



For nearly a decade, the state has carefully studied whether to relocate the state prison from its current location in Draper. Ultimately, the Legislature and Governor agreed in 2014 General Session H.C.R. 8, that *"It is sound public policy and in the best interests of the state to move the prison facilities from their current location in Draper."* The following are some key reasons for relocating the prison from Draper.

Summary

Knowing that the state urgently needs a new state-of-the-art correctional facility, the next question is: where should it be located? Considering the long-term costs and benefits, it does not make sense for the state to spend considerable additional time and resources reconstructing a facility on-site while forgoing the economic benefits that could come from relocation.

Benefits of Moving Prison from Draper

- A new state-of-the-art facility will better prepare inmates for their return to society and reduce recidivism, which will save the state \$542 million over the next two decades by reducing the growth of Utah's inmate population.
- Additional operational cost savings will be realized from the operation of a modern, more efficient correctional facility.
- Studies show redevelopment of the Draper property could create:
 - » \$1.8 billion in annual economic output;
 - » \$94.6 million in annual tax revenues (About \$51 million state and \$43 million local);
 - » \$43.2 million in annual local tax revenues; and
 - » 18,483 permanent, new jobs.
- It will take only a few years for a fully redeveloped site to generate tax revenues that exceed the cost of a new facility in another location.
- Conservative estimates show that the state will realize more than \$50 million from sale of the Draper property.

Costs to Keep Prison in Draper

- Studies show it will cost taxpayers a minimum of \$238 million over the next 20 years just to repair and upgrade the oldest portion of the Draper facility. This money would not address any of the operational or infrastructure inefficiencies with the 63-year-old facility, nor provide the facilities necessary to successfully implement criminal justice reforms.
- Constructing a new facility requires about 500 acres; there are only 276 acres at the Draper site upon which a new facility could be constructed.
- A high-power electric transmission corridor and a canal bisect the available acreage; relocating both would be both difficult and costly, especially in light of the considerable recent developments that now surround the property.
- Developing a wholly new facility on site will also add significant costs to the project by creating security issues for the prison and construction firms. Unlike tearing down a school or office building, demolition would occur on the grounds of an operating prison, and this demolition will require increased security staffing and will further extend the time and cost of completing the project.

Interested in Learning More?

For information about the PRC visit: www.le.utah.gov/prc.

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