



North Springs Charter High School Renovation/Addition Project

Under Capital Plan 2022, North Springs Charter High School is slated to receive a major addition and renovation. The \$18.7 million project is being funded as part of the eSPLOST referendum that Fulton County voters approved in 2016.

How are building improvements determined and planned?

To give context for how improvements are determined, it helps to understand the steps taken to prepare for each five-year capital plan funded by eSPLOST, the one-penny education sales tax. In preparation of each SPLOST referendum, Fulton County Schools conducted Facility Condition Assessments for all schools and district support buildings. These are a school-by-school assessment of current facility conditions and educational adequacy and a report of the five-year capital renewal estimates. This assessment data, along with a review of FCS enrollment projections, helps to identify and prioritize projects within the approved capital plans. The Facility Condition Assessments were conducted for previous capital plans as well as the most recent one (Capital Plan 2022).

What is included in the current project?

Under Capital Plan 2022, North Springs Charter High School is slated to receive a major addition and renovation which is a mixture of new construction and existing construction. This includes instructional areas such as new science labs, auditorium, black box theater, art rooms, music suite, and physical education space. Upgraded fire alarms, improved parking, traffic circulation and exterior drainage also are included in the improvements as well as new tennis courts, stadium turf, and a replacement running track surface.

Why was a renovation/addition project determined for North Springs rather than a replacement?

The district used the Facility Condition Assessments to make certain that all schools receive equitable review, and this helped us form plans for how to approach improvements and prioritize them for each school. In previous capital plans, North Springs received major building system improvements within the facility, including HVAC, roofing, flooring and lighting as well as improvements to athletic structures and fields. These projects improved the safety and functionality of the building. North Springs also recently received a new front entrance that provides more visibility and security. While the school originally opened in 1963, approximately 65% of the school reflects newer construction and improvements made from the 1990s to the present.

What is the funding source?

The \$18.7 million project is being funded as part of the eSPLOST referendum that Fulton County voters approved in 2016.

Why can't a new school be built under this current SPLOST?

By law, only projects outlined in the current SPLOST referendum can be funded with the proceeds of that current SPLOST. The referendum approved May 24, 2016, by Fulton County voters specified that SPLOST funds will be used for a major renovation/addition at North Springs Charter High School. Legally, the school district cannot deviate from that spending plan, as that is what was presented in the referendum and what voters approved.

What are the steps/timeline for this project?

As mentioned, North Springs Charter High School, as well as all other Fulton County schools and district buildings, were previously assessed through a Facilities Condition Assessment. In September 2017, the school board approved the selection of CDH Partners as architect for the North Springs renovation/addition project. This was not a new analysis but is instead the next logical step in our process to assess the school's conditions. There is concurrent agreement on the identified problems around the music suite, labs, physical education, auditorium, art rooms and black box theatre, as examples. The architect is collecting additional data and engaging key stakeholders about these facility challenges and exploring potential design solutions.

In January, CDH Partners, as well as Wonder, By Design, a visioning firm, began introductions and interviews within the school community to become familiar with the school's educational culture and its needs for a renewed school building. These conversations began building the framework for additional discussions to occur during the school year. By spring, the team will develop recommendations and a design concept that aligns with the school's educational and academic initiatives, which will be presented to the school district and school community for consideration.

How can I be involved?

Fulton County Schools is committed to sharing information and being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers and the capital plans funded through eSPLOST. Additional meetings are being planned by FCS to engage the school community. The North Springs' School Governance Council also is working with parents and community groups to share information and gather input.

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