



## Street Lighting Master Plan Statement of Intent

The Salt Lake City Street Lighting Master Plan (Plan) represents a significant shift in how Salt Lake City (City) utilizes streetlights while balancing multiple values. The Plan identifies a strategy that balances safety, character, responsibility to public health and the environment, and equity using a series of plan guideposts for evaluating the lit environment and the technical elements of a streetlighting system, as outlined on pages 27-28 of the Plan. Further, based on the application of planning guideposts and input of the advisory and technical committees, the Plan implements policies that incorporate our strong commitment to safety, public health, and the environment, as stated in the Executive Summary of the Plan.

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) is committed to minimizing blue-spectrum content by implementing the lowest color temperature possible while balancing these guideposts. Lower color temperatures (perceived as “warm” light) emit less blue content than higher color temperatures (perceived as “cool” light). While this Plan establishes maximum color temperature in areas of the City, we understand the potential of higher color temperature lights could have on the environment and public health. We will use the lowest color temperature when feasible while still balancing the needs of public safety and character. Each community is unique and priorities may differ by neighborhood throughout the City. The Plan provides flexibility to meet each community’s particular needs by engaging each community and neighborhood as the initial step in implementation to ensure that the solution identified for that community meets resident, business owner, and user needs, within the established limits of the Plan.

Finally, we are proud the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), which is a recognized authority on light pollution and is working to combat light pollution worldwide, supports the Plan. In an August 16, 2021 letter of support, the IDA found the Plan to be consistent with both Values-Centered Outdoor Lighting and the Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting.

### **1. Useful: All light should have a clear purpose**

The Lighting Warrants Table (Vol 1, page 41) describes where lighting is needed or not needed, and what strategies apply based on street classifications and adjacent land use. Some lighting strategies are optional which will be determined based on community input prior to the implementation.

### **2. Targeted: Light should be directed only where needed**

Strategies for controlling light pollution, light trespass and glare are built into this plan, transitioning all historic street and pedestrian lighting from unshielded, glowing acorns



and teardrop lenses to fully shielded, zero uplight (Uo) luminaires. Additional limitations have been established for backlight and glare, as well as additional house-side shielding that can be added in the field as needed.

**3. Low Light Levels: Light should be no brighter than necessary**

Light levels for this Plan are established by the Illuminating Engineering Society Recommended Practice for Roadway Lighting (RP-8-18) with variation limits of +/- 10%.

**4. Controlled: Light should be used only when it is useful**

Adaptive Dimming Strategies, established in the Policy Statements (Vol 1, page 10), encourage lighting levels to be reduced during times with less pedestrian activity. Specific guidance for dimming strategies is included in the Lighting Controls and Adaptive Dimming Strategies section (Vol 2, page 58).

**5. Color: Use warmer color lights whenever possible**

This Plan acknowledges that minimizing blue spectrum content minimizes environmental and human health concerns. We also recognize that character and visibility performance are factors to consider when selecting the color temperature. Maximum color temperatures are based on adjacent land use (Vol 1, Table 5, page 49). Final color temperature selection will be based on community engagement and a pilot study to evaluate the priorities and balance of visibility, character, and human and environmental health.

Further, the IDA states, “It contains the best practices that we encourage for all jurisdictions, and if adopted it would set a new standard for street lighting plans for large cities.”

Sincerely,



Laura Briefer, MPA  
Director  
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