



To: Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway
From: John W. Prymack, Detroit Public Lighting Department
Beau Taylor, Executive Director Detroit Public Lighting Authority
Date: March 18, 2025
Re: **Responses to 2025-2026 PLA/PLD Budget Analysis**

Please find below responses to your questions sent on 3/14/2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the PLA/PLD.

1. Please give a brief status report concerning PLD and its plans for de-commissioning.

PLD continues to clear out and secure substations and electric vaults throughout the City. PLD also continues salvaging underground and overhead cable, wire, and accoutrements.

2. Please provide a brief description of PLA operations. Please provide information about the use of green technologies in PLA operations.

PLA has a small team of full-time staff involved in administration, oversight, and direction of operations. Actual electrical or construction work is performed by two subcontractors. Operations staff include a Director of Operations, an Engineer, Planned Maintenance and GIS Analysts, and field staff who quality control the contractors' work and survey for outages and pole conditions.

PLA has a Specifications Committee that regularly reviews new designs and technology such as green technologies. The luminaire providers we work with continuously improve the energy efficiency of their fixtures by constantly increasing the amount of lumens per watt provided by the fixtures. We have adopted General Electric and Holophane for the decorative lighting – both the standard in energy efficiency. The Specifications Committee is in the process of recommending Smart Lighting Control technology to further improve consistency, reliability, and efficiency of our system.

3. Please provide the estimated time needed for repair or replacement of light fixtures throughout the city. What is the rotation?

Repair time for outages has risen to an average of 8 days, because the first generation of luminaires installed in 2014-2015 has begun to fail as it reaches 10 years old. As expected, outages in winter 2024 are approximately double the number recorded in winter 2023. We have completed 3500 fixture replacements of those 8000 and will begin replacing 10,000 of another brand by this summer.

Since the pandemic, we have experienced extended delays in receiving orders of certain decorative poles, coupled with spikes in cost. We are in the process of securing additional suppliers or revisiting pole specifications so that replacements of those poles can be timely.

4. What is the amount of funds generated by the utility tax dedicated to PLA?

\$12.5M is dedicated to the Public Lighting Authority for debt service.