

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** April 11, 2023

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**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

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**From:** Aaron King, Assistant City Manager  
Jeffrey Fansler, Director of Transportation

**Council Action Requested:**

Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of 41 New Streetlights for the Streets of Old Salem Located Within Phase 1 of the Old Salem Infrastructure Improvement Project Using Remaining Project Fund Balance (South Ward)

**Strategic Focus Area:** Quality Transportation  
**Strategic Objective:** No  
**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No  
**Key Work Item:** No



**Summary of Information:**

The Winston-Salem Department of Transportation (WSDOT) staff is managing the Old Salem Infrastructure Improvements 2014 Bond project. Throughout the life of the project, significant changes in the project scope have taken place. The initial scope of this project was to improve the streetscape elements of Main Street in Old Salem. Those improvements included the replacement of the existing streetlights. Throughout the historic district, existing streetlights continue to break, are difficult to maintain, frequently malfunction, and provide complex logistics to the ownership and maintenance of the lighting system.

As the project developed, significant effort was put into obtaining a uniform lighting system that would satisfy the historic guidelines of the Old Salem Historic District. That effort materialized when the project was presented to the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) in 2016. WSDOT staff and the project consultant presented a lamp post that was considered a close replica of existing lamp posts. The formal condition for approval is as follows:

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b>	PW/FIN 4-11	<b>Action</b>	Approval
<b>For</b>	Unanimous	<b>Against</b>	

**Remarks:**

1. Commission staff and two HRC members shall review and approve a complete example of the new lighting, including the lantern, collar and lamppost, reviewing and approving the wattage, final design, and post.

To summarize, it was determined that a full-size prototype should be created that the HRC could review and approve. This proved to be problematic due to the expense of having a custom mold fabricated. Previous quotes to create a mold and one prototype were in the \$50,000-\$60,000 range. With this understanding, and the growing cost of other elements of the project, lamp posts were removed from the overall project scope. The decision was to provide the underground infrastructure with the current project, but the lamp posts were to be removed due to the lack of funding.

Since this decision was made, final plans were reviewed, approved, and permitted that included the critical infrastructure to support new lamp posts should funding be obtained in the future. Today, new conduit, electrical panels, and lamp post foundations have been installed with the project. The current design allows for a complete lighting system that can be master metered and energized through one meter and photocell for uniform operation and control.

During the construction of the project, staff continued to pursue HRC approval for a new streetlight prototype. WSDOT and the design consultant partnered with various custom lighting experts to recreate the Old Salem Streetlights with modern materials that could be fabricated and maintained in perpetuity. In December of 2020, WSDOT staff took an item to the HRC for approval of a new streetlight post and fixture without the need to create a full-size prototype. The item included detailed drawings, pictures, and plans that satisfied the original concerns of the HRC. The HRC unanimously approved the proposed streetlight.

The Old Salem Infrastructure Improvements Project has now been completed and was delivered under budget. The project has a remaining balance of approximately \$414,000.00. Staff is recommending that the balance of funds be used to purchase the 41 streetlights that were originally removed from the project. Approval of this item would allow staff to liquidate the remaining funds, making them available for purchasing the recommended streetlights.