

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



d. P3/Streetlights

Streetlight Advisory Panel Meeting

District Department of Transportation

55 M Street SE, Room 639

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

4:30 – 6:00 PM

Attendees

Sharon Turner (chair), Amanda Young (vice chair), Delores Bushong, David Searles, Kathleen Cromley, Chyla Evans, Duilio Passariello, Kathryn Roos (DDOT), and Trevor Langan (DDOT)

Agenda

- I. Project Update
 - a. Reevaluation documents has gone to the Office of the Attorney General for review.
- II. Presentation from Metropolitan Police Department
 - a. Captain Jon Dorrough from District 1
 - i. District 1 covers H St corridor, up to NY Ave, including the Downtown and the Wharf.
 - ii. Captain Dorrough has experience across the District as an officer working the night and evening shifts.
 - iii. He says perception of safety is important to residents and lighting is linked to feeling safe, which is part of MPD's mission.
 - iv. There is debate in scholarly literature about precisely how much light inhibit or encourages crime.
 - v. He is confident saying that a complete lack of lighting would lead to more crime.
 - vi. Based on personal experience, undesirable elements will gravitate toward dark spots along a block.
 - vii. MPD has a light truck, which is used as temporary tool to shine light on a problem area. It is effective in the short term.
 - b. Questions from the group
 - i. When you have conversations with community members, do you hear complaints based on the lighting technology?

1. Comments from the public do not usually concern the color of the light. Dark spots are what trigger most comments, which can be triggered by a light out, tree cover, or insufficient lighting.
 - ii. What effect does LED lighting have on MPD's tech?
 1. License plate readers and fixed cameras work better with LED rather than HPS technology.
 - iii. What information regarding light is or isn't included in traffic incident or crime reports?
 1. MPD hasn't conducted full lighting studies or have a stated policy on lighting.
 2. MPD does reach out to communities/ANCs to do assessment following incidents.
 - iv. Does MPD have statistics on when crimes, specifically shootings, occur?
 1. MPD does keep stats and is able to pull that information.
 - a. Go to Crimemap.dc.gov to view the data.
 - v. If light affects the perception of crime, does that mean that crime will happen regardless?
 1. Crime occurs around the clock, but the type of crime is linked to the time of day.
 2. Kathryn: It is important to note that an MPD request for more lighting does not mean an automatic increase in lighting from DDOT.
- III. Panel Discussion on Future Agenda Items
- a. The National Capital Planning Commission working group on street lighting design is scheduled to present in May.
- IV. Adjourn
- a. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 4:30 – 6:00 PM.
 - i. Please return your reflective vest if you took one during the tour.
 - ii. The consensus was to keep the time the same. DDOT will set up a conference line to enable those who can't make it to call in.