

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



October 7, 2019

Reference: NEPA Progress Update and Section 106 Consultation for DC Smart Street Lighting Project, Washington, D.C. – Public Meeting Invitation

Dear Commissioner:

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are preparing a documented Categorical Exclusion (CE III) for the upgrade and modernization of the District's extensive streetlight system. The project is being implemented in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), FHWA's Environmental Impact and Related Procedures regulations (23 CFR 771), and the DDOT Environmental Policy Manual (2nd Edition). The project will also consider effects to historic properties in accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C §470) and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

The purpose of this letter is to formally invite your commission to the Section 106 consultation and a progress update on the NEPA process for this project. To that end, you are encouraged to attend one of two public meetings, held in open house format, for this project. The first will be **Tuesday, November 5, 2019, from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Georgetown Public Library** located at 3260 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20007. The second will be **Wednesday, November 6, 2019, from 6:00-7:30 PM at the Roosevelt High School Auditorium** located at 4301 13th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011.

Elements of this CE III will include documentation of the purpose and need, identification of the relevant environmental resources, agency and stakeholder coordination, public involvement, and documentation that, based on similar FHWA action, this project will not, either individually or cumulatively, have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resource.

Specifically, the District is proposing to convert its street light network of more than 75,000 assets to light emitting diode (LED) technology with remote monitoring and control capabilities. In addition to conversion, poles will be brought up to a "state of good repair," meaning that arms, bases, and poles that are in disrepair (i.e., chipped paint, leaning, or broken) will be repaired to and maintained at fair condition. The proposed improvements would occur primarily within the existing right-of-way. The District of Columbia Office of Public-Private Partnerships (OP3) is providing procurement support as the selected bidder is expected to use private financing to develop the project.

Figure 1 (enclosed) illustrates the proposed project's location. We request your comments regarding effects to environmental or cultural resources within your commission's boundaries, which may be of interest for this project.

Your input will allow us to comprehensively address all potential impacts as the process moves forward. DDOT has initiated consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) for

the above referenced project and anticipates a finding of No Adverse Effect on historic properties. For the purpose of this project, DDOT considers your commission to be a consulting party for Section 106.

Please email your comments on the anticipated determination of effect within 30 days from the date on this letter to me at ddot.streetlightp3@dc.gov. More information about the project can be found at ddot.dc.gov/streetlightp3.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Roos
P3 Manager and Streetlight Manager
District Department of Transportation

Enclosure:

Figure 1 – Project Location Map

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Figure 1 – Project Location Map

