

Bus garage/maintenance facility: Q & A

Why did the district include the bus garage/maintenance facility in the capital project?

The old bus garage, built in 1957, still had its original electrical system, inefficient by modern standards. The building suffered from structural deficiencies and a roof that needed repeated coatings to stem leaks. In addition, there were drainage problems in and around the site. A state inspector rated the facility unsatisfactory and told district officials the problems needed to be addressed. Many school-owned vehicles could not be housed in the garage due to space limitations.

The new facility will be minimally heated, will house all district buses, and enable district personnel to properly and efficiently maintain them.

What will the size of the new facility?

20,023 square feet

What will it cost to construct the facility?

General construction	\$1,823,553
Plumbing	278,336
HVAC	176,700
Electrical	461,700
Subtotal	\$2,740,289
Site Work	836,900
Total	\$3,577,189

What is the cost to the district?

Latest figures available show that, the 30-year life of the borrowing, the district will have an average annual payment of \$4,502 which translates to a \$0.02 per \$1,000 assessed true value of property tax. This amount is based on a 5.5% interest rate for borrowing. Actual rates have been considerably lower.

For the entire capital project, latest figures show that the district share is projected to be \$671,133 or 2.27% of the total cost. Again, this is based on borrowing at a 5.5 % interest rate. Actual rates have been considerably lower, meaning the district's share will likely be lower.

Couldn't the state aid used to build the bus garage have been spent on teachers and programs?

No. State building aid is in a separate category of aid from the aid that funds other components of the local school budgets. It cannot be used to fund the educational component of the budget.

Could state aid for the project disappear?

New York state has long demonstrated a commitment to invest in up-to-date facilities to enhance education and safety of students. Once it has made a commitment for building aid to a school district, it has always provided that aid. Even in these difficult economic times, there is **no** indication this will change. School capital projects not only improve local facilities, they provide employment for state residents.