

Newport Courthouse Replacement

TBD — Relocation from 247 Main Street, Newport, Vermont



PROJECT MILESTONES

Anticipated Completion of Phases

New Site Acquisition — Summer 2021

Planning — Spring 2022

Design & Permitting — Spring 2023

Construction — Fall 2024

For More Information:
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Project Description:

The existing Vermont Superior Court of Orleans County currently functions in two adjacent buildings, the Orleans County Courthouse (county-owned) and the Orleans County District Court and State Office Building (state-owned). The Judicial Branch, Department of Corrections - Probation and Parole, and the State's Attorney occupy the state-owned building, which suffers from the following significant programmatic inadequacies and functional obsolescence:

- A mix of various court and state uses create a variety of conflicts and security challenges.
- The workspace is outdated and inefficient.
- The buildings have significant accessibility, fire, and life safety issues.
- There is little separation between court functions, the public, State of Vermont employees, litigants, and parolees. A single central stair and an outdated elevator for access to hearing and courtrooms is shared by the public and staff.
- A separate and secure route to the holding cell, from the holding cell to hearing rooms, or from the holding cell to the courtrooms does not exist.

Continued use of the existing courthouse building in Newport will necessitate extensive investment to address long-term deficiencies in that building, including new elevators, new security infrastructure, new ADA access, and new electrical systems. Even with these improvements, the building would still not meet the needs of the Judiciary or Probation and Parole programs due to the lack of parking infrastructure and separate staff access to the facility.

- The elevator in the courthouse and state office building requires a minimum of \$774,000 to upgrade the elevator for safe and reliable operation. This cost does not include making the elevator ADA compliant. Due to the location of the elevator in the center of the central stair, it is not possible to increase the size of the elevator. Relocating the elevator is not an option due to the amount of space and renovation needed on each floor.
- Another \$300,000 is needed to replace the failing windows, boilers, flat roof, restoration of the entrance canopies and miscellaneous other major repairs.

Project Update:

BGS received \$1.5M in the FY21 Capital Bill funding for "Newport, Orleans County Courthouse, replacement, site acquisition, planning, and design for a stand-alone courthouse with no retail space." This option will combine all of the functions of the Vermont Superior Court of Orleans County into a single building. With site acquisition in progress, BGS is seeking an additional \$1,032,000 in FY22-FY23 Capital Bill funding to complete design.