

# Court Facilities

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The primary issue facing the County's criminal justice system is the provision of adequate courts facilities and support functions. The criminal justice system and its associated facilities have recently seen an increase in demand in Fairfax County. This is comparable to the general increase exhibited throughout the region, state and country as more stringent laws are legislated and enforced for varying degrees of law violations.

### LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan has established a number of objectives and policies in order to:

- ✓ Meet all State standards for incarceration space.
- ✓ Provide sufficient courtroom space to continue timely adjudication of cases.
- ✓ Maintain a central location for the main court system to be convenient to all County residents.
- ✓ Provide a stratified system of juvenile facilities to house and process juveniles with varying degrees of legal difficulties.

Source: 2003 Edition of the Comprehensive Plan, as amended

## CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

The court caseloads in the Fairfax County judicial system have been experiencing steady growth for the past 10 years and current projections are for this trend to continue. The Judicial Center Expansion project will bring all three courts; Circuit, General District, and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts, into one building to facilitate the sharing of limited resources and to alleviate the confusion of two separate courthouses. The expansion project will include additional courtrooms for all three courts as well as functional support spaces for clerk's offices, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Sheriff's court services and security offices, Public Law Library, and open office area for County staff not permanently assigned to the courthouse such as probation officers that are required to work out of the courthouse on a limited basis. The final design phase of the Judicial Center Expansion project is complete. Funding for this project was provided by the 1998 Public Safety Bond Referendum and a state reimbursement from the adult detention center construction.

In addition to the Judicial Center Expansion project the existing Jennings Building requires major renovations to make it a functional and operational component of the courthouse. The Jennings Building is over 20 years old, and has not had any significant building renovations during this time. The building is used by over 2,500 people daily and has experienced significant wear to the public spaces and building systems. Expanded and renovated facilities for the public lobby/circulation spaces, cafeteria, Commonwealth's Attorney, Police Liaison, Sheriff's roll call facilities, Circuit and General District Court clerk's offices will be provided in the renovated Jennings Building. In addition, significant improvements to the buildings life safety, mechanical and electrical systems will be made. No significant modifications are planned for the existing courtrooms. Funding for this project was provided by the 2002 Public Safety

Bond Referendum. Future modifications for technology and interior design renovations to the existing (25) Circuit Court and General District courtrooms will be essential to the integrity of the overall court facility. In conjunction with the Judicial Center Expansion and Jennings Building Renovation projects requirements for improved security will be implemented. Design and implementation of security enhancements to the courthouse and the surrounding site are in response to a heightened threat level in the Washington D.C. metro area and will follow federal guidelines for courthouse design criteria. In addition, the Judicial Center Parking Structure was completed in early 2003, and provides approximately 1,900 parking spaces and upgrades to an existing surface parking lot.

A 768-bed expansion to the Adult Detention Center (ADC) was completed in July 2000. The expanded ADC facility houses an average of approximately 1,000 inmates daily. Renovation work at the existing ADC facility was completed in summer 2002. The renovation work provided upgraded and expanded facilities for prisoner intake/processing, Magistrate's offices, public and professional visiting, inmate property and record storage, administrative support areas, and public lobby areas.

As in the case of adult offenders, the need for juvenile detention space continues to grow. As a result of various past and future demographic and social factors, as well as recent state legislation, it is projected that additional detention space and facilities will be needed for juveniles at different levels of incarceration. These factors have been used as a guide to help develop the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court juvenile facilities capital program. A 66 bed expansion to the Juvenile Detention Center was completed in 1998. Future projects to address juvenile offenders may include a chronic juvenile offenders facility and a halfway house facility for boys returning from state-operated facilities.

## **CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

1. **Jennings Judicial Center Expansion and Renovation.** \$115,000,000 for the design and construction of an approximately 316,000 square foot addition to the Jennings Judicial Center including courtrooms, chambers, office space, necessary support spaces, and site improvements. This project also includes the renovation of the existing 230,000 square foot courthouse and for improved security to the overall courthouse and surrounding site. The renovation will include significant renovations to life safety, mechanical, and electrical building systems to create a functional and operational courthouse. This project is supported by the 1998 and 2002 Public Safety Referenda and a state reimbursement from the Adult Detention Center construction.

**PROJECT COST SUMMARIES  
COURT FACILITIES  
(\$000's)**

Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Anticipated to be Expended Thru FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	Total FY2005-FY2009	Total FY2010-FY2014	Total Project Estimate
1. Jennings Judicial Center - Expansion and Renovation / 009209	B, U	13,870	<i>24,260</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>35,000</i>	<i>9,670</i>	<i>2,200</i>	101,130		115,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$13,870	\$24,260	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$9,670	\$2,200	\$101,130	\$0	\$115,000

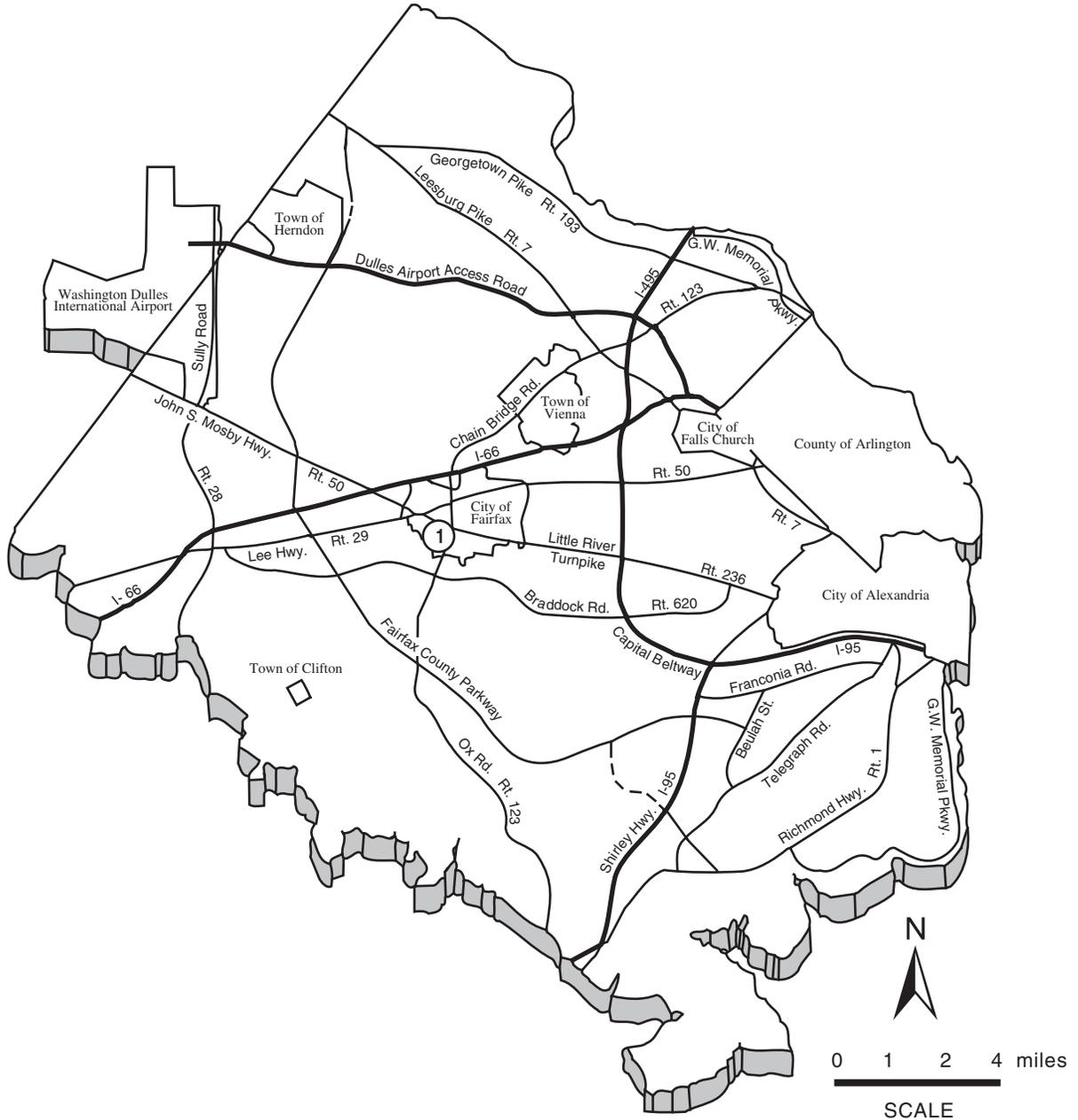
Key: Stage of Development	
	Feasibility Study or Design
	Land Acquisition
	Construction

Notes:  
Numbers in bold italics represent funded amounts.

Key: Source of Funds	
B	Bonds
G	General Fund
S	State
F	Federal
X	Other
U	Undetermined

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## Location of CIP Projects



1. Judicial Center Building Expansion and Renovation

Note: Map numbers correspond to the project descriptions in the text and on the summary tables. Only CIP projects with selected fixed sites are shown on the map.



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