

Lents Branch Relocation Project

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is wrong with the current Lents Branch? Why are you replacing it?**

There are several major reasons:

- a. The whole electrical system needs to be upgraded. The conduit in the building is too small to accept more cable so the electrical system and the data system cannot be upgraded. The lack of Wi-Fi has hurt the ability of the Lents Branch to offer what customers need and want. In the last five years, computer usage has decreased by 52%.
- b. An older building triggers ever-increasing maintenance costs as it ages and it is usually neither cost effective nor energy efficient. The Lents Branch was built in 1989 and is 26 years old.
- c. It's too close to another branch. Because of the branch's close proximity to the Main Library on Rt. 18 (3.5 miles) and the higher level of service it can provide, many of Lents' customers have chosen to use it instead of the Lents Branch. In the last five years, Lents Branch visits have declined by 26% and circulation has decreased by 27%.
- d. Zoning has changed since the Lents Branch was built and it's now located in an industrial zone. As with retail establishments, success of a public library is dependent upon location. The best public library sites are good commercial sites. Libraries should be located where people tend to go during the course of their daily activities—near/adjacent to commercial and retail development with hours of activity that correspond with library hours.

2. **Why can't you renovate or add a wing?**

The building is a pre-stressed concrete slab that cannot be penetrated and the outer walls are load-bearing and cannot be disturbed. Renovating the existing building would cost almost as much as a new building and it wouldn't be nearly as effective or efficient. There isn't enough room on the current site to add additional square footage to the building or additional parking.

3. **Why does the new building have to be larger?**

- a. We need complete handicapped accessibility so all of our citizens can use the library. The size is partly determined by ADA requirements, such as openings at both ends of aisles, aisles that are a minimum of 36 inches wide, and bathrooms and elevators that accommodate a motorized wheel chair.
- b. Interest in both adult and children's programs is growing, attendance is limited by the small size of the single public meeting space, the maximum room capacity of 49, and the small parking area of just 40 spaces.
- c. We have so many programs and outside organizations using the Library that we have run out of room. The Meeting Rooms at our locations are constantly in use and hard to reserve. The new building would allow us to offer more meeting space for local businesses to use for staff training and meetings. (Video conference, computer training, Reference USA, One on One reference help)
- d. To be a library that is truly the center of the community, we need more space for studying, reading, learning and socializing. The new location will serve as a center of discovery and communication—a place where people gather and where information will come alive through teaching and personal interaction.

4. **When will the current Lents Branch close?**

September 1, 2015.

5. **Why are you closing the current Lents Branch before the new location has been built?**

In an effort to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars, rather than spend money now on costly repairs to the old building, we will save the money and put it towards the cost of the new building.

6. What will happen to the staff?

No staff will be eliminated as a result of the closure. All staff will be reassigned to comparable level positions, at the same hourly rate and for the same number of hours. There will not be a reduction in pay for current Lents Branch staff.

7. What will happen to the nearby students who visit the Lents Branch after school?

In recent years the number of students using the Lents Branch after school has declined due in part to the small number of public Internet computers, the lack of WiFi and the limited space. We have been working with Boone County Schools to offer programs such as coding clubs and book discussions at the nearby schools. We plan to continue these programs and add others as requested by students and/or faculty.

8. Where will the new library be built?

The Boone County Public Library District owns land on KY 237 in North Hebron to build a new library

9. How long will it take to complete the new building?

We are in the preliminary stages of the planning process. We'll post a timeline on our website and keep it updated as the plans progress.

10. What are you going to do with the old building?

The Lents Branch will be sold and funds from the sale will be placed in the Capital Projects fund to help pay for the cost of the new building.

11. Will the new building be called the Lents Branch?

At this moment we do not know if we will name the building the Lents Branch. However, we do plan to honor Mr. and Mrs. Lents at the new building.

12. Are you going to raise taxes to build the new branch?

The Library Board of Trustees sets the library budget annually based on anticipated income and expenses. We review the tax rate annually to determine what is needed to appropriately manage our facilities for the benefit of our entire community. At 5.2 percent, our current tax rate is the lowest library tax rate in our region.

13. How will you pay for the new building?

Boone County Public Library would not incur debt while building. BCPL has a Capital Projects Fund to build and make major repairs. The new building would be paid for out of this fund.

14. Will the Library add to traffic issues in North Hebron?

The Library is in the preliminary planning stages for the building. We plan to work with architects, engineers, Boone County Planning & Zoning and the Kentucky Department of Transportation on this issue.

15. Will the Library consider the Hebron Land Use Study?

In 2011, a civil engineering company was hired to conduct a land use study for the property, which included two public workshops and meetings with the Library Board and local public officials. At that time five ideas were developed for the property. The Library plans to take the Hebron Land Use Study into account as the facility is planned. You can view the land use plan here: www.bcpl.org/docs/library/bcpl-hebron-branch-property-land-use-study.pdf

In 2016, we also held two community meetings to gather input and recommendations on the exterior design, land-use and interior spaces.