



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget
Project Request Justification

2006-2008 Biennium Date: July 22, 2005

A. General Information

- 1. Agency name: Virginia Tech 2. Agency code: 208
Code Compliance:
- 3. Project title: Fire Alarm Systems & Access 4. Agency priority: 9
- 5. Contact Person: M. Dwight Shelton, Jr.
- 6. Contact's telephone number: (540) 231-8775
- 7. Contact's e-mail address: mdsjr@vt.edu

B. Proposed Project

1. Project Cost:

General Fund/General Fund supported debt	3,000,000
Nongeneral fund	
9 (c) revenue debt	
NGF supported 9 (d) revenue bonds	
Total request	3,000,000

2. Project cost changes:

NONE.

3. Description:

- This project has been on the university's plan since 2001, formerly titled Health, Safety, Accessibility. The university's health, safety, and accessibility initiative for the campus is an ongoing effort. The university has made important progress toward improving the campus in this regard with prior funding authorizations that supported critical safety and accessibility improvements.
- This project request is for authorization and funding to continue progress on needed campus improvements in several educational and general facilities. The focus of this request is accessibility improvements, fire alarm systems, and updating needs assessment and planning that are beyond the scope of the Maintenance Reserve program.
- The project scope is based on an internal review and analysis of the most high need facilities in regard to accessibility and fire alarms.

- It can be expected that the proposed accessibility and fire alarm improvements will benefit the university for many years into the future. The scope of this project is for Educational and General facilities and thus the funding plan calls for 100 percent state support.

4. Project scope change:

NONE.

5. a. Approved Master Site Plan:
If not, explain:

Yes No

b. 2004-10 Capital Outlay Plan:
If not, explain:

Yes No

6. Equipment for a previously funded project.

NONE.

7. Supplement to a previously funded project.

NONE.

C. Project Justification

1. a. Existing condition:

Accessibility Improvements: The following is a representative list of high priority needs in existing educational and general facility buildings based on physical assessments.

Building
McBryde Hall

Existing Needs
An accessible ramp serving the auditorium, interior access to accessible toilets from the large auditorium, power-activated door openers throughout the facility, and accessible way-finding signage openers throughout the facility.

Sandy Hall

The chair lift from the building entry to interior corridors is beyond repair and must be replaced.

War Memorial

The chair lift from the building entry to interior classrooms is to be replaced with an accessible ramp.

Wallace, Whittemore and Derring Halls Provision of accessible toilets and accessible door hardware are needed throughout the facilities.

President's Quad Installation of accessible sidewalks in place of steep walks and/or exterior stairs including accessible handrails.

Hancock Hall Power-activated door openers and accessible way-finding signage is needed throughout the facility.

Burruss Hall An accessible access route from the Drillfield into Burruss (A potential route at the west side of Burruss has been identified.)

Fire Alarms: The following is a representative list of high priority needs in existing educational and general facility buildings based on physical assessments.

Building
Saunders Hall

Existing Needs
The alarm system requires replacement and expansion to cover extensive laboratory operations and a large assembly classroom.

Price Hall A building-wide alarm system is needed. Currently only six detectors are provided in the entire facility.

Smyth/Hutcheson Halls The alarm and detection system requires replacement and expansion to cover multiple laboratory operations and large assembly-type classrooms.

Lane Hall A building-wide alarm system is needed.

Patton Hall A building-wide alarm system is needed. Currently only five detectors are provided in the entire facility.

Holden Hall A building-wide alarm system is needed. Currently only five detectors are provided in the entire facility.

Seitz Hall A building-wide alarm system is needed. Currently only six detectors are provided in the entire facility.

Sandy Hall The alarm and detection systems require a complete replacement.

Norris Hall

The alarm and detection system requires replacement and expansion to cover laboratory operations and large assembly-type classrooms.

Higher Education Only

b. Facility Condition Index:

FCI _____

c. Space deficit:

Yes No

2. Programmatic information:

- Virginia Tech is a land-grant university with a three-part mission: instruction, research, and outreach. Under this mission, activities occurring on campus should take place in a healthy, safe, and accessible environment and should ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. The campus is a daily meeting place for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and a vast array of visitors. Ensuring the safety, health, and accessibility of the campus environment is critical to the long-term success of the university.
- The university's health, safety, and accessibility initiative for the campus is an ongoing effort. This project request is for authorization and funding to continue progress on needed campus improvements in several educational and general facilities. The focus of this request is accessibility improvements, fire alarm systems, and updating needs assessment and planning.

Accessibility Improvements:

- This project envisions significant accessibility and safety improvements in various campus buildings and exterior campus facilities. The improvements include installation of accessible seating and routes, upgrades to physical access, and lighting and other permanent infrastructure development to facilitate better opportunities for patrons with vision and hearing disabilities, upgrades to physical access, installation of accessible toilet facilities, replacement of non-accessible drinking fountains, installation of accessible signage, and, where applicable, accessible upgrades to existing elevator controls and existing stair handrails.
- Exterior improvements across the campus include reconfiguration or installation of accessible stair handrails, installation of appropriate accessible stair markings, alteration of existing topography and installation of new accessible sidewalks or ramps at steep slopes, and installation of sidewalk curb cuts and crosswalks. Specific tasks for this portion of the project include heavily used sidewalks that are major pedestrian routes through the north zone of campus.

Fire Alarms:

- This project envisions fire alarm system installations in multiple campus buildings. The fire alarm systems include fire alarm control panels, accessible pull stations, smoke detection systems, and accessible audio-visual announcement devices. The installation

of these systems in these buildings will make a significant contribution to the life and safety of the occupants.

3. Alignment to strategic plan:

This project will support Virginia Tech's strategic plan in the areas of Graduate Education and Undergraduate Education. Improvements in access, fire alarm systems, and code compliance will increase the overall safety and functionality of the campus in support of the following university goals:

Graduate Education:

1. Increase the quality of the graduate programs.

Undergraduate Education:

2. Strengthen the quality of undergraduate instruction.
3. Create learning experiences for undergraduate students that maximize the benefits of attending a large research university.

D. Options Considered

Delaying this project to a future biennium is not a favorable option due to current campus safety and accessibility concerns that need to be addressed on an on-going, priority basis as finances permit. Delay of the project will result in the accumulation of a backlog of requests for improvements related to access, fire alarm systems, and code compliance.

E. Project Schedule Changes:

NONE.