

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

## INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE



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**TO** Distribution (Program Delivery Offices)

**SUBJECT** Roadway Lighting

This is to communicate the Department's protocol for planning and installing lighting on the state highway system in Georgia. Lighting may be initiated by the Department, a local government, or a private developer to enhance the following transportation infrastructure:

- Roadways (urban interstates, corridors, intersections, and roundabouts)
- Interchanges (urban and rural)
- Tunnel or Underpass (roadway, pedestrian, and multi-use-path)
- Pedestrian Accommodations (sidewalks, multi-use-path, and streetscape)
- Parking Facilities (Welcome Centers, Rest Areas, Truck Weigh Stations, and Park-and-Ride Lots)
- Aesthetics (enhancement projects, bridges, etc...)

The Office of Design Policy & Support, Roadway Lighting Group, is the subject matter expert for the Department involving lighting. Their duties include: maintaining GDOT lighting standards, conducting lighting warrant studies, coordinating Local Government Lighting Project Agreements (LGLPA), conducting photometric review and lighting plan review/approval during the preliminary and final plan phases, and conducting material submittal review and shop-drawing review/approval during the construction phase. The Roadway Lighting Group also manages IDIQ task order contracts with consultants to develop the engineering and plans for lighting on an as needed basis.

All lighting systems will require a formal agreement between the local government(s) and the Department to establish responsibilities. Responsibilities for lighting systems may be addressed in a LGLPA, Project Framework Agreement (PFA), Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Maintenance Agreement or Utility Permit. The Roadway Lighting Group will help determine which method is appropriate on a case by case basis. The Department may be responsible for the preliminary engineering, materials, and installation costs associated with lighting, or share a portion of these costs with the local government, depending on who initiates the lighting and how it is accomplished. In all cases, the local government will be responsible for the operation costs associated with the lighting system, to include 100% of the energy and maintenance costs.

There are four methods of accomplishing roadway lighting:

1. **Lighting included in parent Roadway Project** – Project Management assigned to the Office of Program Delivery with support from the Roadway Lighting Group. The need and extent of lighting should be determined in the development of the concept and preliminary plans for the parent roadway project.
2. **Stand-alone Lighting Project** – Project Management assigned to the Office of Program Delivery with support from the Roadway Lighting Group – typically to address an operations issue.
3. **Force Account (FA)** – Project Management assigned to the Roadway Lighting Group. Local government contracts with a utility company or contractor for design and installation of lighting at considerable lower cost than traditional design, bid, build. FA method may only be used to add or upgrade lighting to existing roadway facilities. A cost justification analysis and FHWA approval of the FA method will be required. FA methods for lighting cannot be used in conjunction with other let projects.
4. **Utility Permit** – Lighting initiated by local government or private developer to be installed on state right-of-way. Utility Permits are managed by the State Utilities Office with support from the Roadway Lighting Group. District Utilities Office is involved in the coordination with the local government/developer and oversight during installation and maintenance.

Further guidance on lighting is published in the GDOT Design Policy Manual, **Chapter 14, Lighting**, located online at: <http://www.dot.ga.gov/doingbusiness/PoliciesManuals/roads/DesignPolicy/GDOT-DPM-Chap14.pdf>  
Also see the "GDOT Lighting Design Process" flow chart located online at:  
<http://www.dot.ga.gov/doingbusiness/PoliciesManuals/roads/Lighting/Lighting%20design%20process.pdf>