DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20001

June 16, 2022

*Sent via email*

**SUBJECT: Notice of Scoping and Stakeholder Involvement for Proposed Seismic Upgrades at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, 77 Wainwright Drive, Walla Walla, Washington**

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to perform seismic upgrades at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center (Walla Walla VAMC), located at 77 Wainwright Drive in Walla Walla, Washington (Figure 1). The purpose of the Proposed Action is to address existing seismic deficiencies at the Walla Walla VAMC. The Proposed Action is needed to improve safety for Veterans, staff, and visitors, and to ensure the continuity of health care services and administrative operations to Veterans in the event of a major earthquake.

Eight buildings within the central portion of the Walla Walla VAMC campus (Buildings 1, 68, 69, 74, 75, 77, 78, and 80), all constructed prior to modern seismic building codes, have been identified as structurally deficient and at risk of significant damage or failure from a seismic event. The locations of the eight seismic project buildings are shown on Figures 2 and 3. All eight project buildings, except Building 74, are considered contributing resources to the Fort Walla Walla National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Historic District. VA proposes to rectify the seismically deficient buildings to meet current VA seismic standards through various combinations of seismic correction. Seismic correction methods being considered would include:

- **Seismic Retrofit –** retrofit and renovation of seismically deficient buildings to meet VA Seismic Standards,
- **Replacement –** demolition and replacement of seismically deficient buildings with new buildings in their current locations that meet the VA Seismic Standards, and/or,
- **Consolidation –** demolition of multiple seismically deficient buildings and consolidation of their building functions into a new singular building that meets the VA Seismic Standards.

VA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA will evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts to the environment resulting from the Proposed Action, as well as cumulative impacts with other actions and projects.

Valued Stakeholder

VA is also currently conducting National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the WA State Historic Preservation Office, federally recognized tribes, and other parties regarding potential effects to historic properties as a result of the proposed undertaking and seeking ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects. The Section 106 consultation process and conclusions will provide the major contribution to the EA's analysis of potential effects to historic and cultural resources.

If you have any of the following: comments on the scope of issues for analysis, input on potential alternatives, information or existing analyses relevant to the proposed action, information concerning historic properties at the Walla Walla VAMC please submit your comments or input via email to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Walla Walla VAMC Seismic Upgrade EA" by July 18, 2022. For additional information or questions, please contact Patrick Read, VA Environmental Engineer, at patrick.read@va.gov. Reference "Walla Walla VAMC Seismic Upgrade EA" in your correspondence. A copy of this scoping notice is also available online at the below website.

VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in the Summer of 2022. VA will notify stakeholders via email/mail, publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin and solicit comments at that time. The Draft EA will be available for review at the City of Walla Walla Public Library (located at 238 E. Alder Street in Walla Walla, WA) and via the VA CFM website: https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/.

Respectfully,

GLENN ELLIOTT Digitally signed by GLENN ELLIOTT
Date: 2022.06.10 08:36:56 -04'00'

Glenn Elliott
Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction and Facilities Management

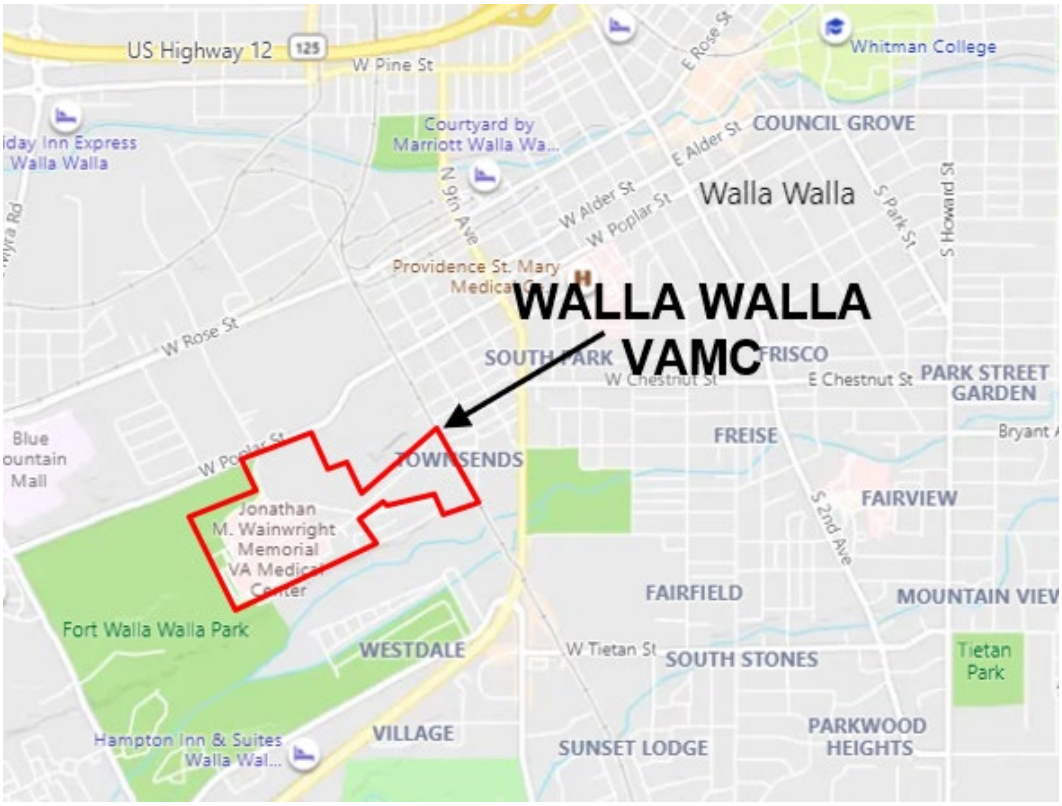


**Figure 1: Regional Location of the Walla Walla VAMC**

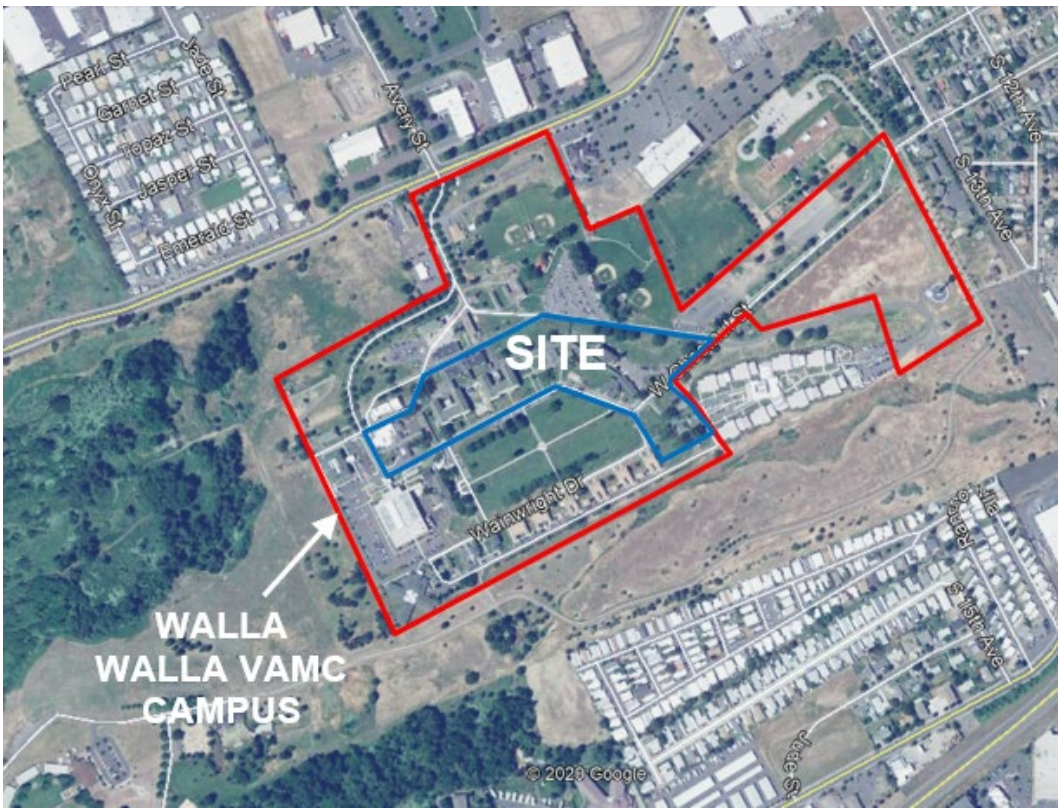


**Figure 2: Aerial Photograph Location Map**

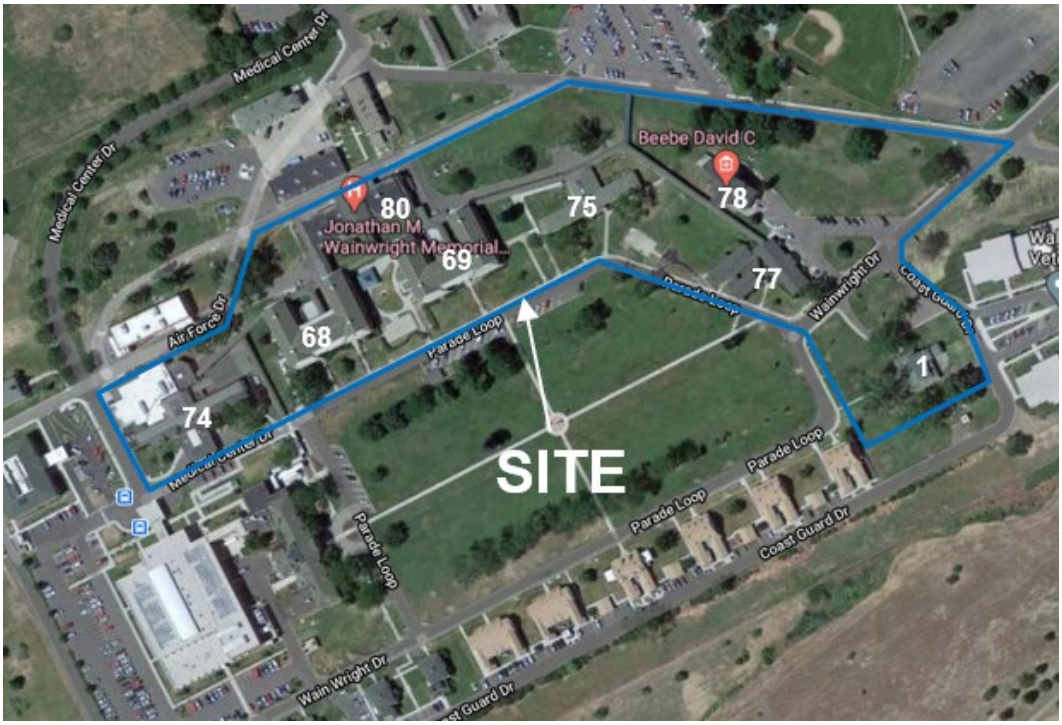


**Figure 3: Site Building Locations Map**