

Except of E-mail to mayor and councilors:

From: Sam Finn <lsfinn@icloud.com>  
Subject: Lighting infrastructure project  
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[3] In investigating the lighting proposal presented to the Council for its approval I was surprised to find that there was no ordinance or specification governing the luminaire procurement. Certainly none is referenced in the contract with Dalkia or as an attachment to the contract. The kind of specification that I was looking for, but that apparently does not exist for this project, is similar in intent to the specifications that governs other City procurements: e.g., a street sweeper or garbage truck. Such a specification would cover, for example, compliance with existing federal, state, and local laws and ordinances, certification by an appropriate OSHA certified national recognized testing laboratory (e.g., Underwriters Laboratory), limit radio and television frequency interference while in operation, carry an specified minimum warranty or guarantee, have surge protection for nearby lightning strikes or other electrical disturbances, be certified for operation in the temperature and other weather extremes associated with and specific to Santa Fe, and other requirements that the City may think necessary or prudent to impose. These specifications are ones that would apply independently of any lighting plan or design: i.e., regardless of any lighting intensity or CCT. Absent such a specification or ordinance the City has no recourse if implicit assumptions regarding the luminaire physical and operational properties are not met.

[4] In summary, I am deeply concerned that the City is not receiving the kind of professional advice it needs to make an informed judgement on this 3+ million dollar infrastructure investment. The Department of Public Works does not have its own certified Traffic Engineer, specifically trained and knowledgeable about lighting and roadway safety. The absence of such expertise has already shown itself in the misconceptions and misunderstandings regarding NMDOT regulations highlighted at the Feb 24 meeting and others noted above, and other questions relating to night sky protection, lighting ambiance, CCT and lighting luminosity, etc. The Department of Pubic Works is relying upon its chosen vendor for this advice; however, the vendor who will provide and install the lighting has a clear conflict of interest in providing the City advice on the choices it faces. This conflict of interest should not be overlooked. Bad choices are possible. In an extreme case – for example, bad lamp choices or the use of unapproved fixtures – poorly informed decisions could require the city to replace the entire installation, potentially doubling the project cost. At a lesser level, choosing lamps or fixtures without adequate regard to their failure rate may lead to a lower initial outlay but a significantly greater cost over the installation lifetime.