



For Immediate Release

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Vote today by the New York State Public Service Commission Paves the Way for the City of Cohoes to Install Energy Efficient “Smart” Lighting for City Streets

-- \$9 Million in Energy Cost Savings will fund the project and other “Cleaner Greener Cohoes” and “Restore Historic Cohoes” initiatives --

Cohoes, NY (September 9, 2021) – Cohoes is one step closer to converting to energy efficient “smart” lighting for its city streets following a [vote today by the New York State Public Service Commission](#) allowing National Grid to transfer its ownership of 1,595 street lighting systems in Cohoes to the City at a cost of \$876,399.

Cohoes is planning to convert street lights across the city from outdated and inefficient lighting technology to updated energy-efficient Light-Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs in “smart lighting” infrastructure.

“This project is a win, win, win for taxpayers and the environment. We save energy by converting to LED street lights. We generate funds to invest in additional energy savings upgrades to our historic city buildings, parks and playgrounds, and smart technologies. We also benefit from additional anticipated city budget savings over 20 years,” Mayor Bill Keeler said.

Converting the 1,595 fixtures (light bulb and the “arm” light is attached to) from the current High-Intensity Discharge (HID) bulbs to the energy efficient LED lights, on fixtures with smart lighting capabilities, will cost approximately \$2.5 million. The project will be funded by the energy costs savings to the city from switching to LED street lighting, calculated to be approximately \$9 million over 20 years (\$2.9 million in energy savings and \$6 million in reductions in service and supplier fees to National Grid). A portion of that energy cost savings will fund the purchase of the street lighting systems from National Grid, the purchase and installation of the LED’s, and maintenance of the new system.

An additional \$3 million of the energy costs savings is being reinvested in energy savings upgrades to municipal buildings, \$750- thousand will be invested in upgrades to the city’s parks and playgrounds, and \$350-thousand will be invested in smart technologies, all as part of Mayor Keeler’s Restore Historic Cohoes and Cleaner Greener Cohoes initiatives.

The street light conversion project was approved by the Cohoes Common Council earlier this year. Today’s PSC approval to transfer of ownership of the street light systems is the final major step required before the city can purchase and install the energy efficient LED lighting systems.

In April 2020 the city issued a Request for Proposal for an Energy Service Company (ESCO) to conduct an energy audit of its municipal buildings. SIEMENS, a global company with an office in Latham, NY, was selected in May 2020, completed the energy audit in September 2020, and has been contracted to complete the street light conversion project as approved by the Common Council.

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