

## STREET LIGHTING

The provision of street lighting at pedestrian crossing locations may also assist pedestrians to locate safe crossing points and to detect potential night-time hazards.

Street lighting provides a number of important benefits. It can be used to promote security in urban areas and to increase the quality of life by artificially extending the hours in which it is light so that activity can take place.

Street lighting also improves safety for drivers, riders, and pedestrians. Driving outside of daylight hours is more dangerous – only a quarter of all travel by car drivers is between the hours of 7pm and 8am, yet this period accounts for 40% of fatal and serious injuries to the same group <sup>1</sup>.

Pedestrians and vulnerable road users suffer from decreased visibility in the dark too. For these reason, ways of reducing the risk to all road users during the hours of darkness must be found.

A street light or street lamp is a raised source of light often mounted on a lamp column or pole either on the side of the road or within the median, or suspended on a wire above the road to provide illumination. Street lighting can provide safety benefits at midblock and intersection locations and can also improve safety for pedestrians, particularly at crossing points.

**Midblock** The provision of midblock street lighting increases safety by making road features such as road alignment, kerbs, footpaths, street furniture, surface condition, other road users and objects that may be on the road visible to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Areas that benefit from the provision of midblock lighting include service roads, merge, diverge and weave locations, locations with high levels of background lighting or high night time traffic volumes. Lighting is advisable for tunnels, major bridges, major operational facilities and their immediate approaches.

**Intersection** Providing Street lighting at intersection locations can reduce night time crashes by making the intersection features visible to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Lighting intersections can also aid navigation and helps drivers to see the intersecting road, turning vehicles, traffic queues and any other road users. Lighting should always be provided at signalised intersections and roundabouts. It is recommended that at least one luminaire should be provided on each of the intersecting roads to help traffic approaching from the side roads to identify the intersection.

**Pedestrian Crossing** Improving the lighting at pedestrian crossings will help to make both the crossing and the pedestrians using the crossing, visible to approaching motorists. The provision of street lighting at pedestrian crossing locations may also assist pedestrians to locate safe crossing points and to detect potential night-time hazards. This treatment has been shown to reduce the number of pedestrian crashes and improved lighting can also help to discourage street crime.

**BENEFITS:**

- Streetlighting helps to reduce night-time crashes by improving visibility.
- Can reduce pedestrian crashes by approximately 50%.
- Can help to aid navigation.
- Street lighting helps people to feel safe and can help to reduce crime.
- Route lighting can help to reduce glare from vehicle headlights.