

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG

LIBRARY

North County Regional Library Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

Rev. 06122018

1. Why are you renovating the library?

As a much loved and much used building that has been in use for almost 21 years, North County Regional Library needs updated building systems including electrical, HVAC, mechanical, fire protection and telecommunications. At the same time, the renovation provides a chance to rethink the building spaces based on community feedback and 21st century library design. We are grateful for Mecklenburg County for funding the project as part of its 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Program.

2. Will the library be closed during the renovation? For how long?

North County Regional Library is currently scheduled to close at 5:00pm on July 14, 2018, with construction expected to last through Summer/Fall 2019 with time included for furniture, finishes and equipment (FF&E) and installation of collections, shelving, A/V, and technology to ensure that the library is up and running smoothly.

3. What will be done in the renovation?

Some design considerations include addressing the integrity of the building envelope to prevent persistent leaks; major upgrades to the HVAC system to ensure efficient operations and user comfort; providing an accessible path from the right-of-way to the building entrance; changing the flow of traffic in and out of the parking lot to allow for drive-up book/materials drop off; creating inventive spaces for children/teens and a makerspace; creating more capacity for community rooms; creating individual/group study rooms and collaborative spaces; providing a vending café; creating an outdoor programming area; and creating an efficient and easier checkout system by installing radio frequency identification (RFID) for collections and automated materials handling systems to increase efficiency.

4. How will library service(s) be impacted for North County users during the renovation?

The Library will retain North County Regional staff during the duration of the renovation closure and reassign them to other Library locations likely to be impacted by the closure. We will relocate and schedule as many North County programs and events as possible. We will continue to proactively engage you, our North County customers, to ensure you still receive information on Library programs and services, as well as receive your holds materials. Please ensure you have an updated and current email in your Library account.

- *Accessing Materials:* Although North County Regional Library will be closed during the renovation, books and materials will continue to be available 24/7 online via cmlibrary.org. Customers will be given options on how best to manage holds in advance of the closure; options will include the ability to select an alternate holds location most convenient to the customer before July 14. The closest alternate Library locations include Cornelius, Davidson, Mountain Island, Beatties Ford Road Regional and University City Regional. If no choice is made, the default location for

holds pickup will become the Cornelius branch location (21105 Catawba Avenue, Cornelius, NC 28031).

- *Storytimes*: Storytimes will continue at nearby community locations. Two storytimes for ages 0-5 years old will be held every Monday, the first and third Thursdays, and the second and fourth Tuesdays at Huntersville Arts & Culture Center (109 South Old Statesville Road, Huntersville, NC 28078). Other storytimes are offered at various times at our 19 other Library locations (visit cmlibrary.org and search the calendar).

5. What is the cost of renovation and what is the source of the funds?

The total funding allocated for the North County Regional Library renovation is \$6,700,000 with funds provided from Mecklenburg County/Pay-Go Funds.

6. Why will the branch be closed during the construction?

North County Regional Library will undergo a major renovation of the entire building, including systems and public and staff spaces. We understand that a closure of 12-18 months will be a major inconvenience to our users, and we apologize for the inconvenience. We believe that the safety, noise and cost issues avoided by closing the branch in its entirety during the renovation will far outweigh the potential disturbance. We believe you will agree that the final result will be well worth the temporary discomfort.

- *Safety Reasons*: Leaving North County Regional open or “phasing in” the work during the construction would likely pose a safety hazard for construction workers, library employees, and for our visitors. These dangers include, but are not limited to electrical hazards, ADA/accessibility issues caused by working on the entryways during construction, air pollution caused by contaminants present in the air during construction and other dangers.
- *Noise Levels*: Environmental noise due to construction activity would prohibit most library activities such as storytimes and workshops/events.
- *Cost Increases*: Having the ability to completely close during the construction enables the cost of the renovation to remain within the approved funding parameters. Phased in work would likely extend the timeline significantly and require night and/or off-hours construction which would raise costs beyond the budget provided.

7. I have further questions about the renovation. Who can I contact?

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For media inquiries contact Ann Stawski at (704) 416-0702 or astawski@cmlibrary.org