

Item Title: Memorandum of Understanding with the Wake County Board of Education for Potential Co-Location of a Wake County EMS Station on the Timber Drive Elementary School Site in Garner, NC

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chairman of the Wake County Board of Commissioners to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wake County Board of Education to study the potential co-location of a Wake County EMS Station on the Timber Drive Elementary School site subject to conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Wake County Board of Education.

Background: Two factors require the County to study new EMS facilities in Garner. First, Garner Fire Department will eventually need to use the station space presently occupied by a Wake County EMS unit. And second, call volume trends show additional EMS units will be needed in Garner.

In 2008, the Wake County Department of Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) established a Master Plan for EMS Stations that includes co-location of emergency response stations. Preliminary analysis and discussions with Town of Garner and WCPSS staff suggest locating an EMS station by Timber Drive Elementary could be an optimal long-term site. This Board action commits the County and school system to study locating an EMS station by the school.

Board Goal: This action supports standard County operations.

Fiscal Impact: Funds are included in the current CIP for this study, and funding is proposed in the CIP for design and construction of the referenced EMS station in FY 2022 and FY 2023.

Additional Information:

Wake County EMS currently operates an EMS resource in Garner that is co-located within Garner Fire Station #1 at 501 W. Main Street in Garner. However, the Town of Garner has a need to expand the operations of Fire Station #1 into the space currently occupied by Wake County EMS. Increasing population and call volume necessitates the need to build a new EMS station to provide service for this part of Garner.

Based on call volumes and response time metrics, a site search concluded that the area around Timber Drive Elementary School in Garner would provide an ideal location for a

new EMS station. Following a preliminary site analysis and discussions with Wake County School System staff, it was discovered that the Timber Drive Elementary School campus does actually have space on its property for the development of a new EMS station.

This is a prime site for a new EMS station and would ensure Wake County EMS is well positioned to meet the established need for efficient delivery of EMS services to the community. This site is located at 1601 Timber Drive, Garner, NC 27529, (Wake County PIN 1700-76-8135.)

In addition, this location has the required area to accommodate construction of a new Regional EMS prototype, which is being established not only as a base of operations for the units and personnel deployed there, but also to provide expanded medical storage, oxygen inventory and dedicated space for on-duty training. EMS units throughout the region will be able to use this station as a hub for many services and activities, rather than having to return to one centralized location, which is becoming problematic with continued population growth.



A feasibility study will be initiated by County staff, comprised of various investigative activities including surveying, site analysis studies, development of conceptual site and

architectural plans, preliminary site plan approval from the Town of Garner and other activities necessary to evaluate, plan and design the development of a portion of the property for the proposed EMS Station.

If the feasibility study confirms that the site is favorable for development of an EMS station and the Parties determine that it is feasible to jointly proceed with this co-location project, the County will then prepare a ground lease document that lists the terms and conditions for the County's proposed development and will identify the newly created leasehold parcel derived from the parent tract for the project. This ground lease will then be brought forward for approval and execution by each Board prior to the end of the term of this MOU. Approval of the ground lease will then allow for final project design and construction of an EMS Station on this site in the FY 2022-2023 timeframe.

Attachments:

1. Draft Memorandum of Understanding
2. Vicinity Map
3. Preliminary Site Plan