

## Smart Fund Committee Members:

The Alliant Energy Center was asked to consider a phased approach to its Smart Fund Grant application to replace its existing parking lot and street lights with new LED fixtures. After reviewing our event calendar, the placement of the existing fixtures, and anticipated future business, we would like the Sustainability Subcommittee to seriously consider the value of implementing this project as initially proposed rather than in several phases. Attached is a map with the existing light fixtures identified. In our opinion, the only low priority fixtures are the five in the south parking lot directly south of Exhibition Hall. We have based our recommendation on the following points:

- Our busy season—January through April—coincides with the shortest period of daytime light. Consequently, the lights will be utilized most frequently when they are needed to provide lighting for the longest possible time. This factored heavily into the estimated average hours of operation for the pay back calculation.
- We anticipate the opening of the New Holland Pavilions and the events it will generate will significantly increase the utilization of the north parking lot. Previously this was the least utilized lot on campus.
- A significant portion of the lights also serve as street lights, which lead to our entry gates.
- Although the southeast and northeast lots that are in front of Exhibition Hall and the Coliseum are used the most, the south lot is the primary lot for most of the major tradeshow that are open to the public because we direct attendees to use the Rusk St. gate.
- We believe there is a considerable price advantage to doing the project in a single phase so the contractor does not have to mobilize their equipment multiple times.
- Not only do the lights help people find their vehicles at night, they are a security device for AEC employees, customers, and visitors.
- Given the Center's directive to operate without tax levy support, and the draw down of our reserves the past few years, we would like to maximize our energy savings as soon as possible in order to apply the maximized operational savings to other facility needs.
- We have a second phase of outdoor light replacements that we have planned already. There are an additional 48 smaller, more decorative lights along the sidewalks and plaza areas that we plan on replacing in a future request.
- As with the energy efficient lighting that was installed in the barns through the EECBG program, we are only changing out the light fixtures so they could be redeployed to new locations with ease if the lots are reconfigured in the future.

For these reasons we respectfully ask the Sustainability Subcommittee to consider funding the AEC's parking and street light upgrade project as a single phase project. If we can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to ask myself (267-3982) or Bill Franz (267-3985) for that information.

Thanks for your consideration.

Mark Clarke  
Executive Director