



APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
225 North Oneida Street
Appleton, WI 54911-4780
(920) 832-6170 | FAX: (920) 832-6182

**TO: Members of the Appleton Public Library Board of Trustees
Members of the City of Appleton Common Council**
**FROM: Dean Gazza, Director of Parks Recreation and Facilities Management
Colleen Rortvedt, Library Director**
DATE: August 15, 2022
RE: August Library Building Project Update

City staff continue to work with architects Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) on the library project. The following progress has been made in the past month:

Property update

Habitat for Humanity is working on removing items that did not get sold in the auction and other fixtures for recycling.

Bid process

Representatives from SOM and Boldt presented to the Common Council on August 3 focusing on information about cost estimating, value engineering and the bid process.

Timeline

The current timeline is as follows. Please remember the schedule may be impacted by many factors including lead time for products, supply chain, weather, etc.

8/31/2022– Bids Due

9/12/2022 – Finance Committee (request approval of construction contract)

9/21/2022 – Common Council (request approval of construction contract)

Fall 2022 – Construction Starts

Fall 2023 – Anticipated Substantial Completion

Early 2024 – Opening Day

Communication

Library and city staff, along with staff from Boldt and SOM are beginning to plan for groundbreaking. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

We continue to promote our building project webpage – apl.org/building - as a place for community members to find information related to the project. The webpage includes news, renderings, project FAQs, project spotlights (such as parking, plans and permits, etc.), and an area to provide feedback/questions.

Capital Campaign

Friends continues to work with the Capital Campaign Committee to cultivate private philanthropic support for the library building project. The committee has been meeting and members have begun meeting with potential donors. Donor cultivation will continue through the quiet phase of the campaign. A presentation has been developed and the Library and Friends Directors have begun presenting to groups interested in learning about the campaign.

In anticipation of the public phase of the campaign, work has begun on the website. The public phase will include direct mail as well as a digital and social media presence.

College North Neighborhood Plan

The final report for the College North Neighborhood Plan has been published and is available on the City's website. The library was identified as the top priority in the plan with numerous additional priorities. This plan creates a long-term vision for the development of the neighborhood.

Valley Transit Facility Update

Valley Transit has engaged [LHB](#) to perform an initial site assessment and master plan. They have experience with joint development mixed use projects such as La Crosse and Eau Claire, which are being used as a model.

Activities in this process include:

- **Site Selection**
Determining if the current location is the best site.
 - VT staff believe the current site satisfies operational needs, however, want to have a thorough understanding of options. Any option must remain in the central downtown business district.
 - If the current site is determined to be the best, VT will consider the acquisition of the vacant parcel to the north, the old Menn Law building. This is a federal process that includes environmental analysis.
- **Focus groups**
Interviewing diverse constituencies to understand needs and priorities.

This study will serve as the building block for future concept and design work. Upon completion of the site analysis, Community Development will work on a request for proposals for mixed-use development.

Please remember that this is a regional project and not just a City of Appleton project. Valley Transit has nine municipal funding partners and functions under Federal Transit Legislation.

Stay up to date on the library building project or sign up for email updates by visiting apl.org/building.