

NEXT NGA WEST IN NORTH ST. LOUIS

November 13, 2015

Background

The Project

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is the nation's primary source of geospatial intelligence for the Department of Defense and the U.S. Intelligence Community. It provides support to U.S. national security and defense, as well as disaster relief. The NGA West headquarters is moving to a new location within the St. Louis region. Four sites are under consideration and an EIS study was recently released by the Army Corp of Engineers evaluating each site location.

Proposed New Site at N. Jefferson and Cass Avenues

This urban site in North St. Louis offers NGA direct connections to Downtown, a world-class Medical Center, entertainment in Grand Center, and business and recruitment opportunities from Cortex Innovation Community and several educational facilities. The City is working on an Initiative to focus investments around the proposed site to improve infrastructure, support new community development, enhance the bike and open space network, enhance transit, and provide opportunities for new housing.

Historical Perspective

The 1978 Presidential **Executive order** 12072, declared federal facilities should place priority to locating in urban areas. The 2015 Federal **Promise Zone** designation for St. Louis creates an opportunity for parts of the city to obtain federal assistance to address high levels of poverty for the next 10 years. The recent support from **Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2)**, a **Choice Neighborhoods** planning grant, and **Eco-Districts** demonstrates an already high level of federal support for improving North St. Louis.

Highlights for NGA in North St. Louis.

- The North St. Louis site is the only one of the 4 sites that will be negatively impact if not selected.
- It is vital the City retain the 3,100 jobs. With an average salary \$83,000 and \$2.4 million in City earnings tax is currently collected from this facility.
- The most significant investment in North St. Louis for more than 50 years. This will be the catalyst for revitalization in the area.
- The North St. Louis site offers the least amount of impact to employee commute.
- Security compound for the NGA will be distinct, whether in a field or in a City.
- Co-locating two commands essential to National security makes no strategic sense.
- No matter the location each site will deal with its own security concerns. The new NGA facility will be designed to be secure relative to its location.
- Locating the NGA within an urban setting is the only responsible solution. Repopulating urban neighborhoods has proven to stimulate the entire region.
- The real estate deal makes sense. We have been acquiring the site and being very sensitive to all property owners.