Jan. 11, 2017: RSUP lighting project update to neighbors

Dear Project Neighbors,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a good holiday season.

As discussed during the Nov. 29 community meeting, WSDOT has continued to evaluate the options identified to potentially reduce the light visible from the SR 520 Regional Shared-Use Path (RSUP). Here is an update on our activities.

Update on light shielding
WSDOT has been working with the light manufacturer to develop prototypes of a louvered shield (option #2 in the evaluation matrix). These shields have been designed to direct light downward onto the path. The prototypes have just arrived and will be tested soon. We will send an update detailing when and where neighbors can see these shields in place on the path.

RSUP light bulb replacements
In July 2016, WSDOT replaced the 100-watt bulbs that were originally installed along the RSUP with 50-watt bulbs in response to complaints from community members north of the floating bridge. The 50-watt bulbs have been failing at a high rate and much faster than expected. The bulb failure is likely due to an incompatibility between the lower wattage bulbs and the fixture wiring that is designed for 100-watt bulbs.

We are working to address this issue in order to maintain the safety of those on the path and protect the fixtures from condensation. (If there are no bulbs in the fixtures, then condensation may build up causing rust and damaging the fixture). Beginning this week, WSDOT maintenance staff will be replacing the burned-out bulbs with bulbs we have on-hand, as follows:
  • On the west end of the bridge 50-watt bulbs will be installed.
  • From the middle of the bridge to the east end 100-watt bulbs will be reinstalled.

Once the bulbs are replaced, we plan to test the louvered shroud prototypes on both the 100-watt and 50-watt bulbs.

Community technical meeting in late January
We are planning to host a follow-up technical discussion in late January to review the progress that has been made since the November meeting. An announcement with detailed meeting information will be sent as soon as a date has been confirmed. The meeting will be held at our construction office in Montlake, so space is somewhat limited. Please respond to this email if you are interested in participating in this technical discussion.

We appreciate your partnership as we continue to work toward a mutually acceptable outcome to this issue.

Sincerely,

Julie Meredith, PE
SR 520 Program Administrator
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