

LIGHT LEVELS

SMARTCODE MODULE

PREPARED BY DUANY PLATER-ZYBERK & CO.

*How beautiful is night!
A dewy freshness fills the silent air;
No mist obscures; nor cloud, nor speck, nor stain,
Breaks the serene of heaven:
In full-orbed glory, yonder moon divine
Rolls through the dark blue depths;
Beneath her steady ray
The desert circle spreads
Like the round ocean, girdled with the sky.
How beautiful is night!*

Robert Southey

5.15 LIGHT LEVELS

Lighting type and color can be adjusted according to the Transect. Fixtures and other specifications should be listed on Table 5, while performance-based standards may be listed in the code text, as the foot-candle levels are in this Module.

There are many issues to consider when lighting the public realm: the color, the color of the shadows cast, the contrast (hardness/softness of light and shadow), the reflectance of the area being illuminated, cost, maintenance, etc.

Attention to transect-based Dark Sky provisions and energy efficiency must be among the considerations. The International Dark-Sky Association advises using full cutoff (fully shielded) luminaires in all zones. Look for manufacturers supplying IDA-Approved fixtures. The current draft (early 2009) of the Dark Sky Model Lighting Ordinance is easily correlated to the Transect, as it has five zones of intensity. The fifth zone can apply to T5 and T6 for a complete transect.

For more detailed transect-based attention to lighting and public darkness, also see the Sustainable Urbanism Module and the Lighting Design Module at www.transect.org.

5.15 LIGHT LEVELS**5.15.1 GENERAL TO ALL ZONES T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6**

a. Streetlights shall be of a general type illustrated in Table 5.

5.15.2 SPECIFIC TO ZONE T1

a. No lighting level measured at the building Frontage Line shall exceed 0.5 fc.

5.15.3 SPECIFIC TO ZONES T2, T3, T4

a. No lighting level measured at the building Frontage Line shall exceed 1.0 fc.

5.15.4 SPECIFIC TO ZONE T5

a. No lighting level measured at the building Frontage Line shall exceed 2.0 fc.

5.15.5 SPECIFIC TO ZONE T6

a. No lighting level measured at the building Frontage Line shall exceed 5.0 fc.