

Upton DPW Renovation and Expansion Project

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does Upton DPW do for the community?

The Department of Public Works plays a key role in all Upton residents' daily lives by maintaining essential infrastructure (roads; water, sewer, and stormwater systems; snow and ice removal), and more. The DPW staff are also recognized as first responders, available 24/7 to manage emergencies and urgent issues, including, but not limited to:

- Water, sewer, and stormwater system failures
- Snow and ice removal
- Storm cleanup and flood response
- Clearing road hazards and repairing potholes
- Bridge and culvert maintenance
- Roadside brush cutting and tree trimming
- Assisting police, fire, and other emergency services

Their work keeps Upton safe, functional, and resilient, especially during unexpected storm events.

2. Where is the Upton DPW located, and will it move?

The Upton DPW is located at 100 Pleasant Street and will remain at this location

3. Why does Upton DPW need a new facility?

The current Department of Public Works building, built in 1995, is outdated and in poor condition. It has major issues with structural integrity, mechanical systems, plumbing, electrical, fire protection, and code compliance - leading to frequent, costly repairs. The Administration offices are located in a "temporary" field office trailer (2nd one) that is being rented and has failing HVAC systems.

The facility is also too small and inefficient for today's operations. DPW responsibilities have increased, and vehicles and equipment no longer fit the space. This limits service quality and slows response times.

The Town's fleet of equipment includes: 24 vehicles. The fleet represents an investment by the Town of \$3,931,000. Covered storage can extend the life of the Town's fleet by up to five (5) years and reduces maintenance costs.

Without new construction/renovation, the Town faces serious risk from system failures to staff health and safety concerns that could result in financial and operational issues.

4. Will the proposed renovation/addition meet DPW's needs?

The original DPW program and space needs assessment dictated a new facility. This current scope of work includes only the absolute essential needs. Reuse of the existing garage building, plus new admin addition, new mechanics space, and new wash bay are being considered at a cost ranging from \$17.5M to \$19.5M. Specific needs that will **not** be addressed by this project (which will need to be addressed in the future) include:

- Salt Shed
- Solar panels
- Gas and diesel fuel island
- Other items (TBD)

5. Can the existing facility be reused or upgraded?

Yes. Engineers have inspected the facility site and found that bringing the building up to code can be accomplished.

6. How big is the current facility?

The existing DPW building is approximately 9,000 square feet. The proposed new renovation/addition will bring the facility to a total of 19,900 square feet.

7. Why is more space needed?

The current facility is too small to support essential DPW services:

- Fleet maintenance bays are cramped, with low overhead clearance and not enough room for safe, efficient work. Most important, the areas lack adequate ventilation and permanent safety features like emergency eye wash.
- Inventory space is limited, delaying critical repairs.
- Vehicle storage is inadequate for the Town's multi-million-dollar fleet.
- No wash bay, forcing outdoor washing that doesn't meet environmental standards.
- Muster room is undersized and doubles as the only meeting and training space.
- Workshop space is insufficient for daily operations and mandated training

8. Will the facility include any "green" sustainable systems?

Yes. The building will incorporate energy-efficient and environmentally friendly systems and materials to reduce operating costs and environmental impact. Planned features include:

- New energy code compliant building envelope
- Energy efficient HVAC system
- Heat recovery ventilation systems
- New energy code compliant lighting system
- Solar-ready roof design

9. Why do the vehicles and equipment need to be stored indoors?

Storing DPW vehicles and equipment indoors is the industry standard for safety, efficiency, and long-term cost savings.

- Protects Town Assets: Covered storage extends the life of the Town's expensive fleet by up to five (5) years and reduces maintenance costs.
- Improves Emergency Response: Vehicles kept indoors are ready to deploy quickly, especially during winter storms or urgent situations.
- Boosts Efficiency: Staff can respond faster and accomplish more for the community when equipment is accessible and protected.
- Supports Best Practices: The American Public Works Association recommends indoor storage for winter maintenance equipment to ensure quicker response times

10. How long will this new facility last?

With proper maintenance, the new portion of the DPW facility will be designed to last 50 years or more, providing long-term value and reliability for Upton.

11. What is the Fall 2025 Special Town Meeting request?

The DPW Building Committee is requesting funding totaling \$2,502,794 to proceed with the design and bidding phases to ultimately request construction funding at the Spring 2026 Town Meeting.