

FACT SHEET: Fire Station #8 Relocation

June, 18 2015 (updated)

Summary

Arlington County is initiating a process to select a site to **relocate Fire Station # 8 (FS8) from the intersection of Lee Highway and North Culpepper Street to a location further north**. The County is requesting **community participation and input through a forum of structured public meetings between late June to early September 2015**.

The 2015-2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identified the need to relocate Arlington County Fire Station # 8 (FS8) to a location further north in order to increase the number of households reachable within the County's fire and EMS response time target of 4-6 minutes. While the County Manager's proposed CIP identified the corner of Old Dominion Drive and 26th Street North as staff's preferred site, in July 2014 as part of its CIP adoption, the County Board committed to conducting a public siting process to evaluate that site along with others to determine how best to meet this need. The County Board has the final responsibility for approving the site.

The criteria for evaluating site options are:

- An increase in the number of households reached in 4-6 minutes
- 1.5 acre site already owned by the County (or likely to come into the County's control expeditiously and at a feasible cost)
- Proximity to major arterial street(s)
- An appropriate distance from fire stations in Fairfax County due to regional mutual aid agreements. The County seeks to assure, to the greatest extent possible, that the majority of service from any new location is to Arlington residents and the volume of work is evenly distributed within the Arlington County Fire Department Fire House System.

The adopted 2015-2024 CIP includes funds to construct a relocated FS8. Following County Board action to approve the site for FS8, a Master Plan process with significant community involvement will be initiated for the selected site. This Master Plan process will apply applicable County plans and policies to the site and will also include review by the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) before being considered and adopted by the County Board.

Why relocate?

Arlington County has studied response times across the County twice, in 2000 and 2012. Both studies prepared by the TriData division of the System Planning Corporation for the Arlington Fire Department, found that response times to parts of North Arlington were the longest in the County and significantly exceeded the County's response window target.

The County Board's overarching responsibility is to improve safety and provide the most equitable emergency response time across the County. Evaluating options with the community and then making an informed selection for this fire station site is a step forward in fulfilling that responsibility.

Public Process and next steps

Process to select a site for the relocated FS8 will include dialogue with community stakeholders, including civic associations within the service area, and other members of the public wishing to participate. The process will include a discussion of County needs; siting consideration and criteria; and evaluation of alternate sites within the service area.

Staff will conduct a community engagement process through a series of public meetings in summer 2015:

- Meeting #1 (June 25 & July 9, reprise, St. Mary's Episcopal Church from 7-9 p.m.) – County staff to present overall issues and approach, clarify constraints and criteria, discuss decision making process and timelines and obtain public feedback (community concerns, ideas and suggestions for potential site locations). **The July 9 meeting will cover the same material and will be for those who cannot attend the June 25 meeting.** Attendees will be provided FAQ sheet during the meeting.
- Meeting #2 (July 30, St. Mary's Episcopal Church from 7-9 p.m.) - County staff to review previous meeting results, review opportunities, constraints and additional information needed for potential sites identified in Meeting #1. Also provide additional opportunity for participants to suggest alternative sites and outline process for reviewing these sites.
- Meeting #3 (September 9, Yorktown High School, 7-9 p.m.) - County staff to summarize process and share meeting results and recommendations to be presented to the County Board

Following stakeholder meetings, County staff will present a recommendation of a relocation site for FS8 to the County Board in fall of 2015.

For updates and latest project information, please go to the Arlington County Project Website:
<http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/fire-station-8/>