Funding

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General

In addition to the state, cities and counties may be involved in roadway lighting. The following flowchart explains the funding responsibilities for each of these jurisdictions depending on the location and type of lighting to be installed.

Lighting Programs

In addition to regularly programmed lighting projects there are several lighting programs funded which the Office of Traffic and Safety establishes the specific projects based on District input.

In recent years the Commission has been providing $150,000 per year for intersection lighting. This lighting program is intended for lighting of existing rural intersections of two state highways that are not part of another programmed project. In January of each year the Office of Traffic and Safety will request the Districts to submit prioritized candidate locations for lighting projects in the next fiscal year. Based on the input from the districts, the Office of Traffic and Safety will develop a list of projects to utilize the programmed funding to submit to the Office of Program Management.

Lighting projects on the interstate are funded thru the 4R program. This may involve lighting as part of another improvement project or lighting of existing unlitected interchanges. Modifications to existing lighting can also be considered such as upgrading existing lighting, replacement of existing circuits, major tower repair and adding additional lighting units. Annually, the Office of Traffic and Safety will review the existing unlit interchanges for candidate projects. Section 6C-1 describes how existing unlit interchanges are evaluated and ranked. Those interchanges identified through this process will be considered potential candidates along with any projects identified by the districts. In the past $500,000 of 4R funding had been reserved for lighting. That reserve no longer exists and lighting projects on the interstate will need to compete for funding along with all other potential projects. The Office of Traffic and Safety will develop a list of recommended 4R lighting projects and submit to the Office of Design in April of each year for consideration of funding.

11x17 printable copy of flowchart
For a new or existing unlighted interchange on a freeway or expressway, lighting may be programmed if warrants indicate need for lighting. See PPM 630.03.

Construction, energy, and maintenance of the lighting system is the responsibility of the department.

The department is responsible for lighting on mainline, ramps and ramp terminals on freeways*. See IAC 761-150.2(3) and Iowa Code 313.4(4).

Generally, the city is responsible for lighting, unless the interchange is in a city of population less than 5000, then the department may elect to fund the lighting. See IAC 761-150.3(3).

On a new construction project with a roadway that is predominantly fully-access controlled, but has some expressway or arterial segments, the department may fund installation of lighting at conflict points, if the city agrees to fund the energy and maintenance. See IAC 761-150.3(3)(a)(2).

*Note: For the purpose of defining funding responsibilities for lighting, a freeway is defined as a roadway constructed with priority 1 access control for a length of 5 miles or greater.
Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Traffic and Safety

Funding Responsibilities for Highway Lighting

- The city is responsible for the cost of construction, energy and maintenance of the lighting. See IAC 761-150.3(3)a for more information.
- The county is responsible for the costs of construction, energy, and maintenance. If lighting is warranted, the department may share funding through C-STEP project. See IAC 761-136.1(3).
- Department will be responsible for relocating the lighting units if the present intersection will be obliterated and the reconstructed intersection is in the general vicinity (within approx. 10 stations of the original intersection). The county will be responsible for energy and maintenance.
- If intersection is between two rural primary roads, the department is responsible for construction, energy, and maintenance. See PPM 630.01.