



The Last **SURVIVING**
Vocational Cooperative
in the State of Minnesota



*The **WRIGHT** path for High School*

The Wright Technical Center (WTC) is one of the original Vocational Cooperative public high schools established through a Joint Powers agreement in 1972 and is the last true Vocational Cooperative School District still in operation. Wright Technical Center is located within the City of Buffalo, MN while serving a geographic area with a much broader reach. Wright Technical Center serves as an advanced career and technical high school (Wright Tech) and an Alternative Learning Center (Wright Academy) for 8 surrounding districts. Wright Technical Center provides educational opportunities for: Annandale, Big Lake, Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose, Delano, Howard Lake/Waverly/Winsted, Maple Lake, Monticello, and St. Michael/Albertville.

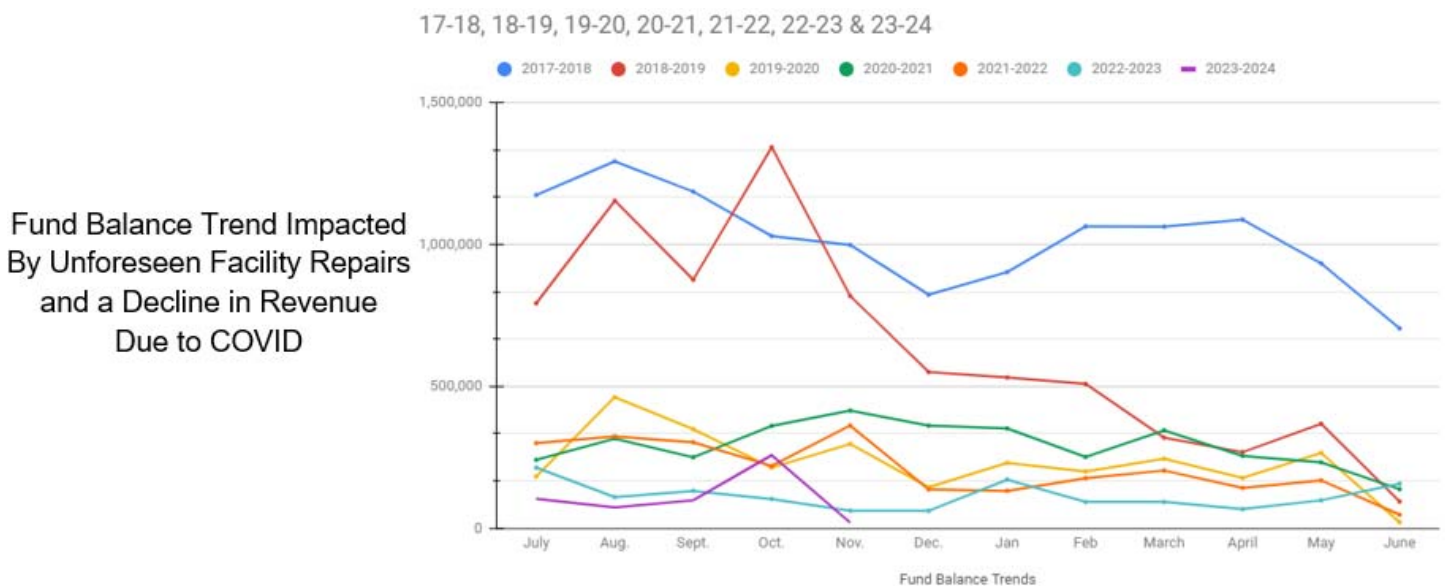
In the 50 years as a Vocational Cooperative School District, over 30,000 juniors and seniors in high school have received advanced career and technical training. With the ever-growing shortage of skilled laborers, the opportunity for meeting the challenges employers face in filling positions is a huge benefit, not only for the business or industry but for the local, region and state economy.

Students attending Wright Tech have twelve different advanced career and technical program choices to meet their needs, skills, and career interests. These programs include: Automotive Technology, Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, Construction Technology, Cosmetology Careers, Early Childhood & Elementary Careers, Graphic Communications, Health Science, Law Enforcement & EMR, On-The-Job Training, Horticulture Careers, Welding Technology and Youth Apprenticeship.

Wright Technical Center is in desperate need of facilities maintenance. The original building is now 50 years old, and is in urgent need of maintenance, replacement, or repairs of essential infrastructure including mechanical unit replacement, roofing, electrical panel replacement, pavement and access, programmatic move, security and building automation system. WTC does not have the levy authority as typical public school districts. The 8 member districts levy on behalf of WTC for the areas of CTE, LTFM and building bond debt. WTC does not receive additional levy dollars in the areas of Capital and Safe Schools as do typical districts. This has also caused a substantial reduction to the district's fund balance by having to make necessary purchases of maintenance equipment, technology equipment, office equipment, textbooks, student desks, etc., all with general fund dollars.

The proposed maintenance, repairs and capital improvements are essential to address structural and safety concerns at WTC's facility. Portions of the existing facilities have fallen below the Minnesota Department of Education's recommended standards. As all facilities age and require necessary updates, by not having funds available to maintain the 85,000 sq. ft. facility, the fund balance has now been depleted due to overdue repairs and necessary upgrades. With the rising cost associated with the necessary facility improvements, the delay of improvements may lead to further deterioration. These projects are necessary to enable the Wright Technical Center to continue to serve the student population of its eight-member school districts.

The facility also leases space to MAWSECO (Meeker and Wright County Special Education Cooperative), a separate school for level 4 special education program and WCCA (Wright County Community Action Head Start), which provides a space for early childhood education.





Project Details



Wright Technical Center Maintenance and Modernization

At A Glance

Project Summary: \$9,500,000 in state funds is requested to predesign, design, construct, renovate, furnish, and equip capital improvements at Wright Technical Center and its affiliated facilities in Buffalo, MN, including projects to preserve or replace mechanical, electrical, and security systems; utility Infrastructure; and site renovations to support ongoing operations.

Project Rationale and Public Purpose

The proposed maintenance and repairs in this bonding request are essential to address structural and safety concerns at WTC's current facility in Buffalo, MN, and to allow WTC to continue to carry out its public purpose of educating and preparing Minnesotans to thrive in a range of careers. Portions of the existing facilities have fallen below the Minnesota Department of Education's recommended standards. As a cooperative school district, WTC does not have levy authority, and therefore has limited options to address these needs without support from the state.

Needs for Consideration

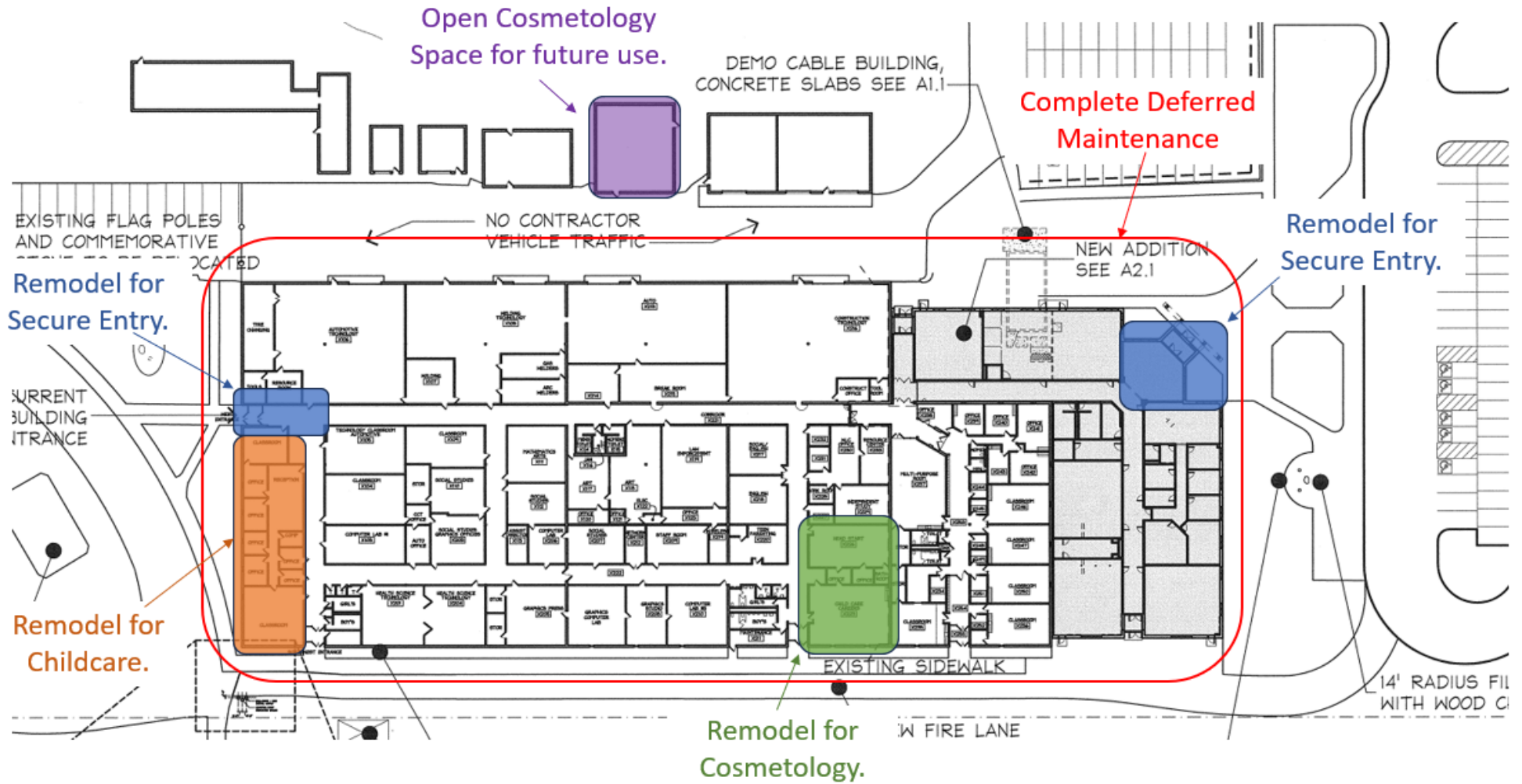
Based on the physical condition analysis, facility utilization, and educational space comparison, the following is a list of needs that should be considered. These needs have been identified and are considered a high priority.

THE BASIS FOR THE HIGHEST PRIORITIZATION OF A NEED IS DETERMINED IF SOME OR ALL THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

- A condition that left unresolved would increase the rate of deterioration of the building.
- A condition that is currently not meeting building or energy code.
- A condition that provides an unsafe environment for the occupants of the building.

SCOPE OUTLINE	Wright Technical Center 2024 Capital Budget Request	Construction Costs
Remodel for Childcare		\$945,000
Remodel for Cosmetology		\$675,000
Secure Entry at Childcare		\$200,000
Secure Entry at Main		\$150,000
Deferred Maintenance – Mechanical, Electrical, Finishes		\$4,825,000
CONSTRUCTION COSTS TOTAL		\$6,795,000
Construction Contingency		\$339,750
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment		\$339,750
Site Services and Reimbursables		\$203,850
Building Permit/Fees/State Plan Review/Jurisdictional Approvals		\$135,900
Construction Testing/Site Survey/Commissioning		\$169,875
PROJECT COSTS TOTAL		\$1,189,125
Architectural/Engineering		\$638,730
Project Representation Services (CM/Owners Rep)		\$239,524
Technology		\$479,048
Bond Issuance/Underwriter Costs		\$159,683
SOFT COSTS TOTAL		\$1,516,984
GRAND TOTALS		\$9,501,109

SCOPE of WORK





Wright Technical Center

1405 3rd Ave. NE Buffalo, MN 55313 Phone: 763-682-4112
www.wtc.k12.mn.us



March 25, 2024

Chair Youakim and Members of the House Education Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to present HF 2069 to your committee. WTC is proud to serve our students, and this bonding request will help us complete vital maintenance and upgrades to continue that work. More than twenty entities have signed on as supporters of this request, and they are listed below.

With any questions about the project, please feel free to contact WTC Executive Director Brian Koslofsky at (763) 684-2200 or brian.koslofsky@wrighttech.org, or Shane Zahrt or Flaherty & Hood, PA at (651) 295-1123 or SAZahrt@flaherty-hood.com.

Organizations supporting Wright Technical Center's Request:

Regional Organizations:

- Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc.
- Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association
- American Federation of Teachers, Local 3780
- City of Clearwater Economic Development Authority
- Wright County Community Action
- Wright County Economic Development Partnership

Area School Districts:

- Monticello Public Schools
- Delano Public Schools
- St. Michael-Albertville Schools, ISD 885
- Howard Lake – Waverly – Winsted Public Schools

Cities:

- City of Maple Lake
- City of Monticello
- City of Montrose
- City of Waverly
- City of Otsego
- City of Buffalo
- City of Clearwater Economic Development Authority

Chambers of Commerce:

- Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Monticello Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- I-94 West Chamber of Commerce

Statewide Organizations

- Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM)