



MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

EAST SALEM SERVICE DISTRICT

EAST SALEM LIGHTING SERVICES

The East Salem Service District is considering a proposal to light the remaining areas of the district. Today, there are 135 individual lighting districts within the district, serving 65% of the east Salem population.

What is the proposal?

The district governing board is considering dissolving the 135 existing lighting districts and creating one “super” lighting district, covering the entire east Salem unincorporated area. Staff and advisory members completed an analysis that includes the coverage area, feasibility, and costing for this proposal.

Why is the district considering this?

The East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association has, for years, placed effort into creating additional lighting in the hopes of reducing the number of crimes that happen in the area, like tagging and theft.

Each lighting district receives its own monthly bill from PGE, using about one ream of paper each month! Each bill is tracked individually by staff so that residents are billed appropriately on their tax statements.

What are the benefits of an overarching lighting district?

While there are areas of street lighting in some east Salem neighborhoods, there are other neighborhoods that have no lighting. There are also some areas on major arterials and collector streets with no lighting, like parts of Hayesville Drive, 45th Avenue, Herrin Road, Center Street, and State Street. In creating a “super” lighting district, over time and in stages, these gaps will be filled. It will also help with the administrative burden the current method carries, while also charging each customer equally.

How would installation and maintenance occur?

If approved, the installation would take about six to ten years to complete. PGE will maintain the street lights, with the associated costs reflected on property owners’ annual property tax statements.

What type of lighting would be installed in my neighborhood?

Approved overhead LED lamps will be used. For more populated arterial roadways, LED lamps at a higher-rated wattage will be installed.

What does this mean for me if I already pay for lighting?

For 1,521 property owners, this means that you will pay a little more. For more than 4,200 other property owners in the area, this means that you will pay a bit less. The average cost per year will be approximately \$32 per year when the build out is completed. Some property owners will experience savings of up to \$70 annually. Other property owners could see an increase of as much as \$24 annually.

What does this mean if I don't already pay for lighting?

Over time, if the proposal is approved, you will start to see street lights being installed in your neighborhood and surrounding areas. As one "super" district, every property owner within the East Salem Service District would pay equally for lighting. Thus, if the "super" lighting district is approved, all property owners will begin seeing a line item on their annual property tax statements. At the outset of implementation, each property owner will pay approximately \$24 per year. As more lighting is added, the line item will gradually increase to approximately \$32 per year.

Will additional lighting impact crime?

According to a University of Chicago study in October 2017, a controlled study found that in *"developments that received new lights experienced crime rates that were significantly lower than would have been the case without the new lights. Among other findings, the study concluded that increased levels of lighting led to a 7% percent overall reduction in "index crimes"— a subset of serious felony crimes that includes murder, robbery and aggravated assault, as well as certain property crimes —and, more specifically, a 39% reduction in index crimes that took place at night."*

The Pacific Institute found in a study after installing brighter street lighting in Lucas Park, California, **83% of the survey takers said that they felt safer with brighter lights.**



For more information, contact the district office at (503) 588-5084, or at DMansfield@co.marion.or.us, or in person at 5155 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305.

Sources:

- * <https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/projects/crime-lights-study>
- * http://pacinst.org/reports/measuring_what_matters/issues/streetlights.pdf