

HOWARD COUNTY NEW CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

SPRING 2021



CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY

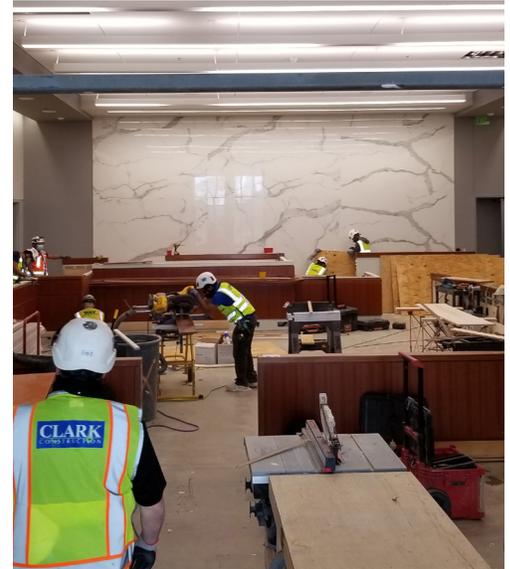
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1 PROJECT NEWS

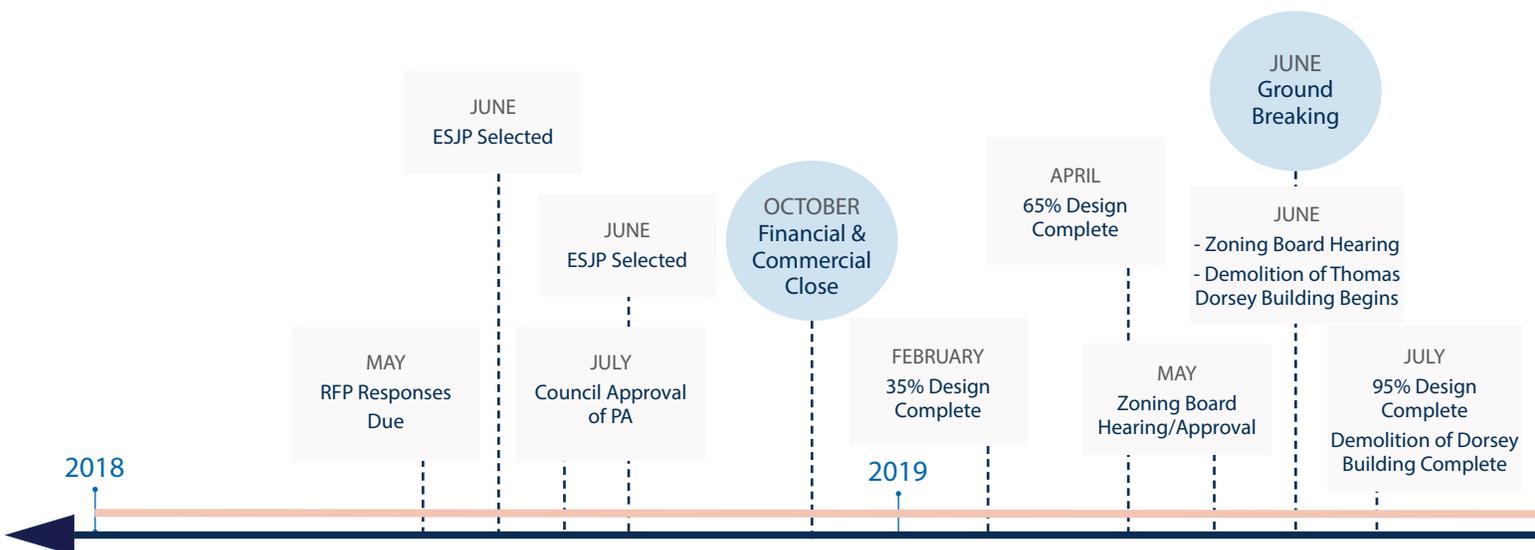


Progress photos from March 2021.

Project Nears July 2021 Completion

Completion of the new courthouse is on track for July 2021 as planned. While the construction team puts the finishing touches on the building's interior spaces, the Edgemoor-Star America Judicial Partners (ESJP) team has begun planning for the move from the old courthouse to the new facility. To ensure a smooth transition from construction to operations, the ESJP team will be bringing building occupants into the new space in May and June and training the end users on systems and processes.

Once the occupants move into the new courthouse in July 2021, the ESJP team's work is far from over. As part of the project's public-private partnership structure, ESJP will continue to manage the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the courthouse and parking garage for the next 30 years.



Focus on Sustainability in the New Courthouse

The new courthouse is meant to serve Howard County residents for generations to come, and sustainability—both during construction and during long-term building operations—is a key aspect of achieving that goal.

The ESJP team has taken environmental impacts and site conditions into consideration throughout the design and construction of the courthouse. Of particular note, **the project is being built on a brownfield site, and ESJP has reduced impervious surfaces on the site by over 50%. No existing trees have been removed and over 100 new trees have been planted on-site.** These highlights are especially important in an area that has recently been heavily damaged by storm flooding.

Additional sustainability features of the project include:

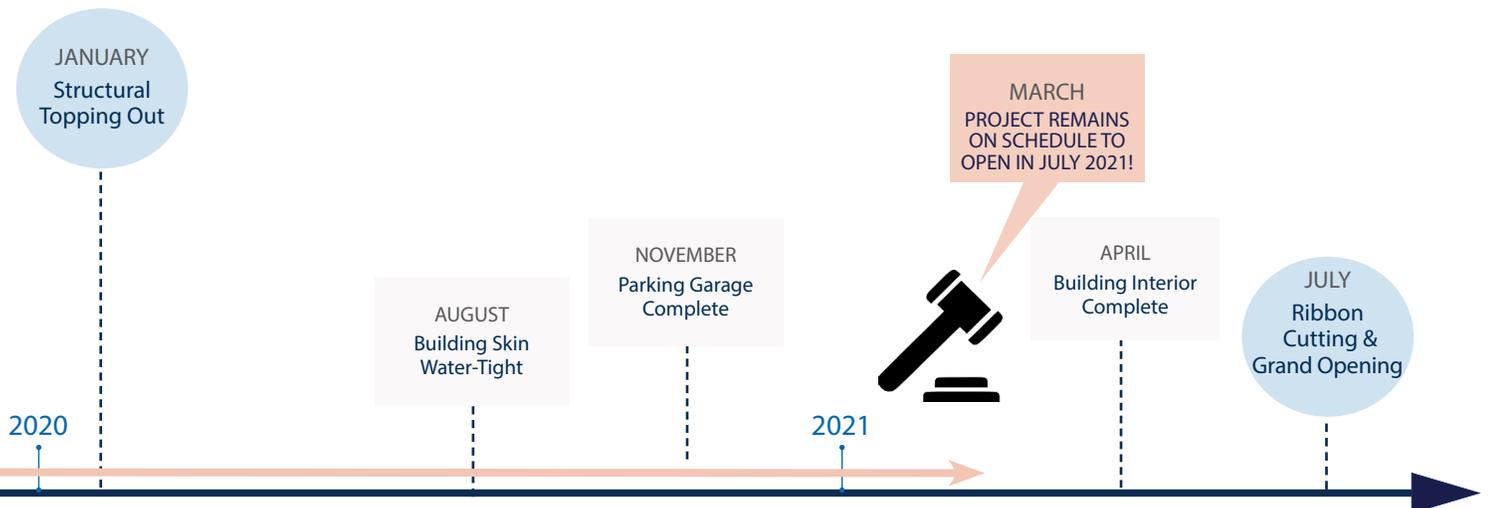
- sun shading on south facing facades
- high-performance building skin
- high-efficiency mechanical systems
- LED light fixtures throughout
- water-saving plumbing fixtures
- low VOC and recycled materials
- locally-sourced, durable, long-lasting materials

ESJP is currently exploring achieving LEED Gold certification on this project.

Solar Panel Installation

Howard County is partnering with KDC Solar to provide solar arrays for the new courthouse. KDC has designed the system and will install solar panels on the roof and grounds of the new courthouse this summer after it opens.

The system is designed to be 800kWdc and produce 1,177,500kWh per year, which equates to powering 141 homes per year. As a result, solar power is expected to cover nearly half of the facility's annual energy usage.



ESJP's "New Howard County Courthouse Development Team COVID-19 Relief Fund" Supports Emergency Grants for Local Nonprofits



In our Fall 2020 newsletter, we shared that ESJP set up the "New Howard County Courthouse Development Team COVID-19 Relief Fund" to support local COVID-19 relief efforts in Howard County. The fund was administered through the Community Foundation of Howard County and included contributions from firms and individuals involved in the development of the new courthouse. \$38,600 was raised to support local nonprofits addressing the needs of Howard County residents adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout 2020, HoCoRespond awarded over \$600K in grants to Howard County nonprofits, and in December 2020, HoCoRespond deployed the remainder of the New Howard County Courthouse Development Team COVID-19 Relief Fund towards their third round of emergency grants.

“ Thank you to the new courthouse development team for your efforts to support those in need through this year-long COVID crisis. In addition to lives lost and businesses disrupted, the disparities between the impact on those with the least may last longer than the pandemic itself. This crisis has surfaced food, housing, and healthcare disparities in a truly glaring way. The donations you were able to contribute have served to mitigate some of those immediate needs and provide a helping hand!

Beverly White-Seals, President & CEO
Community Foundation of Howard County

The following Howard County nonprofits benefitted from this round of funding:

- **The Arc of Howard County, Inc.**
- **Bet Yeladim, Inc.**
- **Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.**
- **Center for Children, Inc.**
- **Community Action Council of Howard County**
- **Equity4HC**
- **Feed Howard County**
- **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Services, Inc.**
- **Howard County Autism Society**
- **Howard County Conservancy**
- **Indian Cultural Association of Howard County**
- **Just Living Advocacy**
- **Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.**
- **Fuel Fund of Maryland**
- **The Village in Howard County**



Judge Tucker is pictured above at a courthouse site tour, participating in a courtroom mock-up exercise, and at the groundbreaking.

Three Questions with Howard County Administrative Judge William Tucker

How will the new courthouse improve operational efficiency in Howard County's judicial system?

In addition to much more usable space for all court functions, other agencies and stakeholders will now be located in the new courthouse. Currently, both the Clerk's Office and the Sheriff's Office have two locations (in the courthouse and offsite). In the new courthouse, both offices have been designed to house all departments in the same building. This will ensure more efficient overall court management, including improved access to services for members of the public, coordinated courthouse security, and well-organized transportation of prisoners. Additionally, the State's Attorney's Office will also be located the new courthouse, easing the court process for victims, witnesses, and members of the public. Satellite offices for other stakeholders, such as the Department of Social Service, the Department of Juvenile Services, and HopeWorks will improve case processing and access to services for some of our most vulnerable populations in domestic violence cases, child support matters, and all aspects of juvenile court.

How do you think the new courthouse will contribute to social equity in Howard County?

The mission of the Maryland Judiciary is to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all. Access to this justice reaches more people as public users can navigate a

variety of legal services in one building. Additionally, our legal clinics and the bar library are both larger and able to provide more resources to more litigants. We will be able to expand alternative dispute resolution programs, interpreter services, and work with more community organizations in order to offer lower cost options for court-ordered services.

What are you most looking forward to as you prepare to move into the new courthouse?

I am most excited to have the space to efficiently and safely handle all matters before the Court. The current courthouse is 175 years old, and while charming and unique, it was not designed for our current caseload, court services, and modern security. Technology is constantly changing, and the current courthouse has considerable limitations. The new courthouse will have state-of-the-art technology and training space for staff. More significantly, the new courthouse will provide increased security for staff, everyone entering and moving about the building, as well as inmate transport and holding cells. We will also be able to address medical emergencies more efficiently, as the elevators are large enough for medical equipment, which is not the case in our current courthouse. Additionally, the new courthouse will provide public parking. I am looking forward to all of the new and improved amenities that the Court will be able to provide to Howard County and everyone who uses the courthouse.

New Courthouse Opening Date Announced

The new Howard County Circuit Courthouse will be open July 6, 2021.
The address is 9250 Judicial Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

We encourage all Howard County residents to check the Court's website closer to the opening date for more information:
www.mdcourts.gov/circuit/howard



To read more about the project, please visit: howardcountymd.gov/HowardCourthouse