

Proposed Community Safety Training and Wellness Center: Common questions

Find answers about the project's purpose, funding, and next steps.

About the Community Safety Training and Wellness Center

1. **Q: Why is the City considering this project now? What has led to this point of the project?**

A: The City has been planning for a Community Safety Training and Wellness Center since 2021. This was when the project was first added to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) request list.

Since then, the City has:

- Completed facilities, training, and wellness assessments
- Advanced planning that aligns with requirements in the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) Settlement Agreement and Safe and Thriving Communities Report, and
- Has secured capital funding for pre-design in 2025.

Now in March 2026, the current milestone is a vote by the City Council on the proposed purchase (acquisition) of the property. The property is located at 146 60th St. W. The purchase would allow the project to move forward into design and development.

2. **Q: How do residents benefit from this investment in Community Safety?**

A: Residents benefit from this investment because it advances support for front-line safety personnel who serve our communities day in and day out. Investing in this facility is an investment in the best training and wellness that leads to better results for constituents.

The center would provide a shared space for 911, Behavioral Crisis Response (BCR), Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire, Neighborhood Safety department, and Police across the system to train together, strengthen coordination, and support readiness for both everyday service and major incidents. It would also help support the health and well-being of the first responders who serve the public every day.

3. **Q: Which safety personnel will be served in the future center?**

A: Safety personnel from the following departments will have space in the future center:

- 911
- Fire
 - Behavioral Crisis Response (BCR)
- Emergency Management
- Police
- Neighborhood Safety

4. **Q: What are the advantages of a shared training center?**

A: A shared center allows for:

- Coordinated cross-department trainings for 911, Emergency Management, Fire, Neighborhood Safety, Police, and other City departments involved in safety operations
- Increased coordination on incident responses in times of crisis
- Opportunity for multi-jurisdictional partnerships through training and real-time complex incident management
- Space to perform functional and table-top exercises
- Elevated training and wellness standards that ensure Minneapolis safety personnel are well supported to provide the best service to Minneapolis communities

Questions related to funding

5. **Q: How will the Community Safety Training and Wellness Center be funded?**

A: The City funds major capital projects in phases through its Capital Improvement Program (CIP). To name a few examples, projects in the CIP vary from street paving, park rehabilitation, and art installations. Additionally, the renovation of existing facilities or the development of new facilities are included in the CIP.

This project is currently in the programming phase. The current Council action is to fund the property acquisition so the project can move into the design phase. The proposed site acquisition would use a combination of existing project funding and reallocated 2026 capital dollars. Full design and construction funding would come through future capital budget decisions.

The City is also pursuing funding assistance from the State of Minnesota, and the project is the top bonding request in the City's 2026 legislative agenda.

6. **Q: Is this project competing with funds that could otherwise be used for City operations or recovery from Operation Metro Surge?**

A: No. The proposed property acquisition would be funded by the City's existing Capital Budget. Levy Funded Debt can only be used to pay for fixed assets like buildings, infrastructure, or major equipment. Levy Funded Debt cannot be used to pay for operations, salaries, programs, or services.

Questions related to first responder wellness

6. **Q: How are we defining wellness for community safety personnel?**

A: In the proposed training and wellness center, "wellness" is defined by helping our safety personnel stay healthy, effective, and able to continue serving the public over time. This is especially important for those who respond to high-stress and traumatic situations, which includes most of our safety staff members.

This wellness support includes:

- Debriefing after difficult incidents,
- Resilience and recovery support,
- Physical recovery and injury prevention, and
- Space for all the City's community safety staff to address the effects of repeated trauma exposure.

Anticipated future capabilities include a dedicated physical therapy and mental health counseling spaces, trauma and critical incident response support, needed office space for wellness staff, and wellness resources that are accessible to all community safety personnel.

Questions related to facilities

7. **Q: How are current facilities lacking?**

A: The City's community safety departments currently operate across multiple facilities. These facilities were not designed to meet today's training, coordination, and wellness needs. The facilities are scattered across Minneapolis, have size constraints that limit flexibility, and make it harder to support modern, cross-department training and employee wellness in one coordinated place.

For example, some current spaces are antiquated, leased, temporary, or repurposed for uses they were not originally designed to support. The Special Operations Center (SOC) was a former elementary school and is not well suited for scenario-based training or adult learning. Existing spaces also have limited room for reality-based and virtual reality

training, limited wellness and decompression space, and no centralized location where community safety departments can train and access wellness resources together.

Additionally, Emergency Management and Fire rely heavily on the Emergency Operations Training Facility (EOTF), but enterprise-wide training and operations have outgrown the capacity of the EOTF and other existing spaces. Fire training is also spread across the EOTF, the basements of several fire stations, and external facilities across the state. Our wellness resources are split across stations, the EOTF, temporary locations, and rented space - with no centralized location for cross-department wellness services.

8. Q: Why can't existing City spaces meet this need?

A: Existing City spaces can support some occasional meetings or limited training, but they are not designed to reliably meet the ongoing needs of a modern community safety workforce. This work requires dependable space for recurring training, scenario-based exercises, cross-department coordination, and wellness support.

It also needs to work for multiple community safety departments over time, not just when space happens to be available. A sustainable community safety ecosystem needs dedicated capacity that is built for this purpose.

9. Q: How will this differ from the 3rd Precinct Police Station in the future South Minneapolis Community Safety Center?

A: The South Minneapolis Community Safety Center will be open to the community, serving as a centralized location for Minneapolis residents and visitors to access City of Minneapolis safety and other community social services. The safety center will include the Minneapolis Police Department Third Precinct. This center is designed to be public-facing and serve as a critical point of connection between our community and the City's safety system, not as a training facility for first responders.

10. Q: Will community members be able to access the site?

The Minneapolis Community Safety Training and Wellness Center will generally not be open to the community. The City is considering community use in the center, which may include safety-related trainings or meeting space.

The center will be a purpose-built facility designed to specifically support the City's safety employees. This facility will be the hub of training and tailored wellness services for community safety staff, such as 911 call-takers, firefighters, behavioral crisis responders, and police officers in order to best support them as they serve Minneapolis

communities. This facility will also enhance the City's emergency preparedness and response capacity during large-scale or complex incidents, such as natural disasters.

Questions related to Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) settlement agreement

11. Q: What requirements are in the MDHR settlement agreement related to facilities, training and wellness?

A: Facilities:

The MDHR settlement agreement requires the City and MPD to assess whether current police equipment, technology, training, health and wellness needs, and facilities are adequate, identify what is outdated or broken, and determine what repairs, upgrades, or new facilities are needed to support required modern training, high-quality wellness resources, and operational standards. After the assessments, which were completed by January 2024, the City and MPD must create employee support and facilities plans to prioritize and address the needs for repairs and improvements identified in the assessments to ensure employees have the facilities and wellness resources they need to do their work effectively. The City is also required to provide the financial resources to carry out that plan.

A: Training:

The MDHR settlement agreement requires MPD to make significant improvements to training, supervision, and officer support. Based on third party assessments, these improvements include updating training on key reform areas such as: use of force, crisis intervention, misconduct, early intervention, non-discriminatory policing, and constitutional policing. Assessments have also identified that improvements cannot be made by curriculum updates alone. It requires the right facilities, realistic scenario-based training environments, trained instructors, supervisor development, and wellness supports so these reforms can be implemented in a sustained way.

A: Wellness:

The settlement agreement also has requirements related to health and wellness of safety personnel. The MDHR settlement agreement requires MPD to assess its wellness and support programs. Based on those assessments, third-party consultants identified significant gaps in wellness areas for the City to improve upon. The City is required to create formal plans and sustained investments to address the gaps and improve employee wellness resources. Those formal plans must be approved by the Independent Evaluator, who also assess whether the required elements of each plan have been successfully carried out.

[You can read more about all the completed assessments related to the settlement agreement on our City's website.](#)

12. Q: Will this site also include a firing range?

A: Yes, the Community Safety Training and Wellness Center will include an indoor firing range for Minneapolis Police officers. Firearms training is a standard and required part of police training. Currently, Minneapolis Police complete this training at the City's existing firing range inside the 4th Precinct in North Minneapolis.

The proposed center would relocate that training to this purpose-built facility designed specifically for this use. This would move the range out of the precinct and into a modern training environment with features intended to better contain the activity and reduce impacts to surrounding neighbors.

13. Q: What are the anticipated training and wellness features that will serve the Fire Department?

A: The Community Safety Training and Wellness Center is expected to give the Fire Department improved access to centralized training and wellness space that is currently spread across multiple locations.

Anticipated features include emergency response driving simulation space, classrooms, and space for joint first responder training. For wellness, the center is expected to include physical therapy and counseling space, trauma support, decompression rooms, peer-support space, fitness and rehabilitation areas, and other centralized resources for Fire personnel.

14. Q: How will the City's Emergency Management department use the new space?

A: For the City's Emergency Management (EMD) department, the center is expected to provide dependable space for large-scale trainings, exercises, and emergency coordination functions that current facilities cannot fully support today. The proposed center will support enterprise-wide and interjurisdictional trainings. In the case of severe emergencies, it will provide proper operational space for an Emergency Operations Center, Incident or Unified Command, and Joint Information Center. Additionally, to serve EMD staff, there will be dedicated wellness and decompression spaces, along with counseling, trauma support, and other necessary wellness resources.

Property-related questions

1. **Q: What will be done to fix the sidewalk gaps and roads in the area near the proposed site?**

A: Any sidewalks and entry drives inside the proposed project area will be fixed as part of the project. All impacted public infrastructure surrounding the site including sidewalks, boulevards, and driveway access driveways will be designed in accordance with the City's Transportation Action Plan – Street Design Guide. All sidewalks and sidewalk gaps, next to the site will be brought into compliance with Plan requirements.

2. **Q: Will small and underutilized businesses be included in contracting opportunities?**

A: Yes. All professional services contracts and all construction contracts must follow City Ordinance related to Civil Rights – Contract Compliance. All contracts more than \$175,000 must follow the requirements of the City's Small and Underutilized Business Program (SUBP). [You can learn more about this on the Contract Compliance Division webpage.](#)

3. **Q: How will this proposed site affect traffic in the area?**

A: This project must follow the City's Planning & Zoning requirements and be approved by the Planning Commission. Per those requirements, the project must follow Planning & Zoning Land Use Application and Site Plan Review processes. This requires the project to complete a Traffic Demand Management Plan (TDMP). A TDMP analyzes traffic conditions surrounding the project site and guides design.

Based on the existing use of the site, we can assume there will be increased traffic. But design work has yet to begin. It is too early in the project development process to complete any studies.

4. **Q: What studies have been done about how neighbors will be visually impacted?**

A: This project will be subject to the City's Planning & Zoning requirements and Planning Commission approval. Per those requirements, the project must follow Planning & Zoning Land Use Application and Site Plan Review processes. This requires that the project complete height, shadow, and lighting impact studies. However design work has yet to begin, and it is too early in the project development process to do any studies.

5. **Q: What types of training activities will be noisy and what mitigations are planned?**

A: Most of the training anticipated for the center will happen in classrooms inside the building. But, it's too early to know all the training activities that would be part of the center and potential noise impacts. For projects like this, acoustic studies are part of the project development process.

Q: What is the planned profile of the center (height, fencing, etc.)?

A: The project will be subject to the City's Planning & Zoning requirements and Planning Commission approval. Per those requirements, the Project development and design must follow Planning & Zonings Land Use Application and Site Plan Review processes.

Specifically, the existing site is Zoned as PR2. Zoning requirements for PR2 Zoning will dictate facility location on the site, height, architectural appearance, fencing, parking lot design, landscaping etc. However design work has yet to begin, and it is too early in the project development process to identify specific design features.