

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 update its bus garage.

The Need

ECCS bought its current bus facility from the Salden Bus Company in 2001. While the district has grown significantly since then, space at the bus garage has gotten increasingly tight and is no longer equipped to properly house or service the fleet. Coupled with \$4.9 million in repairs needed to maintain the current property, it has become increasingly clear that a new location is necessary.



The district is pursuing levy authority to create a transportation hub that can properly house and maintain the fleet of 127 buses. This investment serves our four communities by supporting more reliable service for students while also reducing costs related to leaving buses outside in the elements rather than properly housing them inside garages.

Future Efficiency

The district is focusing on sites that would serve all sectors of the community efficiently while minimizing traffic impacts to the largest extent possible. A new transportation hub would have

- Additional maintenance bays for vehicle repairs would reduce time buses are out of service and reduce the need for spare buses to supplement the fleet.
- Better security with perimeter fencing and gates at entrances.
- Partnership possibilities for maintenance, fueling, and educational spaces.

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.
- No dedicated snow storage space available.
- Poor site security: lacking proper lighting, access control, surveillance capabilities and fencing.
- Fueling islands are in poor shape with concrete pad for propane tanks severely heaving.
- Currently have a 1,999 gallon propane system for 89 propane buses that needs to be refilled twice a day, a \$138,331 additional yearly expense. Also, the lack of gasoline service at the garage results in additional cost for driver time as well as paying retail price at local Holiday gas station.
- Restrooms are too small to meet driver demand and do not meet building code.
- Repair bays are too small, dark, poorly ventilated and ill-equipped for efficient repair work with bus wash bay used as a repair bay as needed.
- Employee break room is too small for the number of drivers and lacks running water.
- 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.
- Roof and exterior walls in poor condition with cracks, flashing damage, and sealant leaks.
- Life cycle of buses is shorter since most buses are stored outside currently (increased rust, fading, hose and wiring replacement)

