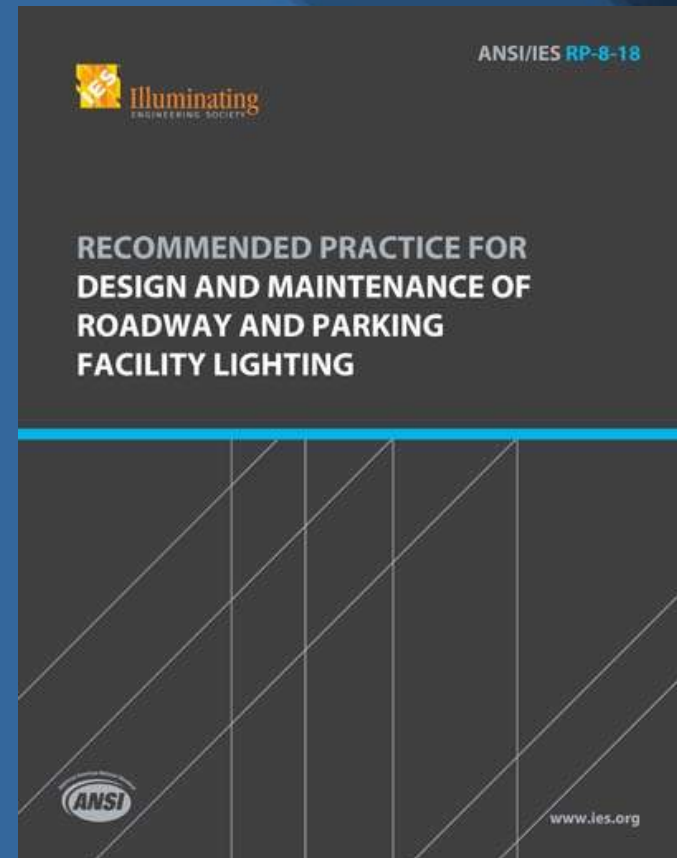


# ROADWAY LIGHTING DESIGN UPDATE

Don McLean  
DMD and Associates  
May 5, 2021



[www.dmdeng.com](http://www.dmdeng.com)



# PRESENTATION

- Focused on improving visibility (SAFETY) through lighting design
- Review current and upcoming research
- Environment
- DMD and Associates Electrical Consultants Ltd
- Consulting Engineers based in Surrey BC - Specializing in outdoor lighting design, traffic signals, ITS along with CEC
- WHY? – We are looking to become more active in Alberta long term.
- Q&A – What are your issues?

# ORGANIZATIONS

- TAC – TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
- AASHTO - American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- NCHRP -National Cooperative Highway Research Program
- FHWA – US Federal Highway Association
- IES – Illuminating Engineering Society (mainly North America)
- CIE – International Commission on Illumination (mainly Europe)
- IDA – International Dark Sky Association (light pollution watch dog)

# ENVIROMENTAL

<https://www.ies.org/pressroom/reducing-light-pollution-and-its-negative-affects-ies-and-ida-new-collaboration/>

There should be a **balance** between safety for road users and impacts lighting has on humans, plants and wildlife off the roadway



This presentation is focused on “**safety**” however it is important to consider the following 5 principals

# LIGHT TO PROTECT THE NIGHT

## Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



USEFUL		<b>ALL LIGHT SHOULD HAVE A CLEAR PURPOSE</b> Before installing or replacing a light, determine if light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.
TARGETED		<b>LIGHT SHOULD BE DIRECTED ONLY TO WHERE NEEDED</b> Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.
LOW LIGHT LEVELS		<b>LIGHT SHOULD BE NO BRIGHTER THAN NECESSARY</b> Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.
CONTROLLED		<b>LIGHT SHOULD BE USED ONLY WHEN IT IS USEFUL</b> Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.
COLOR		<b>USE WARMER COLOR LIGHTS WHERE POSSIBLE</b> Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

# REFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

- IES WEBSITE <https://elearning.ies.org/roadway> (2020)
- IES RP-8-18 – Being updated (2021)
- TAC Roadway Lighting Design Guide –Dated (2006)
- TAC Light Reduction and Energy Efficiency Guide (2012)
- FHWA Lighting Handbook – Being redeveloped (2022)
- FHWA Night-time Visibility Resources  
[https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway\\_dept/night\\_visib/roadwayresources.cfm](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/night_visib/roadwayresources.cfm)
- NCHRP 5-22A– Gaps and Emerging Technologies in the Application of Solid-State Roadway Lighting (2022)
- NCHRP Report 940 Solid State Lighting Design Guide (2019)
- AASHTO Roadside Design Guide (2019) – Clear Zone also ref TAC

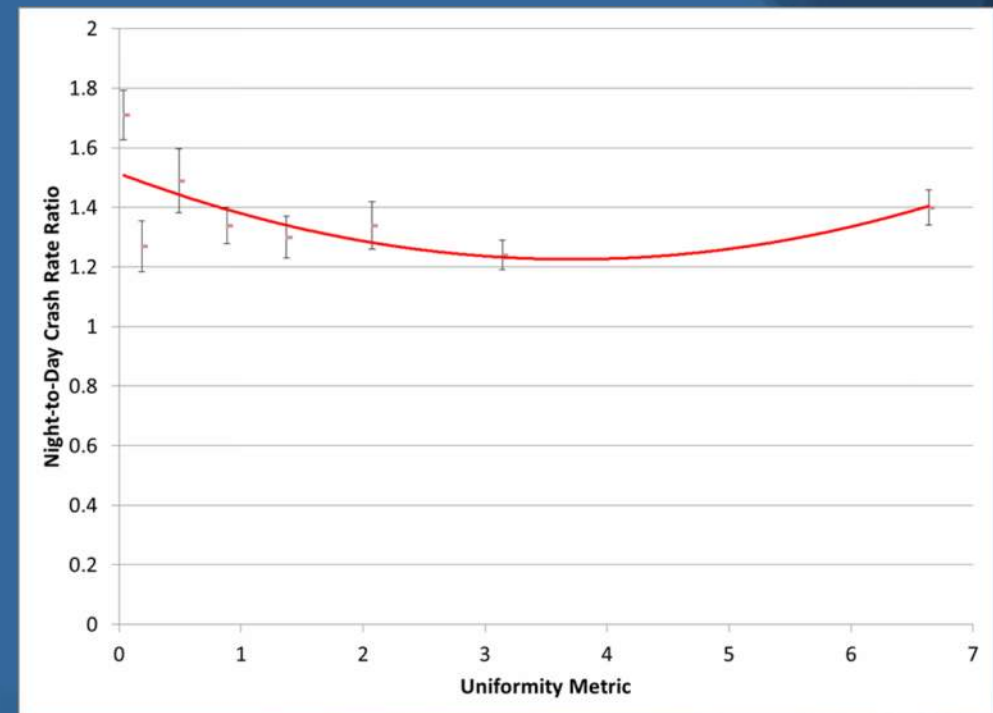
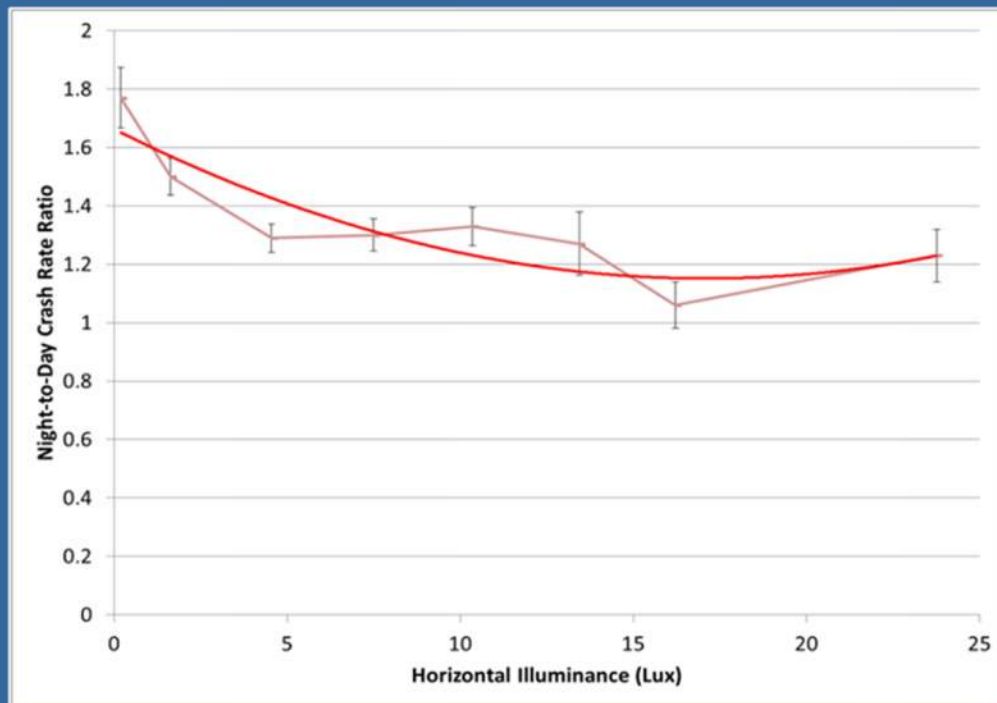
## RP-8-18

### Anticipated Updates of Significance:

- Surround Ratio
- Minimum vertical levels for sidewalks changed from minimum to average
- Illuminance curve radius 600m (error notes 160m)
- Use of illuminance for closely spaced intersections
- Clarification of how to define valid values in R tables
- More focus on LED sources
- Delete redundancy and overlap for each Chapter (specifically Chapter 11)
- Extensive internal review as per ANSI process

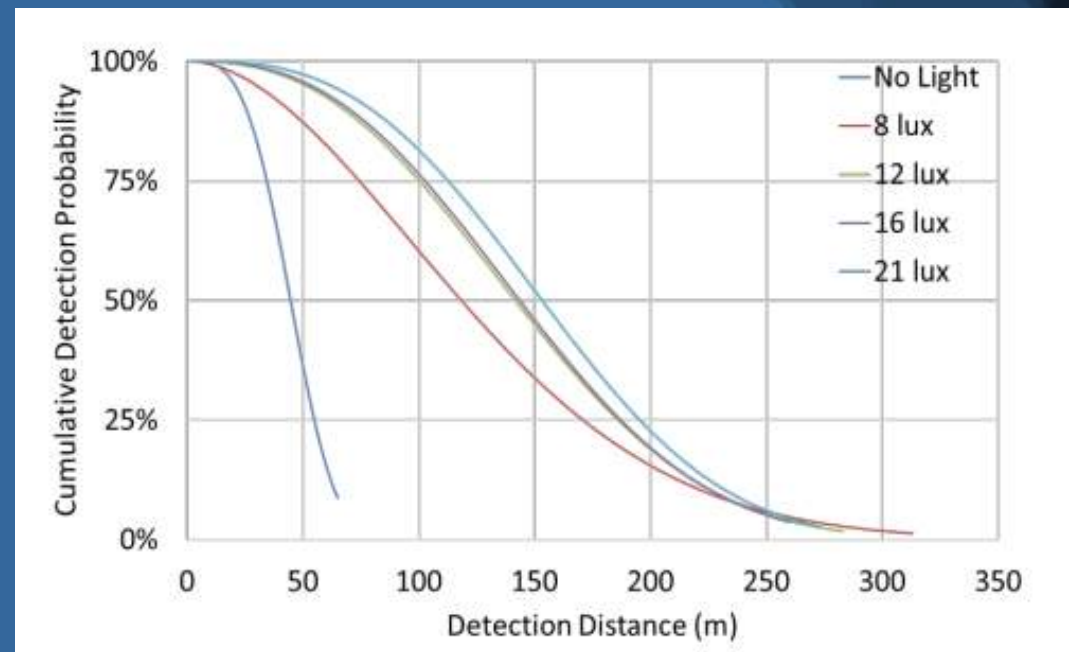
# RESEARCH

## FHWA - Guidelines for the Implementation of Reduce Lighting on Roadways (2014)



# Lighting Level and Detection Distances

- The human response to lighting is based on a rise and plateau relationship (Bhagavathula)
- Lighting has an impact up to a certain level
- No benefit of additional lighting

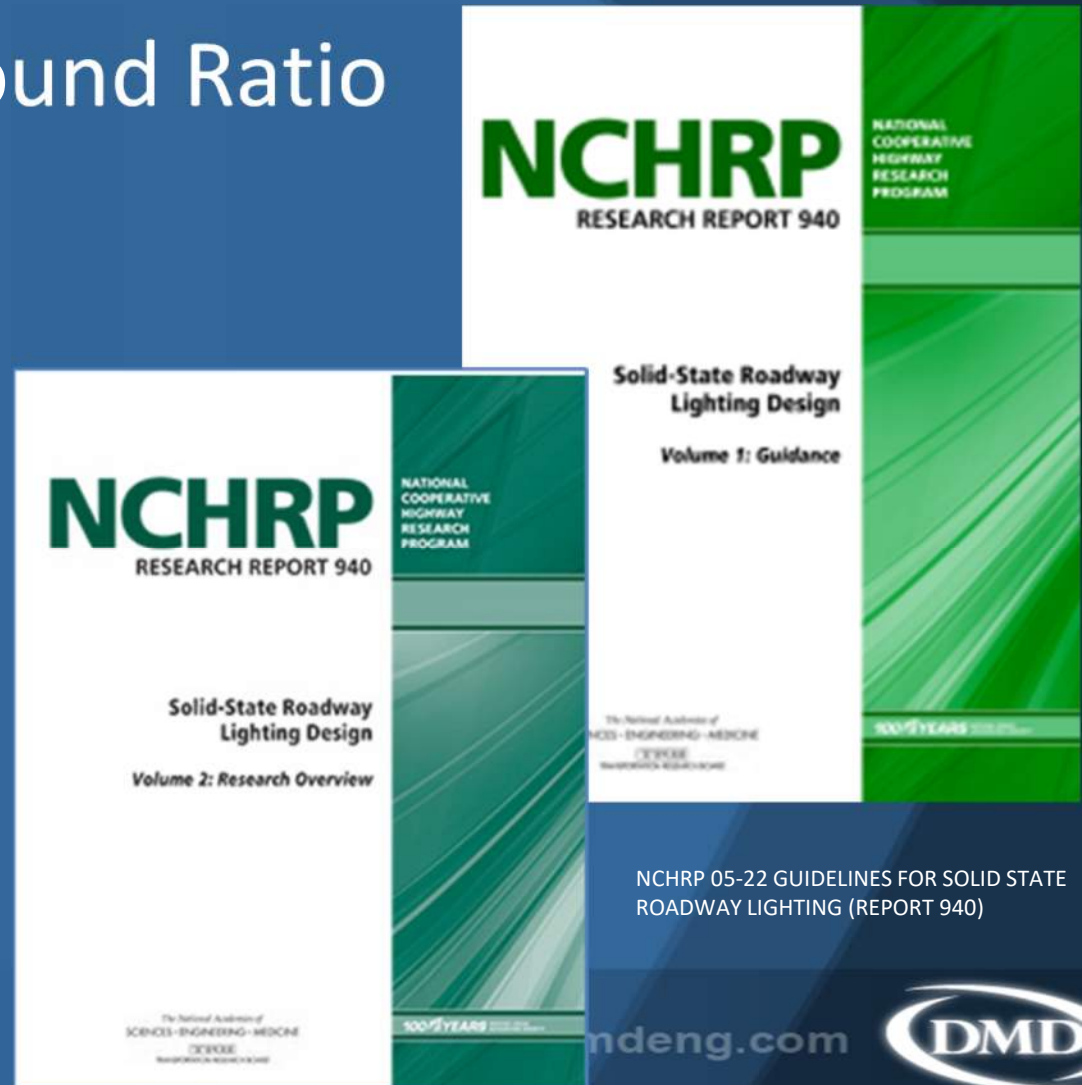


Source –Exploring the Relationship Between Street Lighting Levels and Physical Activity After Dark:  
Results of a Pilot Study - 2018



# Surround Ratio

- Surround Ratio – A ratio of lighting level on roadway to the area off the roadway.
- Solid State Luminaires have focused on tight optical controls to reduce light spill off the roadway. This creates a dark surround (low ratio) which reduces visibility of objects off the roadway.
- Current IES RP-18 does not define Surround Ratio (it is being added).
- CIE 140:2000 and 115:2007 define a surround ratio of 0.5 to 1 or higher.

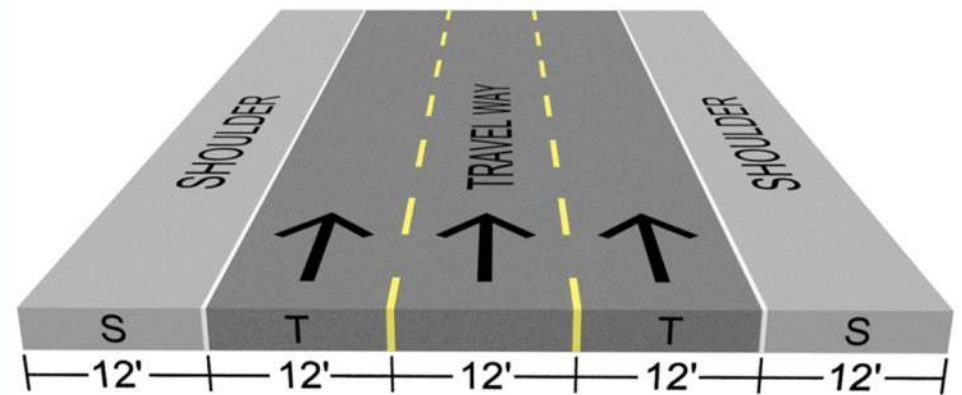


NCHRP 05-22 GUIDELINES FOR SOLID STATE  
ROADWAY LIGHTING (REPORT 940)

ndeng.com



# Surround Ratio



NCHRP 05-22 GUIDELINES FOR SOLID STATE  
ROADWAY LIGHTING

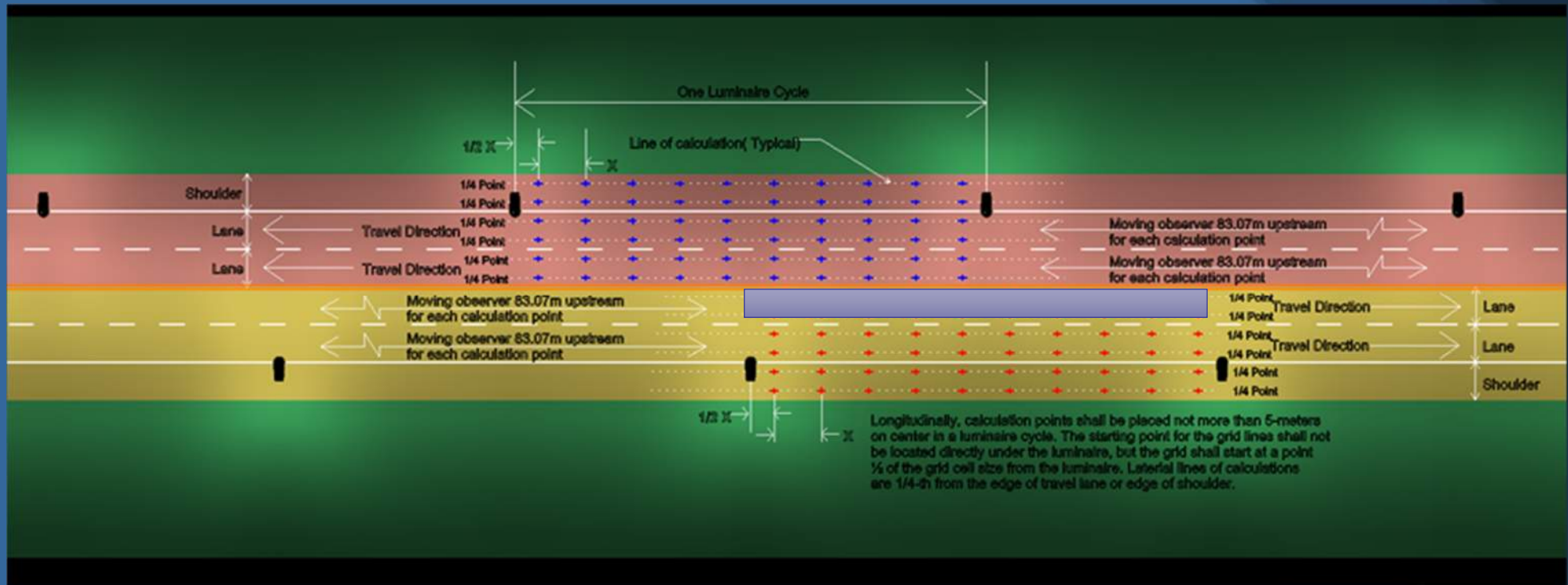
*Using Surround Ratio in shoulder areas adjacent to the roadway  
increases the drivers' visual performance*

*RP-8-18 – Proposed 0.8:1 Ratio*

[www.dmdeng.com](http://www.dmdeng.com)

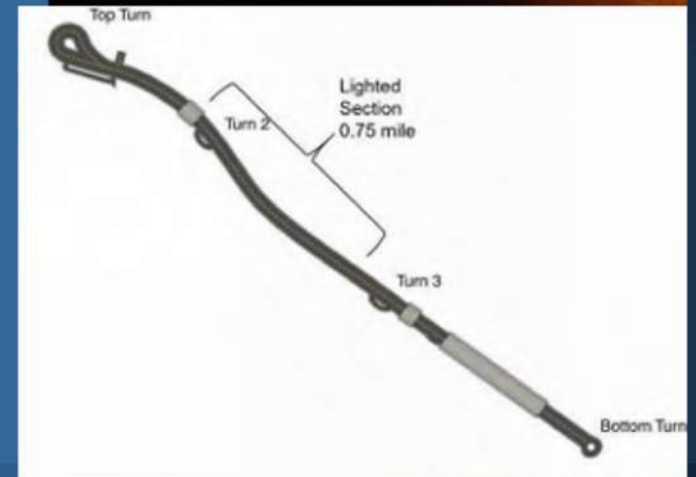


# Surround Ratio Calcs



# Surround Ratio Testing

- Human Factors Testing
- At Virginia Tech Transportation Test Road
- 60 Participants – Age and Gender Balanced
- Object detection task on the Virginia Smart Road
- Control system to dim
- 80 meter spacing
- 15 meter mounting height



# Surround Ratio Testing

**Table 3. Independent Variables and their Levels Used in the Study**

Independent Variable	Level	Classification
Light Spectral Power Distribution	3000K LED 4000K LED 5000K LED HPS (only at medium light level)	Between-Subjects
Light Level	High (1.5 cd/m <sup>2</sup> ) Medium (1.0 cd/m <sup>2</sup> ) Low (0.7 cd/m <sup>2</sup> )	Within-Subjects
Surround Ratio (Avg. Shoulder Illuminance to Avg. Lane Illuminance)	High (0.8) Low (0.45)	Between-Subjects
Uniformity Ratio (Avg. to Min Luminance)	High (1.8 to 3.5) Low (1.3 to 1.4)	Between-Subjects
Speed	High (55 mi/h) Low (35 mi/h)	Within-Subjects
Age	Old (65 and older) Young (18 to 35 years)	Between-Subjects

Source - NCHRP 05-22 GUIDELINES FOR SOLID STATE ROADWAY LIGHTING (2019)



# SURROUND RATIO

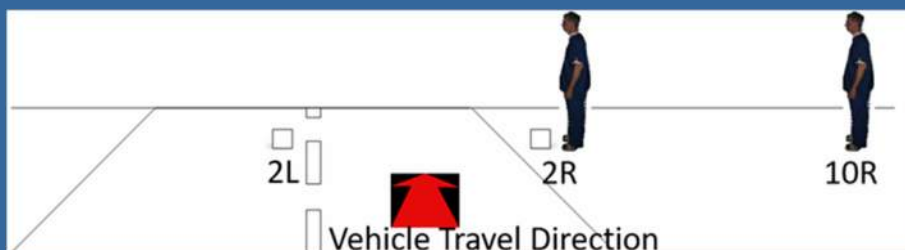


Figure 23. Pedestrians in Colored Scrubs

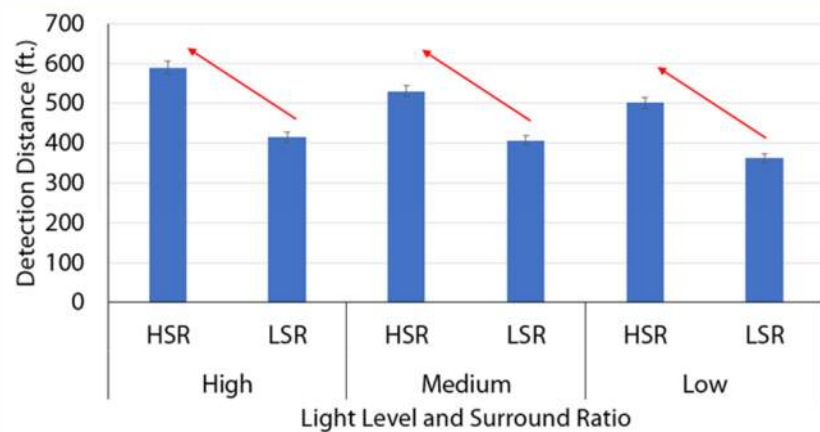
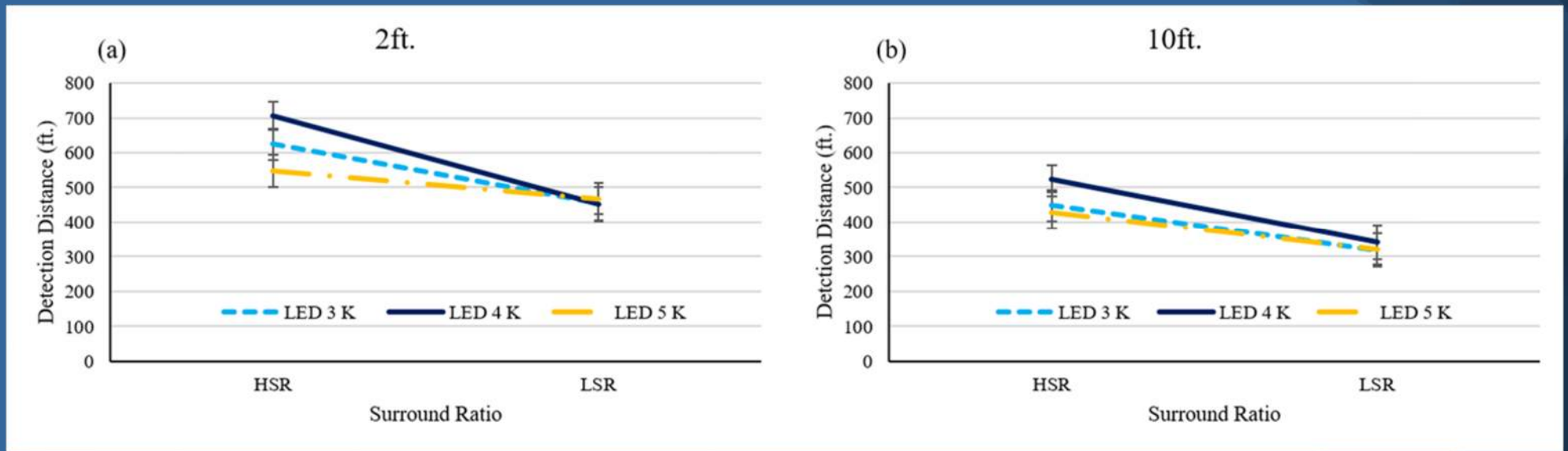


Figure 21. Red, Gray, and Blue Targets

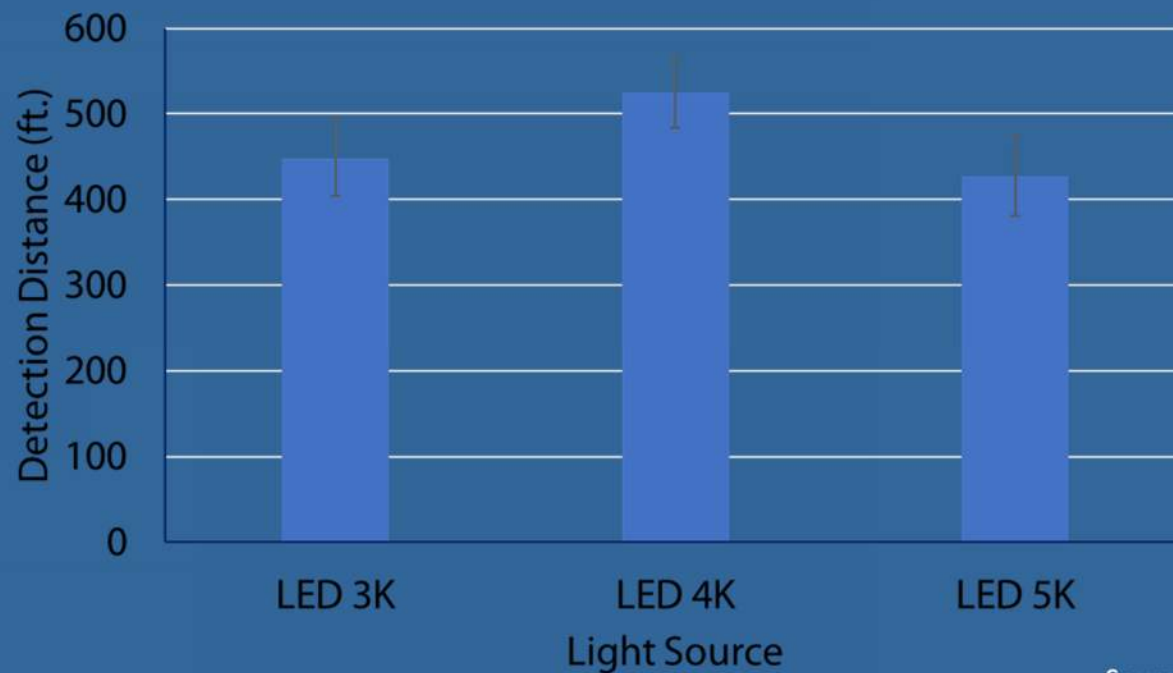
# Surround Ratio Testing



Lower surround ratios had lower detection distances  
Consistent across all CCT'S

Source - NCHRP 05-22 GUIDELINES FOR  
SOLID STATE ROADWAY LIGHTING (2019)

# Surround Ratio Testing

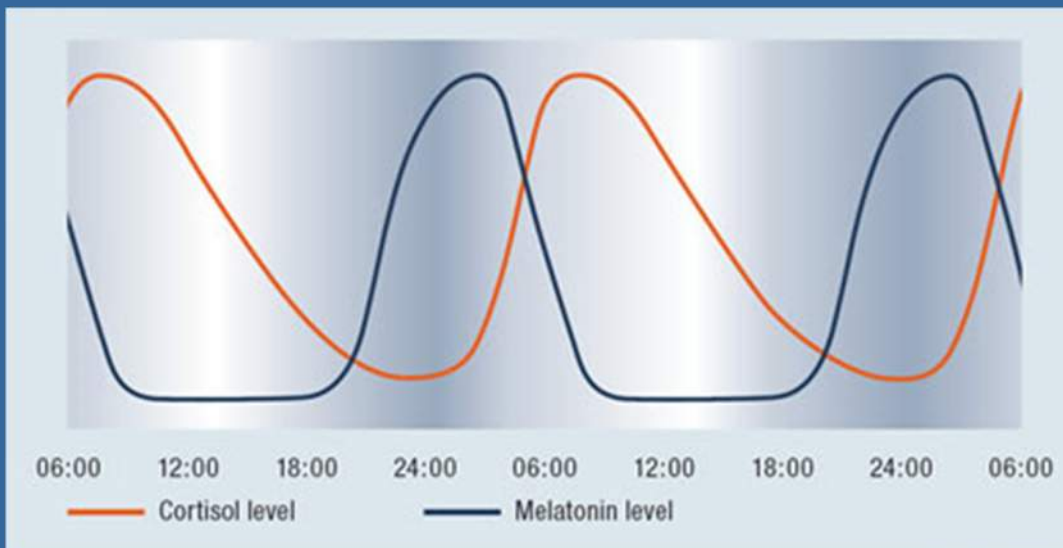


Source - NCHRP 05-22 GUIDELINES FOR  
SOLID STATE ROADWAY LIGHTING (2019)



# CIRCADIAN RHYTHM

Circadian rhythm, hormone secretion: The hormones responsible for the circadian rhythm in humans are melatonin, which is released in response to increasing levels of darkness and which promotes sleep, and cortisol, which is the biological opposite of melatonin and an indicator of the level of human activeness.



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## AMA Adopts Guidance to Reduce Harm from High Intensity Street Lights

For immediate release: Jun 14, 2016

[www.dmdeng.com](http://www.dmdeng.com)



# MELATONIN SUPPRESSION

**Table 2: Predicted Human Nocturnal Melatonin Suppression from Incandescent and Daylight Illumination [46] of Varying Corneal Illuminances and Durations, Based on Rea et al. [37]**

<i>Incandescent</i>			
Illuminance (lx)	Melatonin suppression after 30 minutes	Melatonin suppression after 60 minutes	Melatonin suppression after 90 minutes
0.1	0%	0%	0%
0.3	0%	0%	0%
1	0%	1%	1%
3	1%	2%	2%
10	3%	5%	5%
30	8%	11%	13%
100	19%	25%	27%
300	35%	42%	45%
1000	54%	59%	60%
3000	65%	68%	69%
<i>Daylight</i>			
Illuminance (lx)	Melatonin suppression after 30 minutes	Melatonin suppression after 60 minutes	Melatonin suppression after 90 minutes
0.1	0%	0%	0%
0.3	0%	0%	1%
1	1%	1%	1%
3	2%	3%	4%
10	6%	9%	10%
30	14%	19%	20%
100	29%	36%	39%
300	47%	53%	55%
1000	62%	65%	66%
3000	69%	71%	71%

NCHRP Research Report 968 Pre-Publication Draft—  
Subject to Revision

LED Roadway Lighting: Impact on  
Driver Sleep Health and Alertness

Rajaram Bhagavathula  
Ronald Gibbons  
Virginia Tech Transportation Institute  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Blacksburg, VA

John Hanifin  
George Brainard  
Light Research Program  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA

July 2020

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SPECIAL NOTE: This document IS NOT an official publication of the Transportation Research Board or the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. A final, edited version of this document will be released at a later date.

The National Academies of  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

Sleep health as measured by salivary melatonin suppression is not significantly affected by LED roadway lighting even at light levels that are higher than those specified in the IES RP-8-2018 (2100k TO 4000k STUDIED). **Refutes AMA data stating health issues where above 3000K CCT.**

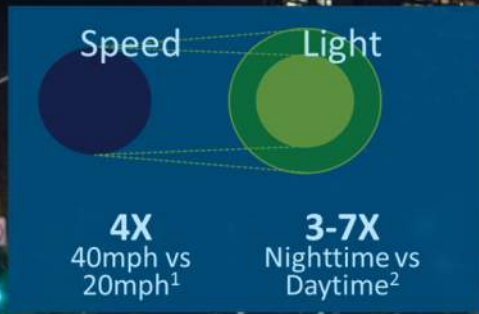
Illuminance dosages from the roadway lighting conditions (from both HPS and LED sources) are considerably lower than the illuminance dosages experienced from consumer electronic devices such as televisions and tablets.

Detection and color recognition distances for the HPS roadway lighting were also affected by exposure time, where increase in the exposure time resulted in a decrease in the detection and color recognition distances.

[www.dmdeng.com](http://www.dmdeng.com)



# Safety Issues – What We Know

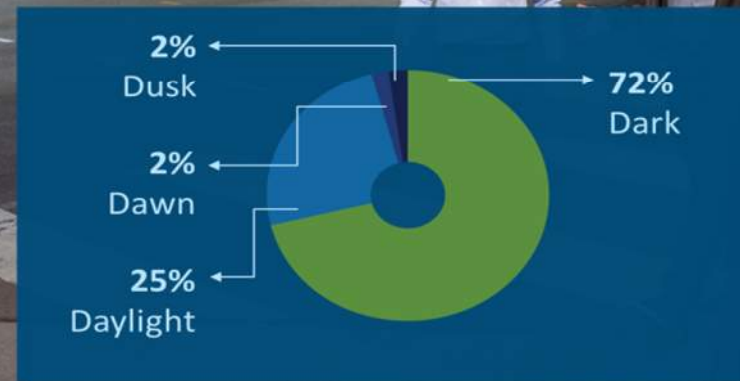


**Nearly 3 out of 4 pedestrian fatalities occur at night.**

New York Department of Transportation, 2014

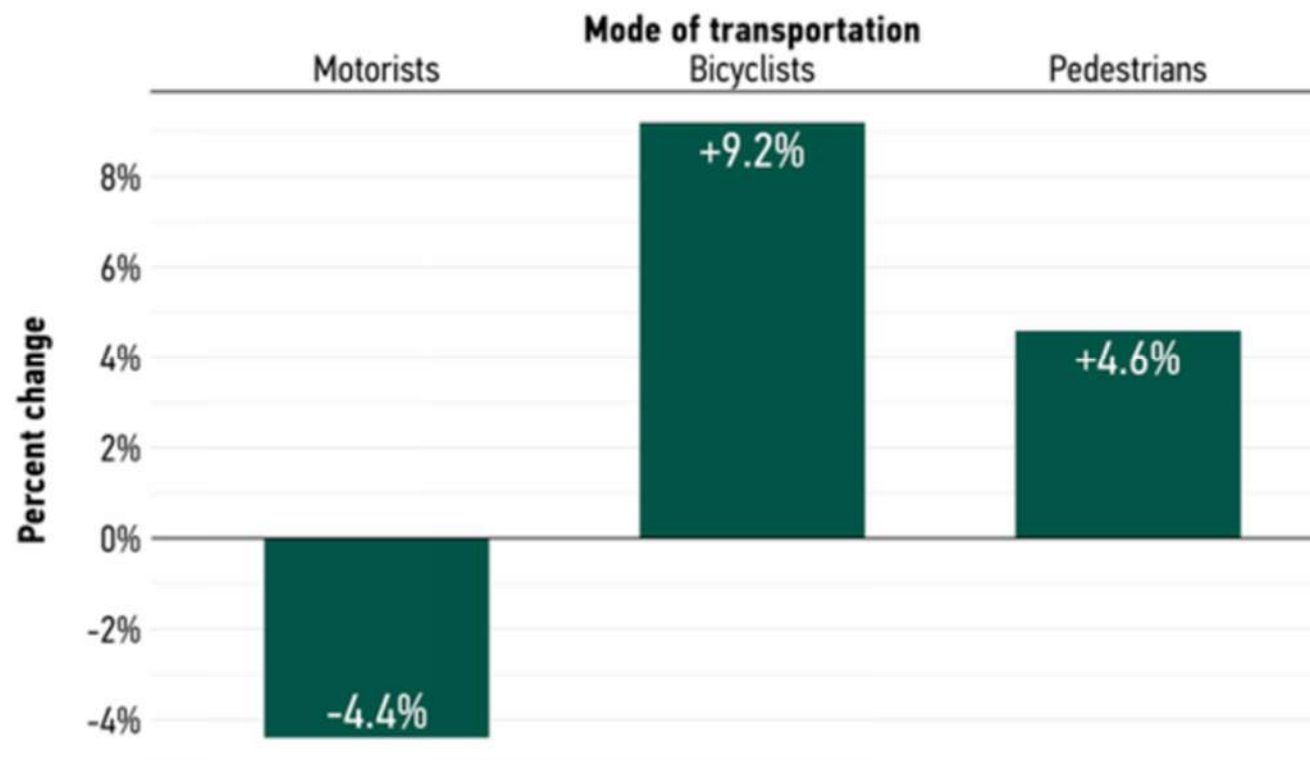
**Lack of lighting** is one of the primary factors of pedestrian fatalities

University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute suggests pedestrians are from 3X to 6.8X more vulnerable at night than in the daylight<sup>1</sup>



# Safety Issues – What We Know

## Change in nighttime traffic fatalities, 2017-2018

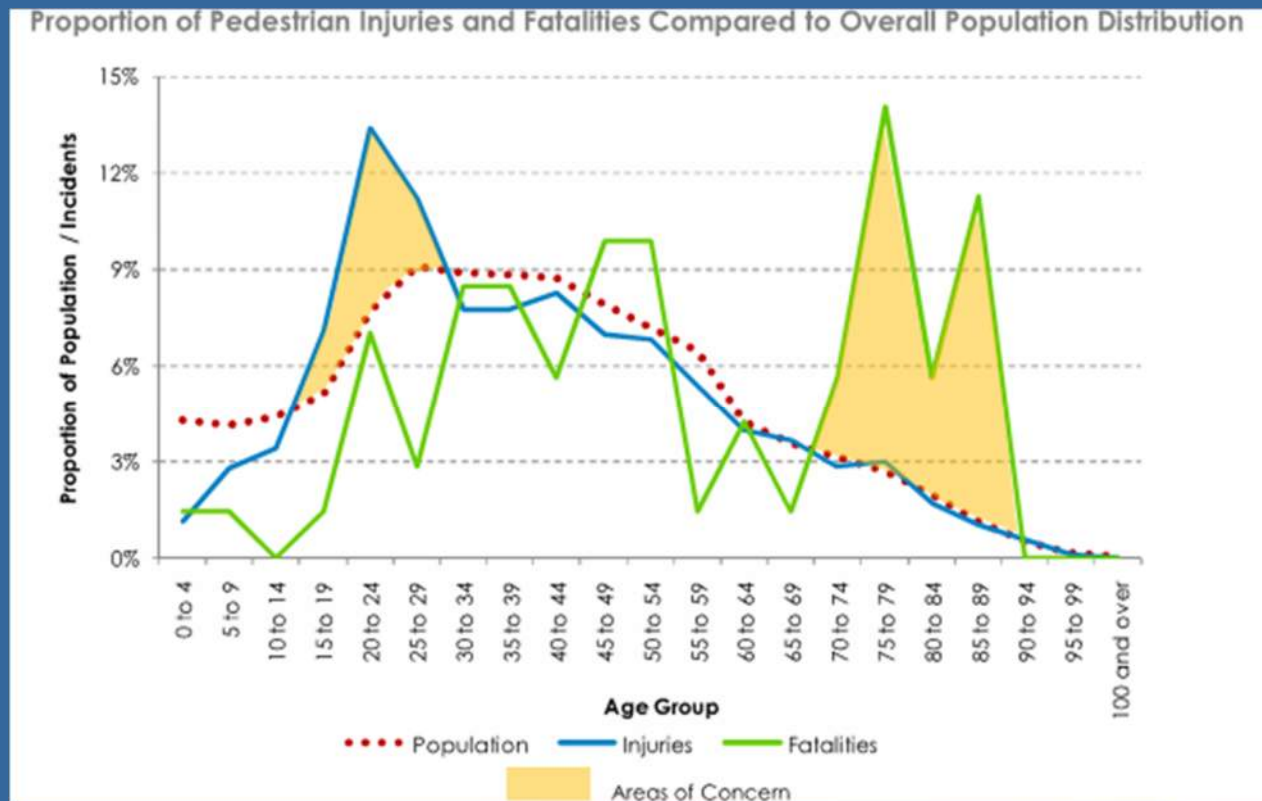


Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (David H. Montgomery / CityLab)





# Age Factors



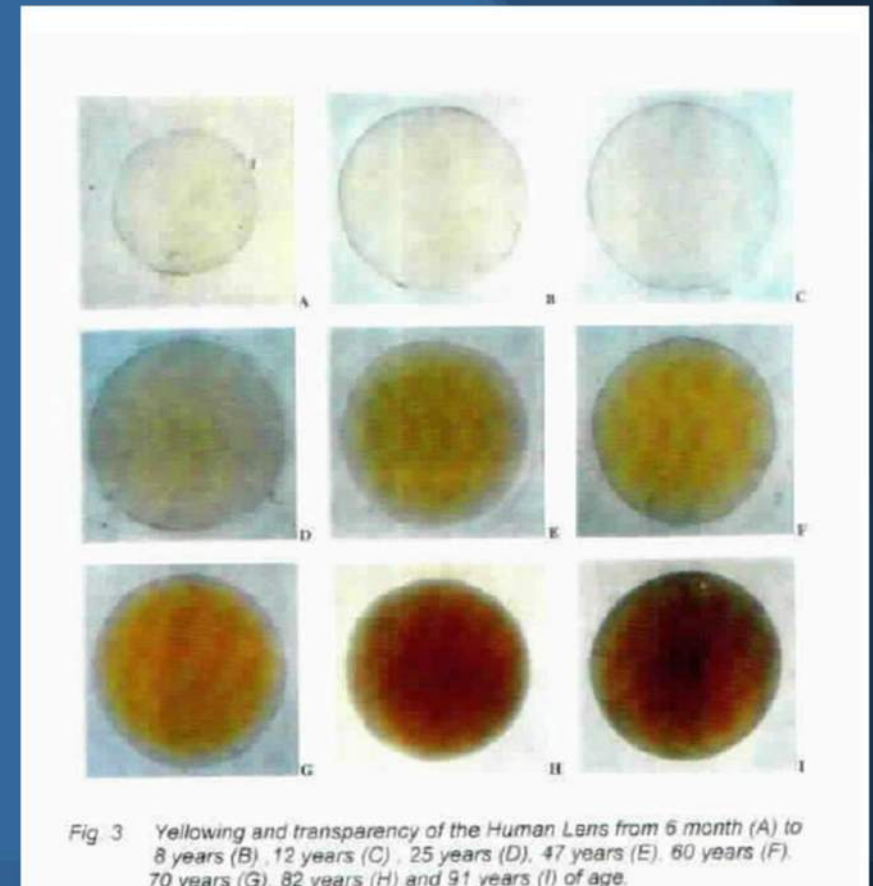
Source - City of Vancouver Pedestrian Safety Study - 2012

[www.dmdeng.com](http://www.dmdeng.com)



# Age – Key Visibility Factor

- % of older drivers is increasing. We are living longer!
- Age related changes in the eye can cause issues for the older driver.
- The yellowing of the lens can reduce visibility



Source – City of Edmonton Light Efficient Community Policy (2012)

[www.dmdeng.com](http://www.dmdeng.com)



# Stopping Sight Distances (SSD) – Key Factor

- SSD is the distance travelled to stop a vehicle.
- SSD used for tunnel lighting not for general roadway lighting
- Vehicle Headlamps may provide adequate illumination on straight roads with speeds of 50kph< (Source IES RP-8-18 Section 3.1.)
- The AASHTO Green Book suggests that with the assumed 24-inch height of headlamps, an object 16 inches above the roadway will be within the line of the headlamps at a distance equal to stopping sight distance.

**Table 1: AASHTO Stopping Sight Distance (Wet Pavement)**

Stopping Sight Distance M (Ft) by Percent Grade (%)

Traffic Speed km/h (mph)	Downgrade				Upgrade		
	0	3	6	9	3	6	9
35 (20)	35 (115)	35 (116)	40 (120)	40 (126)	35 (109)	35 (107)	35 (104)
40 (25)	50 (155)	50 (158)	50 (165)	55 (173)	45 (147)	45 (143)	45 (140)
50 (30)	60 (200)	65 (205)	65 (215)	70 (227)	60 (200)	60 (184)	55 (179)
60 (35)	80 (250)	80 (257)	85 (271)	90 (287)	75 (237)	70 (229)	70 (222)
65 (40)	95 (305)	95 (315)	100 (333)	110 (354)	90 (289)	85 (278)	80 (269)
75 (45)	110 (360)	115 (378)	120 (400)	130 (427)	105 (344)	100 (331)	100 (320)
80 (50)	130 (425)	135 (446)	145 (474)	155 (507)	125 (405)	120 (388)	115 (375)
90 (55)	150 (495)	160 (520)	170 (553)	180 (593)	145 (469)	140 (450)	135 (433)
100 (60)	175 (570)	185 (598)	195 (638)	210 (686)	165 (538)	160 (515)	150 (495)
105 (65)	200 (645)	210 (682)	220 (728)	240 (785)	190 (612)	180 (584)	170 (561)
115 (70)	225 (730)	235 (771)	250 (825)	275 (891)	210 (690)	200 (658)	195 (631)
120 (75)	250 (920)	265 (866)	285 (927)	305 (1003)	235 (772)	225 (736)	215 (704)

Source: A Policy on Geometric Design of Streets & Highways, AASHTO, Washington DC, 2004. Chapter 3 Elements of Design.

The speed and distance columns only correspond to their metric or English equivalent, i.e., if determining the SSD for a posted speed in kilometer per hour (km/h), use the value shown in m, if using miles per hour (mph), use the value shown for ft.



# Design Considerations

**Residential Streets 50 kph < (most are to lowest level 0.3 cd/m<sup>2</sup>)** – Consider Car headlamps and Driver Safe Stopping Distances and dim in off peak periods (say midnight to 5AM)



These roads comprise a significant inventory in a typical city. Lighting research focused on highways and freeways (FHWA)

Lighting is of value so turning lights off may diminish ones “feeling of security”. Santa Rosa, California.

Consider 30-60% dimming off peak via adaptive system

Table 1: AASHTO Stopping Sight Distance (Wet Pavement)							
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# Contrast – Key Visibility Element

**We require contrast to detect objects**

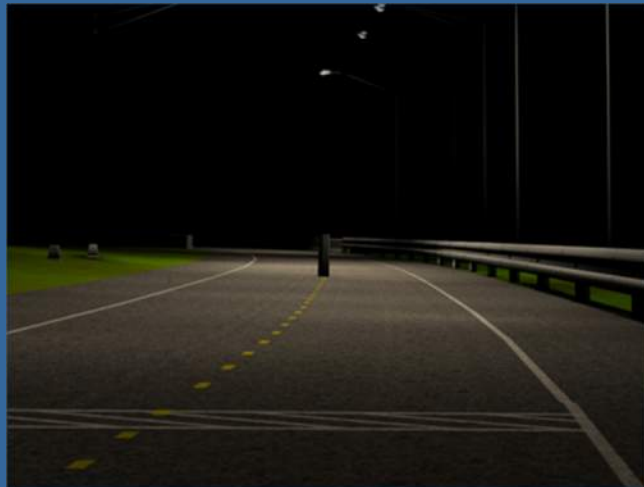
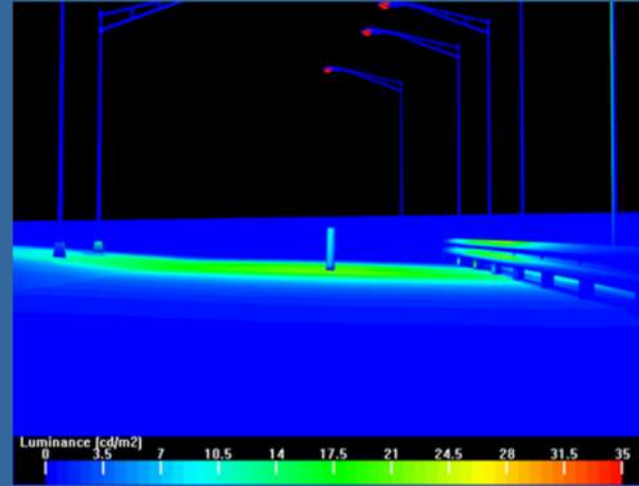
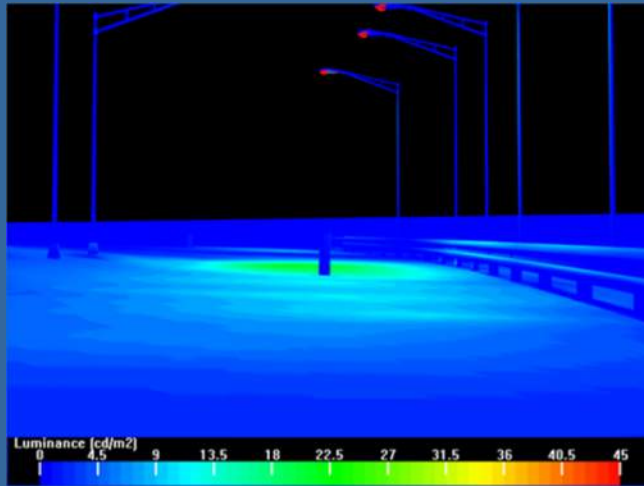


Photos courtesy of DMD & Associates Ltd.

*Figure 2-14 – Examples of Negative and Positive Contrast.*



# Contrast



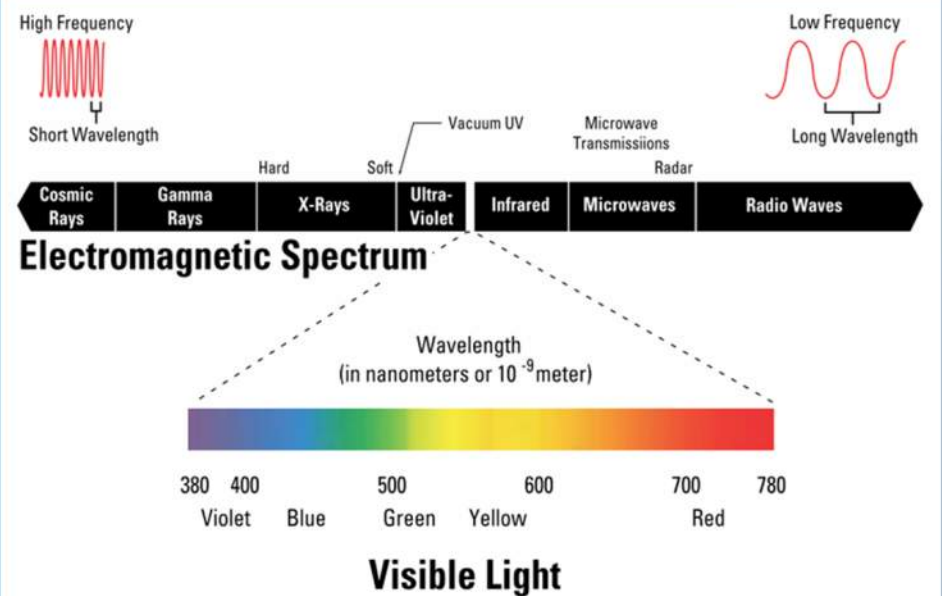
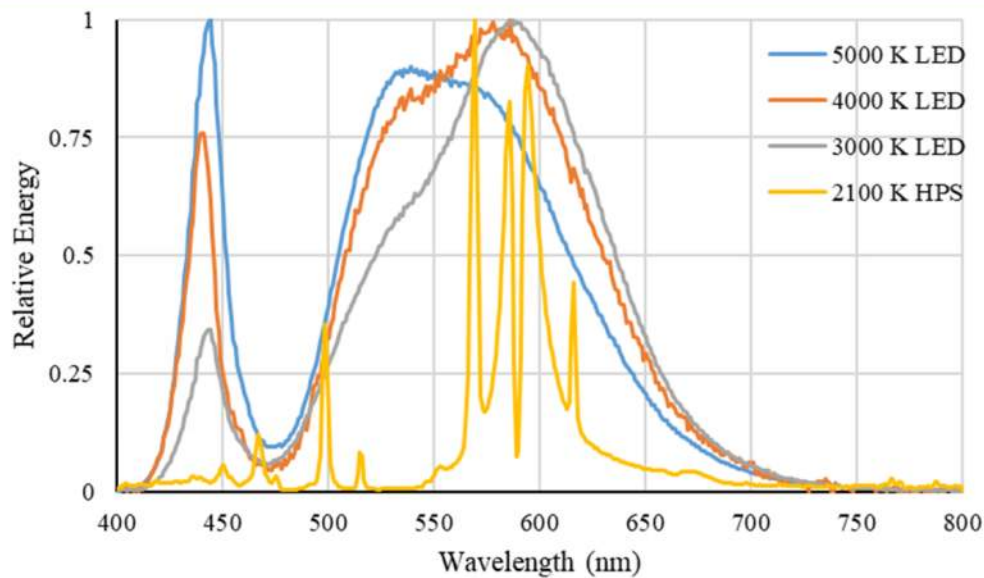
Images on the left are **negative contrast** and on the right are **positive contrast**

# Contrast and Spectral Power Distribution (SPD)



**Colour can impact contrast – SPD of the lighting source is not factored into design and should be considered.**

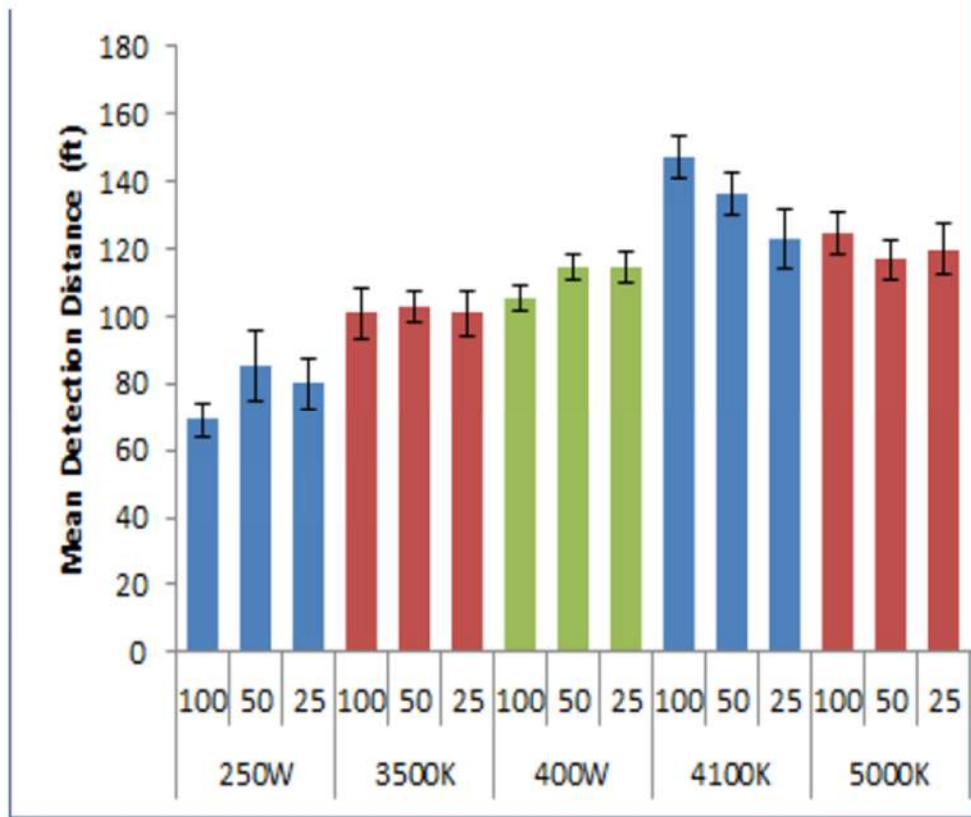
# Spectral Power Distribution of Various Light Sources



\*NCHRP 05-22 GUIDELINES FOR SOLID STATE ROADWAY LIGHTING



# Object Detection Distance Studies



2014 REPORT #E14-286 Seattle LED Adaptive Lighting Study

Diagram shows various light sources at mid block x-walk along with object detection distances (100-50-25 are % of full light output) - *Foveal*

NCHRP 5-22 - *Peripheral*  
SPD does not significantly influence driver visual performance at speeds greater than 35 mph.

[www.dmdeng.com](http://www.dmdeng.com)



# Object Detection Distances under Various CCT's

<i>Location</i>	<i>Luminaire Type</i>	<i>CCT &amp; System Type</i>	<i>~Avg. Target Detection Distance (ft.)</i>
Anchorage, AK	LED	4100 K	213
Anchorage, AK	LED	4300 K	210
Anchorage, AK	Induction	4000 K	174
Anchorage, AK	LED	3500 K	167
Anchorage, AK	HPS	2000 K	141
San Diego, CA	LED	3500 K	135
San Diego, CA	Induction	3000 K	131
San Diego, CA	HPS	2100 K	128
San Diego, CA	Induction	3000 K	125
San Diego, CA	LED	3500 K	105
San Jose, CA	LED	5000 K	233
San Jose, CA	LED	4000 K	223
San Jose, CA	Induction	4000 K	197
San Jose, CA	HPS	2100 K	193
San Jose, CA	LPS	1700 K	190
San Jose, CA	LED	3500 K	157
Seattle, WA	LED	4100 K	145
Seattle, WA	LED	4000 K	138
Seattle, WA	LED	5000 K	122
Seattle, WA	HPS	2000 K	103
Seattle, WA	LED	3500 K	100
Seattle, WA	HPS	2000 K	68

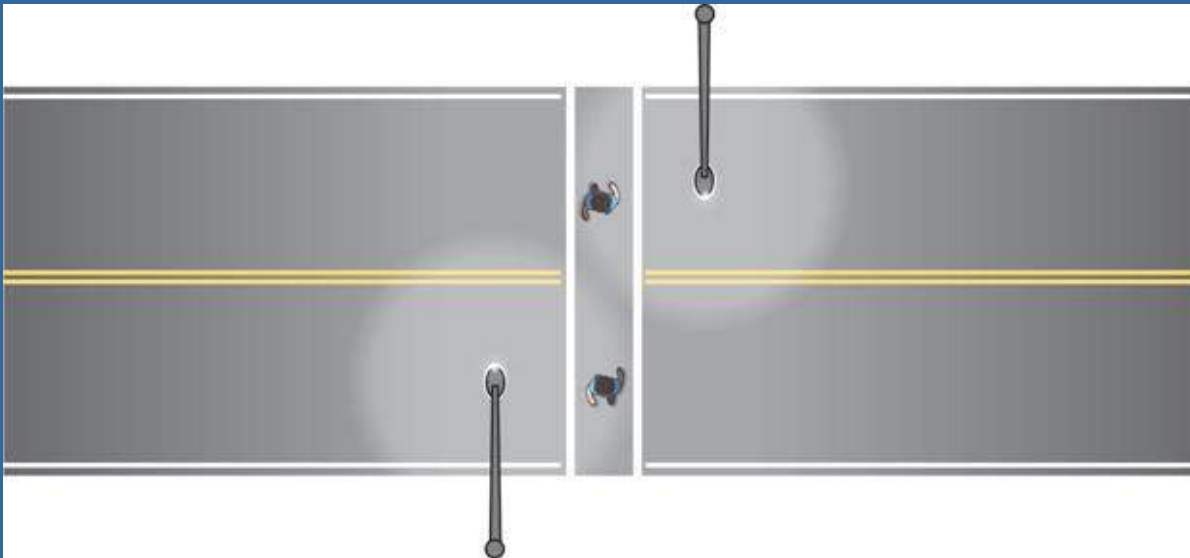
Sources - Advanced Street Lighting Technologies Assessment Project, City of San Jose, 2010; Advances Street Lighting Technologies Assessment Project - City of San Diego, 2010; Clanton, Gibbons, Garcia, & Barber, 2014; Street Lighting Survey for Commercial Areas in the Municipality of Anchorage, 2009).

ng.com



# Mid Block Crosswalk Lighting

- In Europe 4 vertical foot-candles (40 Lux) was used in all crosswalks which resulted a 66% reduction in pedestrian crashes (FHWA PL-01-034)
- Lighting level of 2 vertical foot-candles (20 Lux) lux seems sufficient for crosswalks (FHWA-HRT-08-053)





# Mid Block Crosswalks



Rectangular Rapid  
Flash  
Beacons (RRFB's)

Do we still light?

# Bike Lanes

- In US 900+ cyclist fatalities and 35,000+ serious cyclist injuries (requiring hospitalization). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration -2018
- Bike lanes/cycle tracks and usages increasing. Marked bike lanes are relatively new.
- Lighting standards are currently very unclear and don't deal with conflict points.

## LIGHTING OPTIONS

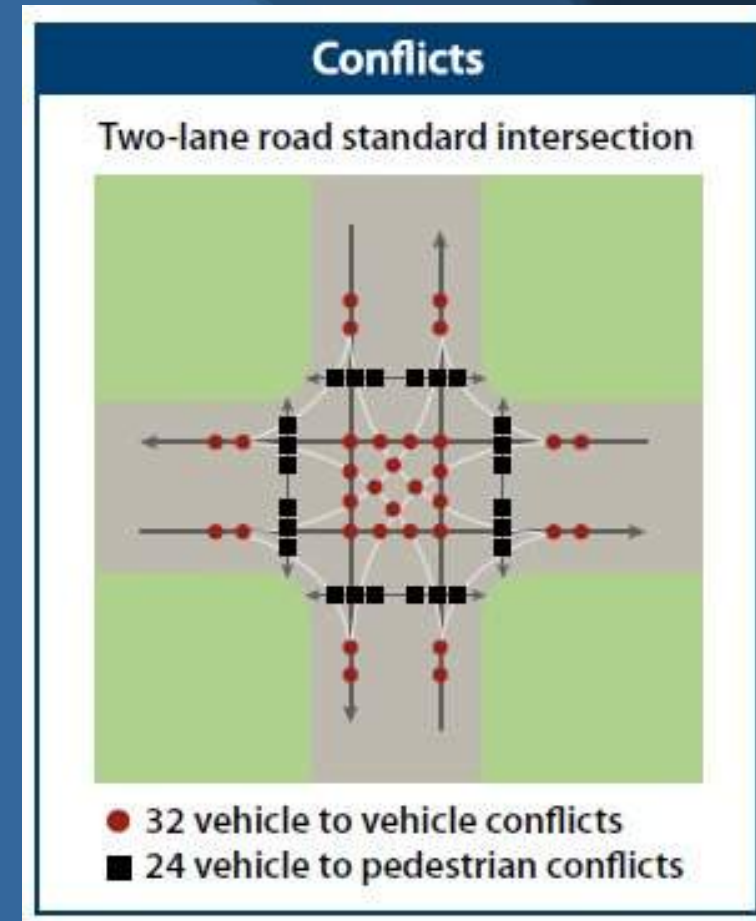
- Apply surround ratio (illuminance)
- Light bike lane as part of the roadway (luminance)
- Light bike lane as per sidewalk (consider vertical illuminance)



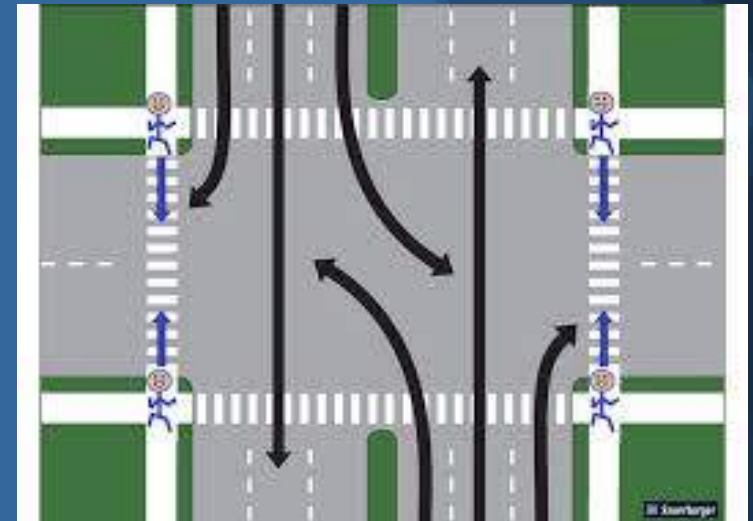
# Intersection Conflict Points

**Early Research Findings\*** are showing – Typically Vehicle to Vehicle – Particularly rear end crashes are not impacted by lighting – It is all about the pedestrians – That is where lighting is effective

- \* Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

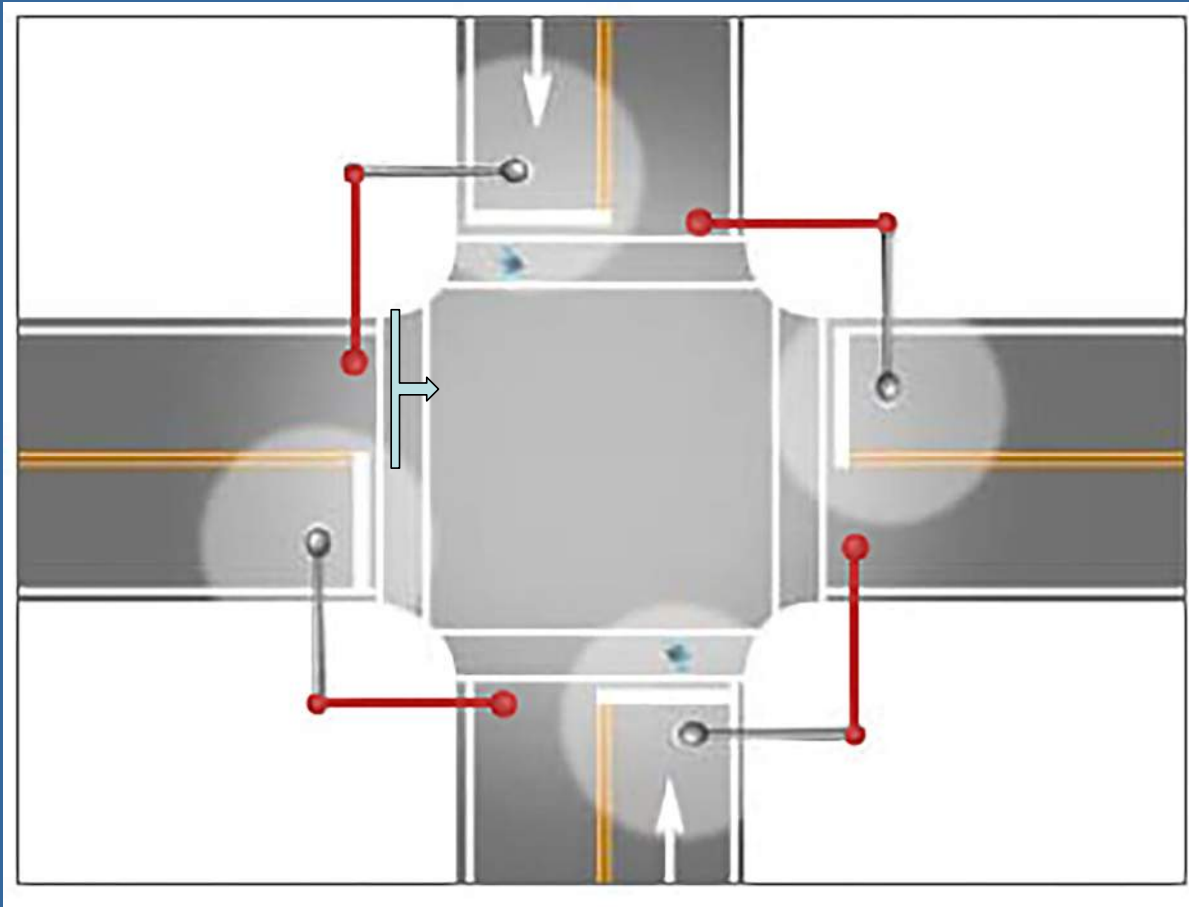


# Intersections - Signals



- Signal Operation – Protected Left or right Arrow and Permissive Green Ball Turning Movements. **Permissive left and right is high risk. Driver has allot to deal with**
- Car headlamp not effective as result of turning movement.
- Define conflict points and assess vertical levels.

# Intersection Lighting



Studying benefits  
of additional  
lighting on signal  
poles.