



**To:** Erik Thorvig, City of Blaine Community Development Director

**From:** Joel Dunning | JD

**Date:** March 29, 2021

**Comm. No:** 212049

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**Subject:** State of Minnesota  
New State Emergency Operations Center

The State of Minnesota proposes to construct a new, approximately 50,000 square foot, two-level facility in the North Metro. The funding for this facility was fully approved as part of last year's bonding bill approved by the legislature in October, 2020. One of the sites under consideration is located at 4001 Pheasant Ridge Drive in Blaine and is currently owned by the City of Blaine.

The proposed facility would house two main functions – the main offices for the 60 to 80 employees of the State's Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the State of Minnesota Emergency Operations Center.

The HSEM offices would serve as a headquarters for staff to plan and prepare for emergencies in the state as well as to respond and recover from those emergencies. HSEM staff have connectivity to Emergency Managers in counties and cities across the state and frequently bring outside agencies to the facility for disaster planning.

The State Emergency Operations Center would be the primary location where a statewide response to disasters are coordinated by up to 150 people representing the State, its agencies, and outside stakeholders. Because of the critical nature of the SEOC's role in emergency management, robust continuity of operations strategies will be employed to ensure that the facility maintains operations even when it is located amid the disaster to which it is responding.

Parking needs onsite include secure parking for 80 staff, semi-secure parking for 100 emergency operations participants and non-secure visitor parking for 50. The entire proposed development may be secured by a perimeter fence and vehicle gates depending upon the outcome of a security assessment. The entire facility will be designed to meet the State of Minnesota's Sustainable Design Guidelines.

The proposed schedule for development of this project is to complete design within a year and construct it from 2022 through mid-2023.

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