

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Ownership/Maintenance

1. What are the main problems with the current street lights?

The main issues include broken wires that are buried without protection, and the poles, fixtures, and foundations need more upkeep because the system is getting older.

2. Can we fix the broken wires by splicing them together?

Usually, splicing (repairing the wires) doesn't work well. Just fixing one splice doesn't really solve the bigger problem with the wires in the system. Sometimes, new breaks in the wires happen close to a splice we just fixed underground.

### Process

3. What's different about the petition and assessment process now?

In December 2022, the Minneapolis Street Lighting Policy was updated. This change affects how we replace street light systems with wires directly buried underground. We ended the petition process, and now, properties next to the project will only pay 25% of the project cost instead of the previous 100%.

### Timeline

4. When will lights be replaced?

If the project gets final approval, the finished street light design is expected to be sent out for contractor bids in early summer 2024. If the bids go well, the plan is to replace most of the lights in this project area during 2024.

### Design

5. Will the new street lights be put in the same spots as the old ones?

Usually, for every old light, there will be a new one. In some blocks, we might add an extra light, which can change the positions of the nearby lights a bit. When deciding where to put the lights, we think about how far they are from intersections, driveways, signs, trees, and underground utilities.

6. How will the new street lights be better?

The new lights will have several upgrades like concrete foundations, anodized aluminum poles, and LED fixtures. These fixtures are designed to shine light downward, helping to achieve our goal of preserving dark skies. LED fixtures also make the light more even, reducing the contrast between bright and dark areas.

7. Why are we putting taller 30 ft street lights at certain intersections?

In these areas, there is already some equipment from USI Wireless connected to the decorative poles owned by Xcel Energy. The city wants antennas to be on 30 ft. street light poles because these poles can handle the attachments. We expect about ten 30ft. poles to be in the final plan, but they will only be at certain intersections.

## **Assessments**

### **8. How do we figure out special assessments?**

To figure out how much each property should pay for this project, we used the current rules from the City of Minneapolis Street Lighting Policy. We also used something called the "influence area method" for each property in the project limits that benefits from the project. For more information about how we decide on these special assessments please visit:

[Special Assessment section on the city's website](#)

### **9. Who do I contact for special assessment questions related to this project?**

For special assessment questions please use the following:

- a. [Visit City of Minneapolis Special Assessment webpage](#)
- b. Join the online meeting to learn more about this project. You'll get details about the meeting in the notices sent to each affected property owner before the public hearing.
- c. Email [PWSpecialAssessments@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:PWSpecialAssessments@minneapolismn.gov)
- d. Call the Special Assessment office – (612) 673-2401