

# Downtown Lighting Improvements

## **Downtown pedestrian Lighting pilot project**

Downtown Olympia is South Puget Sound's regional hub for economic and social activity. With eclectic shopping and dining numerous arts and entertainment venues and a rich historic fabric, Downtown has much to offer with a high concentration of retail and professional businesses located in its central core.

However, as Olympia continues to add market rate housing and residents to its downtown, the neighborhood faces some important issues and development uncertainties related to a continuing need for inclusive residential opportunities. A major issue that has been raised by both residents and businesses is pedestrian safety. There is a strong interest in maintaining and growing a vibrant business and retail environment, and the increasingly critical need to address the effects homelessness and street dependency on local businesses and residents.

A downtown pedestrian lighting pilot project presents an opportunity for the City of Olympia to respond to consistent feedback of local businesses and residents by installing free standing pedestrian lighting in areas that are not adequately serviced by existing street lighting. Additional lighting will create the warmth and vitality that small businesses owners in our retail core are seeking to promote their business locations during a challenging time for economic growth and sustainability.

## **Area Pilot**

The Downtown Pedestrian Lighting pilot is a proposal to install freestanding LED lighting along a quarter block section of Washington Street. Olympia City staff has been in contact with the Public Works project manager Jakeh Roberts from the City of Monroe, WA who has achieved this task in his jurisdiction, installing pedestrian along the City's main street corridor (Attachment 1). Using lessons learned from Monroe's successful implementation, Olympia proposes to duplicate that success in our downtown.

The "Security Building" occupies the entire Northwest corner of the 400 block of Washington Street in downtown Olympia. The Washington Street frontage includes two hair salons, a cheese shop, and a restaurant and cocktail lounge; all businesses with heavy foot traffic and a wide swath of operating hours from early morning to late evening. Olympia City staff has met onsite with the Security Building property management and maintenance team to establish the best and most reasonable siting for necessary lighting infrastructure. An additional meeting with business owners is planned for the near future.

Because Washington Street is slated to be re-developed in just a few years, installation of pedestrian lighting should not be seen as a permanent addition but rather as a proof of concept for other opportunities to add vibrancy and safety features throughout Downtown.

## Implementation

City Staff proposes the City install four, 8 inch bollards, approximately 42" tall in equidistant fashion (or within closest proximity based on potential surface limitations) along approximately 115 linear feet of the south 400 block of Washington street. Bollards will be sited no closer than 24" from the curb face (similar to a parking meter) and will accommodate 2 5/8" black powder coated galvanized poles approximately 16 Ft in height. Similar installation practices in Monroe indicate that a total of 4 lighting bollards and poles will be necessary to hang lighting for this project at an equidistant locate of approximately 38.5 feet (see attachment 2) per pole. Lighting will be supported by stainless steel 3/8<sup>th</sup> T-16 line.

An exterior survey of the building was conducted with the building's property management and a junction box power source on the south face of the building was identified as the proposed electrical tie in. This same power source is currently being used to power the City's LED alleyway lighting project. The current conduit piping along the south side of the building does not present incompatibilities for historic preservation and is ideal for this low draw project.

Funding for this project has yet to be identified and may incorporate a potential mix of public and private dollars





