



Modernizing Ross Civic Center!

What's Our Vision?



Our Town's public safety building -- which currently includes police, fire, and paramedics services -- was originally constructed in 1927. While it has served our community well over those 93 years, today it is physically and functionally obsolete, with extensive structural deficiencies, and is not compliant with Essential Service Act (ESA) requirements for public safety buildings. A construction management company found it would be cost prohibitive to correct the numerous deficiencies and non-compliance issues.

In determining how to best modernize the Town's facilities with a new public safety building, some choices need to be made, and we are seeking input from our residents on a vision for future service delivery.

First, some facts:

In 2019 the Town and Fire Department hired an emergency management consultant, Citygate, to help us with fire protection planning. Citygate concluded that alternative approaches to fire protection in Ross are possible, based on the relatively low number of working fires in the two-year period studied.

In that same time period, the Ross station responded to 627 calls for service with 292 of the dispatches requiring lights and sirens.

-  **3 fires**
-  **259 for medical issues**
-  **30 other call types**
such as service calls and public assistance.

Citygate also analyzed the impact on our current level of services if we received a response from a neighboring fire station, either San Anselmo (1.1 miles away) or Kentfield (0.65 miles away).



Relocating fire services would increase response time for fires and non-medical calls by approximately 2 minutes

Keeping an ambulance in the Ross Station would maintain the same response times for 85% of medical calls and for the other 15% of calls, when the ambulance is committed on other incidents, response times would increase by approximately 2 minutes. Average response times are currently 7 minutes, 55 seconds. The increase to 9 minutes, 55 seconds would be similar to outer suburban averages. Currently, dispatch is already coordinated between San Anselmo, Ross and Kentfield.



What are the choices?

We are considering two options to address our fire engine and paramedic ambulance facilities, assuming the community wants to keep police and administrative facilities in Town:

- ▶ For about **\$28.4 million**, we can **rebuild the fire station**, along with police, paramedic quarters, and administrative space; or
- ▶ For about **\$14.6 million**, we can **relocate our fire staff to a neighboring station**, and rebuild police, paramedic quarters, and administrative space.

In essence, to keep our fire engine in Ross and maintain current response times would cost residents an additional \$14 million.

The decision is more complicated given the potential wildfire danger experienced in other parts of the State, while recognizing how few structural fires we have had recently.

When construction begins in a couple of years, the Town will have saved approximately \$7 million to contribute to fund these facilities. The remainder would need to come from residents after a 2/3 voter approval, paid over 30 years via our property tax bills.

If we were to finance this project through a general obligation bond, the annual tax per \$2.6 million of property assessed value (average property value) would be approximately \$490 per year for the lower cost option and \$1,350 per year for the option with the fire station.



We want to hear from you!



Online Community Workshop

Thursday, October 29

6 to 8 pm

In order to hear from the Ross community on these important issues, we will be holding an online community workshop on October 29, from 6 to 8 pm via Zoom.

You can register for the workshop here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6bte4mz>

There will also be a questionnaire in November seeking input from residents.

Questions and comments may be directed to Patrick Streeter, Planning and Building Director, pstreeter@townofross.org, 415 453-1453 x121.

For more information, please visit the project website at <https://www.townofross.org/planning/page/modernizing-ross-civic-center>

