

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for
New Federal Courthouse in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States General Services Administration (GSA) Southeast Sunbelt Region (Region 4) announces the availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the construction and operation of a new federal courthouse (Courthouse) located in Chattanooga, Tennessee for public review.

This SEA supplements a Final EA prepared in March 2024, which assessed three sites in the city of Chattanooga for acquisition, design and construction, and operation of the proposed Courthouse. The proposed new Courthouse would encompass approximately 190,701 gross square feet; include 40 secured parking spaces, 7 courtrooms, and 9 chambers; and be located within the city limits of Chattanooga.

Following completion of the Final EA, on April 9, 2024, GSA conducted a press release and announced two short listed sites, Hawk Hill Stadium Site and TVA Office Complex. However, GSA is electing to consider another location as a site for the proposed Courthouse. The Vine Street Site is a one-block area bounded by E 5th Street to the north, Lindsay Street to the east, Vine Street to the south, and Georgia Avenue to the west. The Vine Street Site encompasses approximately 4.12 acres and is comprised of eight tax parcels. One tax parcel supports a multi-tenant office building and garages; one approximately 0.8-acre tax parcel is undeveloped and supports maintained lawn and limited numbers of trees; and most of the remainder of the Vine Street Site is utilized as surface parking.

The Draft SEA also considers a No Action Alternative, which provides a baseline for comparison with impacts from the Proposed Action and to satisfy federal requirements for analyzing “no action” under NEPA (40 CFR 1502.14(d)). Under the No Action Alternative, GSA would not acquire new property in Chattanooga and would not construct a new Courthouse.

The Draft SEA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are available online through GSA’s project website: https://www.gsa.gov/chattanooga_courthouse under Latest Updates. A hardcopy is available for review at the Chattanooga Public Library Downtown Branch, located at 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402. Any substantive comments received by the deadline will be addressed in the Final SEA. Comments can be sent via email by December 3, 2024 to ashish.desai@gsa.gov. If sent by mail, comments must be postmarked by December 18, 2024 and sent to the following address:

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Attention: Mr. Ashish Desai
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