



OFFICE OF
MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

100 West Kirkwood Avenue
The Courthouse Room 322
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47404

Telephone 812-349-2550
Facsimile 812-349-7320

Julie Thomas, President

Penny Githens, Vice President

Lee Jones

For those who believe that the remodel/expansion of the current facility is a viable option, please reread Chapter V of the Monroe County [Indiana Criminal Justice & Incarceration Study](#), prepared by RJS (beginning on page 80), and the facility assessment appendix materials (beginning of page 211.) The report outlines 53 different facility deficiencies that need to be addressed in the current facility. The report estimates the cost of repairing the current facility to be \$56 million dollars. Specifically, the report notes that “[a]t 36 years old, the jail has far exceeded its structural and functional life cycle, despite all its renovations. Remediation of the real and potential risks posed by physical defects, inadequate architectural design, adverse impact on proper care and treatment, and security problems resulting from facility design and physical deterioration seem cost prohibitive at a provisional estimated cost exceeding 56 million dollars.”

Of the 53 different facility deficiencies noted within the report, at least 21 issues would require the addition of space or renovation of existing space, including additional programming space. Such renovation/expansion of the current facility would require a minimum of additional floors and/or the remodeling of currently unsecured Correctional Center/Charlotte Zietlow space. A review of the structural components of the facility would be required to determine if any changes are possible, particularly with the addition of more floor(s). Beyond the renovation costs, costs for housing inmates during the construction, transportation of inmates to court and back to alternate facilities, and new space for the displaced offices will be incurred.

Renovating the current facility does not address the inefficiencies inherent in this poorly designed facility. Additional personnel will be needed to provide the basic monitoring and security for the additional space, which will increase the operational costs of running the facility. This will not materially improve the living space for the inmates or working space for the staff. In contrast, a new facility should reduce the operational costs while improving the living space for the inmates and working space for the staff. This reduction in costs would be utilized for programming and addressing the community gaps identified in the reports, thus furthering the County’s stated objective of developing a treatment-based and outcomes-focused model for the Correctional Center rather than the County’s current containment model facility. In short, renovation will likely cost more to complete construction, more to operate, and do little to improve the impact on the users of the facility.

It is important to note that while renovation of the current facility has been deemed cost prohibitive, inefficient, irresponsible to inmate, staff, and visitor, Monroe County officials have taken and will continue to take the reasonable and necessary steps to remediate identified deficiencies that can be addressed at this time.

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners-