

Frequently Asked Questions

Trades Center Optimization Study

1. Given the tight budget year, how does the County have money for construction at the Trades Center?

New construction is not within the scope of the project. The Trades Center Optimization Study will review the existing facilities, site layout and current operations and provide recommendations on space and site optimization. It will be conducted in two phases with a final deliverable which will detail one Preferred Site Optimization Plan with a cost estimate to include phasing of identified priorities in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) over the next several years.

Key tasks within each phase include the following:

Phase I

- Stakeholder interviews with impacted operations groups
- Programmatic reviews and assessment of space needs
- Facilities reviews
- Benchmarking against other jurisdictions
- Best practices research
- Presentation of Phase I Findings

Phase II

- Site optimization planning to include the production of up to three (3) site scenarios
- Presentation of Phase II Findings
- Further development of one (1) Preferred Site Optimization Plan
- Final presentation of Phase II Findings

2. How long will the study last?

Phase I is expected to go through the Summer of 2019 with the final project wrapping up by the end of the year.

3. Which Trades Center operations are part of the study?

All county operational divisions located at the Trades Center site are included in the study. Each stakeholder will have a representative join the working group to provide programmatic and operational input through interviews and site visits with the consultants. The working group will review and comment on all deliverables in both phases and all tasks throughout the study. Stakeholders include the following:

- Department of Parks and Recreation, Parks and Natural Resources Division
- Equipment Bureau
- Water, Sewer, and Street Bureau (WSS)
- Solid Waste Bureau (SWB)
- Transportation Engineering and Operations (TE&O)
- Arlington County Police Department, Police Impound Lot
- Arlington County Fire Department, Fire Training Academy
- Arlington County Public Schools, Facilities & Operations and Bus Parking

4. What will happen after the study is completed?

The study will provide the County and APS with a preferred plan and cost estimate of phased identified priorities that may be included in the CIP over the next several years. While there is no specific implementation plan, the recommendations in the final deliverable will be useful to County and APS leadership when weighing funding choices in the future.

5. Space has been an issue for a while, what is prompting the County to do this study now?

The County continuously strives to provide services to residents in the most efficient and safe manner. Over time, service levels have increased in size and complexity and growth in both County and APS vehicles, equipment and storage have increased space pressures forcing operations to make trade-offs in efficiency to maintain a safe work environment. For example, on any given day, buses, trucks and personal vehicles are traveling in and out of the Trades Center at the same time, while employee and pedestrian traffic moves from building to building performing normal work activity and visiting the site. The study will consider if operations can be moved around for better traffic circulation within the Trades Center. The study will also review the potential for consolidating facilities to address immediate and future space needs.