

# MAJOR MILESTONES

with supporting materials

**January 2011** Board of Supervisors authorized issuance of Request for Proposal to conduct a needs assessment and develop renovation and/or new building options for the provision of court facilities, to include the Circuit, General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. The following scope and effort was part of the study:

- Review previous studies, facilities condition reports, existing conditions to develop:
  - Forecast of Caseload
  - Forecast of Staff
  - Forecast of Space / Architectural Space Program Requirements
  - Test Fit of long term space needs on 3 sites
    - Remaining Downtown option
    - Split option (using McIntire Site)
    - Greenfield site in the County
  - “Order of magnitude” cost estimates for each of the options
- [Read: General District Court/Circuit Court Study Executive Summary- Jan 5, 2011](#)

**Fall 2011 - 2012** Study conducted involving research, data collection, modeling, interviews of key Courts stakeholders, staff, etc.

- February 2013** Presentation of study findings presented to Board of Supervisors.
- [Read: February 6, 2013 PS-Dewberry Study Results Executive Summary](#)
  - [Listen: February 6, 2013 Courts Study Discussion](#)

**March 2013** Stakeholder meetings (Judges, Commonwealth Attorney, Sheriff, Public Defender, Clerks, etc.) to review finding and analysis.

- May 2013** Following an update to the Board of Supervisors, the Board directed staff to:
- Focus on the Downtown option.
  - Commence discussions with the City on parking options to meet county Court user needs.
  - Conduct an appraisal of jointly-owned properties in preparation for potential purchase by the County of the City’s share of properties for expansion of County Courts.
  - [Listen: May 1, 2013 Courts Study Update](#)

**Summer 2013** The County and City began discussions/negotiations regarding the County's acquisition of the City's share of the Levy Building.

Discussions included options for the City providing parking to the County for expanded Court needs.

**August 2013** Appraisals completed on four properties (Levy Building, Levy Parking, Jessup Building, East Market Street parking lot). Negotiation meetings continued with the City to review the results and further negotiate the acquisition of the Levy Building and parking solutions.

**September 2013** The Board was provided an update on the negotiations with the City, including information related to the appraisals of four jointly-owned properties and discussions to date with the City on property settlement and parking accommodations.

**March 2014** Work Session with newly constituted Board of Supervisors to discuss the Court Complex options.

Staff provided high-level overviews of all options from the Court study and detailed the direction the previous Board had given for staff to focus the option to remain downtown.

The Board directed staff to schedule a separate meeting with the Court Stakeholders, including representatives from the City.

- [Read: March 5, 2014 Courts Study Presentation](#)
- [Read: March 5, 2014 Courts Study Update Executive Summary](#)
- [Listen: March 5, 2014 Courts Study Discussion](#)

**April 2014** Board of Supervisor holds a Work Session to hear from the Courts Stakeholders including three Judges, the County's Commonwealth's Attorney, the County Sheriff, the County's Circuit Court Clerk, the City of Charlottesville's Mayor, representatives of the County/City Public Defender's office and the Charlottesville Albemarle Bar Association.

The purpose of this Work Session was to discuss the two basic Courts Project options under consideration by the Board – downtown/Levy expansion/renovation and potential relocation of the Courts complex to the County.

- [Read: April 9, 2014 Courts Project Work Session Executive Summary](#)
- [Listen: April 9, 2014 Courts Project Work Session](#)

**June 2014** Board of Supervisors Work Session for Board to discuss Courts Stakeholder feedback and to direct staff on preferred option (s). The

Board directed staff to pursue both the downtown expansion option and relocation option in parallel.

- [Read: June 4, 2014 Courts Project Work Session Follow Up Executive Summary](#)
- [Listen: June 4, 2014 Courts Project Work Session Follow Up](#)

**July 2014** Joint meeting with Board of Supervisors and City Council which included a discussion on the pending Courts project.

The outcome of this joint meeting was the formation of a Joint Steering Committee of the Board of Supervisors and City Council to focus on the challenges and opportunities of the downtown development option, to include the possibility of co-locating the City and County's General District Court operations and finding solutions to parking. While both options remained under consideration, staff focused on the downtown option based on BOS direction.

- [Read: July 1, 2014 Joint Meeting Program-Courts Project pg. 6](#)
- [Read: July 1, 2014 Joint Meeting Minutes-Courts Project pg. 8](#)
- [Listen: July 2, 2014 Courts Project Public Engagement Process \(Discussion begins at 198:42\)](#)

**August 2014 to July 2015** Joint Steering Committee met on multiple occasions throughout the fall and spring. Reviewed previous studies and options and directed staff to conduct additional formal study on the Levy Building site.

County and City co-funded Moseley Architects to develop additional concept for use of the jointly-owned Levy property by both the City and the County to house their General District Court needs.

- [Listen: August 13, 2014 Update on Courts Committee from Ann Mallek](#)
- [Listen: September 3, 2014 Update on Courts Committee from Ann Mallek \(Update begins at 4:52\)](#)
- [Listen: October 1, 2014 Update on Courts Committee from Ann Mallek \(Update begins at 3:51\)](#)
- [Listen: January 7, 2015 Courts Project Update](#)

**July 2015** The final Moseley report was completed following a review by the Joint Steering Committee at a meeting held on July 30th.

The final report includes the feedback and recommendations from the committee which endorsed the Levy Location to co-locate the County and City General District Courts. The facility would include the County's General District Courts (2 court sets plus 1 future expansion court set), its Clerk and Commonwealth Attorney and the City would occupy one court set and move its Clerk's operation if the recommendation is accepted.

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This approach was accepted by the Board and City Council for planning purposes with parking issue yet to be resolved.

- [Read: Feasibility Study for a Combined General District Court Building](#)

**Aug 2015 – April 2016** County and City staff met multiple times to discuss conceptual terms for a future operating agreement, including parking proposal for the co-location of both jurisdictions' General District Court and Clerks office to the currently co-owned Levy site. Issues regarding parking remain unresolved.

**April 2016** Board of Supervisors discussion on court options including Downtown/Levy option and greenfield and development/redevelopment concepts in the County. Two new members of the BOS were brought up to speed on prior studies and activities.

A negotiating committee of County and City elected officials and staff formed to develop and consider alternatives to resolve parking.

- [Read: April 6, 2016 Location Alternatives for Courts Project Executive Summary](#)
- [Read: April 6, 2016 Albemarle County Courts Location Options Presentation](#)
- [Watch: April 6, 2016 Location Alternatives for Courts Project Discussion](#)

**May 2016** Board of Supervisors directed staff to provide additional information regarding alternatives to the downtown option that would move the County's General District Court and Clerk's operations to the County Office Building on McIntire while negotiations continue with the City on parking. Space Allocation Study completed by Moseley Architects evaluating several options for relocating the Courts to the County Office Building (COB).

- [Watch: May 4, 2016 Motion Requesting Economic Impact Analysis of Courts Project](#)
- [Watch: May 11, 2016 Motion Regarding Courts Relocation](#)

**May 2016** Board of Supervisors identifies urban area redevelopment/revitalization and support for economic development as top priorities for the County's FY 17-FY 19 Strategic Plan.

**May-September 2016** Negotiating Committee continues to meet and develop various alternatives that were considered by the Board and City Council.

**October 2016** Board of Supervisors scheduled a public meeting for October 24, 2016, to discuss all viable development/expansion options for the courts.

- [Watch: October 12, 2016 Scheduling of Public Review and Comment on County Court Expansion Options](#)