

To: Mayor, Board of Trustees and Village Manager
From: Ad-Hoc Committee on LED Streetlights (“Committee”)
Re: Update on LED Streetlight Program
Date: March 8, 2017

Executive Summary

This memo provides an update on the LED Streetlight project, including: an update on the High Traffic Road and Town and Country Fixture Pilot (“Pilot”), updated budget estimates for the current and 2017-2018 fiscal years and the plans for the rest of 2017. As detailed in the Committee’s update dated September 30, 2016, the Pilot on High Traffic Roads and locations with Town and Country post-top fixtures was extended while we await an update to one of the pilot fixtures. It is anticipated this fixture will arrive in late March 2017. Given this extension of the Pilot, the Committee has proposed an amended budget request of \$35,000 for the current FY 2016-2017 (down from \$100,000) and has shifted \$65,000 to FY 2017-2018 (from FY 2016-17). The \$35,000 would cover LEDs for the Town and Country Fixtures and the \$65,000 would cover the High Traffic Road locations. The Committee will continue working on the Pilot in 2017, provide a recommendation to the Board for the Pilot locations and continue working on finding appropriate LED lights for all roads in Scarsdale.

Update on High Traffic Roads Pilot

On July 12, 2016 a pilot program was launched on High Traffic Roads and locations with Town and Country Fixtures. Pilot fixtures were installed at five locations on High Traffic Roads: Heathcote Road, Mamaroneck Road and three locations on White Plains (Post) Road. The Pilot, initially planned to run for three months, was extended because one of the Pilot fixtures is being upgraded by the manufacturer. This upgraded version is expected to include material improvements and will be released in early 2017¹. Based on the potential improvements to the fixture, the pilot period was extended to provide an opportunity to test this upgraded fixture.

The Committee is waiting for the upgraded version to be released at which time it will be installed at pilot locations on Mamaroneck Road and White Plains (Post) Road. The manufacturer has provided the Committee with a late March timeframe. Once the fixtures are installed and sufficient time has been provided for resident feedback, the Committee will provide a recommendation to the Board regarding whether to move forward with LED lights on High Traffic Roads².

Update on Town and Country Lights Pilot

The Pilot also included piloting LEDs in Town and Country post-top fixtures. Two LED bulbs were installed on Tisdale Road and two on Springdale Road. In addition to these locations, the town and country fixtures in the village hall parking lot were used to test various other town and country LED options. To further evaluate the LED bulbs, we will be installing additional LED bulbs along Tisdale Road to provide a street-length view of the LED bulbs.

¹ For more information on these fixtures please see memo from the Committee dated September 30, 2016. Available on Scarsdale.com at www.scarsdale.com/480/Ad-Hoc-Committee-on-LED-Streetlights

² High Traffic Roads include: White Plains (Post) Road, Heathcote Road, Mamaroneck Road and Weaver Street (note: some lights on Weaver Street are in New Rochelle and have already been converted to LEDs by New Rochelle). These locations include 214 lights.

Budget Update

The Committee has proposed the following budget update for the LED streetlight program: (1) change the current fiscal year 2016-2017 budget allotment from \$100,000 to \$35,000 and (2) allocate the reduction of \$65,000 to the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The reduction for this fiscal year is due to the extension of the Pilot program. Given that the Committee is still waiting on delivery for the updated version of the Pilot fixture discussed above, any potential rollout of LEDs on the High Traffic Road locations would likely occur in FY2017-18 at the earliest. The remaining \$35,000 in the current fiscal year budget would cover the installation of Town and Country LEDs³.

There is no change to future budget years (2018-2019 to 2021-2022) allocations of \$125,000 per year for the LED streetlight rollout. These budget estimates will be revisited as part of the annual budget review process to address any changes in timing and/or expected costs.

Planning for 2017

The Committee will continue work on the current Pilot on High Traffic Roads and Town and Country locations and provide a recommendation to the public and Board at the completion of the Pilot. The Committee will also continue working with manufacturers to find appropriate LED lights for all roads in the community.

Based on discussions with manufacturers over the last few months, there are some potential updates on the horizon that may make the updated LED streetlights more compelling for the streets in Scarsdale. Potential improvements include the introduction of lower wattage fixtures as well as changes in technology that improves the aesthetics of the lights (such as the inclusion of diffusers). The two technological improvements that are leading to these changes are improved efficiencies of LEDs and the reduced cost to manufacture the fixtures. By improving the efficiency of the LEDs, manufacturers have the potential to add features that improve aesthetics at the expense of efficiency. While in the past such improvements would have lowered the efficiency to a point where LEDs wouldn't make sense financially, the significantly improved efficiencies allow for an efficiency loss while still maintaining an attractive financial payback. The overall reduction in fixture cost also supports this industry shift. While aesthetic features such as diffusers are still in the demonstration phase and are not yet commercially available, the industry is heading in this direction. This change would significantly improve the aesthetics of the lights, especially for our more residential roads.

Scarsdale Leading the Way

The Committee is proud to share that a number of other municipalities have been able to benefit from our research and pilot program. Several municipalities have visited our pilot sites and Scarsdale recently hosted a successful meeting and streetlight tour for the Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium. Aside from simply helping other municipalities, another benefit of this collaboration is that our combined demand for improved fixtures will likely move the industry towards improved fixtures.

To contact the Ad-Hoc Committee on LED Streetlights, please email us at LED@scarsdale.com

³ If we are able to utilize LED bulbs in our current Town and Country fixtures, rather than an LED retrofit kit or full head LED replacement, the expense would be considerably less than the budgeted \$35,000. The Committee is currently testing these LED bulbs to determine whether this option is feasible.