

Town of Amherst

Fall Town Meeting Warrant Article 4

Fire/Ambulance Headquarters and Station Facility



Presentation to Special Town Meeting

History of the Project and Growing Responsibilities

- Central Fire Station – built in 1929
 - fire vehicles were smaller
 - about 150 calls a year
- North Fire Station – built in 1975
 - annual **fire and emergency medical services** (EMS) calls totaled about 2,000.
- Today
 - fire trucks and ambulances barely fit through Central Fire Station's doors.
 - the department handles close to 6,500 EMS and fire calls a year.



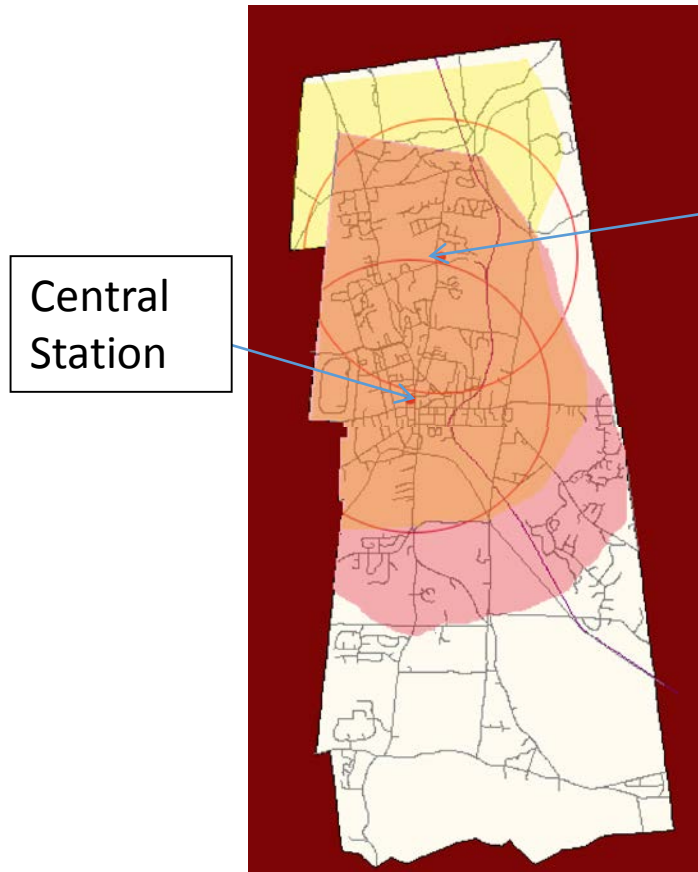
Why does the Town need a new fire/ambulance station?

- Studies findings in 1966, 1983 and 2006 – emergency response times to areas of South and East Amherst do not meet industry standards.
- All three studies recommended replacing the central station with a new one located somewhat south of the downtown.
- The full 2006 report can be found at <http://www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/33791>.

Where would a new fire/ambulance station be located?

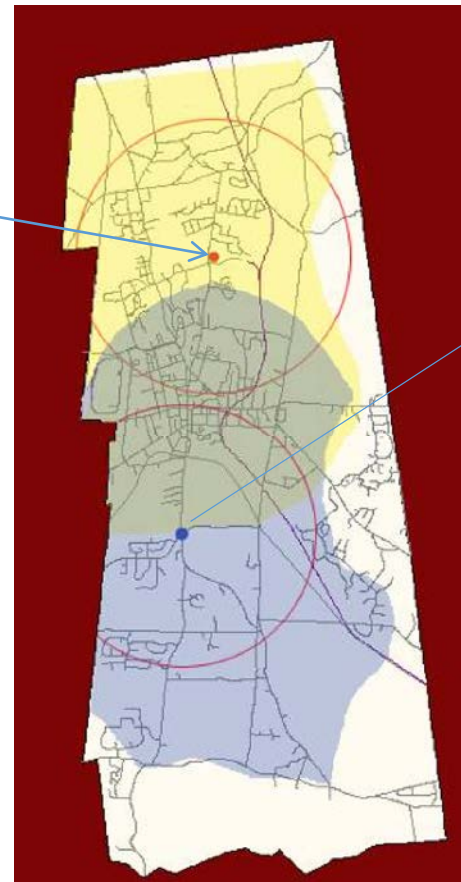
- The 2006 study recommended site – along the South Pleasant Street corridor, roughly in the vicinity of the Mill Lane intersection
- This would:
 - Improve response times to South and East Amherst
 - Maintaining adequate coverage for the areas where most calls come from – Downtown, University Drive, and UMass
- Evaluation of possible sites would be part of the feasibility study. The current location of the Department of Public Works (DPW) is a potential site.

Current Status



Proposed Status

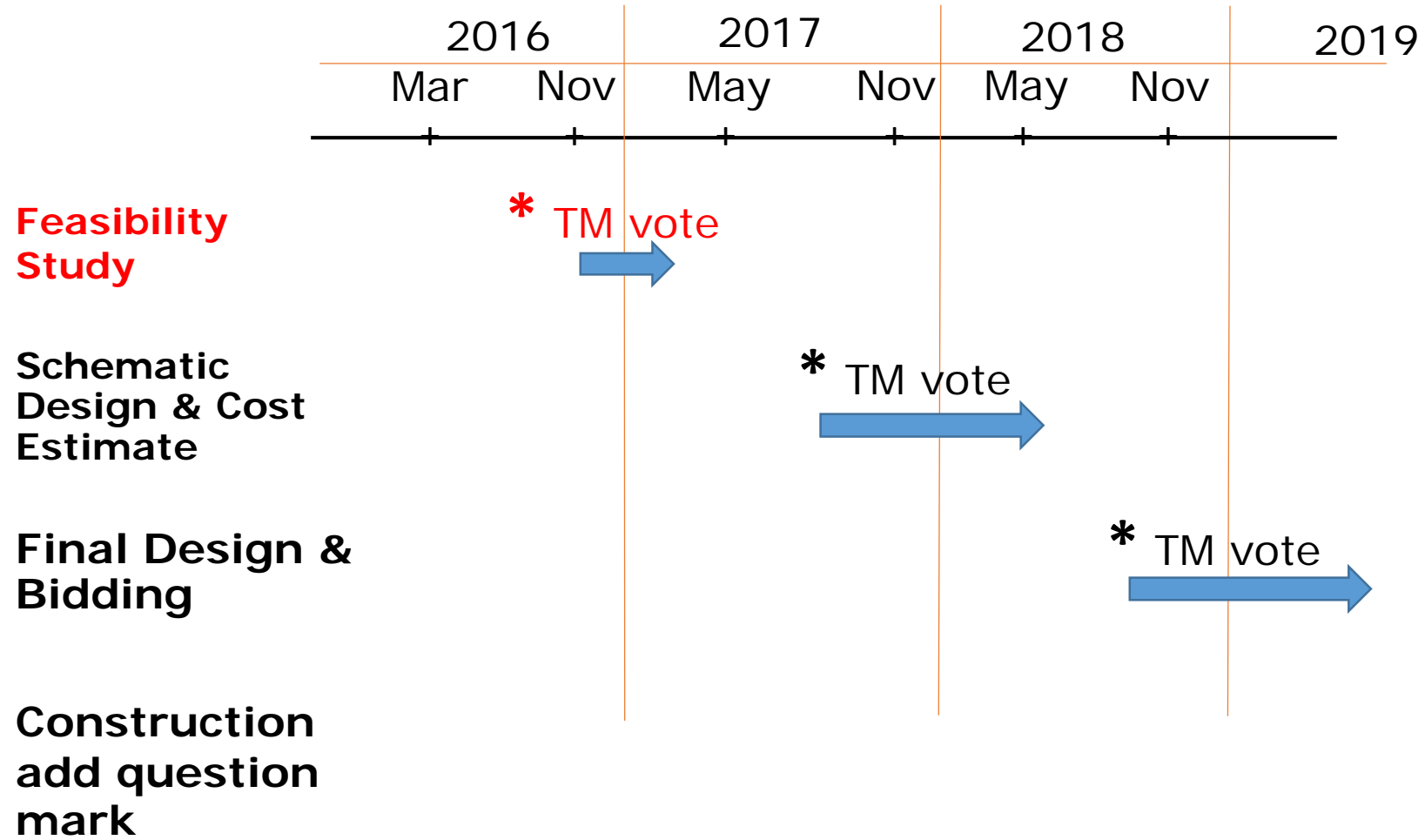
North Station



General location

Source: Fire Station Site & Building Assessment Work, August 2006
www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/33791

Anticipated Project Phases



Next Steps– Fall 2016 TM Warrant Article 4 Fund Feasibility Study– \$75,000

Once funds are approved, the Town would contract with a consultant to prepare a feasibility study for a new fire/ambulance headquarter and station.

The feasibility study would:

- Define the space requirements for the department's programs based upon
 - interviews with Amherst Fire Department staff
 - a review of current state and national standards for fire stations
- Identify up to three potential sites
- Provide conceptual design and floor plans
- Provide a preliminary cost estimates

Questions?