

Chapter 4H

PUBLIC FACILITIES PLAN- GENERAL GOVERNMENT



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Introduction

The General Government portion of the Public Facilities Chapter seeks to identify capital facility needs for County government operations not associated with operational needs of the Sheriffs, FREM, Solid Waste, Water and Sewer, Parks and Recreation, Schools that have each been addressed elsewhere within this Chapter. For the purpose of this Chapter, General Government includes but is not limited to governmental services including but not limited to: County Administration, Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue, County Attorney, Voter Registrar, Cooperative Extension, Community Development, Division of Social Services, Courts, Human Resources, Finance, Information and Computer Services, Public Works and Facilities Management.

Per Spotsylvania County Public Works, the County has two separate documents that are used for general guidance for planning. It is good to note that these guiding documents have resulted in several projects, implemented and complementary to their recommendations. Not all recommendations have been pursued. Due to passage of time and population trends changes since the adoption of these two guiding documents there is an identified need to review and update space needs study and ultimate recommendations going forward. For instance, population projections based on historic growth rates leading up to the early 2000's resulted in much more robust population expectations for the year 2020, 2025. A March 2005 update concerning the Spotsylvania County Government Center Campus Master Plan projected a County population in 2020 of approximately 200,000, and between 230,000 to 250,000 or more by 2025. The latter 2000's has seen a slowing of population growth that is less than 2% annually. Since the Campus Master Plan, population growth has not kept pace with the population projections assumed in 2005. As noted elsewhere in the Comprehensive Plan, US Decennial Census 2020 reports a County population of 140,032. A brief overview of the County's existing guiding documents for general government space needs is below:

2013 General Government and Judicial Center Space Needs

Prepared by Peck, Peck, & Associates, this document looks at various services in the County and establishes an anticipated space need based on Departmental director input. The space needs study itself was constrained and not allowed to look at construction of a new building.

2001 Facility Space Needs Analysis

Prepared by Moseley, Harris, and McClintock: This document developed the Courthouse Master Plan (by Moseley Architects) and noted the need for additional buildings. Several of the projects listed in this plan have been or are being implemented including: a new public safety building (completed), new Circuit Court (completed), General District Courthouse expansion (under construction as of this update), and a New Government Building (remains unbuilt at this time). The Courthouse Master Plan addresses County government functions located in the Spotsylvania Courthouse Area, Spotsylvania County's governmental hub.



Capital Projects Recommendations

In terms of identifying the need for new spaces the County typically considers individual space needs assessments by Department as the need arises and in recent years has not performed a comprehensive space needs update. For specific metrics that guide County space needs recommendations there are two groups where space needs are driven primarily by ratio of personnel and workload. One of those is the courts which we use the judge to case load ratio to determine the number of judges needed and by extension the number of courtrooms needed. This is done by looking at current average case load per Judge in Virginia and comparing to case loading seen in Spotsylvania. This however is not a set number per code and is a discretion of the courts. The other is Social Services which has required turnaround times for case loading which impacts personnel and therefore space needs. The determination of personnel to achieve the case load requirements are subjective and not quantified and are at the discretion of the Director of Social Services.

Recommendations

The following recommendations for the provision of general government facilities going forward have been compiled with the assistance of Spotsylvania County Public Works. Capital Project recommendations for general government identified below have their basis in the aforementioned studies and continued monitor of existing conditions considering departmental feedback and personnel to workload ratios as described above. These projects remain as projects targeted for implementation to address relatively short-term needs.

Capital Projects Needs

- (1) 50,000-60,000 sq.ft. new build in the Spotsylvania Courthouse area for the Department of Social Services and VA Department of Health offices.
- (2) Construction of a joint use complex along Gordon Road, specifically Tax Map# 21-A-84 for Spotsylvania County Utilities and Public Works. Also see Parks and Recreation and Water and Sewer Elements of Public Facilities Chapter concerning this site.

Future Planning Needs

- (1) Review and update the County's space needs assessment and recommendations for future long-term capital project needs.

