

PORTLAND FIRE AND RESCUE G.O. BOND FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

On November 7, 1998 the citizens of Portland authorized the sale of \$53.8 million in general obligation bonds for improvements to existing fire & rescue stations and construction of new stations.

The full implementation of the Facility Improvement Program will take 8 - 10 years and will be managed by Portland Fire & Rescue and the Bureau of General Services. The local community – citizens, Neighborhood Associations, businesses and other interested groups – will play an important role in advising the City about siting and designing new stations, and renovating existing stations.

Purpose of the Facility Improvement Program

The purposes of this program are:

- To seismically upgrade fire & rescue stations to allow the firefighters and their equipment to effectively respond to an earthquake in the metropolitan area.
- To re-locate and build new stations to meet the goal of a four-minute response time to emergency incidents.
- To renovate existing stations and design new stations to reflect the changing mission of the Portland Bureau of Fire & Rescue. For example, a major component of the Bureau's first-response work is now emergency medical services, yet few of the stations are well equipped to handle the drug storage and pathogen cleanup procedures required for such operations.
- To assure that all stations comply with new requirements for ADA accessibility and female firefighter accommodations.

Overview of Projects

Portland currently has 29 active fire & rescue stations. Two studies have guided the overall strategy for renovating or relocating these existing facilities or constructing new stations – a seismic rehabilitation study completed by Degenkolb Engineers and a station location/response time study conducted by Tri-Data Corporation. In summary, the studies indicate that the City needs to build four new stations, relocate five of the existing stations, and upgrade 20 facilities for all of the seismic and operational requirements noted above. A map showing the location of all the stations can be seen on this web site.

An additional factor also guides the Facility Improvement Program, i.e., fire & rescue stations need to be considered for other public goals that might be served by combining the stations with other functions such as parks and community centers. Enhancing specific stations beyond fire and rescue functions will strategically locate community-centered facilities that can serve the entire city.

Overview of the Public Involvement Process

Public involvement is an integral part of the process for siting and designing new fire stations and for renovating existing stations. Portland Fire & Rescue will seek significant public input throughout the implementation of the Facility Improvement Program in order to meet five overall goals:

- To help ensure that the public – which approved the general obligation bond issue and will pay the increased property taxes – has input into how the money is spent.
- To improve the end product by involving different perspectives and community expertise.
- To help ensure that, when the development process is over, Portland Fire & Rescue and the personnel who staff the fire stations will be regarded as good neighbors in their Fire Management Area.
- To meet applicable State law and/or City ordinances regarding land use.
- To express the democratic values on which our City government is based.

Station Advisory Committees (SAC)

Some stations have active Station Advisory Committees (SAC) composed of citizens from various neighborhood groups. They work with their respective fire station captains and the SAC coordinator from the Bureau of General Services. The SAC's main goal is to identify the best fire station sites within the station's fire management area and make a recommendation on those sites to the Fire Chief and Fire Commissioner.

For additional project status information contact the following responsible persons:

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