

Appleton Public Library Building Project Relevant Studies

2008: Library Building and Services Study

- Gathered input from 1,000 Appleton area residents through a variety of formats, including online surveys, direct mail, focus groups and personal interviews.
- Reviewed and analyzed the existing facility.
- Recommended construction of a new facility as “the best option in terms of delivering maximum efficiency and the amenities most desired by the public”.
- Rejected creation of branch libraries “due to increased operational costs and the need to duplicate core services” and recommended the single central library model continue.
- Recommended expanding public meeting spaces with access after hours to satisfy current and future demand.

All short-term recommendations have been implemented from this study including implementing RFID technology, upgrading technological infrastructure and replacing furniture throughout the library.

2009: Library Program Design Study

- Created a detailed program study of the library.
- Tested the results of that program study with conceptual designs for both new facilities and an expansion of the current facility.
- Recommended construction of a new facility.

2011 City Facilities Master Plan Completed

It was determined that there are many moving pieces in the Washington Square area so a future study was planned that would look at those needs in more detail.

2012-2013: Community-Based Planning Defining Mission, Vision and Strategic Priorities

- 20 Community Conversations Focus Groups with 140 participants.
 - Two public presentations by experts in the fields of urban planning and visioning.
 - SWOT Analysis identifying Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
 - Staff member presentations about the future of library services.
 - A ten-member Community Advisory Committee defined vision and strategies for the future.
- Resulted in strategic plan, APL150, which leads us into the 21st century, embracing both the changes in modern library service while also the enduring values of a public library.

2013 Washington Square Master Planning Study

Identified several possible scenarios to improve delivery of services and maximize city assets in the Washington Square neighborhood. Identified next steps to be performed:

- a. Determine Library direction, location, and schedule in 2014.
- b. Evaluate “blue” ramp timeline and location in 2014.
- c. Provide a Traffic Study based on the final Washington Square proposed solution.

2014 – 2015: Library Needs Assessment, Site Selection and Pre-funding schematic design

Evaluated and ranked sites for potential vetting as location for a new or renovated library. Top sites were evaluated with blocking and stacking diagrams and final site was developed in more detail to develop cost estimates. Friends of APL completed a feasibility study for a capital campaign based on the site/concept. Council voted down acquiring the proposed site.

2015: Downtown Parking Study

Evaluated parking needs throughout downtown.

2016: Update to City's Comprehensive Plan

Included a re-write of Downtown Chapter. Mixed Use development and the library are priorities.

2016: Downtown Mobility Study

Mutli-modal study addressing many downtown mobility needs. Recommended many changes including re-establishing the north/south grid on Appleton/Oneida St.

2018: Request for Proposal Process for Mixed-Use Library

Selection of Commercial Horizons proposal of mixed-use library on current site of Soldier's Square Parking Ramp as finalist. Began working with architects on development of schematic design in order to determine feasibility and costing. Process was put on hold in September 2018 due to potential barriers regarding a parking solution.

2020: Library Project Planning Resumes on Current Site

The City moves forward with developing a request for proposal for architectural and engineering for the renovation of, addition to, and/or replacement of APL on its current site. The City is also developing neighborhood-level planning to utilize both public and private resources to produce broad economic effects and create a vibrant and sustainable neighborhood in the library area.