

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	April 8, 2013
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>13-0581</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>13-168</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Amending Chapter 102 of the Municipal Code regarding Skywalk Lighting changes.

A. Skywalk lighting revisions to reflect current lighting standards.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of the staff recommendations, including first reading of the ordinance regarding the traffic regulation changes.

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The City of Des Moines was approached by business owners who would like to explore the use of new lighting technologies in the Skywalk system that provides adequate lighting while reducing energy consumption and costs. The current ordinance, which was set sometime back in the 1980s, states that a minimum of 30 footcandles is needed. City staff could not find why this specific minimum was set. According to the latest Illuminated Engineering Society (IES) Standard's Tenth Edition 2011, 30 footcandles is more in line with a minimum needed for a conference room, meeting space, or office space where computer/desk work is performed, not for areas of transition like corridors.

The current IES standard for public passageway spaces like corridors and hallways is 10 footcandles. Because security in the system is also of concern, staff also looked at the illumination levels needed for areas of surveillance. The IES standard for areas of surveillance is 10 footcandles. The Tenth Edition of the IES Standards published in 2011 stresses the importance of uniformity in lighting design, not just illumination levels. Good uniformity will actually provide better lighting for surveillance and for user comfort.

City staff is recommending that the ordinance be revised to reflect the latest edition of the IES Standards instead of a general minimum footcandle level. As technologies advance, such as the use of LED lighting, and this international document is updated, the ordinance will be updated to reflect the latest manual and, therefore, will also stay up to date. This is similar to other ordinances that reflect international and national manuals such as the International Building Code and Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

This revision was presented to the Urban Design Review Board on April 2, 2013, and the Board recommends moving forward with the ordinance change.

- A. The following revisions to the Municipal Code will make permanent the changes to the Skywalk lighting standards.

Sec. 102-329 f. Development Criteria

(4) *Lighting.* At every point along the skywalk corridor floor, ~~There shall be artificial lighting capable of providing a minimum intensity of 30 footcandles equivalent to the recommended illumination standards for public passageway spaces (ages 65 and older) and for areas of surveillance, whichever greater, as outlined in the Tenth current~~ edition of Illuminated Engineering Society (IES) standards ~~at every point along the skywalk corridor floor.~~ Lighting controls intended to reduce artificial light output and conserve energy are acceptable for consideration as long as minimum IES standards are met. For the construction of new skywalks or projects renovating existing skywalk lighting systems the designer shall meet average/minimum uniformity ratios in accordance with the IES recommendations. Lighting fixtures shall be recessed in or attached in immediate proximity to the ceiling, except that hanging or pendant fixtures will be permitted which do not invade the minimum skywalk corridor height. If additional lighting fixtures must be provided, they shall be supplied with electricity in such a manner that the interruption of service in any circuit inside the building will not result in total interruption of the required lighting.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Urban Design Review Board

Date: April 2, 2013

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: This item was heard by the Board, and it was recommended to move forward with the ordinance change.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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