

Howard County Library System

FY27 Budget Work Session
April 29, 2026



3-5 Year Results



All children enter kindergarten ready to learn



Teens and young adults feel a sense of agency and belonging



An inclusive, connected community where everyone feels they belong

Vision

An empowered community where all people reach their potential.

Values

Community

Learning

Equity

Intellectual Freedom

Teamwork

Hi



Through **112** On the Road to Kindergarten visits, we reached **3,020** young children – about one in six under age five in Howard County.



235

students visited in Head Start classrooms





Bauder Book Talk with Jason Reynolds



The Bauder Book Talk is our most anticipated teen event. In November, we welcomed author Jason Reynolds for an unforgettable conversation with 460 middle



COLLECTION

Items in Collection: 1,142,370

Physical: 836,958

Adult: 445,794

Children & Teens: 391,164

Print: 697,037

Audio: 41,986

Video: 84,292

Other: 51,637

Electronic: 305,412

Card holders: 179,464

Borrowed: 5,115,647

Physical items: 3,943,000

Chromebooks & hotspots: 2,395

Learning activity kits: 812

DIY Tools: 20,522

Video Games: 25,091

Online: 1,172,647

E-Book: 459,923

E-Audio: 470,840

E-Serial: 190,247

E-Video: 51,637

Database: 2,046,092

USE

Physical visits: 1,526,162

Website hits: 1,317,972

Research assistance: 30,233

AskHCLS questions answered: 1,348

Classes & events offered: 8,757

Attendance: 234,652

SOCIAL MEDIA (compared to FY24)

Facebook

net audience growth: 82.8%

engagement increase: 125.5%

LinkedIn

net audience growth: 891.3%

engagement increase: 1,250.6%

Instagram

net audience growth: 85.6%

engagement increase: 58.2%



FY27 Budget Request

- **FY27 Budget:** \$1.7 million
 - Funding will support negotiated agreement, staff wage increases, retaining on-call shelvers, and collections to help meet community demand for materials

New Central Library in Downtown Columbia

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FY27 Budget Request

- **FY27 Budget:** \$7.5 million in grant authority requested
 - Secured **\$5 million** in new State grant funding for the library at the Columbia Lakefront
 - Requested **\$2.5 million** in federal funding
- Funding will support feasibility, concept plan, and land acquisition efforts

Project Budget Update

	Previously Appropriated	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32		Total Project
Appropriation Object Class									
Plans and Engineering	\$ 10,488								\$ 10,488
Land Acquisition		\$ 7,500	\$ 7,000						\$ 14,500
Construction				\$ 94,000					\$ 94,000
Equipment and Furnishings					\$ 10,200				\$ 10,200
Total Expenditures	\$ 10,488	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 10,200	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 129,188
Grants	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000				\$ 38,500
Other Sources	\$ 488			\$ 7,000	\$ 3,200				\$ 10,688
Other GO				\$ 80,000					\$ 80,000
Total Funding	\$ 10,488	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 10,200	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 129,188

Key Points

- \$129M in projected funds; 10% reduction
- \$38.5M in grants will be sought
- \$10.2M in philanthropy
- 38% of funding from external sources

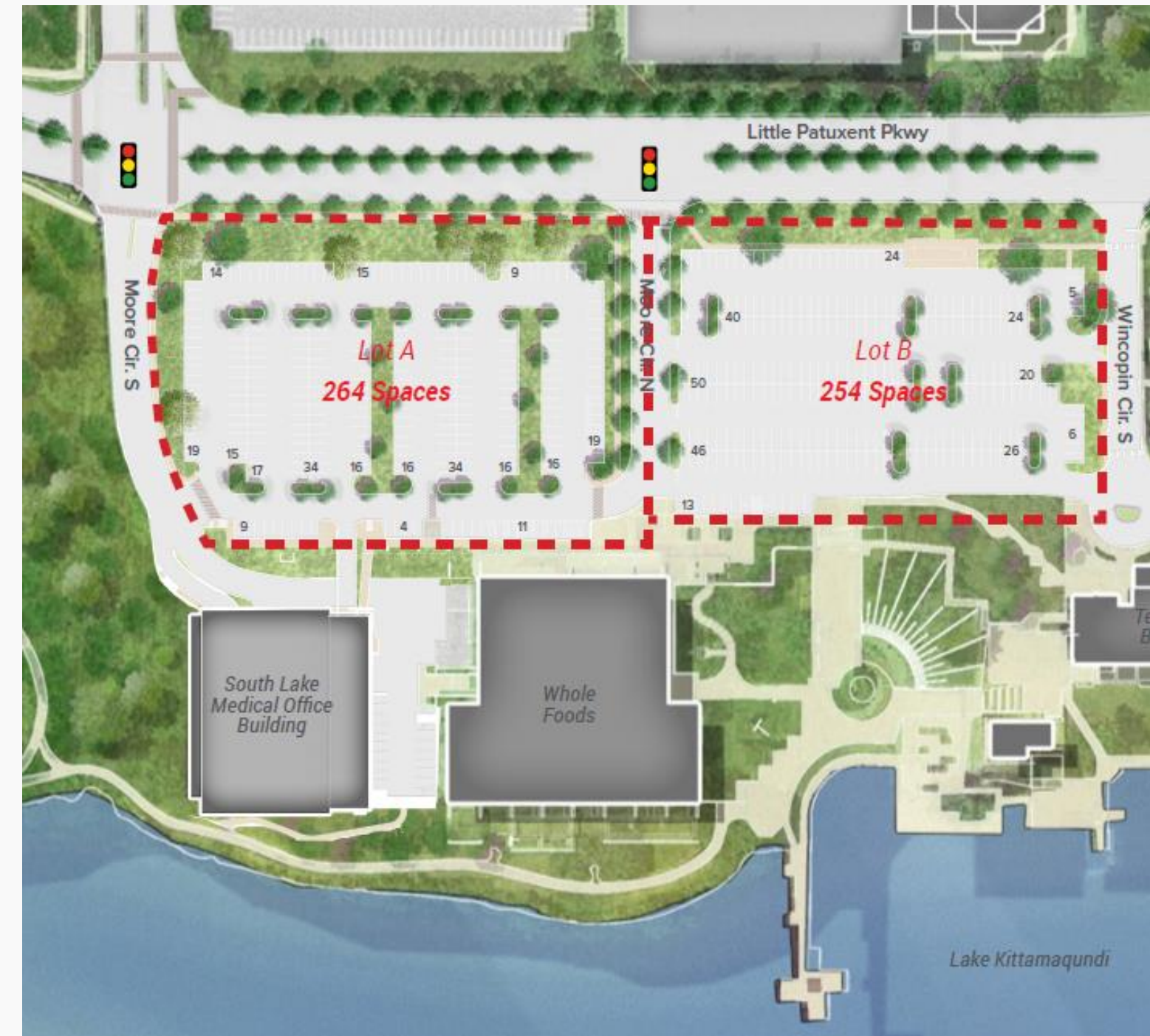
Parking Update

Current State:

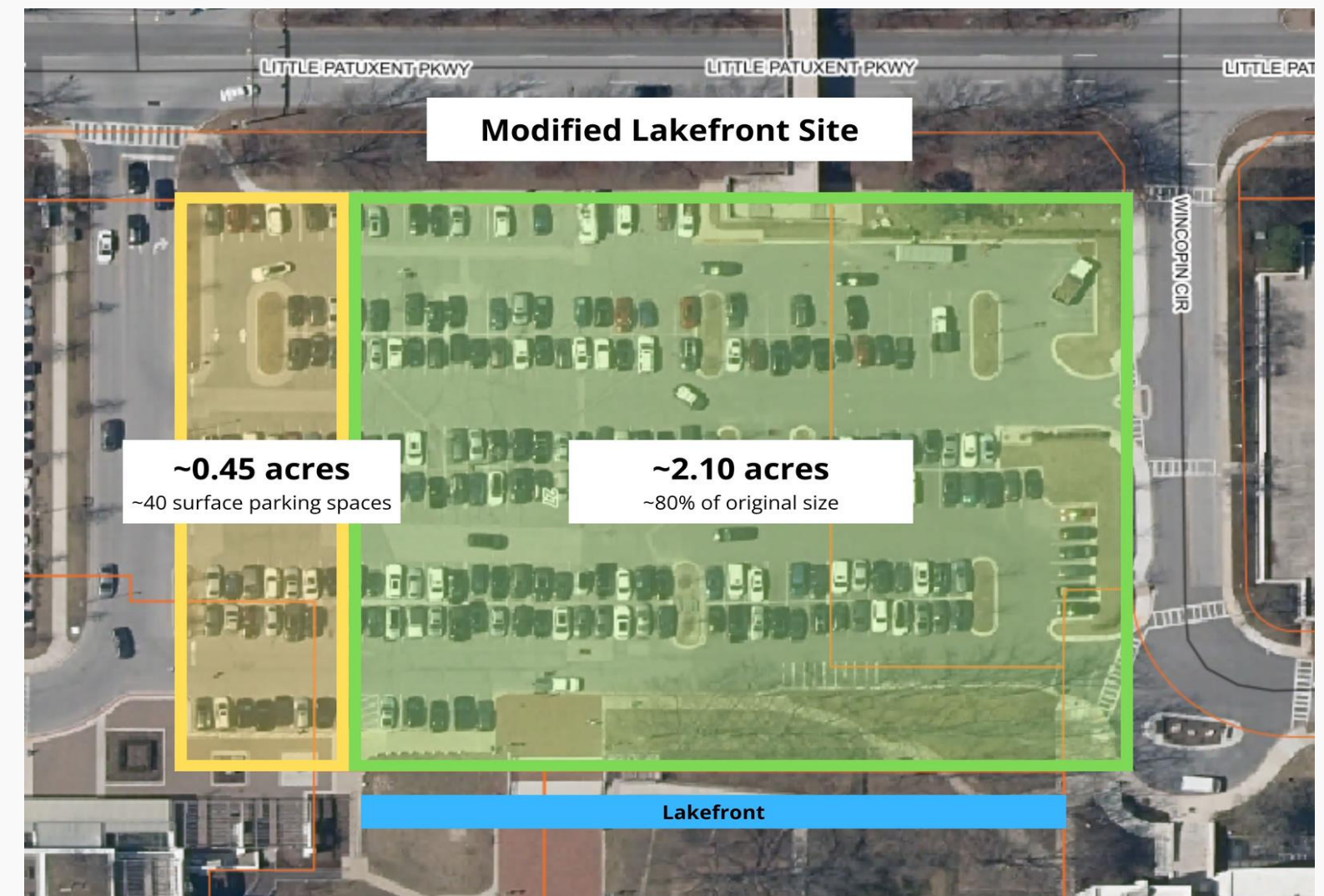
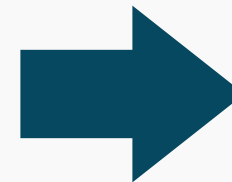
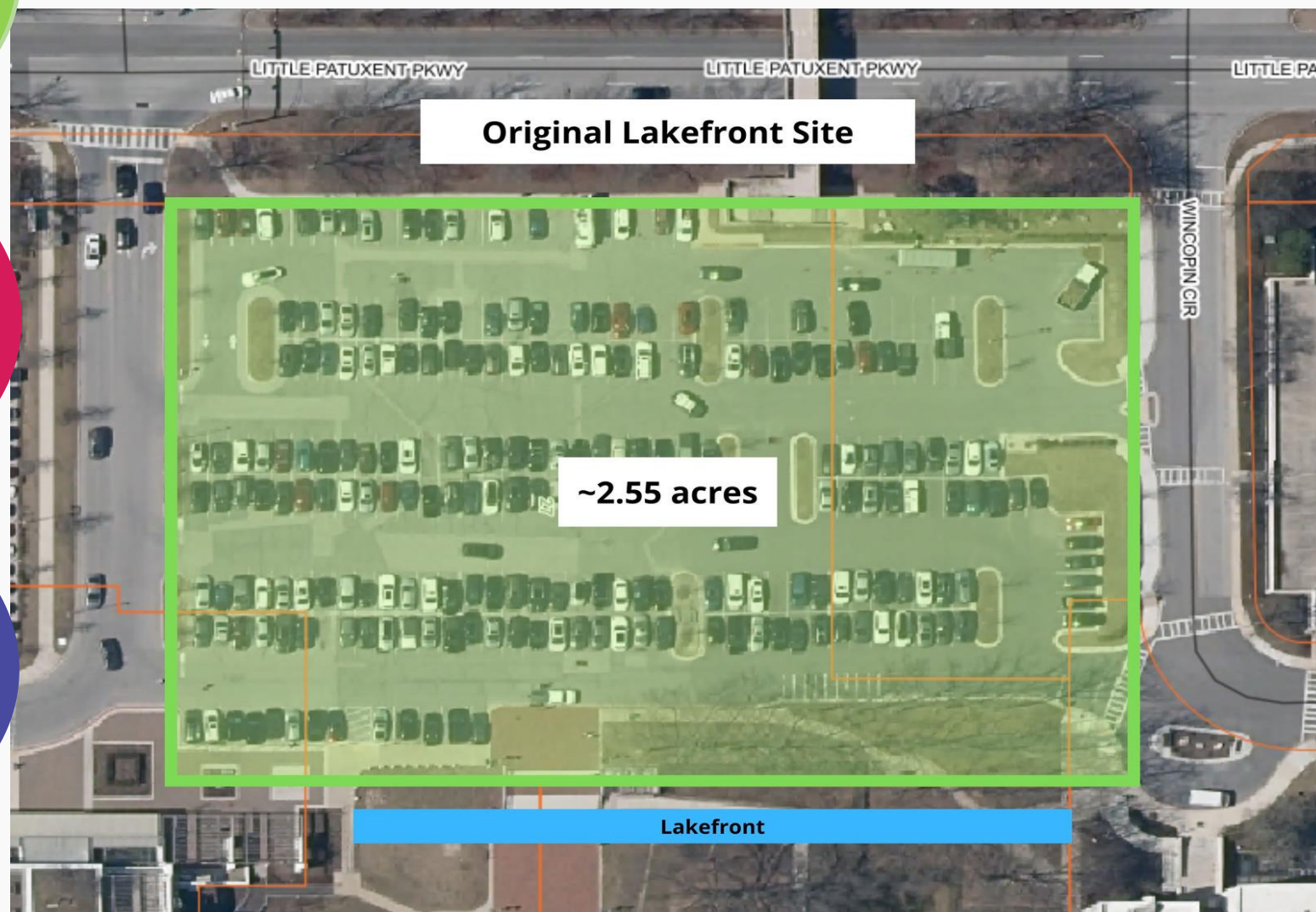
- 514 total private parking spaces
- Lot A (HRD parcel): ~260 spaces
- Lot B (Library parcel): 254 spaces

October Proposal:

- Lot A Garage & Surface: ~481 spaces
- **Short: ~33 spaces**
 - Considered condo in library garage
 - Adds complexity & operational challenges

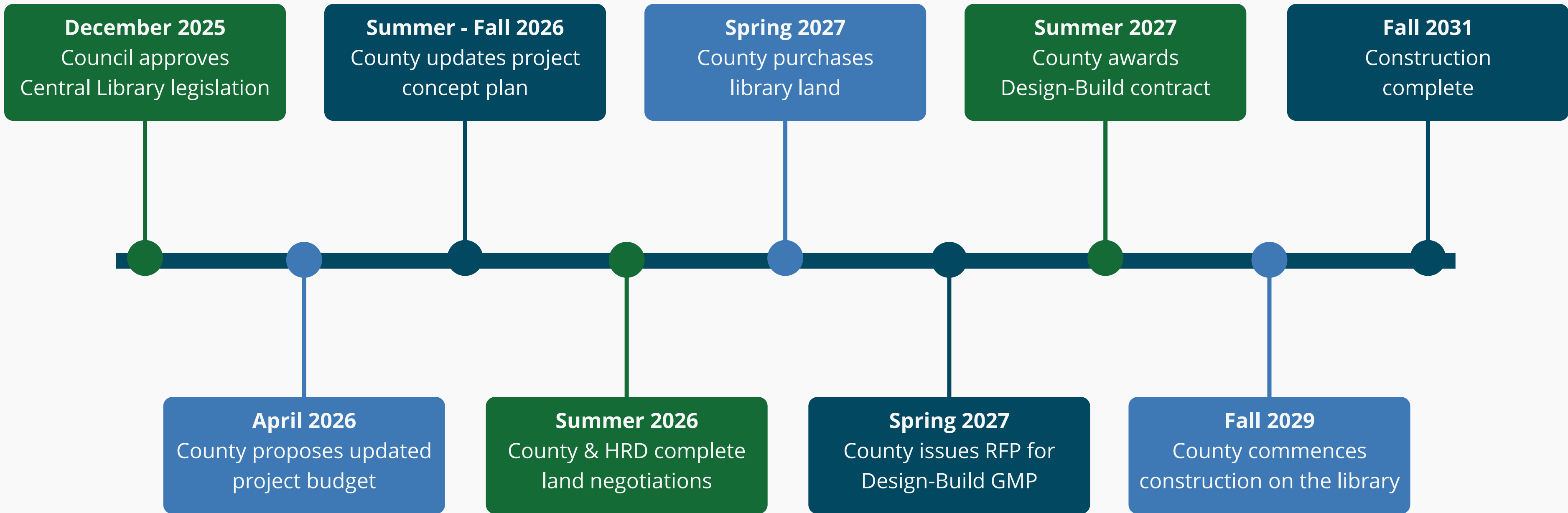


Land Update



- Total Parking Replacement: ~514 spaces
- Completely separates HRD & County parking uses
- More cost efficient
- Smoother subdivision process

Timeline





Thank You

Questions