THE DUVAL COUNTY UNIFIED COURTHOUSE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE







Courthouse Architectural Review Committee
January 21, 2010







COURTHOUSE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE:

City Council Ordinance No. 2007-401-E, which authorized and funded a new unified courthouse (criminal, civil and family divisions) consisting of 800,000 square feet to meet the judicial system needs of the County until 2025, continued the Courthouse Architectural Review Committee (CARC) which had previously been created in City Ordinance No. 2004-1339-E.

2007-401-E assigns the CARC the "responsibility for reviewing and approving the exterior architectural design as well as the interior design to ensure the goals of quality, durability, security and functionality are achieved in the unified courthouse".

Past CARC actions:

- November 16, 2007 Recommended proceeding with a unified courthouse rather than building a criminal courthouse only and maintaining a civil only courthouse on Bay Street.
- May 21, 2009 Reviewed and approved the design of the 800,000 SF unified courthouse in LaVilla.

The City now desires to add an elevated pedestrian bridge connecting the 3rd floors of the Old Federal Courthouse (State Attorney's Office) with the new unified courthouse over Pearl Street, and seeks the approval of the Courthouse Architectural Review Committee to do so.



CURRENT STATUS & OTHER RELATED INFORMATION:

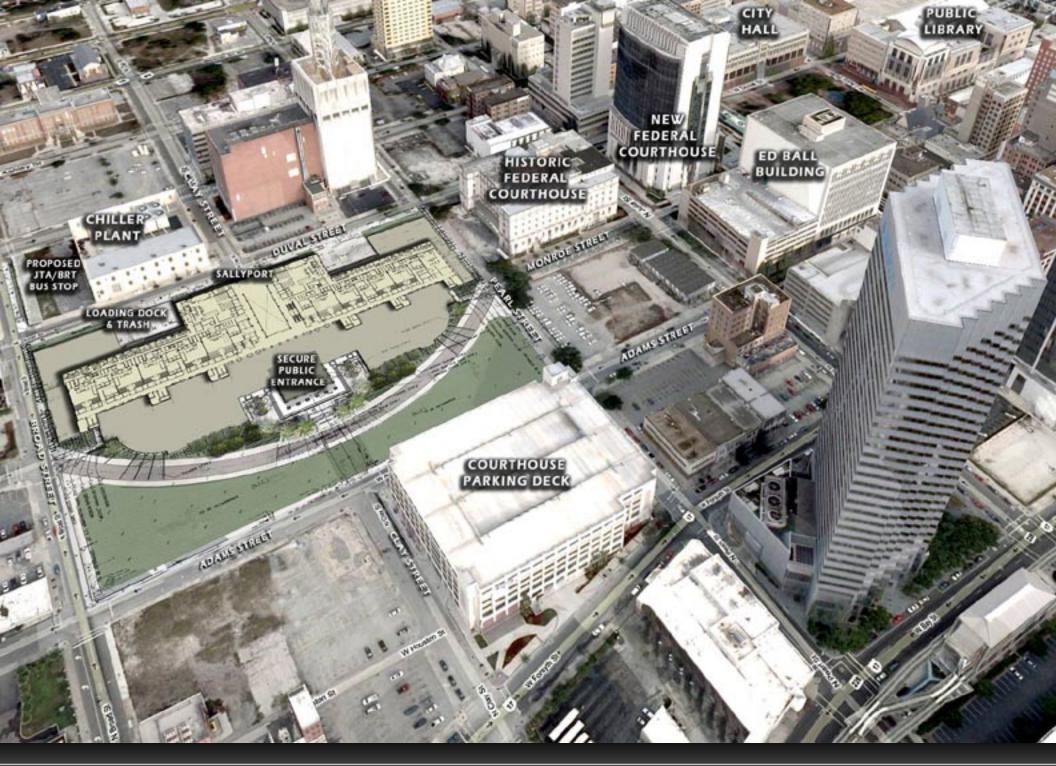
Construction on the 800,000 SF unified courthouse began on May 12, 2009. The project is proceeding on schedule and will be substantially complete by May 14, 2012.

In addition to approval by the Courthouse Architectural Review Committee, the proposed pedestrian bridge must also be approved by the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) to ensure its compliance with the City's Downtown Master Plan. Conceptual Review presentation to DDRB is scheduled January 28.

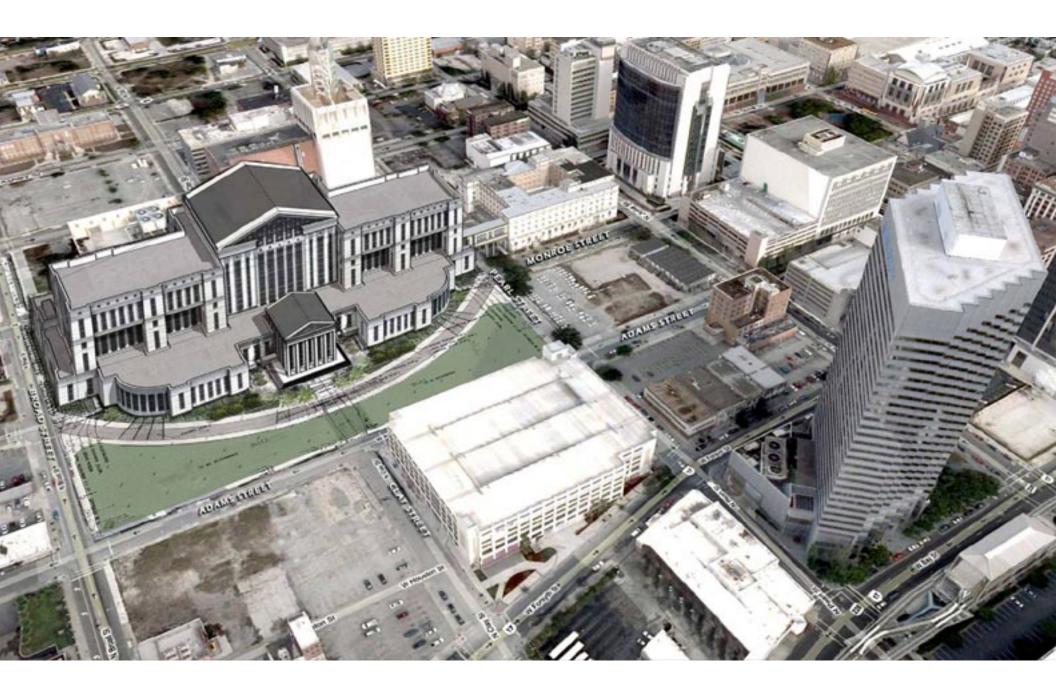
The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) also has jurisdiction over the design of the proposed pedestrian bridge in connection with the City's purchase of the Old Federal Courthouse from the federal government in 2004. This review process is currently ongoing.

Timing of approvals is important since construction of the unified courthouse has already begun. Although the proposed bridge itself would not be constructed until 2011, structural modifications and other changes to the unified courthouse must be completed beforehand to accommodate the bridge connection. These structural changes must be made as early as March 2010.





















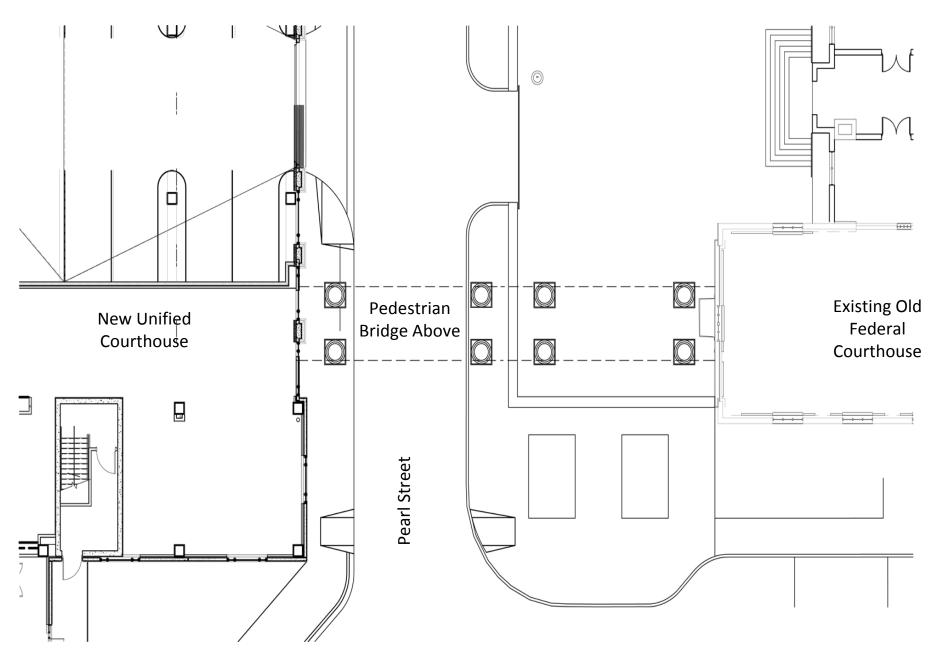








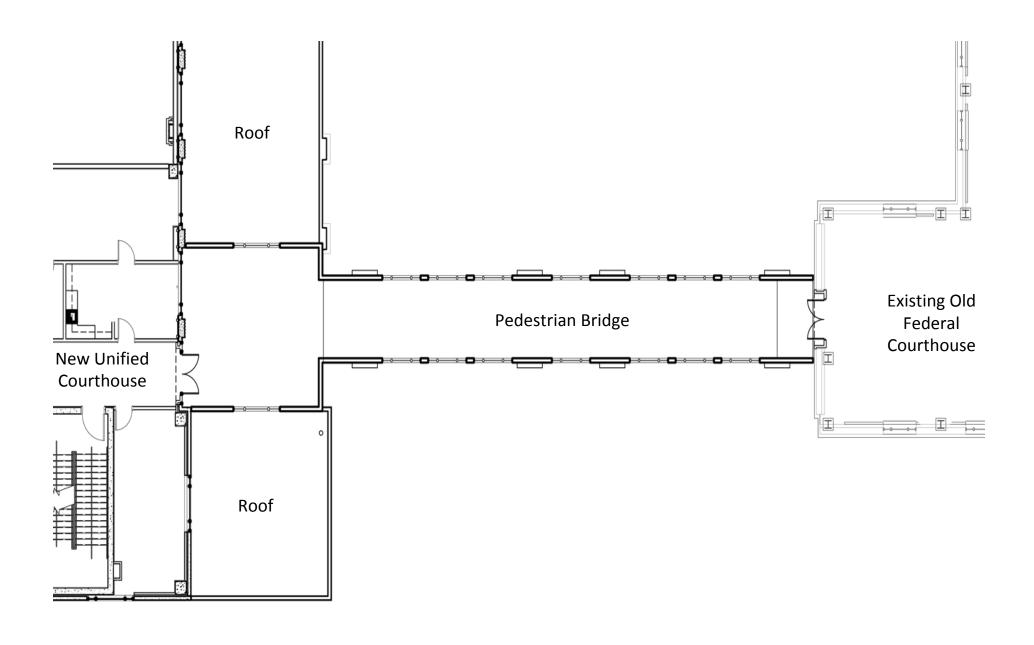




1st Floor Plan







3rd Floor Plan



SUMMARY:

FUNCTIONALITY:

- Provides direct connection to Old Federal Courthouse which facilitates future expansion of unified courthouse into the Old Federal Courthouse to meet future courts space needs.
- Provides covered, weather proof walkway for safe transport of files between State Attorney's Offices and court rooms per Dan Wiley Program Report.

SECURITY:

- Access to and hours of operation will be strictly controlled and limited by administrative orders of the Judiciary.
- A uniformed guard will be stationed at the courthouse side of the bridge only to reduce security costs.
- Eliminates possibility of chance public encounters between prosecutors and defendants and their families.

DURABILITY:

- Steel structure with no exposed steel provides longevity.
- Exterior cladding is precast concrete panels with impact glazing. Very low maintenance.

QUALITY:

This bridge connects two (2) LEED certified buildings.









