



Sustainability and Transportation Committee Report

Date: November 2, 2017
To: Sustainability and Transportation Committee
Through: Karolyn Kent, Assistant City Manager
From: RJ Zeder, Transportation Director
Gordon Haws, Deputy Director
Subject: Decorative Tree Lighting Policy

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to request the approval of a Decorative Tree Lighting Policy. The proposed policy will create a more standardized process and help to identify criteria, necessary approvals, and responsibilities of the City of Mesa and parcel owner.

Staff recommend that the Sustainability and Transportation Committee approve the proposed policy, authorizing Staff to use the policy for future decorative tree lighting requests.

Background

The Transportation Department completed one decorative lighting project in 2015 at the Hilton Phoenix/Mesa Hotel, and will be entering the construction phase of another installation at East Valley Institute of Technology in FY17/18.

For this policy, decorative tree lighting refers to lighting placed on existing trees located on commercial properties within a defined and themed commercial district or a gateway location and should increase tourism or commercial activity in the area or have some other definable benefit for the City of Mesa. Decorative tree lighting is not meant to offset lighting requirements that the property owner is otherwise required to install or achieve for walkways or roadways.

Discussion

The proposed policy will provide staff with criteria they can follow when future requests for decorative tree lighting projects are received. Decorative tree lighting projects that have been approved by the City Council prior to the implementation of this policy shall be permitted to move forward into design and construction.

The proposed policy will require that all amendments and/or deviations be approved by the City Manager or his/her designee. This will ensure compliance and consistent application within the City of Mesa.

Staff is seeking a recommendation to approve the adoption of this policy.

Alternatives

If the Sustainability and Transportation Committee chooses not to approve this policy, staff would recommend not approving any future decorative tree lighting installations.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to adopting this policy; however, costs associated with the design and construction of a decorative tree lighting project would have a financial impact that would vary by location and project scope.