

Chicago Smart Lighting Program

Chicago, IL

SCENARIO

To improve safety and quality of life in neighborhoods throughout its metropolitan areas, the City of Chicago needed to improve the quality and reliability of lighting on streets, alleys, and viaducts.

SOLUTION

The smart street lighting project became the nation's largest city-led lighting initiative.

The project is installing a wireless smart lighting management system and replacing more than 270,000 outdated high-pressure sodium light fixtures with more reliable, energy-efficient LED lights. This is expected to reduce the city's streetlight energy consumption by at least half.

The higher-quality lights improve visibility, and therefore safety. At the same time, the new fixtures focus "soft white" light where it's needed, reducing light pollution. The new lighting management system automatically alerts city employees when a light needs to be fixed or replaced.

The project engaged Ameresco as prime contractor, Itron's Streetlight Vision® for the central management system, and TerraGo's StreetlightOps for installation, inspection, maintenance, analytics, and back-office integration. Members of the local workforce are performing more than half of the installation work.

By taking such an integrated systems approach, the City of Chicago is able to compress installation schedules, accelerate energy savings to the community, and enhance operational efficiencies in ongoing system management.

RESULT

Overall, the smart street lighting project is expected to save taxpayers an estimated \$100 million over the next 10 years.

