



FORSYTHCOUNTY
Department of Communications
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GROUND TO BE BROKEN JULY 8 FOR
NEW FORSYTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL**

Construction of facilities funded by voter-approved sales tax program

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – Forsyth County will officially break ground for the county’s new courthouse and jail on Monday, July 8 at 8:30 a.m. The groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the project site at the intersection of Main Street and Veterans Memorial Boulevard in downtown Cumming. The public is invited to attend.

The ceremony will signal the beginning of construction of the new courthouse and jail, both of which are funded by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) VII program approved by Forsyth County voters in November 2011.

“We are extremely grateful to the citizens of Forsyth County for recognizing the need for these new facilities and for their support of these projects,” Commission Chairman R.J. (Pete) Amos said. “Without the voters’ approval of SPLOST VII, we would not be able to construct these critical components of our judicial and public safety infrastructure. A sincere thank you is extended to all the residents of Forsyth County.”

Construction of both buildings is expected to be complete in December 2014.

About the New Courthouse

The new Forsyth County Courthouse will be approximately 158,000 total square feet. Approximately 120,000 square feet will be finished and the balance of the space will be shelled providing space that can be finished in the future to add courts and help meet demands associated with future growth. The building will include five floors plus a basement and will house Superior Court, State Court, Solicitor-General, District Attorney, Clerk of Courts, Court Administration, Grand Jury, and Jury Assembly. The courthouse will feature enhanced security systems and overall improved efficiency.

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Once the new courthouse is complete, renovations to the existing courthouse are slated to commence. It will be called the Forsyth County Courthouse Annex and, once renovated, will house Magistrate Court, Probate Court, Pre-Trial Services and Indigent Defense. Renovations are expected to be completed in April 2015.

About the New Jail

The new jail will be approximately 177,000 square feet with an inmate capacity of 608, and will include three inmate levels plus a support level. Like the courthouse, the new jail was designed with the county's future growth in mind. The jail has been designed in such a manner as to allow for future expansion to the south.

The new jail will include enhanced security systems, will be staff efficient, and is being constructed at the maximum security level. Its connectivity to the new courthouse via a bridge will allow for the secure transport of inmates to court.

Once the new jail is completed, the current jail will be demolished to make way for surface parking.

Parking Facilities

In addition to the new courthouse and jail, two new parking facilities in downtown Cumming will also be constructed, funded by SPLOST VII. One will be located near the County Administration Building while the second will be located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Castleberry Road and Maple Street. The projected completion date for the parking facilities is late 2014.

About the Project Team

Due to the scope of the project, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners assembled a SPLOST VII Jail/Courthouse Project Team, consisting of nine members:

From the Board of Commissioners – Commissioners Todd Levent and R.J. (Pete) Amos

Representing the Judiciary/Courts – Chief Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Bagley

From the Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Duane Piper

From the county's Finance Department – Finance Director/CFO David Gruen

From the county's Public Facilities Management – Public Facilities Director David Thornton

From the county's Procurement Department – Director of Procurement Donna Kukarola

From the County Manager's Office – County Manager Doug Derrer

Representing the city of Cumming – Mayor Ford Gravitt

The program manager selected for the project is CGL (Carter Goble Lee, LLC). The architectural/engineering firms are Wakefield Beasley & Associates; HOK; and Pond and Company. The construction manager at risk is Turner/Winter Joint Venture.

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