

# Report to the Senate Finance Capital Outlay Subcommittee



Linda Jackson, Director  
Department of Forensic Science  
January 30, 2014

# Eastern Lab Expansion & Renovation

Norfolk, VA

## Expansion to 5<sup>th</sup> Floor



## Drug Instrument Room



- Final phase of construction completed in December 2013
- Fully occupied by February 2014

# Western Lab Expansion & Renovation

Roanoke, VA

- Funds are approved
- Final drawings in production by architect
- Construction manager selected
- BCOM final review in process
- 24 month project



# Western Lab Expansion & Renovation

Roanoke, VA

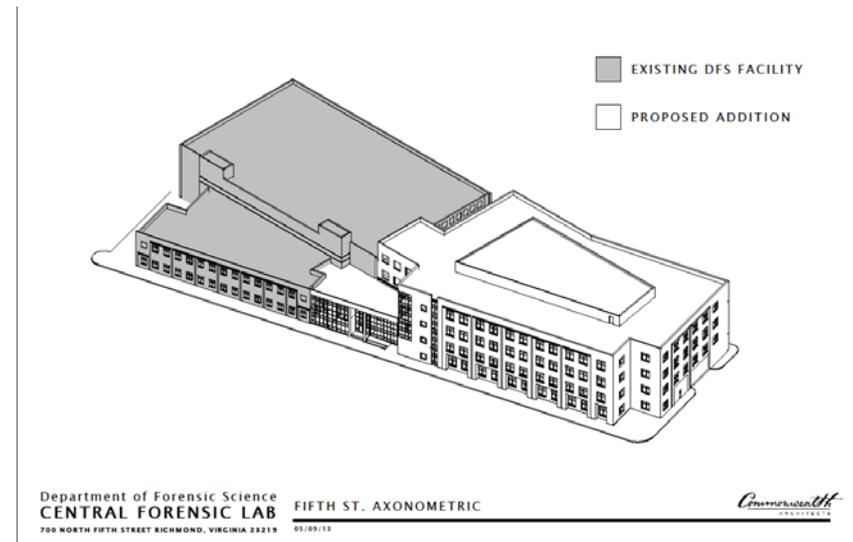
- Demolition of old schoolhouse adjacent to laboratory scheduled to begin in February.



# Central Lab Expansion & Renovation

Richmond, VA

- Submitted capital request to DPB
- Supported by formal Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study performed in 2013
- DFS and OCME - Richmond operations
- Current Space usage = ~150,000 sq. ft.
- Projected Need in 2026 = ~280,000 sq. ft.



# Central Laboratory

- At the time of construction, due to funding, the facility was built at half the size as originally planned, adequate for existing staff, but without room for growth
- DFS and the OCME have shared space in the Biotech 2 facility since 1998
- Both agencies have leased space in the adjacent Biotech 8 facility since 2006
- Current lease for Biotech 8 expires in 2016 with no prospect of renewal

# Central Laboratory – Biotech 8

- DFS operations in Biotech 8:
  - Director's office
  - Agency administration and HR
  - Breath Alcohol Laboratory
  - Forensic Training (Forensic Science Academy)
  - Two training rooms
  - Two mock crime scene rooms
- OCME operations in Biotech 8:
  - Fatality Review Teams
    - 8 FTEs and meeting space

# Justification – DFS

- Became a department in 2005 which added the functions of HR, Finance, Procurement, etc.
- Created the Division of Technical Services for scientific programmatic oversight
- Added scientific services of Mitochondrial DNA, Y-STR DNA , DNA Familial Searching, and Digital and Multimedia Evidence
- Current staffing increased ~50% since 1998
- Projected staffing to increase an additional 30% to 2026
- Increased use of scientific instruments, which often require more physical space

# Justification - OCME

- Transitioning from a local medical examiner system comprised of local physicians in localities to a regional death investigator system.
  - An additional 17 death investigators are estimated for the Central district within the next 15 years
  - Expand from 7 to 12 autopsy stations
- Unable to add newer investigative tools, such as Total Body X-ray and CT scanner, that are becoming a standard for practice in forensic medicine.
- Unable to expand the anatomical program into innovative embalming techniques and to provide cadavers for all requests.
- Current staffing increased ~100% since 1998

# Statewide Services in Richmond, VA

## DFS

- Director's office and agency administration
- DNA Databank and statutorily mandated databank sample storage
- Mitochondrial DNA
- Photo Processing
- Digital and Multimedia Evidence
- Breath Alcohol (Instrument Certifications and Operator Training)
- Chemistry and Biology Research
- Forensic Training (Forensic Science Academy)

# Statewide Services in Richmond, VA

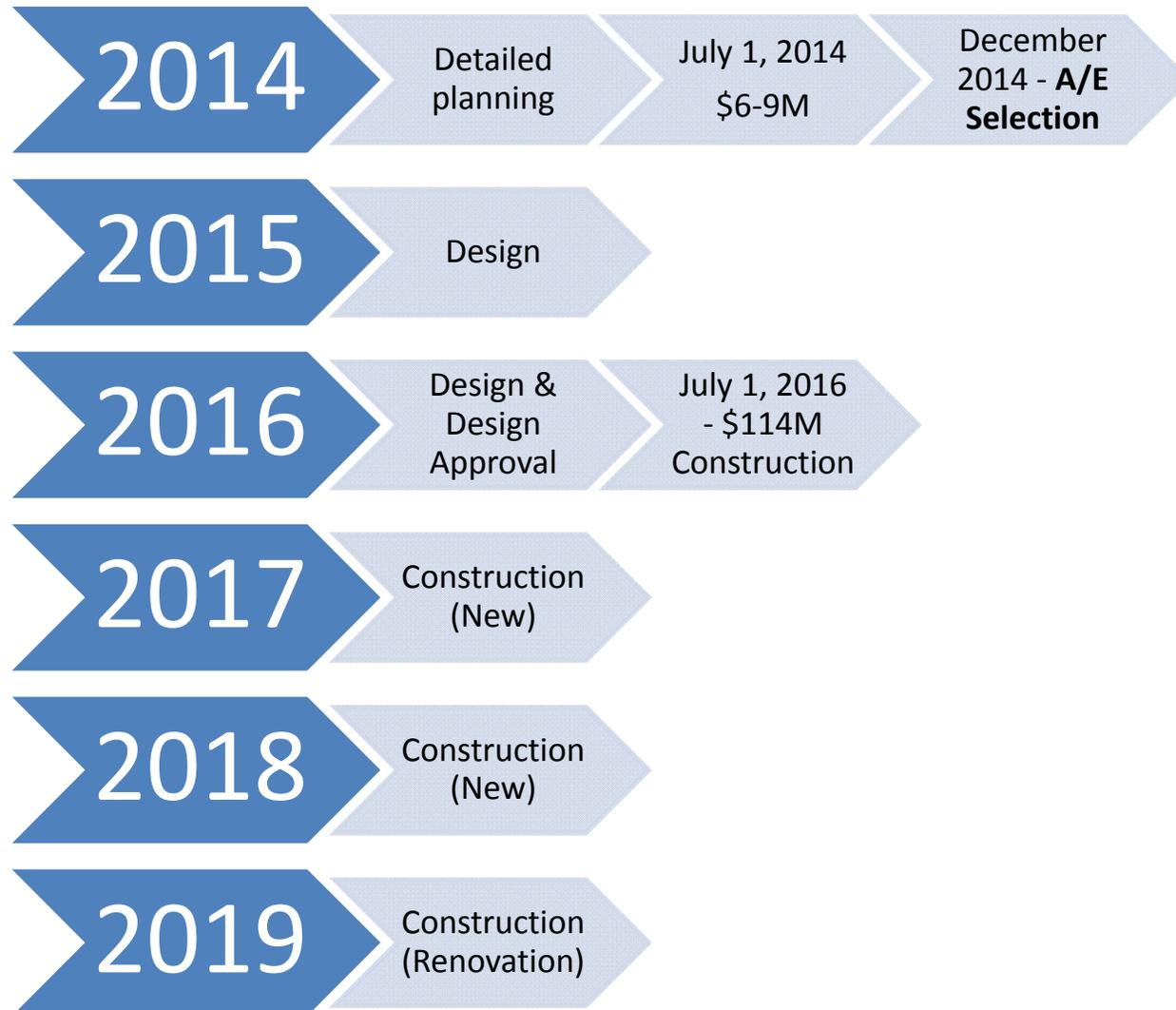
## OCME

- Chief Medical Examiner and statewide administration
- Virginia State Anatomical Program
- Fatality Review Teams that provide data and recommendations for preventions used in law development
  - Child Fatality
  - Maternal Mortality
  - Family Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence deaths
  - Adult Fatality
  - Virginia Violent Death Review

# Central Laboratory Project Summary

- Renovate existing facility
- New construction on current adjacent surface parking lot
- New underground 3 level parking lot with 287 spaces
- 3 floors of new laboratory space fully integrated with existing facility
- Projected completion in 2019

# Central Laboratory Project Timeline



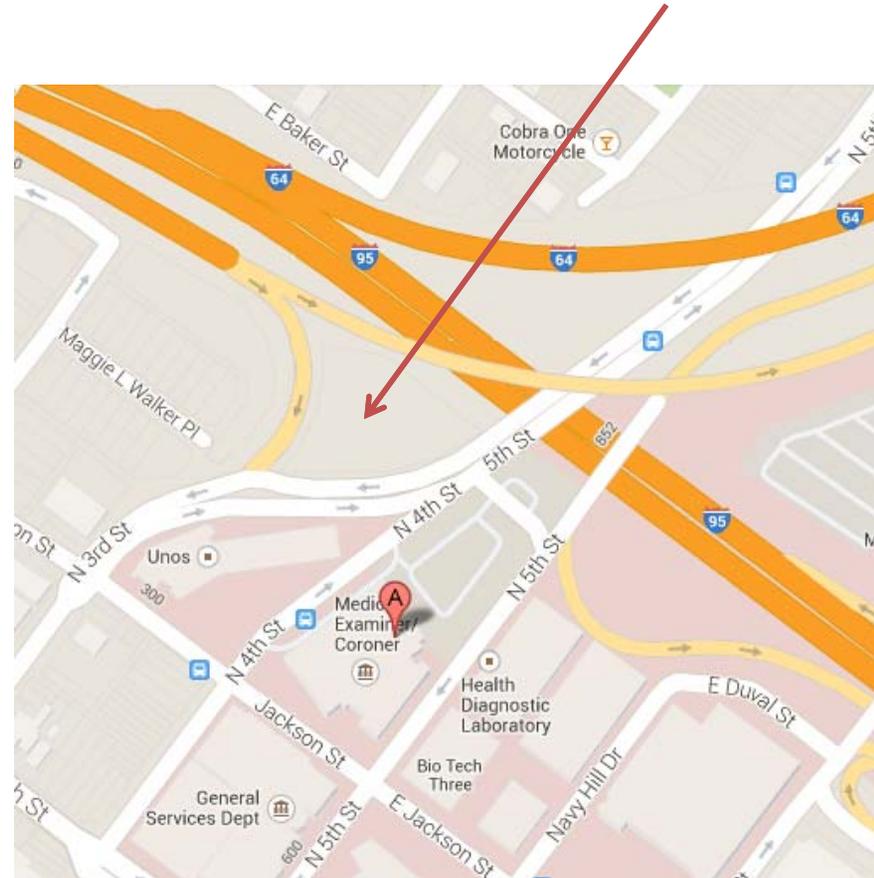
# Comparison of Laboratory Projects

	Total Project Cost	Square Footage	Cost Per Sq. Ft.	Construction Cost (new)	Construction Cost Per Sq. Ft (new)	Construction Cost (renovate)	Construction Cost Per Sq. Ft. (renovate)
Northern Lab (Manassas) – PPEA	\$62,000,000	110,000	\$563.64	\$55,000,000	\$500.00	n/a	n/a
Western Lab (Roanoke) – CM@Risk	\$40,500,000	90,000	\$450.00	\$26,700,000	\$430.65	\$7,500,000	\$267.86
Central Lab (Richmond) – Budget	<del>\$106,000,000</del> \$119,500,000	280,000	\$378.57	\$61,000,000	\$417.81	\$25,000,000	\$186.57
Central Lab Parking		110,000 (287 spaces)					
BCOM Cost Data (avg. sq. ft.)					\$350 (Lab) \$641 (OCME)		\$310 (Lab) \$412 (OCME)

Provided by Chinh Vu, Program Manager Special Projects, DGS.

# Alternative to Underground Parking

- Alternative above ground parking deck with up to 300 spaces
  - Attempt to purchase the City of Richmond property located NE of the site
  - Assessed land value = \$780,000
  - Traffic pattern associated with highway off-ramp may complicate land use



# Funding Request for Relocation of DFS Biotech 8 Operations in FY16

- Requested funding (Yr 2 = **\$165,000**) to relocate DFS functions that are now in leased Biotech 8 space as well as space modifications to provide for the security and specialized laboratory functions of the Breath Alcohol and Forensic Training Sections
- Not included in Introduced Budget
- May not be needed if Capital Project is approved



# Questions?

