

Lease of Space

The current lease of space for the Worcester Public Schools Transportation Department (36 mid-size buses and spares, 11 big buses and spares, school bus maintenance and transportation operations space, and transportation employee parking) is at 60 Fremont Street and will expire on June 30, 2020. The School Nutrition Department also maintains its vehicles at this location as well.

The district has leased this property for the past eleven years. Prior locations have included Millbrook Street and Harlow Street.

Additionally, the City Manager recently informed the Worcester Public Schools that our current space used by the Facilities Department at New Bond Street (on St. Gobain property) will no longer be available to the Worcester Public Schools after July 1, 2020. This space is used for skilled trades shop work areas, maintenance supply storage, limited bulk supply storage space (with loading dock access), and Facilities supervisory staff.

Thus given the need for office, storage/work space, and parking needs for both the Transportation and Facilities Departments, the Administration recommends that the Request for Proposal (RFP) that accommodates both departments to co-locate space at the same location. This would allow for economies of scale for shared space, improve vehicle maintenance, and streamline district operations locations.

The needed space should also include expanded vehicle maintenance space that would allow for the district to perform most vehicle maintenance (rather than contracted services) and allow for repair and maintenance of Facilities and School Nutrition vehicles. The district would operate all district-operated student transportation, Facilities Department (trades and utility crew), and School Nutrition vehicles.

The space would also have the ability to expand the number of vehicles operated by the district beyond the current number of vehicles based upon student transportation needs for the district. As the district expands student transportation opportunities for programs such as Early College, Innovation Pathways, transitions programs, and other enrichment opportunities, the district would plan for additional space to accommodate expanded services.

It is necessary to issue a new Request for Proposal for the lease of space for both Transportation and Facilities Departments for a period of up to 20 years. The Administration will seek options / costs for both a ten-year lease cost and a 20-year lease cost. The Administration would award the contract based on the most advantageous response to the RFP.