

Advancing Transportation through Innovation

# ENERGY SAVINGS FROM LIGHTING APPLICATION EFFICIENCY IN ROADWAY LIGHTING

RAJARAM BHAGAVATHULA RESEARCH SCIENTIST DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION

### LIGHT APPLICATION EFFICIENCY IN ROADWAY LIGHTING 4 ELEMENTS

- Light Source Efficiency Major Focus of DOE until now
- Optical Delivery Efficiency
- Spectral Efficiency
- Intensity Effectiveness

Areas to Focus on Further

# OPTICAL DELIVERY EFFICIENCY

### DELIVER LIGHT IN THE RIGHT AREAS



Advancing Transportation through Innovation

### WHAT AREAS SHOULD BE ILLUMINATED BY STREET LIGHTS?





Anchorage. Photo by Wayne Johnson, ML&P

### Any Benefit to Lighting the Area Beyond the Travel Lanes?

Surround Ratio: Ratio of Luminance of Shoulder to Travel Lanes





# Light in the Shoulder Helps increase Visibility

Offset Distance from Roadway

Speed





National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2020. *Solid-State Roadway Lighting Design Guide: Volume 2: Research Overview*. Washington, DC:The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/25679.

# OPTIMIZING LIGHT BEAM DISTRIBUTION CROSSWALK LIGHTING



### OPTIMIZING LIGHT BEAM DISTRIBUTION

- Illuminating Curved Roadways has been a Challenge
- High Mast Lighting or Too many light poles
  - Illuminate surrounding areas Bug not a feature
- Wastage of Luminous Flux



### FUTURE DIRECTIONS FLEXIBLE BEAM LEDS

- More Luminous Flux on Road Surface
- Fewer Poles
- Research in progress
  - Collaboration with Glint Photonics
  - Photometric and Human Factors Evaluations







# SPECTRAL EFFICIENCY

DELIVER THE RIGHT SPECTRUM



Advancing Transportation through Innovation

# DRIVER VISUAL PERFORMANCE UNDER LIGHT SOURCES BENEFITS OF 4000 K LED IN TRAFFIC SAFETY



Clanton, N., Gibbons, R., Garcia, J., & Terry, T. (2014). Evaluation of Adaptive Lighting in the City of Seattle.



National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2020. *Solid-State Roadway Lighting Design Guide: Volume 2: Research Overview*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/25679.

## LIGHT SOURCE SPECTRUM PREFERENCE DEPENDS ON USE-CASE PARKING GARAGES



Bhagavathula, R., & Gibbons, R. B. (2020). Light levels for parking facilities based on empirical evaluation of visual performance and user perceptions. *Leukos*, *16*(2), 115-136.

### FLEXIBLE BEAM LEDS

- Travel Lane to one SPD (or CCT) 4000 K
- Adjacent Areas to another SPD 3000 K or lower
  - Especially in environmentally/ecologically sensitive areas
- Research in progress





### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Right spectrum based on the location and need
- Challenging task



CamposSMC. (2017). The impact of artificial lighting on nature.

Consider Intensity Control

# INTENSITY EFFECTIVENESS

### DELIVER THE RIGHT AMOUNT AT THE RIGHT TIME



Advancing Transportation through Innovation

## EXISTING PROBLEMS IN ROADWAY LIGHTING

- Lighting Design Standards Consensus
- Ignores visual performance and needs of the users
- Potential for over-lighting  $\rightarrow$  glare & energy wastage
- Recent research is addressing these needs!

# CAN WE LIGHT OUR WAY TO SEEING BETTER OR FEELING SAFER? NO!

#### No increase beyond 2 lux



84% reduction in energy by dimming to 2 lux

Bhagavathula, R., & Gibbons, R. B. (2020). Light levels for parking facilities based on empirical evaluation of visual performance and user perceptions. *Leukos*, *16*(2), 115-136.

## RIGHT LIGHT LEVELS FOR APPLICATIONS

- 235 Intersection in Virginia
- Increase in light level by 1 Lux is associated with decrease in Night to Day Crash Ratio by 2.9 %



Li, Y. E., Bhagavathula, R., Terry, T. N., Medina, A., & Gibbons, R. B. (2020). *Safety benefits and best practices for intersection lighting* (No. FHWA/VTRC 20-R31). Virginia. Dept. of Highways.



### Intersection Lighting Designs







Exit





IDOT

# **Evidence Based Research**

- Visual performance plateaued at 14 lux (avg. horizontal)
- Light Levels lower than existing standard practice (IES RP-8-18) ightarrow Energy Savings



Bhagavathula, Rajaram, Ronald Gibbons, and Andrew Kassing. *Roadway Lighting's Effect on Pedestrian Safety at Intersection and Midblock Crosswalks*. Illinois Center for Transportation/Illinois Department of Transportation, 2021.

## ADAPTIVE LIGHTING

- 2 Projects considering the utilization of the Adaptive (Controlled) Lighting Systems
  - Cambridge MA (DOE Sponsored)
  - Interstate 64 (FHWA Sponsored)
- Current Barriers
  - Public Perception
  - Financial Impact Cost of Equipment versus energy reductions
  - Impact on:
    - Crashes
    - Crime
    - User Health
    - Environment
    - Energy Usage
    - Light Trespass
- These investigation are a holistic consideration of these factors



#### PUBLIC'S PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS ADAPTIVE DIMMING



### PUBLIC'S PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS ADAPTIVE DIMMING



Cities that Dim

Cities that Dim Cities that Don't Dim

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Evaluate visual performance and perceptions of pedestrians
  - Right Light Level to Dim
- When to dim?
  - Interactions with stakeholders is critical
- Biggest Challenge Price of Controller
- Need to drive down controller cost





Advancing Transportation through Innovation

### Questions?

rbhagavathula@vtti.vt.edu

@rjbhagg