

The Ask

Under current law, a school district may levy the costs of a leased facility if it is for instructional purposes. Eastern Carver County Schools (ECCS) requests special authority to allow the district to access new space to replace its Transportation Center.

The Need

ECCS bought its current bus facility in 2001. Since then, the district has grown significantly. The facility is not sized or equipped to properly house and service the fleet. Coupled over \$5M in deferred maintenance, a new Transportation Center is a critical need.



The district is requesting lease levy authority to fund the building of a Transportation Center to properly house and maintain its fleet of 127 buses. This investment will serve our four communities by supporting more reliable service for students, improving security and reducing costs by providing adequate space to store buses inside garages, and positively impacting the daily desired experiences of our staff and students.

Future Efficiency

The district is focusing on identifying a site to efficiently serve all sectors of our Community and provide efficient routing while minimizing traffic impacts due to busing, to the largest extent possible.

A new Transportation Center would have

- Additional maintenance bays for vehicle repairs to reduce the time buses are out of service, which also reduces the need for spare vehicles to supplement the fleet.
- Interior bus storage provides better security and greater life of existing investments.
- Community & business partnership possibilities for maintenance, fueling, and cooperative education
- A more desirable working environment for school bus drivers

Project Contact

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Ongoing Issues/Deferred Maintenance Critical Needs

- Parking lot is in very poor shape: large pot holes, inadequate drainage, insufficient hard surface parking area forces bus parking on grass/mud.
- Life cycle of buses is shorter since most buses are currently stored (rust, fading, hose and wiring replacement)
- Poor site security: lacking proper lighting, access control, surveillance capabilities and perimeter security
- Currently have a 1,999 gallon propane system for 89 propane buses that needs to be refilled twice a day, a \$138,331 yearly expense.
- School bus driver waiting areas and restrooms are too small to meet employee needs, do not meet building code and lack amenities to support positive work environment
- Repair bays are small, dark, poorly ventilated and ill-equipped for efficient repair work with bus wash bay used as a repair bay as needed.
- No dedicated snow storage space available.
- Doors are broken, rusted, and cannot close.
- Interior wall panels are cracked and stained from water leaks.
- Defective heating equipment is no longer useable in multiple buildings.
- Concrete buildings have multiple masonry fractures.
- Building roof and exterior walls in poor condition with cracks, flashing damage, and sealant leaks.

