



Public Safety Training Facility

gilbertaz.gov/trainingfacility

*2nd Safest City
in the U.S.*

(LAW STREET MEDIA, 2016)

*Gilbert will be Best in Class
in all Lines of Service.*

(VISION STATEMENT)

336,549

ESTIMATED POPULATION IN GILBERT BY 2030

84%

POTENTIAL PROJECTED LOSS OF GILBERT PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL OVER NEXT 7 YEARS DUE TO RETIREMENT/ATTRITION.

83,863

HOUSEHOLDS IN GILBERT IN 2017. THIS IS PROJECTED TO GROW TO 109,483 BY 2030. THIS REPRESENTS A COMPOUNDED ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 2.07 PERCENT.

25.75

AVERAGE YEARS OF PUBLIC SAFETY EXPERIENCE LOST UPON RETIREMENT.

194,057

CALLS FOR SERVICE IN 2017.
(GILBERT POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT)

200+

NEW RECRUITS TO GILBERT POLICE DEPARTMENT IN NEXT 5 YEARS.



ISSUE

GILBERT IS PROPOSING A PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY TO TRAIN AND BUILD GILBERT'S CURRENT AND FUTURE POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS





Public Safety Training Facility

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY?

The Gilbert Public Safety Training Facility will be a multi-use joint police and fire training facility designed to meet the specialized training needs of Gilbert's public safety personnel. The primary focus of the facility is to provide a comprehensive training environment for Gilbert's police and fire departments that meet existing and future needs, with opportunities to provide additional training space for other town departments as well as other governmental agencies and organizations.



WHY IS THE FACILITY NEEDED?

Training facilities essential to Gilbert police officers and fire fighters such as drill grounds, basic training props, a driver training track, and related classrooms are largely dependent upon obtaining space in facilities located in other cities. Gilbert's ability to consistently and reliably meet its own current and future training requirements is not guaranteed as other cities strive to meet their own public safety training demands.

WHERE WILL IT BE LOCATED?

The facility will occupy approximately 50 acres on the west side of Power Road just north of Pecos Road.



WHAT WILL THE FACILITY INCLUDE?

The site will provide tactical training to simulate real life scenarios for fire department and police personnel through a one-stop-shop total training environment, including classrooms, training props, a driving course and a community space (designed to be made available to community organizations).



WHAT ARE THE TRAINING STANDARD REQUIREMENTS?

Gilbert police and fire personnel are required to have hundreds of hours of annual and ongoing training in both instructive and practical settings. This includes basic in-service training to advanced-level instruction designed to meet specific competencies and build employee consistency and confidence. The proposed facility allows for appropriate frequency and realism in residential, commercial and roadway scenarios.

WHAT WILL BE DONE TO BUFFER NEARBY NEIGHBORS FROM NOISE GENERATED FROM THE FACILITY?

Existing buffers at the site should help limit noticeable noise coming from facility operations. To the east is Power Road and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport; to the south are vacant land and Union Pacific Railroad tracks; to the north a future Town of Gilbert park; and to the west the East Maricopa Floodway. The driving track and pads will be constructed within the Flood Control District of Maricopa County Rittenhouse Basin which will further reduce noises produced from the facility. Where appropriate, the final design may incorporate additional buffering methods into the project.

DOES THE TRAINING FACILITY MEET NOT JUST TODAY'S TRAINING NEEDS BUT FUTURE TRAINING NEEDS?

Yes. The project team surveyed numerous facilities regionally and across the country to identify best practices and lessons learned in designing this type of facility to avoid over-building or under-building scenarios. The project team expects the training facility to address the training gaps needs for police and fire personnel today but is also designed to accommodate the training needs of the future through innovative design and flexible, shared spaces.

Examples of Fire training include: paramedic/EMT initial training and continuing education, hazardous materials training, driver/operator training, recruit fire academies, fire ground practical scenarios, etc. Examples of Police training include: recruit police academies, firearms proficiency, tactical driving, special operations training, SWAT training, etc.

WHY CAN'T GILBERT USE TRAINING FACILITIES IN OTHER CITIES?

Gilbert has utilized other training facilities in the region, as well as abandoned buildings, parks and parking lots. While resourceful, this approach is not sustainable for an organization that will soon serve more than 300,000 citizens. To verify this, Gilbert staff conducted an evaluation of the availability of training facilities in nearby communities. In conclusion, facilities located in other east valley communities are not equipped to absorb Gilbert's public safety personnel in their training programming (in some cases, equivalent of doubling their public safety personnel and training).

WILL THE PUBLIC BE ABLE TO USE THE FACILITY?

The current plan includes a community space that could be utilized by community, civic and educational groups.



WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED TIMELINE FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION?

Design of the facility should be complete by December 2018 with construction beginning in the Spring of 2019. It is projected to be operational sometime in the Spring of 2021.

\$65M

Bond amount requested from voters on November 6, 2018 to help fund the public safety training facility.

HOW WILL IT BE FUNDED?

- The Gilbert Town Council approved a ballot measure for August 28, 2018 asking voters for authorization to sell a piece of vacant town-owned land located off of Germann Road adjacent to the 202 San Tan Freeway.
- The Council also approved a ballot measure for November 6, 2018 asking the public to authorize the issuance of public safety bonds in the amount of \$65 million.
- It is estimated the two measures, if approved, would largely cover the costs of construction of the joint public safety training facility (\$84.6 million total including construction, off-site improvements, design and other professional services)
- If the bonds are approved, the Town does not anticipate a property tax rate increase and intends to maintain its current secondary property tax rate of \$0.99.
- The balance would be supported through general operating funds.