



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget  
**Project Request Justification**

2006-2008 Biennium Date: July 22, 2005

**A. General Information**

- 1. Agency name: Virginia Tech
- 2. Agency code: 208
- 3. Project title: Construct: Indoor Athletic Training Facility
- 4. Agency priority: 22
- 5. Contact Person: M. Dwight Shelton, Jr.
- 6. Contact's telephone number: (540) 231-8775
- 7. Contact's e-mail address: mdsjr@vt.edu

**B. Proposed Project**

1. Project Cost:

General Fund/General Fund supported debt	
Nongeneral fund	
9 (c) revenue debt	
NGF supported 9 (d) revenue bonds	25,000,000
<b>Total request</b>	<b>25,000,000</b>

2. Project cost changes:

NONE.

3. Description:

- This project has been on the university's plan since 1999, formerly titled Field House. This project requests an authorization to plan and construct a new 120,000 square foot field house facility for practice and training activities associated with the football program.
- The life expectancy of the project is 60 years with proper maintenance.
- The project scope is based on programmatic analysis and reviews of existing facilities at peer institutions with similar weather conditions.
- The funding plan for the project includes a nongeneral fund debt authorization that will be repaid with private gifts.

4. Project scope change:

NONE.

5. a. **Approved Master Site Plan:** Yes  No   
If not, explain:

b. **2004-10 Capital Outlay Plan:** Yes  No   
If not, explain:

6. **Equipment for a previously funded project.**

NONE.

7. **Supplement to a previously funded project.**

NONE.

### C. Project Justification

1. a. **Existing condition:**

- The existing indoor training facility is Rector Field House, a 71,000 gross square foot facility built in 1971. The building is shared primarily by the football and track programs with the space being dedicated for four months of the year to indoor track activities.
- The building lacks the required length, depth, and height to accommodate the practice needs of the football program and does not provide adequate space to schedule practices for the soccer, baseball, softball, and lacrosse teams.
- The university owns a world-class indoor track facility that is movable; however, the wear of disassembling and reassembling the track is shortening its useful life while the cost of storage of the track during the off-season is high. In addition, during the indoor track season other sports activities are excluded from using the existing field house.
- The proposed project would add the necessary indoor training space to accommodate the practice needs of the various sports programs and minimize the disassembling and reassembling of the track.

#### Higher Education Only

b. **Facility Condition Index:** FCI \_\_\_\_\_

c. **Space deficit:** Yes  No

## **2. Programmatic information:**

- The proposed project will provide a state-of-the-art training facility for the football program that will include capacity for full-speed workouts and drills that can not be practiced in the current facility because of size constraints. As an illustration, passing plays and kicking plays can not be practiced at full speed or execution because of the limited width and height of the existing building. These constraints are limiters that need to be addressed to continue progress on the university's growing presence in the Atlantic Coast Conference.
- Other sport programs (soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball) will benefit from this new facility. For example, soccer programs are provided a non-traditional season provision under the NCAA rules. This means that full squad practices and some practice games with other university teams are allowed in the winter months. The non-traditional time is currently the same period the indoor track is in use in the existing facility. This restricts the space and time available for the soccer programs. This results in a competitive disadvantage when the winter weather prohibits any outside time for the soccer teams. The baseball, softball, and lacrosse teams face similar challenges.
- When the indoor track is in place the demand for space is also increased by the need of the other sports to have sheltered practice facilities. The scheduling of the space has to be extended in to the early mornings and late evenings. These scheduling logistics place the student athletes under additional academic pressure to manage study time and practice time. The new indoor facility will satisfy the space requirement and minimize the pressure on the academic priorities because there will be an additional availability to efficiently schedule practice times.
- One facility manager with one student helper can manage the facility daily. The benefits received by over 235 athletes, both male and female, in terms of having the appropriate space necessary for meaningful practices, better preparation for competition, and better utilization of the student athlete are top priority reasons to build the facility.

## **3. Alignment to strategic plan:**

This project will support Virginia Tech's strategic plan in the areas of Graduate Education, Undergraduate Education, and Outreach. Construction of the Indoor Athletic Training Facility will provide a state-of-the-art training facility for the university's ACC football program, freeing up current facilities for use by other sports teams and activities. This project will help to increase both the quality and quantity of athletic programs available to Virginia Tech students and the Hokie community and, thus, supports the following university goals:

Graduate Education:

1. Increase the quality of the graduate programs.

Undergraduate Education:

1. Maintain a current, relevant, and comprehensive undergraduate curriculum.
3. Create learning experiences for undergraduate students that maximize the benefits of attending a large research university.

Outreach:

1. Sustain the university's commitment to the outreach mission.

4. Organize, coordinate, communicate about, and integrate the various economic and community development activities at Virginia Tech.

#### **D. Options Considered**

Other options considered but not selected include leasing space or delaying the project entirely. Constructing a new field house is the selected option because it would provide the on-campus training space needed by numerous student and ACC athletic teams.

Leasing is not a feasible option because it is not financially viable to enter into a capital lease for this particular project because of its size and nature and program requirements, which necessitate a site on campus adjacent to related training facilities.

Delaying the project to a future biennium is not a viable option because this will result in continued incurrence of high storage costs and depreciation for the moveable indoor track. In addition, other sports activities will continue to have difficulty arranging for the use of proper training facilities during peak season for the major team sports.

#### **E. Project Schedule Changes:**

NONE.