

CHANGES ARE COMING TO STREET LIGHT SAAs



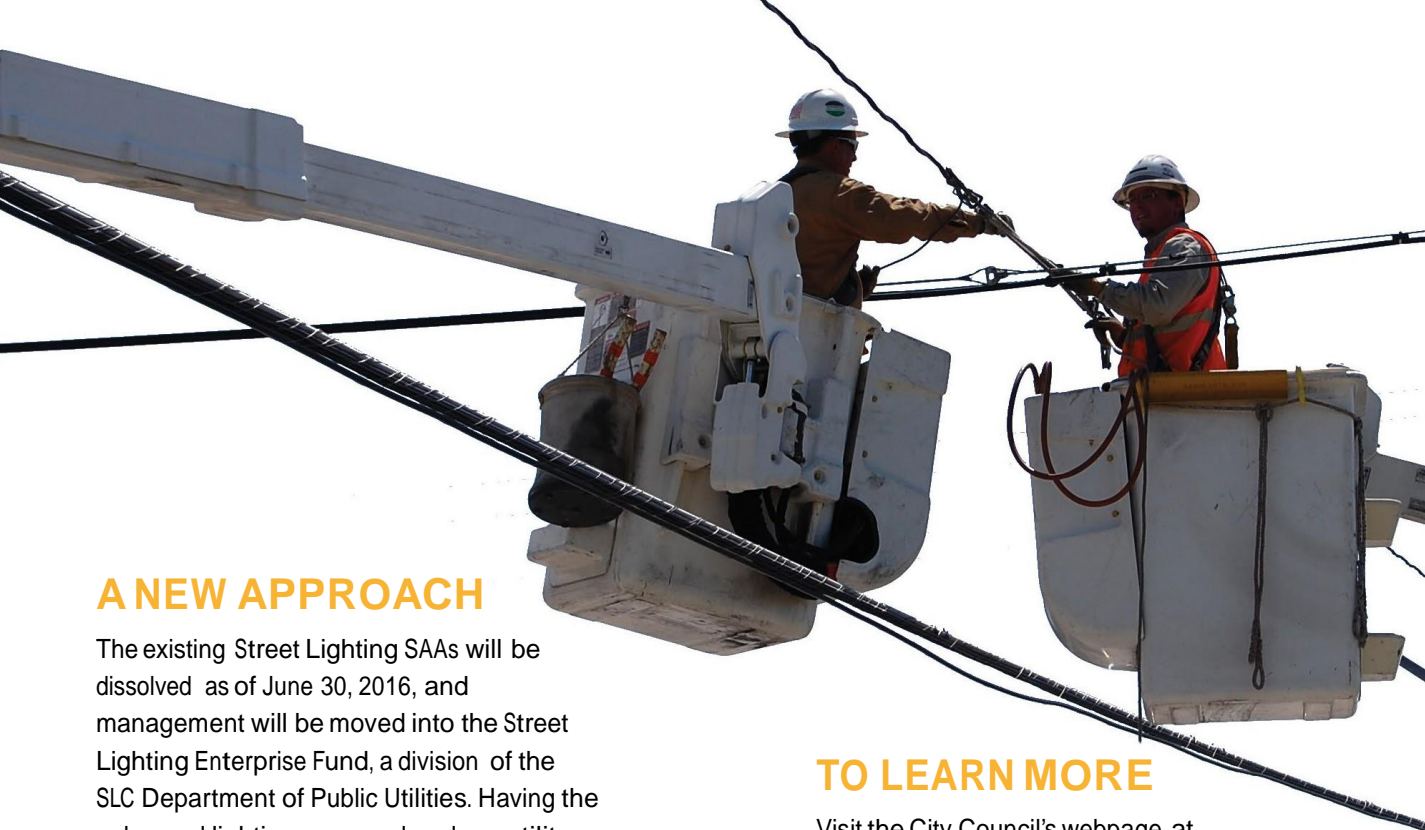
Since 1906, Salt Lake City has provided street lighting to the community to improve safety and enhance aesthetics. Today, most of the city receives a standard level of lighting, which includes light poles placed at the end of each block and mid-block locations. This is funded through a rate charged to properties on City utility bills. Some areas receive an enhanced level of lighting, which may include ornamental street lights or more frequently placed lights, creating a more pedestrian friendly atmosphere. This includes business districts such as Downtown or Sugarhouse. Also, neighborhoods have petitioned the City for similar improvements. Establishing Special Assessment Areas (SAA), these neighborhoods have taken on higher costs in order to receive enhanced lighting.



WHAT IS AN SAA?

An SAA is a Special Assessment Area, established to improve neighborhoods in specific ways—such as landscaping, sidewalks, or lighting—in exchange for which the property owners within the SAA pay additional costs. Street Lighting SAAs are neighborhoods where property owners requested and received enhanced street lighting, taking on the added costs for the additional or special poles, or more closely placed poles, as well as any ongoing operating and maintenance costs related to specific improvements.

Using SAAs to fund operation and maintenance expenses has proven to be problematic and financially unsustainable, particularly as capital replacement costs related to aging infrastructure increase. For example, a number of Street Lighting SAAs have had unplanned expenses relating to increasing maintenance costs and the SAA funding mechanism was not sufficient to complete the required work. After several public meetings, the City Council decided to phase out the SAAs and move towards a more sustainable funding mechanism.



A NEW APPROACH

The existing Street Lighting SAAs will be dissolved as of June 30, 2016, and management will be moved into the Street Lighting Enterprise Fund, a division of the SLC Department of Public Utilities. Having the enhanced lighting managed under a utility fund will provide opportunity for more public input; provide more consistent and predictable funding for maintaining and upgrading aging infrastructure; and expedite money-saving, energy-efficiency improvements which will help to keep costs down. Annual assessments for this fiscal year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) will be suspended, and fees will be added to monthly city utility bills. If approved, property owners within Street Lighting SAAs can anticipate billing to begin July 2016.

As part of this process, the Street Lighting Enterprise Fund is working with a rate consultant to analyze costs to prepare a tiered rate structure to be presented to the City Council later this spring. This process will include outreach efforts to solicit public input, including mailings, presentations at Community Council meetings, and use of the on-line forum Open City Hall.

TO LEARN MORE

Visit the City Council's webpage at www.slccouncil.com/lighting. You can view Council meeting paperwork and other background documentation, and sign up to receive email updates. Information can also be found at the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities' website, at www.slccgov.com/utilities.

GET INVOLVED

Visit the street lighting discussion topic at www.slccgov.com/opencityhall, where you can participate in the development of this issue. A rate consultant is currently analyzing costs to prepare a tiered rate structure that will be presented to the City Council later this spring. We want to hear from you and to have your thoughts included in the consultant's report, so please submit comments by March 30, 2016. Comments received after that date will be forwarded to Council for their consideration.

You may also mail comments and questions to:

Street Lighting Enterprise Fund
Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
1530 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Additionally, comments on Street Lighting SAAs can be directed to Public Utilities at (801) 483-6900, or by emailing brad.stewart@slccgov.com



**SALT LAKE CITY DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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