitioner to check. The special notation on the Standard Petition Form must be checked in order to initiate this option to review the proposed streetlight layout. It should be noted that the installation of the proposed streetlights will be placed on hold during the time required for the citizens to complete this review process, and for DPWES to address any citizen comments.

5. The utility company may need an easement from a property owner(s) for underground wires to electrify the proposed streetlights. These easements must be granted at no cost to the utility company.
6. The installation of all streetlights is governed by the Board of Supervisors adopted policy, terms, and conditions of the appropriate contract with the utility company, and the VDOT permit obtained by the utility company.

C. Special Streetlight Programs

1. Communities Contributing Funds for Streetlights

If County funds are not available for the installation of streetlights, communities have the option of providing the necessary funds for the installation of new streetlights in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in the General Procedures and Stipulations for Communities Contributing Funds for Streetlights as approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 24, 1997. Please see the County's web page (Private Contributions) at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/private-contributions>

or contact the Streetlight Engineering Team at 703-324-5111 if additional information is required.

2. Upgrading Existing Streetlights

Older existing streetlights that do not meet current lighting standards can be upgraded to current lighting standards by the County, contingent upon available funds, if requested by the citizens. The upgrading of existing streetlights shall conform to the Policy and Procedures Governing Requests to Upgrade Existing Streetlights as adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 26, 1995. Please see the County's web page (Dim Bulb Program) at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/dim-bulb-program>

or contact the Streetlight Engineering Team at 703-324-5111 if additional information is required.

D. Eligibility Requirements

1. Only public roadways, which are situated in a public dedicated right-of-way and currently maintained by either the VDOT-or the County, are eligible for streetlights.
2. A Standard Petition Form (Enclosure I) signed by a simple majority (51 per cent) of the residents whose property abuts the section of road right-of-way requesting streetlights must be submitted to the County.
3. The area for which streetlights are requested must meet current approved eligibility requirements, i.e., crime deterrence or hazardous driving conditions as determined by the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD).

E. Lighting Fixtures

1. The available lighting fixtures shall consist of the standard cobra head or the colonial style fixture.
2. The colonial style fixture, intended for use primarily in residential areas, must meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Curb and gutter street section
 - b. Areas with underground electrical distribution
 - c. Streets with traffic usage, as determined by VDOT, less than 3,000 vehicles per day

F. Pole Type and Electrical Service for Streetlights

Electrical Distribution in Area Requesting Streetlights	Proposed Street Lights		
	Fixture	Pole	Electrical Service
Underground	Cobra	Concrete	Underground
	Colonial	Fiberglass	Underground
Overhead	Cobra	Wood	Overhead

G. Pole Placement Location

Cobra Head: On non-curb and gutter street sections, poles are normally a minimum of ten feet from the edge of pavement and behind the ditch line. On curb and gutter streets, poles will be located approximately 9.5 feet from the face of curb or immediately behind the sidewalk (minimum 2-foot separation).

Colonial: Poles to be located 2-feet behind the face of curb or in the utility strip.

H. Light Source

1. The light source for new streetlights installed at County cost shall be Light Emitting Diode (LED) 3000K color temperature which emits a warm white colored light.

I. Lighting Levels

The illumination levels provided by the proposed streetlights shall conform to Section 7-800, Street Lights, contained in the current edition of the Fairfax County Public Facilities Manual.

TO: County of Fairfax
Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Utilities Design and Construction Division
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 463
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

The petition, with _____ attached signature sheets and a description of improvements desired, is forwarded for Fairfax County's consideration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: _____

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT: _____

LOCATION: _____

Type of Streetlights Requested (check one)

Cobra Head: _____

Colonial: _____ (must meet all of the following criteria: curb and gutter streets, underground electrical distribution and streets with traffic usage of less than 3,000 vehicles per day).

SIGNATURES TOTAL: _____

They are certified as residents of the area who will benefit by this project. I attest that the attached petitioners have seen the sketch of the Fairfax County standard cobra head roadway lighting fixture and standard colonial style fixture that is available for installation.

Signature of Association-President, Chairman or Head of Petition Committee

Name (please print)

Signature

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address: _____

I desire to review the proposed streetlight layout prior to the County submitting the installation order to the utility company.

Yes: _____ No: _____

See attached information summary Item B.4 for possible project delays if “Yes” is checked.

I HEREBY RESPECTFULLY PETITION FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO PROVIDE STREETLIGHTS IN OUR AREA. I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE SEEN THE SKETCHES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY STANDARD COBRA HEAD ROADWAY LIGHTING FIXTURE AND THE STANDARD COLONIAL STYLE FIXTURE AND UNDERSTAND THE TYPE OF STREETLIGHT BEING REQUESTED BY THIS PETITION. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BELOW MAY BE SHARED WITH THE UTILITY COMPANY SERVING THE AREA TO AID IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF THE REQUESTED STREETLIGHTS.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature Sheet Number _____ of _____

(FILL OUT A SEPARATE SIGNATURE SHEET FOR EACH STREET BEING PETITIONED)

Street: _____, City: _____

NOTE TO PROPERTY OWNERS: If necessary, would you grant easement to the utility company for the installation of the requested streetlights and related electrical cables?

Resident Name (Print)	House Number	Tele. No.	Yes/No Note Above	Signature

Signature Sheet Number _____ of _____ (Continuation)

