

Frontier School Questions and Responses Related to Kansas City's Detention Center

Site Selection Process and Decision-Making

1. What specific factors and evaluation criteria were considered when deciding to relocate the detention center to the Front Street site, particularly given its proximity to Frontier Schools and other nearby institutions

Location, parcel size, parcel ownership and site conditions, and needed improvement costs were considered, among other criteria in the evaluation of the Front Street site for the Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Center (CCRC). The CCRC Site Program Analysis provides additional details regarding this evaluation.

2. Were school safety, student population density, traffic patterns, or impacts on the educational environment formally assessed as part of the site selection process? If so, can those assessments be shared?

The proximity of the Front Street Detention Facility (FSDF) site to the Frontier School was assessed when the site was selected to ensure it met the distance requirements within the code (88-335-01-B). The parcel identified for the CCRC (permanent facility) is approximately 2,300 ft, as the crow flies, from the nearest point on the closest parcel owned by Frontier School and is more than 1.25 miles via streets from the FSDF parking lot to the nearest Frontier School facility.

3. Were alternative sites re-evaluated prior to the January 15 relocation vote, and if so, what criteria ultimately led to the Front Street site being selected over those alternatives?

Prior to the January 15th council action, the site near 6600 E 40 Hwy. was the presumed CCRC site. The site evaluation criteria are discussed in answer #1.

4. Can the City provide a detailed and updated cost comparison between the originally proposed I-70/40 site and the Front Street site, including demolition costs, floodplain mitigation, infrastructure adjustments, and long-term operational expenses? Additionally, have the projected cost savings been formally revalidated since the relocation decision, and can those analyses be shared publicly?

The Highway 40 site was determined to have costs outside of normal construction costs including traffic improvements, removing unsuitable soils and importing suitable soils,

and land acquisition. The total cost for the 40 Highway concept was estimated at \$187,000,000.

The Front Street site does not require those extra costs, but it does require relocating the tow lot, estimated to cost \$16,000,000. In total, the Front Street site is anticipated to cost \$151,000,000. This does include additional cost-saving measures to the building as well as cost-savings from the site.

5. Can the City confirm whether the Front Street location is within a designated floodplain or flood risk area? If so, what flood mitigation measures are planned?

The Front Street site is in two floodplain zones: AH (100-year flood) and X (reduced flood risk due to levee). With the addition of the levee and the elevated grades created when constructing the original tow lot, the site does not require additional flood mitigation requirements.

6. Can you help us understand the rationale for using an emergency ordinance for the relocation decision, and whether additional formal public hearings or input opportunities are anticipated moving forward?

Opportunities for public input and comment will be held throughout the design process. Also, additional Council action will be needed for design and construction contracts throughout the design phase of the CCRC project.

7. What are the projected costs and timeline associated with demolition or relocation of the existing tow lot, and how are those costs incorporated into the overall project budget?

The estimated cost for relocating the existing tow lot is approximately \$16,000,000. While there is not a timeline yet, this cost is included in the overall project budget.

8. Given that the Council retains authority to direct the City Manager to explore alternative sites, what specific procedural steps would be required to reopen site evaluation?

Direction for the City Manager comes through legislative action from the City Council.

9. Can the City clarify whether the current zoning designation for the Front Street site permits a permanent municipal detention facility by right, or whether additional approvals, variances, or Planning Commission review are required?

The current zoning for the Front Street site is "M3-5," meaning detention/correctional facilities are allowed by a special use permit. The temporary facility, currently under

construction, complied with the city's planning and zoning process, conducted a public meeting, and was approved for the specific use. The permanent facility would follow a similar process of approval.

10. What community engagement framework was in place prior to the relocation decision, and how did the January ordinance align with or depart from that framework?

Prior to the January ordinance, a public meeting was held for the development plan for the FSDF as required by the code of ordinances. No additional community engagement for the Front Street site related to the CCRC was held; development at this location was not identified for the CCRC until the January 15, 2026, council meeting.

Safety, Alert Radius, and Emergency Response

1. What is the official emergency alert radius for incidents at the detention center, and does Frontier Schools fall within that zone?

Emergency responses would follow the [City's Emergency Operations Plan](#), as well as following KCPD's policies and procedures.

2. Under what specific circumstances would nearby schools be notified of an incident?

The City would follow KCPD's policies and procedures. KCPD works with local school districts to implement emergency alert protocols focused on immediate communication during threats.

3. Which agency is responsible for notifying schools, and what is the expected timeframe for communication?

KCPD's Media Unit would be responsible for notifying schools of any incidents related to the detention facility.

4. What are the protocols in the event of:
 - a. An escape or attempted escape?
 - b. A disturbance inside the facility?
 - c. An external disturbance in the surrounding area?

The KCPD response to any incident (including a municipal detention center) is to respond with adequate personnel to contain and maintain the scene, protect life and property and to restore order. The Front Street Detention Facility poses no chemical, or biological threat to the region. The persons detained at the facility are municipal level

offenders (petty theft, trespass, traffic related offenses, minor assault, peace disturbance etc.).

5. How many escape or attempted escape incidents have occurred at comparable municipal detention facilities in the past five years?

There have not been any escape incidents involving our residents within the past 5+ years.

6. In the event of an escape, what law enforcement perimeter would typically be established, and would Frontier Schools fall within that perimeter?

In the event of an escape, a KCPD PIO (public information officer) would notify those in the surrounding areas and employ standard protocols for such incidents.

7. Would there be scenarios in which nearby schools would be advised to implement lockdown or shelter-in-place procedures?

No. There is no increased threat to the area resulting from the Front Street Detention Facility.

8. How are incidents involving juveniles handled differently from those involving adults, if at all?

The Front Street Detention Facility will not house juveniles.

Security Features and Safeguards

1. What specific security measures will be implemented (perimeter security, fencing, surveillance systems, staffing levels, controlled access points)?

The permanent facility will be built to maximum security standards. All entry and exit points are controlled by a central control unit and staffed by uniformed officers 24/7/365. A controlled entryway with two sets of doors is used for entry and exit. The facility operates under Direct Supervision, meaning that a uniformed officer is posted in all areas of the building at all times. Surveillance is maintained throughout the facility and the perimeter through direct staff observations and monitored camera coverage. Detention grade materials will be used where appropriate to ensure safety, security and durability.

2. What classification levels of detainees will be housed at this facility?

The facility will only house individuals accused of violating City ordinances. Misdemeanor or felony level violators are detained at the Jackson County Detention Center. The most common City ordinance violations include Trespassing, Disorderly Conduct, Assault, Domestic Violence, Stealing/Retail Theft, and Resisting Arrest.

3. How does the City determine whether security measures are sufficient for a location near schools and residential communities?

As mentioned in question #1, the facility will be built to maximum security standards and comply with ASTM standards for detention facilities.

4. Have formal risk assessments or safety studies been conducted? If so, can they be shared publicly?

The architect of record, Treanor, has extensive experience working on similar detention and secure facilities with municipalities and counties throughout Missouri, the metro area, and nationwide. In addition, the City's project team includes Falcon Correctional and Community Services, Inc. Falcon employs experts in jail operations, law enforcement, security operations, and best practice jail administration, in addition to experts in medical, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and programs to reduce the likelihood of recidivism for people in custody.

5. How will security protocols be reviewed or over time in response to operational data or community concerns?

Security protocols are governed by Department policy, which is reviewed and updated at least annually or whenever necessary.

6. Will there be an independent security audit or third-party review prior to opening?

See #4 Above.

7. What visual, structural, or landscaping barriers will be implemented to minimize visibility of detention operations from surrounding areas?

The temporary Front Street Detention Center will include three exterior recreation areas on the west side of the facility. The building will screen views of the area from the public parking and right of way. A security, double fence, with no-climb fabric will be used to secure these individuals.

When necessary, security fencing will be used to secure individuals in custody. The fencing will be no-climb security fencing. A perimeter fence will be provided around the maintenance and staff parking areas to deter access to these areas.

8. What is the standard release procedure for individuals housed at the facility?
 - a. Will individuals be released directly from the Front Street location, or will they be transferred to another facility prior to release?
 - b. If releases occur on-site, what measures will be in place to ensure safe and orderly departures?

The current operational model only releases people at the facility who have confirmed personal or professional transportation. No one will be released on foot. Most people will be transported to a central release location that is still to be determined.

9. How will traffic and increased vehicle activity be managed during school arrival and dismissal times?

We do not anticipate an increase in vehicle activity during school arrival and dismissal times. The City will schedule pick-ups from Metro Patrol station and will schedule this outside of arrival and dismissal times.

10. Will rehabilitation or treatment services be provided on-site at the Front Street facility?
 - a. If so, what types of programs will operate there (e.g., substance abuse treatment, mental health services, reentry support), and during what hours?

For individuals who violate City ordinances, healthcare and programs are critical to supporting desistance from future crime. The facility will include 24/7 healthcare staff through a partnership with the Health Department. Services will include immediate nursing assessment, access to primary care physicians, psychiatric care, and access to substance use disorder treatment. Additionally, each housing unit is designed with a classroom to provide social services, group therapy, and risk-reduction programming.

11. Will any of these services involve individuals who are not currently in custody or who may access the facility independently?

No.

12. Will the operation of this facility require additional law enforcement deployment in the surrounding area, and if so, how will that presence be structured?

Police presence in the area may increase as officers pass through while transporting municipal level violators to the facility for booking and court processing.

13. Can the City provide additional detail regarding the planned community resource facility, including whether individuals who are no longer in custody will access the site and how those activities will be structured and supervised?

A permanent location for the Community Resource Center (CRC) has not been determined. If the City decides to co-locate the center with the Front Street Detention Facility, we will provide further information on access to the CRC.

Project Timeline and Operational Phases

1. What is the anticipated timeline for construction, completion, and opening?

The temporary facility, or phase 1 of construction, is scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026. The design of a permanent facility, or phase 2 of construction, began in fall 2025. The design and operations planning are anticipated to be completed by Spring 2027, with construction of a permanent facility anticipated to begin in mid-to-late 2027.

2. Will there be any periods of heightened activity during construction or initial operations that nearby schools should prepare for?

Prior to the beginning of construction operations, the city, design team and yet-to-be-selected construction manager will meet with the school to outline the construction process.

3. When will detainee intake begin, and will operations be phased?

Yes, operations will be phase – see #1 above. The City will receive the keys to the new facility on June 1, 2026, with detainees, or residents, being accepted thereafter.

4. How will the City communicate milestones or operational changes to nearby institutions?

The City and the project team are committed to transparency throughout the project, and upon the facility's opening. The project team is currently working on a website that will have relevant project updates and opportunities to engage with the team.

5. Is the proposed capacity fixed, or does current zoning or planning allow for future expansion of the facility?

Current zoning will allow for expansion of the temporary facility to become a permanent Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Center. The program anticipated a future housing phase to accommodate growth, but it is unknown when or if this expansion will occur.

6. What operational or legal deadlines require the current pace of implementation, and is there flexibility in the timeline to allow for additional review or community engagement?

The temporary facility is well-underway and expected to be completed by June 1, 2026, meaning there is no flexibility within this timeline. However, the permanent facility is not under any legal deadlines, allowing us time for community engagement during the design process.

7. With the ongoing KC Water project and the proposed detention facility both impacting the Front Street corridor, are there plans to improve, maintain, or upgrade Front Street to safely accommodate increased construction traffic, operational traffic, and public safety vehicles?

There are no current plans for improvements to Front Street.

Coordination with Schools and Community Institutions

1. What is the City's standard practice for coordinating with nearby schools when detention facilities are constructed or operated?

Kansas City has not operated a municipal detention facility since 2009. The City works to partner with nearby stakeholders when adjacent developments have the potential to affect the surrounding environment.

2. Would the City commit to scheduled check-ins with school leadership after the facility becomes operational?

The City can commit to regularly scheduled check-ins with school leadership.

3. Can a formal communication protocol between the detention facility and Frontier Schools be established?

Yes, we can partner to create a formal communication protocol.

4. Are additional community engagement sessions planned prior to final design or construction decisions, and how can schools and families meaningfully participate?

We have a communications team, Parson + Associates, who is assisting in engagement throughout the design process for the permanent facility. With the temporary facility nearly built, the project team has started the official design process for the permanent

facility. There will be multiple opportunities to engage with the team, from public informational sessions to neighborhood meetings.

Community Impact and Reassurance

1. What steps has the City taken to proactively inform and reassure families, particularly those with young children?

The City is committed to informing our community and helping to ease concerns. A communications plan has been created to facilitate sharing important information related to the facility, its construction, and the rehabilitation work that comes along with it, and help ease concerns of the community.

2. Did the City evaluate potential psychological or environmental impacts on students attending nearby schools as part of the site selection process?

The goal of this facility is to improve public safety outcomes in our community. The distance and environmental barriers between this site and school did not raise the level of concern to warrant specific evaluations to the potential psychological or environmental impacts on students as part of the site selection process. This is true for either site, both of which had schools in the vicinity.

3. Has the City evaluated the potential impact of this decision on nearby school enrollment, property values, or long-term community stability?

The decision making about the new detention center for Kansas City is centered on creating a safer and healthier city for everyone who lives here. The Department of Community Safety is focused on creating a coordinated, prevention-focused approach designed to strengthen public safety, improve accountability, and support long-term positive outcomes for residents.

The detention center promotes public safety by providing safe, humane, and trauma-informed care for individuals held on municipal offenses. Our mission is to reduce recidivism, strengthen community trust, and support healthier outcomes.

4. What proactive communication strategy will the City implement to ensure accurate, transparent, and ongoing information is provided to nearby schools and families?

The City has recently adopted a formal Public Engagement Plan process that utilizes a professional standard for community engagement called IAP2.

5. What message would City leadership like to share directly with Frontier students, parents, and staff?

It is our intent to improve the safety of all communities in Kansas City by ensuring that our citizens that are held for municipal level charges are provided access to care and resources that will help them overcome the factors that contributed to their involvement in crime. We intend to focus on repairing the harm that crime does to communities and reduce the likelihood of reoffending by becoming a model for our industry. We also hope to inform a generation entering the workforce about the opportunities to make a meaningful impact by training for and choosing a career in Corrections.

6. Has the City conducted a comprehensive traffic impact study specific to detention operations at the Front Street location, and can that study be shared?

A high-level traffic study was conducted as part of the Site Program Analysis. No major traffic improvements were identified as necessary for the Front Street location. A formal traffic study will be provided during the design for the permanent facility.

Long-Term Oversight and Accountability

1. How will the City measure the ongoing safety and effectiveness of this facility?

Through data collection and analysis, in partnership with community-based services, we will be able to improve outcomes for those who need ongoing care and allow access to local family support systems.

2. What performance metrics or transparency reports will be available to the public?

Annual reports that will track admissions to the facility and progress on key initiatives are public record and will be posted on the City's website.

3. If concerns arise after opening, what formal process exists for review, mitigation, or policy adjustment?

Any concerns that arise may be submitted through the resident's hotline for City services and information. Contact 311 at 816-513-1313 to make a report and it will be sent to the appropriate party.

4. What assurances can the City provide that student safety and well-being will remain a priority throughout the life of the facility?

The primary mission of any correctional facility is to ensure public safety through the secure and humane care and confinement of the housed population. This is

accomplished by hiring and training a professional workforce and developing policy and procedure consistent with national standards. The safety of our citizens, those housed in our care, the staff and providers working with us, those in this neighborhood, will remain our priority.

Documentation and Public Records Request

In terms of recommendations, strategies, or mitigation plans, the City and project team would like to work with nearby stakeholders to create strategies to address potential impacts, during construction and long-term.

For the items requested below, Frontier Schools would need to submit a Freedom of Information Act request which can be done [here](#).

In order to better understand the decision-making process and operational planning for the Front Street facility, Frontier Schools respectfully requests access to the following records:

1. Decision and Authorization

- Records reflecting the decision to site a permanent municipal detention facility at Front Street, including analyses, memoranda, reports, recommendations, presentations, and meeting minutes.

2. Design, Engineering, and Construction (Permanent Facility)

- Design documents, engineering or feasibility studies, site assessments, environmental or traffic impact analyses, plans, specifications, schematics, renderings, and related reports.
- Contracts, agreements, requests for proposals (RFPs), bids, bid evaluations, scopes of work, and executed or proposed agreements with architects, engineers, construction managers, contractors, or consultants.

3. Project Status and Timeline (Permanent Facility)

- Records reflecting progress toward finalizing design or construction plans.
- Any projected or approved project timeline, including anticipated milestones for design completion, construction commencement, and project completion.

4. Community Outreach and Impact Mitigation

- Community outreach or public engagement plans, notices, meeting records, or communications with residents, businesses, neighborhood associations, or community organizations.
- Any recommendations, strategies, or mitigation plans intended to address disruption or potential impacts to nearby schools, residents, or businesses.

These responses were prepared with the Front Street Detention Facility project team and Kansas City staff with all current information available. While we've made every effort to provide accurate and up-to-date information, some elements may still be preliminary. Updates and additional opportunities to engage with the project team will be shared on the project website, which is currently under development.