



## LELED seeks input on streetlight conversion program

Over the next month, officials at the Littleton Electric Light Department will seek public input on the style and candlepower of new streetlights at two trial locations before it begins a conversion program of the entire system.

The purpose of the conversion is to achieve the best illumination at the lowest operating cost, based on the FinCom's recommendation last year to cut the town's streetlight budget from the requested \$51,915 to \$12,000, given the unsuccessful override vote. The 75 percent reduction was approved as part of the annual street lighting article at annual Town Meeting in May.

Faced with the possibility of shutting off all but a minimum of lights at critical intersections, general manager Savas Danos instead opted to investigate more energy efficient replacement bulbs for the entire system.

Mercury vapor lights are currently used in the system. While long-lasting, these lights give off a blue hue. The metal halide bulbs to be used in the trial cast a white light source for a truer rendition. Residents are asked to state their preference of the bulb they believe provides the best illumination of the roadway.

To help determine an appropriate level and style of lighting, two trial areas are being installed with different wattages and lenses. On New Estate Road, at its intersection with King Street, three bulbs in descending wattages of 150, 100 and 70 will be placed starting at King and continuing up New Estate. Further along New Estate, at its intersection with Uplands Road, another set of three lights in descending wattages will be installed. In the first group, flat lenses will be used; in the second, a drop lens. Most fixtures in town are of the drop lens variety, where the lens is visible. With the flat lens type, only the light output is visible. Again, residents are asked to report their preferences. Poles will be clearly marked with the type of bulb, lens and wattage for easy reference. People can also denote a light fixture by its location to the closest house number.

Orchid and Dahlia Drives will also serve as a test location. On Orchid Drive, at its intersection with Goldsmith Street, three bulbs in descending wattages of 150, 100 and 70 will be installed. On Dahlia Drive, again at the intersection with Goldsmith Street, bulbs will be installed in descending wattages. The key difference between the streetlights will be the lens style: Orchid will have a drop lens, while Dahlia will have a flat lens.

Residents may state their preferences by calling the LELD office directly at (978)486-3104, or sending their comments by email to [cssupport@lelwd.com](mailto:cssupport@lelwd.com)

Danos said that the department will share the results of the trial with the public before beginning the system-wide conversion.