



Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR Director, Bureau of Traffic Operations		11-3-2
CHAPTER 11	Lighting/Electrical/Electronic Systems	
SECTION 3	Permitted Lighting	
SUBJECT 2	Aesthetic Lighting on Structures	

DEFINITION

Decorative roadway light poles on structures, or aesthetic lighting, is a dynamic lighting system that can be operated and controlled by a central computer using fiber optic and data cable lines and software that is capable of projecting a near limitless variety of colors and color patterns on bridges and other structures. The colors can be changed at an interval or remain constant. The intensity of the lighting fixtures can be controlled from 0 to 100 percent. Typical systems have the capability to be pre-programmed so that the lighting color selections and color schemes can be approved and controlled. This type of lighting does not impact the illumination level of the roadway.

POLICY

Aesthetic lighting *may* be installed only under conditions referenced in the WisDOT Bridge Manual and DTIM cost-share policies in the Program Management Manual 3-25-15. The provisions of this policy **shall** apply to all cities, villages, counties and towns (agencies) which desire to use or occupy rights-of-way of the State Trunk Highway system for locally owned and maintained highway lighting. Public, private and municipal utilities, cooperatives, and private citizens who desire to use or occupy rights-of-way of the State Trunk Highway System for aesthetic lighting **shall** apply to the city, village, county or town in which the State Trunk Highway is located.

The same permit process shall be followed as stated in TGM 11-10-1, Permitted Lighting for Locally Owned & Maintained Lighting Systems. Form DT1885 **shall** be submitted to WisDOT Regional Traffic Operations Section. **The permittee must note that the form is for aesthetic lighting.** Approval of a decorative lighting installation is based on WisDOT Regional Traffic Operations, Bureau of Traffic Operations and Bureau of Structures review.

The installation, including all wiring, supports, equipment, roadway clearance, etc. **shall** be in accordance with pertinent statutes, codes and regulations as well as good trade and engineering practice and **shall** be properly maintained. All electrical components of the system, including conduit, cabling, pedestals, **shall** be completely separate

physically from WisDOT electrical system infrastructure. All electrical systems **shall** be designed under the oversight of the State Electrical Engineer and **shall** be documented as under the operational control of WisDOT Bureau of Traffic Operations.

The operation and maintenance of the lighting system **shall** be at the expense of the maintaining agency. Removal of the system or alterations in any part of the installation that are required at any time by the WisDOT **shall** be made by the maintaining agency at his/her own expense within 60 days. Immediate action will be required if a hazardous aspect to the lighting system arises.

Construction and maintenance operations **shall** be performed without closing the highway to traffic except as *may* be specifically authorized by authorized representatives of the agency maintaining the highway. A work on right of way permit will be required by the appropriate regional office prior to any work being done on the right of way.

Aesthetic lighting schemes **shall not** present a distraction to traveling public. The lighting system **shall** be designed to minimize light trespass. When programmed to do so, the colors will remain fixed no less than 8 seconds. When lighting is in close proximity to the traveling public, certain colors (i.e., red, blue, amber), text, or images *may* be prohibited. At no time *may* the lights or colors flash or blink. The WisDOT Regional Traffic Operations Section will conduct a lighting review on driver effects.

Any requests from the public for change in operation of the lighting will be directed to the maintaining agency of the lighting system. The WisDOT Regional Traffic Operations Section in coordination with the Bureau of Traffic Operations will approve all non-standard lighting patterns prior to use. Requests *should* be made at least seven (7) days prior to the event to provide time for WisDOT consideration and approval. WisDOT *may* provide requests to the maintaining agency for certain public awareness campaigns (i.e., orange lighting for Work Zone Awareness Week).

WisDOT *may* require the aesthetic lighting be turned off under conditions or circumstances of adverse weather like heavy snow, fog or accidents which *may* have an impact on the traveling public.