



Fort Worth Library System Master Plan Frequently Asked Questions

Presented to the Library Advisory Board

1. How were the priority levels determined?

A: Priority levels are based on the recommendations from the consultants and the committee, in addition to feedback from the 2010 public meetings. Priorities also are based on clearly obvious needs; for example, the oldest facilities are deemed priorities.

2. Are you considering restoring Sunday and evening hours at the libraries?

A: Given the economy and the City's budget, we do not foresee increasing hours in the near future. However, we do intend to examine the existing hours to determine the need for re-structuring.

3. There are few references to provisions for the disabled in the studies. How will the disabled and senior citizens be served?

A: Current buildings meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and new construction and renovations also must meet ADA requirements. We will continue to consider ADA guidelines when making decisions related to public service and facilities. For example, several of the libraries have oversized keyboards and screens for the visually impaired, and the Central Library has a Sorenson VRS system that allows video signing with someone at another location.

4. Will the public get a say about where future libraries will be built and where existing facilities will be relocated?

A: When we are closer to beginning work on a specific library, we will offer opportunities for additional comments and questions.

5. Why is so much money going to the Central Library?

A: The high percentage of dollars proposed for the Central Library is the result of its size (240,000 square feet), its unique role as the flagship of the system, and its potential to generate revenue.

6. Is the Central Library going to become a branch?

A: No. The plan proposes a branch (popular) component for the Central Library that brings heavily used services and materials into one convenient location on the first floor.

7. Why was there no community input in the development of the recommendations?

A: The recommendations are based on market segmentation data, an assessment of each library facility, recognized library standards, and community feedback from the April, 2010, draft of the plan.

8. How did you arrive at the costs for each recommendation in the plan?

A: Cost estimates are based on standard D/FW market costs per square foot for renovation, infrastructure and construction.

9. Where will you get the funding for these projects?

A: We will pursue a combination of funding sources, including future City bond elections, applying for grants, seeking land donations, and establishing partnerships with other public and private entities. Co-location with other City services is an option for maximizing city dollars.

10. When will you begin these projects?

A: We anticipate presenting the plan to the Council in the fall of 2011. Projects will begin as resources are identified.