

LED Street Lighting Retrofit Conversion Fact Sheet

What is LED street lighting?

Light Emitting Diode (LED) fixtures are a source of highly efficient and environmentally friendly light fixtures. These fixtures reduce energy and maintenance costs, provides more direct lighting with less light pollution and improves visibility to the street and sidewalks at night.

Which lights are being changed?

All existing high-pressure sodium (HPS) cobra-head style city owned street lights on our roadways and within the three public parking lots in the downtown core.

What are the Benefits of LED street lighting?

- Consumes 50-70% less energy.
- Fixture will last up to 20-years (about 5-times the length of traditional street light).
- Expected lifespan is now 70,000-100,000 hours which results in less waste product and maintenance.
- Costs 50-75% less to maintain, as the luminaires need to be serviced half as often as comparative HPS lighting.
- Improves lighting uniformity for street and sidewalks while reducing light trespass on private property and light pollution in the sky with better optical control.

Are LEDs safe?

Exposure to light from an LED is as safe as being exposed to natural lighting or any other artificial light source. Studies have shown that LED street lighting does not present any risk to the retina for short exposure times.

Concerns have been raised about blue light exposure from LEDs. While research supports the safety of LED lighting, we have selected a “warm white” colour for areas of residential properties and have reserved the “bluer light” colour for arterial roadways and commercial areas.

Will the light shine through my windows?

LED lighting provides better control allowing light to be directed towards the roadway, sidewalks and reduces light trespassing onto private properties.

How long will the works take?

- Phase 1: roadways north of Highway 1 are anticipated to be completed by June 2021.
- Phase 2: roadways south of Highway 1 and public parking lots anticipated to be completed by December 2021.

Will the installation impact me?

- The work will involve the contractor in bucket truck accessing each lighting fixture for short durations.
- The work will not affect power supply to adjacent properties nor create excessive noise or disturbances.
- The work will involve some traffic control, particularly on major collector or arterial roadways. We appreciate your patience during the installations.

Do you have questions?

- Contact Colette McDiarmid, Senior Road Technician with the City of Chilliwack by email at mcdiarmid@chilliwack.com or by phoning the Engineering Department at 604-793-2907.