

TOWNSHIP-WIDE STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM BEGINS

Springfield Township is one of 35 municipalities in southeastern Pennsylvania participating in a Regional Streetlight Procurement Program led by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Through this project, Springfield Township is replacing all of its existing street lights with energy efficient, LED lights.

In 2015 members of the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a single energy services company to complete the project on behalf of all 35 municipalities. The use of a single provider and economies of scale afforded through cooperative purchasing has allowed all participating communities to receive the lowest possible cost. Each municipality is also using a tool known as “energy performance contracting” whereby the savings resulting from the project will be guaranteed every year. The RFP included an expert-vetted specification for the replacement light fixtures to ensure that the Township was not only using our purchasing power to procure equipment and labor at the lowest possible price, but was also purchasing the highest performing equipment on the market.

Johnson Controls Inc. (JCI) was selected as the Energy Services Company for this project. JCI completed a comprehensive field audit of all existing fixtures in the Township for retrofit. JCI then developed a photometric design of typical locations throughout the Township in order to develop a design-driven LED conversion approach that ensures the correct illumination levels and distributions will be consistent throughout the Township. The installation of new streetlights in Springfield Township began in early May.

The new LED lights will last more than 20 years, and result in fewer outages and lower maintenance costs each year. In addition, LEDs typically use at least 50% less energy than the fixtures that they replace. Across the entire program, the project will produce gross savings of \$1.4 million annually, and \$15.3 million in net savings over 20 years. Springfield Township will realize a net savings (net construction costs) of \$548,558 over 20 years.

The LEDs that will be installed will look different from the fixtures they are replacing and may appear whiter and/or brighter to the eye. However, please be assured that the new lights were designed to meet (but not exceed) the illumination standards that were originally intended, but in more recent years may have been reduced because our aging street lights were no longer functioning properly. The new LED's will also provide a more uniform and directed light pattern, unlike the old streetlights which tended to spill light in multiple directions. The new LED lights will enhance visibility and improve overall safety on our streets and sidewalks, and result in greater reliability and energy savings for our community.