

**News****Footbridge lighting project complete**[Print Page](#)**BY CARRIE HADERLIE**  
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By early next week, walkers will be able to enjoy well-lit evening strolls across the Garfield Street footbridge.

Thirteen streetlight style lamps have been installed along the bridge, which connects Laramie's west side with the downtown area. The lights have been inspected and approved by Rocky Mountain Power and the meters will be set between Monday and Wednesday of next week, Paul Harrison, director of parks and recreation for the City of Laramie, said.



Kyle Osborn works on wiring the overhead lights on the Garfield Street pedestrian bridge. Andy Carpenean/Boomerang photographer

The lighting project was facilitated and funded by Laramie Main Street, and city employees installed the lights. The total project cost was \$56,775, Kim Skidmore, director of Laramie Main Street, and Main Street has raised all but \$1,800 of the cost. Donations for the final portion are still being accepted, Skidmore said.

"There are people that come from all over to see this — it's one of two footbridges (over railroad tracks) in the state," Skidmore said, adding that the lights will make the footbridge much more welcoming at night.

"It is a safety thing, it is a vandalism thing," Skidmore said. "It is also about beautification."

The Albany County Historic Preservation Board was also instrumental in the project, Skidmore said.

The public is welcome at a short ribbon cutting and lighting ceremony at 7 p.m. Aug. 28. Donors will be honored at an event on Sept. 25.

The Garfield Street footbridge was closed intermittently during the summer for the lighting project, but Harrison said it would not need to be closed again when Rocky Mountain Power sets the meters to electrify the lamps. A dozen power outlets were also installed on the bridge to accommodate seasonal and holiday lighting, Harrison added.

The lights will be programmed with an astronomical controller that notes Laramie's latitude and longitude to determine lighting hours, Harrison explained.

"The lights (will be) set to turn on 30 minutes before sunset and turn off 30 minutes after sunrise," Harrison said. "As the sun changes, (the controller) will ... turn them on and turn them off automatically."

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