
AGENDA ITEM

DATE: October 13, 2025
MEETING DATE: October 21, 2025
SUBJECT: Downtown Streetscape Project - Lighting Update
PRESENTED FOR: Decision: Information:
PRESENTER(S): Lequrica Gaskins, Downtown Manager
Joeseph Threadcraft, Threadcraft Engineering

History/Facts and Issues:

Lighting is a critical element of the Downtown Streetscape Project, contributing not only to visibility and public safety but also to the overall visual identity and pedestrian experience in Downtown Albany. Feedback was received from community stakeholders, as well as reviewed site evaluations conducted by staff and engineering consultants. The Lighting Photometric Layout was reviewed and approved by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The issue to resolve is to respond to GDOT's request for the City of Albany to confirm a pedestrian light pole selection. This selection can be from the City's existing inventory or from an external vendor, and information is needed so that the engineering consultant can complete and submit Change Order 3 for further consideration. This project is at a critical milestone, and a pole selection is needed to prevent further project delay. A conceptual approach is noted below.

- Decorative pedestrian-scale lighting will be installed along key corridors to enhance walkability and aesthetics.
- Coordinated utility planning is underway to ensure compatibility with existing infrastructure.
- Final fixture types, spacing, and energy efficiency features are being reviewed to align with the adopted streetscape palette and long-term maintenance goals.
- Cost estimates are being refined and will be included in the final construction budget.

This lighting plan aligns with the Downtown Master Plan, reflects the City's ongoing commitment to revitalization, safety, and sustainability, and has been approved by GDOT.

Options/Pros and Cons:

Install architectural pedestrian-scale fixtures along sidewalks and public areas (e.g., acorn-style luminaires on custom-designed poles consistent with historic or branding goals).

Pros:

- Enhances visual appeal and reinforces downtown branding.
- Complies with the GDOT approved lighting plan.
- Supports tourism and economic activity by encouraging nighttime use.
- Can include banner arms or planters for seasonal enhancements.

Con:

- Higher upfront cost per fixture compared to standard lighting.

Recommended Action:

Approve recommended pole concept and downtown streetscape/sidewalks

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

The final fiscal impact will depend on the lighting option selected (standard, decorative, smart, or hybrid) and the total number of fixtures installed. Final costs will be provided following approval of lighting specifications and contractor quotes.