

Civic Engagement Toolkit

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the study's timeline?

The study was initiated in January 2015 by the County and School Boards with the adoption of a Study Charge and appointments to the Study Committee.

The committee and Resident Forum began meeting in February 2015. In general, two meetings are held per month with additional subcommittee meetings as needed.

In order to inform the development of the 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs), proposed criteria and a related process for siting any new County or School facilities or adding new uses to existing facilities or sites will be presented to the two Boards in September 2015.

The committee's final report will be presented in November 2015 and may include recommendations for next-step public processes, as necessary, to develop targeted policy recommendations related to any aspect of the charge.

Visit the project website to view the study charge, schedule and upcoming meetings calendar.

Will there be an opportunity to provide input after September/November?

This Study is an important first step in planning for our community's future. There is still more work to be done. The Committee hopes the two reports provided to both Boards in September and November will be the beginning of new efforts to improve facility and resource planning, decision making and communications of those efforts.

The County Board and School Board will determine appropriate next steps which will likely include commission reviews, work sessions and/or public hearings before taking any actions deemed necessary.

How does this study relate to other County and School initiatives and plans?

Because this study is a broad-based effort that will take a holistic view of community needs, there will be subject areas that overlap with other initiatives and plans. County and APS staff are coordinating information sharing with the study committee and Resident Forum. Related initiatives of note include:

- APS More Seats for More Students
- Affordable Housing Master Plan
- Public Spaces Master Plan Update
- Arlington Future Office Market Study
- Retail Action Plan Update

For a complete list of related initiatives, plans and background, visit the project website.

Who is participating in the study?

Everyone is invited to participate in this conversation. The study is a collaborative effort between the County, Arlington Public Schools and the broader community.

A diverse cross-section of perspectives make up the 23-person Study Committee with members from advisory boards, school councils and associations, civic associations and other organizations. They represent a combination of County, School, neighborhood and business interests. Both the County and School Boards have appointed Board liaisons to the group and assigned staff support.

A Resident Forum, open to all interested Arlingtonians, meets with the committee and provides broad input throughout the process.

Outside experts, speakers and consultants were brought on board as needed for specific topics and tasks.

What is included in the term "facilities"?

The study's charge states the purpose of the study is to "build a consensus framework regarding future revenue and facility needs that will inform County and School Board decision-making related to meeting the community's requirements for additional school, fire station, vehicle storage sites and other facility needs".

Examples of vehicle storage could include buses; examples of other facilities could include salt and mulch storage sites.

Public libraries and County office spaces are not included.

Public art, open space, parks and affordable housing will be referenced in context to this process, however all are being evaluated and planned for within their respective Comprehensive Plan element processes. Refer to the Public Spaces Master Plan and the Affordable Housing Master Plan for more information.

Is there a list or map available of all County and APS-owned facilities?

Yes, inventory information and maps are available on our project website. Review meeting information presented at the Facilities Subcommittee Meeting #2:

<http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/documents/subcommittees/>

Where can I find more information?

Visit arlingtonva.us and search "community facilities study".