

# Trustee wants lighting plan adjusted

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At least one official wants to change the way Lombard sets its priorities for replacing street lights.

Trustee Ken Florey says he has no beef with the complex rating system for the proposed \$24 million program, just the potential implementation.

"I would suggest you turn it around," Florey said. "We have areas that are dark."

Florey said he was unsure if it is wise to replace existing lights with more pleasing fixtures before illuminating dark streets in the community.

The village has been investigating the possibility of illuminating all village streets to

the same standards. Staff ranked each street based on existing lighting, traffic volume, proximity to churches, schools or recreation areas, filling in gaps and incidents of burglary or vandalism.

According to the plan, busier arterial roads would get priority over collector streets, which would be completed before less-used neighborhood streets.

Trails and state routes were separated because of the potential to secure grants to help fund lighting projects there.

Sections of Main Street and Wilson and Highland avenues would be among the first few tackled, officials said.

Trustees Steve Seby and Richard Tross lauded the plan

Thursday and how it avoided political favoritism.

"I applaud the lack of bias in the report...the calculations," Seby said.

There is roughly \$3 million in village coffers to launch the aggressive program. But how the rest would be funded remains in question.

One possibility is creating a special taxing districts, where residents of the area would split the cost with the village to illuminate their street or neighborhood.

But, Tross said, the village should wait to see what happens with a March 21 referendum in which residents are asked to increase the retail sales tax by 1 percent to fund capital projects.