



# Frequently Asked Questions

## about the plan for the proposed Clark Pleasant Branch project

### Why do we need a new Clark Pleasant Library?

The population in the Clark Pleasant area is growing rapidly, and it's important the library grow to meet the needs of the community and areas of Pleasant Township are projected to increase by 34% by the year 2030. The current building was built 15 years ago when we outgrew our space in a local elementary school and was never intended to be a permanent location.

### Why don't you expand the existing location?

A new location on the US 31 corridor will be more visible and accessible to our current and future patrons, and will offer more amenable parking opportunities. Relocating also helps resolve close proximity issues with the Greenwood Public Library.

### Where will the new branch be located?

The branch will be located in the Whiteland/New Whiteland community. Once we have approval to move forward with the project, we will select and purchase a site. Our feasibility studies recommend a location on US 31, south of the current location on Tracy Road to reduce proximity to Greenwood Public Library.

### What amenities will the new branch include?

Community feedback and design team recommendations include more flexible meeting spaces and study rooms, a larger early childhood play & learn area and a learning lab that could serve as a makerspace and a job skills training center. We will begin a formal and detailed design process once the project is approved.

### How much will the project cost and what is the tax impact?

The projected total project cost for the Clark Pleasant Branch is \$8.8 million. The library has \$1.4 million saved that will go towards the project. A tax increase of \$0.0250 per \$100 assessed value will fund the remainder of the project cost. The median homeowner will see a tax impact of \$15.76/year (or 30 cents a week).

## **Why can't you fund this project out of your existing budget?**

The library has been debt-free for many years. Issuing debt is one of the only mechanisms that tax-funded entities like public libraries can use to fund major building improvements.

## **Why isn't the project going to a referendum vote?**

The total project cost is under the threshold that requires a referendum (currently the threshold for referendum is over \$15M). The project is subject to remonstrance and it must be approved by the Johnson County Council, whose elected members represent all Johnson County voters.

## **How can I show my support for this project?**

We encourage you to attend any of the public meetings listed below to share your support. We are also collecting letters of support to share with the County Council. If you or someone you know would like to submit a letter of support, visit your JCPL branch for a self-addressed envelope, or send letters to the Library Services Center, 49 E. Monroe St, Franklin, IN 46131.

## **I don't use the Clark Pleasant Branch. Why will my taxes support this project?**

The \$0.0250 cent tax increase will also support future building improvements at other JCPL branches, specifically White River Branch and Franklin Branch libraries.

## **I don't use the library. Why should I have to pay for this?**

We understand our county's pride at keeping taxes low. We have carefully considered the absolute lowest tax increase necessary to pay for the improvements we need to keep our libraries useful and responsive to the needs of more than 400,000 visitors annually. Babies and young children start developing their love of reading and build a foundation for a successful education at the library. Teens have a safe and welcoming environment to use during out-of-school times. Adults engage in lifelong learning pursuits and seniors and retired residents find meaningful social interactions as well as learning opportunities while using the public library.

Our staff welcomes a conversation with you about our resources and help you learn how you can receive significant value using our available resources.

## **How can I share my thoughts or feedback about the building project?**

We encourage you to attend any of our public meetings in December & January:

Preliminary determination hearings:

Tue / Dec. 18 / 6 p.m. and Tue / Jan. 15 / 6 p.m.

Franklin Branch, 401 State St., Franklin

Community meetings:

Thu / Jan. 10 / 2 p.m. and Sat / Jan. 12 / 10 a.m.

Clark Pleasant Branch, 530 Tracy Rd., New Whiteland

Please share your feedback electronically at [pageafterpage.org/turning-the-page](http://pageafterpage.org/turning-the-page).