



**CITYWIDE**

# Street Lighting Safety & Infrastructure Needs

Street lighting plays a critical role in transportation safety. Deficient lighting reduces visibility for people walking, biking, and driving — increasing the risk of crashes. Notably, **87% of pedestrian traffic deaths and 74% of all traffic deaths in Portland over the past five years occurred at night, dawn, or dusk**, underscoring the importance of improved illumination.

In 2017, PBOT reassessed its roadway lighting standards and identified new minimum light level recommendations. Based on these standards, many locations on Portland’s High Crash Network were found to have lighting deficiencies (as shown on the accompanying map). To address this finding, PBOT has dedicated **over \$16.5 million** to address lighting gaps, including \$9 million from the Portland Climate Emergency Fund (PCEF), focusing on wide streets in the High Crash Network. One example of this improvement is on 82nd Ave where PBOT accomplished a full-street illumination on this high crash corridor that included the installation of **54 new light poles** and replacement of **245 outdated fixtures** with energy-efficient LED lighting.

PBOT’s **Signals and Street Lighting Division** also manages challenges related to aging infrastructure and damage from vandalism and vehicle crashes. These realities highlight the ongoing need for investment in lighting infrastructure to improve safety, reliability, and equity across Portland’s streets. These pressures include:

- » **5-10 damaged or knocked-down lights** repaired per week
- » **A backlog of ~200 streetlight repairs**
- » **Maintaining 600 historic downtown ornamental street-lights** that have hidden structural and wiring issues under deteriorated paint

Map updated 10/13/2025

