



Local Sales Tax Authorization

CITY IDENTIFIES FACILITY NEEDS FOR CORE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND REGIONAL BENEFIT

Whether it's police and fire protection or management of public infrastructure, municipalities work jointly to provide core services to residents across many communities. Since 2016 the City of Golden Valley has been analyzing the needs of all of its primary buildings as they relate to optimal service delivery. The goals include the following:

- Address immediate critical space needs, health and safety concerns, gender inequities, and future demands.
- Gather extensive community input.
- Balance implementation, debt management, and effects of inflation.
- Develop a long-term, phased plan for investment and better serve the downtown area.



Figure 1: Firefighters must dress adjacent to moving vehicles.

Regional Approach To Service

Municipal Public Safety and Public Works Departments operate on a regional scale to:

- protect the safety, well-being, and security of their residents, businesses, visitors, and their property
- share access and manage staff, equipment, tools, information, training, and other resources to deliver services regardless of community borders
- provide mutual aid using FEMA standardized protocols and command structures to ensure inter-agency operability during emergencies and large-scale projects and events

The City of Golden Valley participates in multiple police, fire, and public works mutual aid and joint powers agreements with other cities and agencies. Examples include:

- Joint Water Commission (water supply for three cities), Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (storm water management with nine cities), North Suburban Emergency Management Plan Group (emergency response with 14 cities)
- Public Works Joint Powers Mutual Aid and Equipment Loan Agreements (29 cities)
- Police gun range use by cities in region
- West Suburban Fire Academy (firefighter training for six cities) and Hennepin County's Fire Investigation Team and Life Support Unit

Golden Valley has the largest number of per capita jobs in the Twin Cities region and the second-highest number of jobs after Minneapolis. The daytime high population within a 3-mile radius of Hwy 55 and Winnetka Ave is 72,650 people, who also use City services.

Needs And Solutions

As a result of its ongoing analysis, the City has identified immediate needs for the redevelopment of its campus. Current facilities are outdated, undersized for equipment and function, and do not allow for modern municipal operations.

The City believes that delivery of optimal public service includes respecting the service and sacrifice of its employees by providing facilities and resources that meet modern best practices for safety, health, wellness, and equity.

Public Safety

NEED: The City's current Public Safety building, which houses the Police Department and Station 1 for the Fire Department, does not meet the needs for contemporary police and fire operations, resulting in multiple deficiencies. These include:

- lack of workspace to reduce firefighter exposure to carcinogens and proper facilities to clean carcinogens off equipment and gear

- lack of gender-equitable locker rooms
- insufficient space for modern vehicles and equipment
- insufficient space to support Fire Department’s transition to a duty crew staffing model to replace its current unsustainable paid-on-call staffing model
- lack of dedicated space for classroom and physical training
- lack of adequate workspace for police officers and firefighters to complete administrative duties
- insufficient space to meet or engage with the public

SOLUTION: Construct a new Public Safety building on the current Public Works site.

Public Works

NEED: The City’s Public Works Department (Park, Street, Utilities, and Vehicle Maintenance) operates out of four



Figure 3: Public Works vehicles are tightly packed in the garage, requiring several to first be moved before others can be accessed to leave the building.



Figure 2: Police lockers and locker rooms are undersized and do not equitably accommodate officers of different genders.

buildings on two sites. Current buildings do not support modern public works best practices, resulting in multiple deficiencies. These include:

- lack of gender-equitable locker rooms
- insufficient space for modern vehicles and equipment
- design deficiencies causing maneuvering and workflow issues
- lack of dedicated space for ongoing professional training and certification work
- lack of adequate workspace for staff to complete administrative duties

SOLUTION: Relocate Public Works out of the downtown area, and reconstruct a modern facility off site. This would enhance community safety by moving heavy equipment out of the downtown area and make room for construction of a new Public Safety building.

Costs And Funding

The cost of the Public Safety and Public Works building projects is \$105 million (see chart), which will be financed over 30 years with a revenue bond paid with a 1.25 percent Local Sales Tax (LST) collected, for a total of \$190.5 million.

PROJECT	YEAR	COST
Public Works Land	2024	\$ 15 M
Public Works Facility	2024	\$ 45 M
Public Safety Facility	2026	\$ 45 M
Total		\$105 M

More Information

For more information, please contact Golden Valley Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@goldenvalleymn.gov, or visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/facilities-study.