

### Background

Street lighting provides an adequate visual environment for road users to safely use the road system during hours of darkness. The City currently pays Manitoba Hydro approximately \$13 million annually to light Winnipeg streets according to lighting guidelines developed by the Transportation Association of Canada.

On May 28, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure and Public Works directed the Public Service to report back within 180 days on: how this service fee compares to what other Canadian cities pay for lighting; whether other major Canadian cities provide street lighting services at a higher or lower level than Winnipeg; and what standards they utilize to determine appropriate street lighting levels.

To support this environmental scan, the Public Service undertook a public opinion survey to gain a baseline understanding of Winnipeggers' thoughts on our street lighting system.

### Engagement

Winnipeggers were invited to participate in the online survey from November 7 to November 29, 2019. Its results are not statistically valid but provide a general sense of how residents experience lighting in the areas they live in or visit.

The survey invited participants to an online mapping tool, where they were asked to drop a pin on up to three locations, and rate the quality of lighting in the area on a scale of 1-5 (one being the worst). They were able to select up to three statements that reflected their feelings about lighting from a pool of the following options: *too bright; not bright enough; too many lights; too few lights; unreliable service; dissatisfied with type of light; dissatisfied with colour of light; and, no issues*. The instructions and questions provided with the mapping tool are in Appendix B.

A total of 814 participants provided their opinions on 1,033 locations. All submissions were received in English. Full responses to the survey questions are in Appendix D.

Of those who participated:

- 2,717 were *aware* (visited the engagement site)
- 1,893 were *informed* (clicked for more information)
- 814 were *engaged* (submitted feedback)

The survey was available online (in both English and French) from November 7 through November 29, 2019. Participants who required an alternate format were guided through the survey over the phone.

### Promotion

Samples of promotional materials are in Appendix A. The survey was promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – call to participate posted online from November 7-29, 2019;
- News release – sent November 7, 2019 to City of Winnipeg media list;
- Five Facebook posts throughout duration of survey shared with 16,797 followers; and,
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter sent to more than 5,300 recipients on November 7, 2019.

### What We Heard

#### Response distribution:

- Responses were most concentrated in a quadrant bordered by Notre Dame Avenue to the north, Garry Street to the east, Century Street to the west, and Grant Avenue to the south. (331).
- The majority of responses within this quadrant were focused on the Downtown core (119) and North River Heights (82)

**To learn more about the**

**Street Lighting Survey, please visit <https://winnipeg.ca/streetlighting>**

- Heatmapping data does not illustrate a notable concentration of responses indicating too many or too few lights in any one area.
- Heatmapping data shows a concentration of respondents who reported their lighting as “good” over central Winnipeg, and also on the outskirts of the northeast corner of the city (near Springfield Road and Lagimodiere Boulevard).
- Concentrations of “poor” lighting responses appear in the Leila/McPhillips triangle, perimeter of the Downtown core, and small pockets in east Winnipeg.
- Hotspots of respondents who noted their lights were not bright enough appear in the Downtown core (focused on the area of Portage and Main) and northwest Winnipeg (focused around the Leila/McPhillips triangle).
- Responses do not overwhelmingly point to any one area being over- or under-served, nor one primary concern being overwhelmingly faced by all Winnipeggers.

### Efficacy rating:

- The vast majority of responses rated the efficacy of lighting at the respondent’s chosen location as *poor* (321 entries) or *very poor* (264).
- Some 193 locations were given a neutral rating (*neither poor nor good*).
- Respondents classified lighting at 167 locations as *good*, and *very good* at 81.

### Descriptive statement selection:

- The most commonly selected statement was and “*lights are not bright enough*” (331 locations), followed by “*I am dissatisfied by the type of light*” (313 locations) “*I am dissatisfied by the colour or hue of lights*” (300 locations).
- 161 locations were accompanied by the “*I don’t have any concerns*” selection option.

- 207 locations were cited as having too few lights.
- 143 locations were cited as having unreliable lighting.

### Comment summary:

- The most common concern noted in the write-in comment fields was safety or danger due to darkness (71 comments).
  - These concerns were specific to residential streets, and – to a lesser extent – back lanes and parks.
  - Six respondents specifically noted they walk on the road due to poorly lit sidewalks in their residential areas.
- A number of those who expressed concern with lack of brightness and dissatisfaction with hue indicated their concerns began when the lighting system transitioned to LED bulbs (10 responses noted this specifically).

### Next Steps

These survey results will be included in a report to Standing Police Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works that looks at street lighting across Canada, from technical, economical, efficiency, and public opinion standpoints.

This information will be available for Council’s consideration when making decisions or plans for the future of street lighting in Winnipeg.

### Appendices

Appendix A – Promotional materials

Appendix B – Mapping tool instructions and survey questions

Appendix C – Geographic response heat maps

Appendix D – Full survey results

**To learn more about the**

**Street Lighting Survey, please visit <https://winnipeg.ca/streetlighting>**