



City of Winston-Salem Architectural Lighting Policy

Effective Date: April 19, 2022

Department of Transportation

City of Winston-Salem
P.O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
CityLink 311 (336.727.8000)
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www.dot.cityofws.org

Purpose:

With lighting being utilized more with public infrastructure, the purpose of this policy is to establish the approval process and lighting requirements for architectural lighting within the public right-of-way in Winston-Salem. This policy will apply to all architectural lighting within the public right-of-way, regardless of right-of-way owner.

Operating Requirements:

Lighting shall be directed away from oncoming vehicular traffic. Lighting should not be placed or aimed in areas that could be blinding or distracting to both oncoming vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Brightness, light intensity, mounting height and visibility of lights should all be considered during placement and design.

Lighting may be white or composed of one or more discrete color(s). However, there may be certain scenarios where particular colors should be taken into consideration to vehicular traffic safety and movement. *For example:* red and green lighting displays should be used with caution and consideration when near or adjacent to a signalized intersection. This could cause unwarranted hesitation or movements if interpreted incorrectly by vehicular traffic. Approval for the use of red and green light displays near signalized intersections should be reviewed by the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation.

Lighting shall be operated as a steady display. Lighting may not flash or strobe. It shall also not be operated from an off or black light display to an on or colored display during operational sequences.

Lights may display consecutive colors but must gradually fade from one color to the next. The time frame that the lighting display takes to fade from one color to the next color should be no less than 20 seconds. *For example:* A light display cannot cycle or fade from a full blue display to full white display over a 10-second period. It must be increased to fade from full blue to full white over a 20-second period.

Lighting may be enabled 1-hour before sunset and must be disabled 1-hour after sunrise. Lighting should not be left on during day light hours. Having lights enabled during daylight hours poses further distraction for vehicular traffic and would not be considered effective or energy efficient.



City Council: Mayor Allen Joines; Denise D. Adams, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Ward; Barbara Hanes Burke, Northeast Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Kevin Mundy, Southwest Ward; Annette Scipio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity

Request for Lighting Display:

Where architectural lighting is owned and maintained by the City of Winston-Salem, recognized charitable or civic organizations or governmental agencies may make requests for lighting displays in accordance with the above provisions for a period not more than 15 days. Requests shall be submitted to the Department of Transportation at least 30 days prior to the start date of requested lighting display. Once received, the DOT staff will coordinate with the Mayor's office for consideration of the request. ~~No special lighting requests will be accepted for the month of December.~~

The Mayor may approve or deny any request for lighting displays on City-owned architectural lighting devices.

The Mayor may approve a request for a lighting display that overlaps a previously approved event. The Mayor's office will direct staff which color and dates to program for events with a floating schedule that may overlap another approved event.

Where architectural lighting is not owned or maintained by the City and is desired to be placed in the public right-of-way, the owner shall apply for a permit and appropriate encroachment agreement to operate the lighting in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions. The Assistant City Manager over Public Works may issue these permits. An encroachment agreement will also be necessary for permanent lighting placed within public right-of-way owned by the City and must follow the process outlined in Section 74-103 of the Code of Ordinances. If in the North Carolina Department of Transportation right-of-way, proof of obtaining the appropriate encroachment agreement from the North Carolina Department of Transportation must be provided with the permit request.

Calendar of Approved Events:

The Department of Transportation staff will present a map to City Council every November or December to gain approval of lighting requests for the following fiscal year.