

SUMMARY OF THE STUDY OF OPTIONS FOR RELOCATING THE HIGHWAY PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

The Government Services Committee was assigned a study of options for relocating the Highway Patrol training academy. The study must review options for relocating the training academy, options for relocating the emergency operations vehicle training course, and options for constructing a Highway Patrol shooting range.

CURRENT TRAINING ACADEMY FACILITY

History

The training academy was established in Bismarck after receiving an appropriation from the Legislative Assembly in 1969. The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$165,000 for the construction of the facility with funding from a one-time fee of 50 cents assessed to each motor vehicle driver's license that was issued during a two-year period. The facility was built in 1971 and consisted of two classrooms, dormitory rooms containing 40 beds, and a dining hall. The Legislative Assembly in 1995 approved \$1.2 million of funding for an addition to the facility, which was completed in August 1997. The funding was from proceeds of short-term financing provided by the State Building Authority and repaid through a one-time assessment during 1996 of an additional \$2 fee on motor vehicle registrations for passenger vehicles, trucks weighing 12,000 pounds or less, and house cars. The addition included space for a multipurpose room, four dormitory rooms, two classrooms, and an administrative office. The training academy does not have a shooting range.

Location

The training academy is located on the south edge of the campus of Bismarck State College. The Highway Patrol utilizes a parking lot adjacent to the Bismarck Community Bowl and Aquatics Center for an emergency vehicle operations course.

Funding

The Highway Patrol appropriation bill includes a line item for the operations of the training academy. The following table lists appropriations made by the Legislative Assembly specifically for the training academy since the 2007-09 biennium:

2011-13 biennium	\$1,602,488
2009-11 biennium	\$1,496,942
2007-09 biennium	\$1,401,289 ¹

¹The Legislative Assembly in 2007 also authorized the Highway Patrol to transfer \$100,000 of the \$150,000 provided for automated external defibrillators to the training academy to provide additional law enforcement and emergency services training.

The source of funding appropriated to the training academy during these bienniums is from the general fund and the highway tax distribution fund.

INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE

Current Operations

The committee received information from representatives of the Highway Patrol regarding the current training academy. The training academy has a staff of six which includes a training director, field training coordinator, operations coordinator, administrative assistant, and two cooks. The following schedule details the 2011-13 biennium budget of the current training academy facility:

Salaries and benefits	\$852,488
Data processing and telephone expenses	32,000
Travel	28,000
Utilities	88,000
Equipment rentals and leases	6,000
Food and clothing	114,000
Repairs	66,000
Professional development	52,000
Operating fees and services	40,000
Equipment over \$5,000	26,000
Land, buildings, grounds maintenance	26,000
Insurance	2,000
Supplies, postage, printing	10,000
Professional services	260,000 ¹
Total	\$1,602,488

¹Includes \$250,000 for training arranged by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board.

The training academy provides basic and advanced training for all law enforcement agencies with no charges to the agencies for tuition, room, or board. The following schedule details basic training provided by the training academy:

Training Academy - Basic Training Graduates for 2008, 2009, and 2010		
Type of Agency Served	Number of Agencies Utilizing the Training Academy	Number of Basic Training Graduates
Police department	29	112
Sheriff's department	35	87
State agency	9	51
Total	73	250

The training academy does not include a shooting range. The Highway Patrol pays a fee to use a private shooting range for training activities or uses a shooting range operated by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. However, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shooting range is located near an elementary school which

limits the hours of use of the range and the types of weapons that may be used.

Concerns With Current Location

Representatives of Bismarck State College expressed concern regarding the location of the existing training academy facility. The emergency vehicle operations course is located on campus and presents a safety hazard to students and members of the public.

Representatives of Bismarck State College expressed interest in using the existing training academy building if the training academy is relocated. The college has expanded substantially since the academy was originally built, and the college could utilize the existing training academy facility space. The current insured value of the building is approximately \$2.5 million.

Other State Facilities Reviewed

Representatives of the Highway Patrol reviewed options to use other state facilities for training. A parking lot at the State Fairgrounds in Minot may be used as an emergency vehicle operations training course. However, structures located around the parking lot may present a hazard while training, and additional funding would be required to transport students to Minot for training.

The School for the Deaf facility in Devils Lake was also reviewed as a potential option for a training academy location. The facility would need to be retrofitted for training purposes, and the facility is located in a residential area which would limit options for vehicle and weapons training.

Emergency Services Training Facilities Operated by the National Guard and Political Subdivisions

The committee received information regarding emergency services training facilities operated by selected state agencies and political subdivisions. Attached as an [appendix](#) is a memorandum detailing the emergency services training facilities.

PROPOSED TRAINING ACADEMY FACILITY

Location of Proposed Facility

Representatives of the Highway Patrol said the new training academy facility is proposed to be in Bismarck due to the central location of the city and because the existing training academy is located in the city. The proximity to Highway Patrol headquarters and the ability to coordinate training with other state agencies are also factors in the Highway Patrol's request to locate the facility in Bismarck.

Representatives of the city of Bismarck said the city has adopted a long-range plan that provides for the construction of a training academy near the Bismarck landfill on 66th Street Northeast just south of

Interstate 94. The city of Bismarck would provide the land to the Highway Patrol at no cost.

Representatives of the Department of Transportation provided an estimate of the cost of constructing an interchange on Interstate 94 at 66th Street Northeast. The current cost of constructing an interchange at that location is \$21 million.

Proposed Facility Details

The proposed facility would be used for police, fire, and other emergency services training. The proposed facility includes classrooms, offices, a multipurpose room, kitchen, 120-bed dormitory, outdoor training field and track, canine training field, maintenance building, outdoor tactical firing range, indoor firing range, training building, rifle range, smoke training house, emergency vehicle operations course, fire training pad, fire attack and rescue simulation building, and other training aides.

Estimated Costs of Proposed Facility

The proposed facility would be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 would include the construction of training classrooms, indoor shooting range, storage facilities, emergency vehicle operations course, and other miscellaneous features. The schedule below details estimated costs associated with Phase 1 of the project.

Phase 1 Costs	Estimated Cost
Offsite costs - Utilities	\$210,000
Site development costs	2,634,900
Practical training building, including indoor firing range	2,800,000
Contingency	141,120
Total	\$5,786,020

Phase 2 would include the construction of a law enforcement training academy building, a 120-bed dormitory, canine training areas, a multitactical simulation building, and other miscellaneous features. The schedule below details estimated costs associated with Phase 2 of the project.

Phase 2 Costs	Estimated Cost
Offsite costs - Utilities	\$230,000
Site development costs	3,742,700
Outdoor rifle range	1,500,000
Training academy building and dormitory	10,234,000
Multitactical simulation building	1,500,000
Contingency	860,335
Total	\$18,067,035

The schedule below details total estimated costs of the proposed training academy facility.

Phase 1 costs	\$5,786,020
Phase 2 costs	18,067,035
Total	\$23,853,055

2011-13 Biennium Executive Budget Recommendation

The 2011-13 executive budget recommendation included funding to begin construction of the proposed training academy facility. The budget recommendation included funding of \$4,090,000 for the construction of the emergency vehicle operations course and indoor weapons range. Of the total funding, \$3,558,300 was from the general fund, and \$531,700 was from the highway tax distribution fund. The Legislative Assembly did not approve the funding.