



September 17, 2018

PRINCE WILLIAM STREET - IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – LIGHTING MEMO

Dear Prince William Street Residents:

In response to recent inquiries, the City of Manassas would like to share some history about the street lights designed for Prince William Street. In September 2012, a Citizens Advisory Committee was formed and this committee shared their recommendations at the February 11, 2013 City Council meeting. At this meeting, the committee recommended that cobra head lights mounted on wooden poles be evenly distributed along the corridor. The Prince William Street project design moved forward with this recommendation as it was in line with the practice in place at that time, which was to limit Sternberg (acorn style on pole) lights to the historic downtown area north of the railroad tracks.

The electrical design includes light pole spacing along with accompanying underground conduit and cabling to meet the spacing requirements that adequately and evenly light the roadway and future sidewalk. Undergrounding electric cables based on the roadway design and the light distribution requirements began in the spring of 2015. The decision was made by City staff to put cobra head lights on aluminum poles instead of wooden poles as that became standard practice in the city. However, at the Citizen's meeting on May 11, 2017, citizens vocalized that they were dissatisfied with the brushed aluminum poles and instead requested black Sternberg lights. The City heard these concerns, and although unable to change the type of light from Cobra head to Sternberg based on the existing underground infrastructure, the City decided to adopt a new policy and to use black aluminum poles which more closely match the Sternberg poles.

Each type of light in the City – cobra heads, Historic District Type TS-20.3 (Acorn on pole) and Downtown Lighting Type TS-20.6 (Hanging acorn on arm) all provide different lighting coverage and hence require different light pole spacing. Cobra head lights can provide light from only one side of the roadway whereas the Type TS-20.3 and TS-20.6 require light poles spaced more closely together and placed on both sides of the road. The underground conduit and cabling that has been installed supports the cobra head lights. Installation of the Historic and Downtown lighting types would require installation of new conduit and cable, which would require additional funding and delay the project schedule.

Citizens have also raised concerns about the lack of tree cover providing screening between Old Wellington Road and Wellington Road close to Winters Branch. The project design currently has ten eight foot high white pine trees in the contract. These trees will replace trees that are removed to accommodate the new storm drainage structure. If there is budget at the end of the project, additional trees in the area close to Winters Branch will be considered.

Thank you,

CITY OF MANASSAS

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