



Mount Vernon

An Innovative Community; Authentically Hometown

MountVernonOhio.org

Dr. Matthew T. Starr
Mayor

Tanner S. Salyers, MPA
Safety-Service Director

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR CITY FACILITIES

The City is inviting input for municipal facility planning which evaluates two potential options for developing key municipal facilities to meet the city's needs while optimizing space, resources, and public access.

Additionally, a third option remains for public input regarding ideas and details that may not have been considered in prior discussions. This comprehensive approach ensures strategic development that meets the city's needs while engaging the community.

OPTION 1: CENTRALIZED PUBLIC SQUARE DEVELOPMENT

- **Police Station:** Construct a modern facility on Sychar Road to provide enhanced services and accessibility for public safety needs.
- **City Hall Annex:** Build a new annex on the Public Square, adjacent to the current City Hall. This facility would house administrative offices, council chambers, and overflow functions from the existing City Hall.
- **Justice Center:** Develop a justice center on the Public Square where current commercial/residential structures are located. This facility would include courtrooms, legal offices, and related services.


Advantages:


- Centralizes city services in a historic downtown location.
- Retains public access to services in the heart of the city.
- Enhances the identity of the Public Square as a civic hub.


Challenges:

- Requires demolition, remediation, environmental impact studies and historical review, as well as redevelopment of existing commercial/residential structures.
- Potential for community resistance to redevelopment in the Public Square.
- High construction and infrastructure costs, as well as associated road closures and traffic interruptions for extended periods due to construction.

For more information about the listening tour, the projects, or other updates, please contact the Safety Service Office at questions@mountvernonohio.org or 740.393.9520.

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PROPOSALS TO GUIDE LISTENING TOUR DISCUSSION

The development options presented are designed to guide discussions during the previously announced listening tour, scheduled for January, February, and March. These options aim to address the city's identified needs while creating opportunities for meaningful community involvement in shaping significant capital projects.

OPTION 2: DISTRIBUTED FACILITY MODEL

- **Police Station:** Construct the station on Sychar Road, improving public safety accessibility in a less congested area.
- **Justice Center:** Utilize the space designated for the City Hall Annex on the Public Square for a justice center.
- **City Hall:** Relocate all City Hall functions (mayor's office, administrative offices, service offices, council chambers, and other city-elected offices) to the former administration building at Heartland Commerce Park.


Advantages:


- Makes use of an existing building at Heartland Commerce Park, potentially reducing costs, expediting construction timelines.
- Maintains a justice center presence in the downtown area.
- Limits the need for significant downtown redevelopment.


Challenges:

- Separates City Hall from the downtown civic core, which may reduce public access.
- Requires significant retrofitting of the Heartland Commerce Park building to accommodate City Hall needs, reduces lifespan of complex and could incur long-term costs from older facility.
- Incorporates government activity in an area where private enterprise could operate, an opportunity cost for potential job creation and tax revenue streams.

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Option 3: Open to Public Suggestions

This option invites public input through online surveys and public sessions during the Listening Tour, to develop an alternative plans or components of the plans above based on community preferences.

Goals of Public Suggestions:

- Ensure alignment with public priorities.
- Balance downtown development with preserving historic and commercial areas.
- Consider mixed-use developments to combine civic, commercial, and residential needs.

Advantages:

- Enhances community involvement and buy-in.
- May generate innovative and cost-effective ideas.
- Promotes transparency and inclusivity in the decision-making process.


Challenges:


- Could result in delayed decision-making due to varying opinions.
- May require additional time and resources to evaluate and incorporate suggestions.


Next Steps:

- 1. Feasibility Review:** Conduct site evaluations and cost analyses for each option.
- 2. Community Engagement:** Host public meetings and gather feedback for all three options, especially Option 3.
- 3. Decision Making:** Present findings and recommendations to City Council and administration for a final decision.
- 4. Implementation:** Develop a phased construction and relocation timeline for the selected plan.

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