

TITLE: STREET LIGHT POLICY
SECTION: ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS
POLICY NO.: 31600-02

APPROVAL DATE: March 23, 2026

CAO Signature: 

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear, consistent, and fiscally responsible framework for the planning, installation, operation, and management of street lighting on public roads within the Town of Amherst. The policy supports safe conditions for pedestrians and motor vehicles while balancing accessibility, environmental stewardship, and long-term operating and lifecycle costs through a risk-based approach.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all public streets within the Town of Amherst where the Town has authority or responsibility for street lighting.

Street lighting shall be provided on all public roads in accordance with this policy and the associated operating procedure. The specific lighting design, spacing, output, and infrastructure selection shall be determined based on roadway function, pedestrian activity, safety risk, surrounding land use, existing infrastructure constraints, and fiscal sustainability.

POLICY STATEMENT

Street lighting shall be provided on all public streets within the Town of Amherst to support safe movement for both pedestrians and motor vehicles.

The Town shall plan, implement, and manage street lighting using a risk-based decision-making framework, with detailed requirements established in the operating procedure. This framework will consider:

- Public safety
- Accessibility
- Environmental and neighborhood impacts
- Fiscal responsibility and lifecycle costs
- Consistency
- Asset management
- Energy efficiency

All street lighting installations shall align with this policy and be implemented in accordance with the Town's approved operating procedures.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Public Safety – Reduce safety risks for motorists and pedestrians.
- Accessibility – Minimize glare and support pedestrian movement.
- Environmental Stewardship – Reduce unnecessary light spill and pollution.
- Fiscal Responsibility – Consider lifecycle costs.
- Asset Management – Align with Town asset management practices.

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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Title/Role	Responsibilities
Director of Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the policy is reviewed periodically and updated as needed to reflect changes in best practices and ensure it meets the needs of the Town. • Be able to interpret and explain policy content
Council	Review Policy recommendations for approval consideration (approve, reject or edit)
Operations Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement policy through operating procedures

For Administrative Use Only:

VERSION LOG

Amendment Description	Policy Owner	Approved By	Approval Date
Policy Revised to clearly explain its purpose and brings it in line with good asset management practices.	Director of Operations	Council	March 23, 2026

Minutes Reference Dates: 16 December 2003 26 April 2011 26 January 2015