

NEW SOUTHERN MINNESOTA BCA REGIONAL OFFICE AND LABORATORY



DESIGN FOR BEMIDJI BCA REGIONAL FACILITY EXPANSION



- Minnesota
BCA
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

BONDING BUDGET FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

New Southern Minnesota BCA Regional Office and Laboratory:

The Governor recommends \$48 million to build a new Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) regional office and laboratory facility in Mankato to provide investigative and forensic testing services in southern Minnesota. Significant investment has already been made in this request.

- The legislature approved funding to design the Mankato regional office and laboratory in May 2023.
- The state purchased a 5.87-acre parcel of land in Mankato for the new facility in December 2023.

Bemidji Regional Facility Expansion Design:

The Governor recommends \$4 million for design costs to prepare for the needed expansion of the BCA Bemidji regional facility in northern Minnesota.

A new Mankato facility and design costs for an expanded Bemidji facility are the Governor's top two priorities for the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

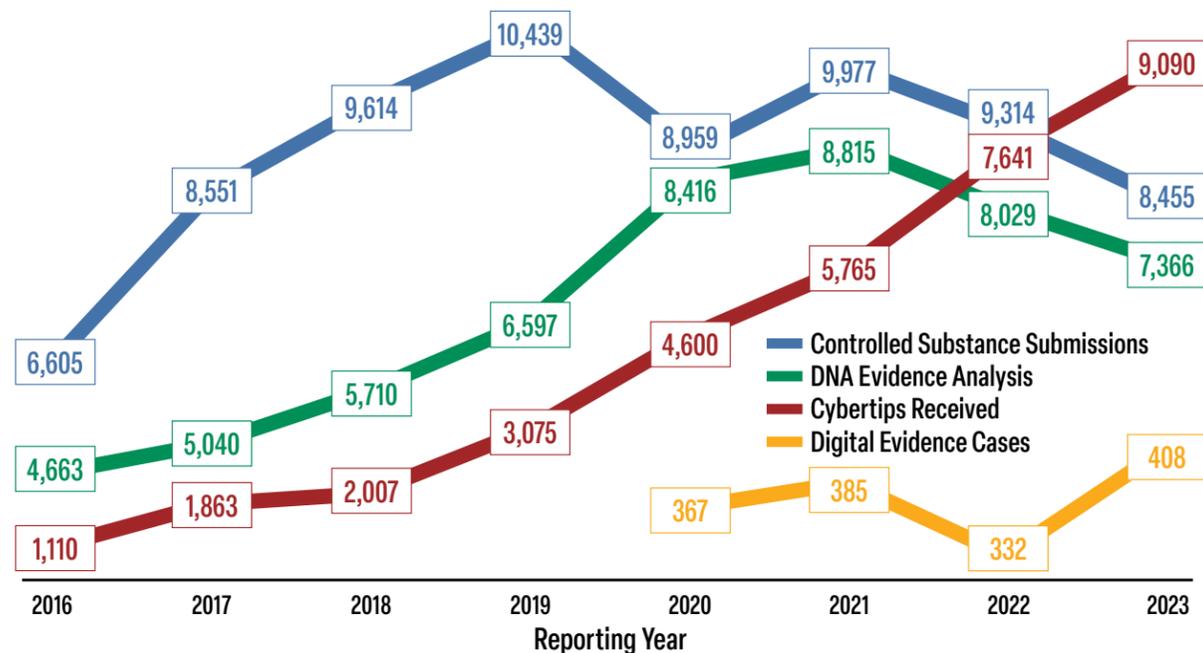
CHANGING CRIME TRENDS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEEDS

The BCA is the state's criminal investigative agency providing specialized law enforcement services to all 87 Minnesota counties as well as local, state and federal criminal justice partners. Services include:

- Investigative assistance in complex criminal investigations.
- Forensic laboratory analysis.
- Criminal justice information maintenance and dissemination.
- Law enforcement training.

The demand for BCA services has never been higher. An increase in crime and a shift in crime trends over the past decade have led to an exponential jump in demand for BCA investigative and forensic testing services in communities across Minnesota.

- Evidence submissions for DNA analysis are up 175% since 2010.
- Cases involving digital evidence, almost unheard of 10 years ago, increased by 10% over the past three years, but the gigabytes of data increased by 43% for those same cases.
- Controlled substance evidence submissions have more than doubled since 2010 with fentanyl becoming a significant public safety threat.
- Tips of cybercrimes involving exploitation of children has risen 353% in the past five years.



RESPONDING TO MINNESOTA'S EVOLVING NEEDS

The current gap in access to BCA resources in southern Minnesota creates inefficiencies for local law enforcement agencies, causes case delays and depletes local resources. For example, local officers are required to drive to St. Paul multiple times per month for specialized investigative services, evidence analysis, and training.

Forensic testing services are highly technical with unique instrumentation, equipment, environmental and storage needs — all of which must meet specific security requirements.

The increased demand for the BCA's specialized investigative functions drive the need for space for many services including:

- Digital evidence examination
- Use-of-force investigations
- Secure evidence storage
- Polygraph examinations
- Facial reconstruction
- Enhanced audio, video and 3D scanner analysis



Local law enforcement agencies do not have the capability to provide these services locally in most jurisdictions and therefore rely on the BCA so that they can more quickly identify perpetrators and provide victims the justice they deserve.

HOUSING THE PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT TO GET THE JOB DONE

The BCA St. Paul headquarters is over capacity by approximately 150 staff.

A new 44,000 square foot facility in Mankato will allow BCA to house approximately 50 staff locally. The Mankato facility would also create more adequate space for training that the BCA is statutorily-required to provide for local law enforcement agencies.

The BCA has seen a comparable increase in the demand for services in northern Minnesota — along with the physical capacity to provide them.

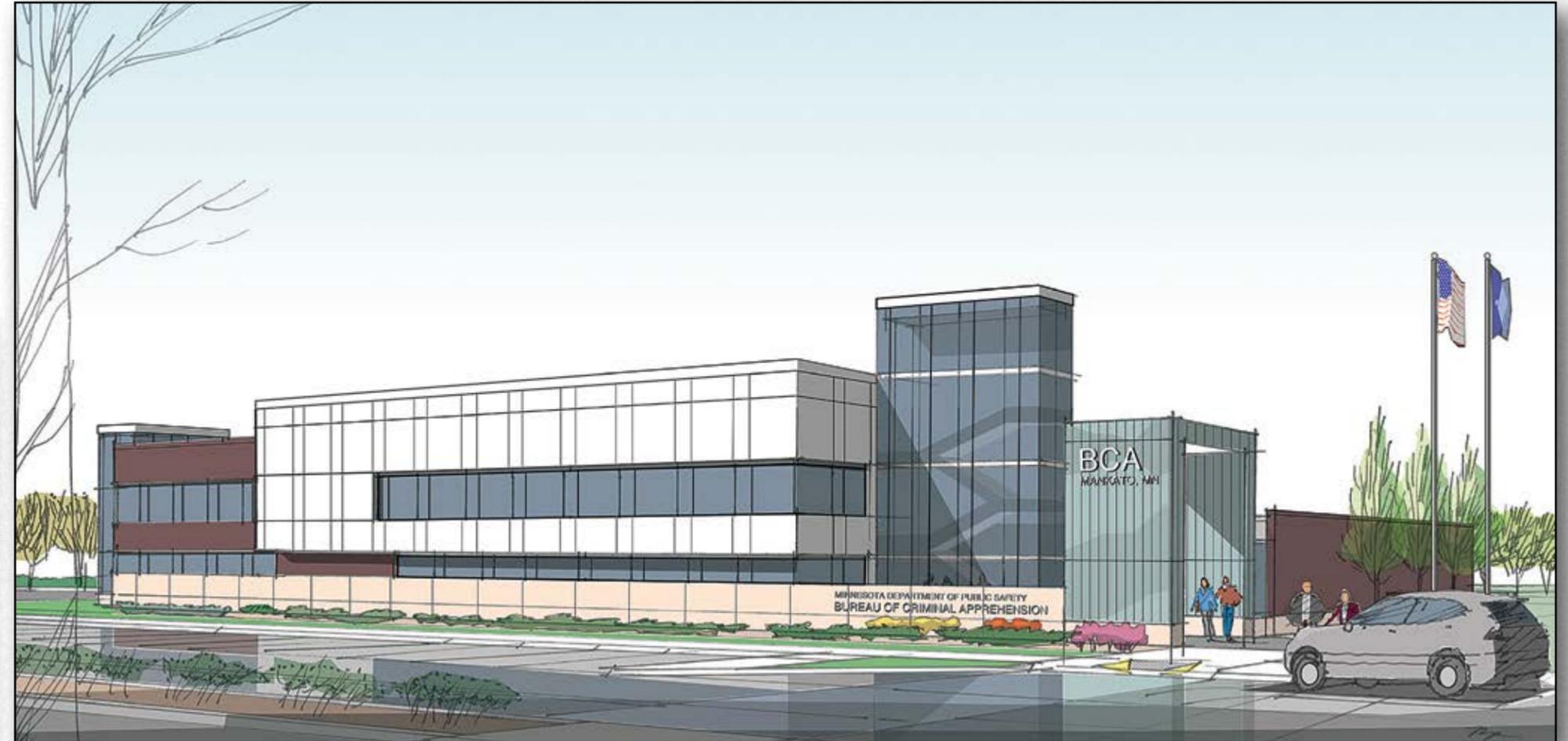
Expanding the Bemidji regional facility will alleviate space issues for the BCA to provide critical services, help relieve capacity strain at the St. Paul headquarters, and meet storage and security requirements. The design funding to double the square footage of the Bemidji facility is essential to this request.



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA BCA REGIONAL OFFICE AND LABORATORY

The Southern Minnesota BCA Regional Office and Laboratory in Mankato will enable local agencies to significantly improve public safety in Minnesota communities. The facility will significantly reduce turnaround times for processing evidence and address a currently underserved geographical area of the state.

A new facility in Mankato will also ensure that technical and security requirements for the BCA's evolving services.



New Laboratory Testing Capacity

- 6,000 cases per year, including 12,000 pieces of evidence tested.
- Faster turnaround times.
- Local access to more progressive technologies such as Rapid ID and NIBIN ballistics information.



New Investigative Efficiencies

- Reduced crime scene response time.
- Ability to utilize drone resources for missing people and crime scenes.
- Expanded digital evidence services.



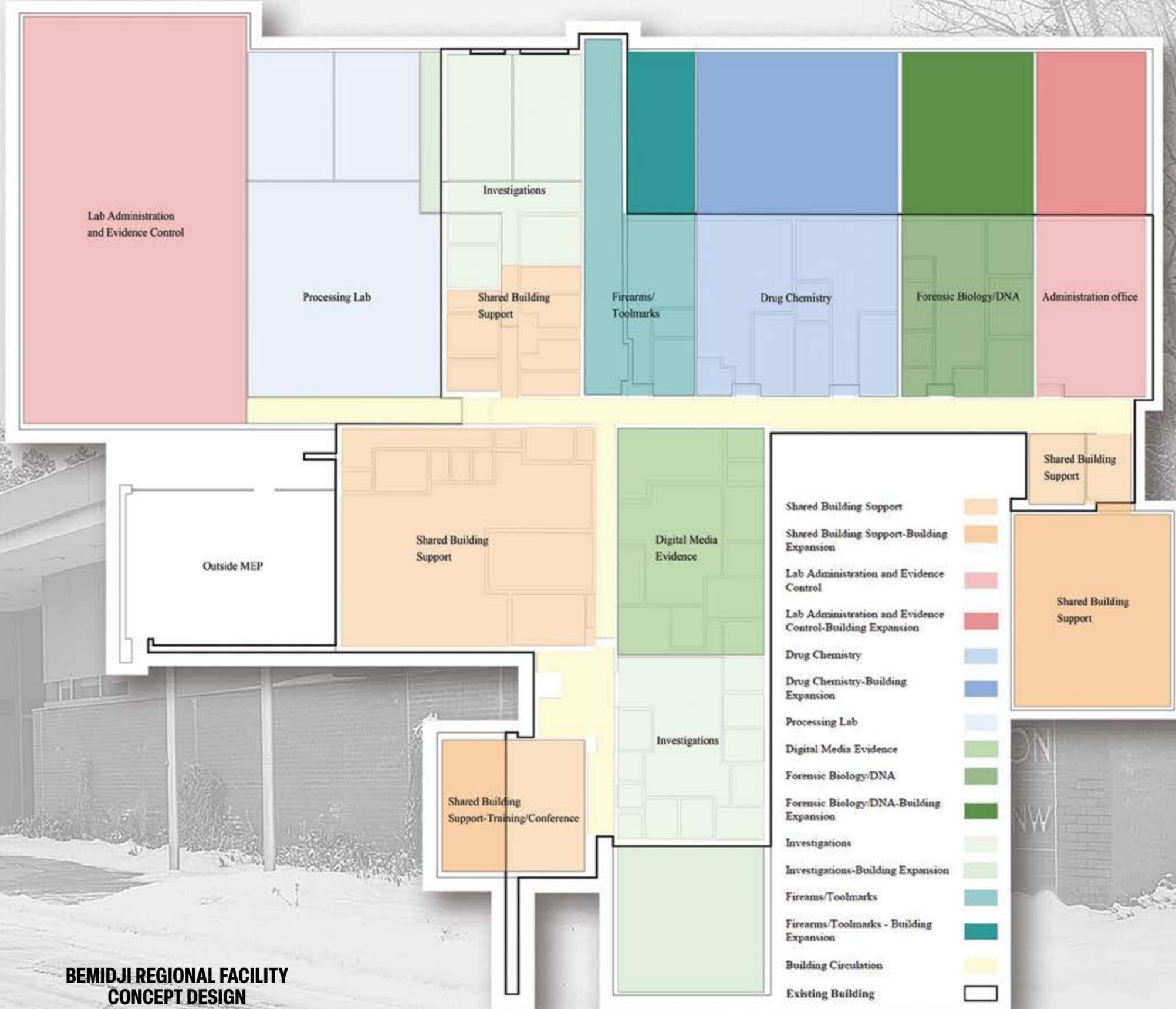
New Jobs for the Mankato Region

- Approximately 50 new professional jobs for years to come.
- Local government, businesses and law enforcement support this project and its public safety and community benefits.

BEMIDJI REGIONAL FACILITY EXPANSION DESIGN

Improved services and public safety also would be realized with an expanded Bemidji facility in the future.

This funding would allow the BCA to meet critical investigative and forensic testing services for our local law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice partners to improve public safety and assist in providing justice for crime victims and society in a timelier manner for years to come.



**BEMIDJI REGIONAL FACILITY
CONCEPT DESIGN**

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Bureau of Criminal Apprehension**

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