



**City of Atlanta
Department of Public Works**

Automatic Public Facilities

In an effort to address the need for public restrooms, the City of Atlanta has installed five Automatic Public Facilities (APF) throughout the City. The installation of these facilities will benefit all who live, work and visit Atlanta.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an Automatic Public Facility (APF)?

An Automatic Public Facility is a pre-fabricated restroom with electrical and plumbing equipment that is set in place and tapped to existing City utility services.

2. How much will this initiative cost?

The total cost of installation and two year maintenance of all five Public Toilet Facilities is \$1.5 million.

3. Is this money coming from the City's general fund?

No, the funds are part of Atlanta Development Authority's Homeless Opportunity Fund (HOF), which will assist the City in its efforts to end long-term homelessness.

4. What vendor was chosen to do this project, and why?

Public Facilities and Services, Incorporated was chosen through the City's RFP process.

To date, Public Facilities and Services has the following customers:

- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority – WMATA (*one unit*)
- Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority – MARTA (*twelve units*)
- Cobb Community Transit – CCT (*two units*)
- Potomac Rappahannock Transit Commission – PRTC (*one unit*)

5. Where are these facilities located?

- Atlanta City Hall - 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia
- Atlanta Fire Station #4 - 309 Edgewood Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia
- Atlanta Fire Station #21 - 3201 Roswell Road, Atlanta, Georgia
- Piedmont Park - 1345 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia
- Woodruff Park - 91 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia



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6. How were the locations selected?

The Public Facilities Committee was created as an adjunct committee of the Regional Commission of Homelessness to review opportunities to install public facilities in the City's areas where the need was identified. The Committee recommended five sites as being ideal locations for installing public facilities, based on traffic flow/public movement patterns and the availability of facilities in the highly-traveled areas.

Criteria for choosing locations

- Selected by Public Facilities Committee based on data on areas that the public frequents which do not have adequate access to public facilities.
- Provide large coverage in critical areas of the City.
- Department of Public Works assessed the sites for utility availability (water, power, sewer and telephone) and confirmed that preparations required were minimal (paving and/or leveling).

7. Do these facilities stand out in the communities they are located?

No, these facilities are state of the art stainless steel with high quality fiberglass ceilings, ceramic tile floors that add unique character to the communities where they are placed.

8. Are there other cities throughout the United States that currently have Automatic Public Facilities?

Yes. Automated Public Facilities are located in the following cities:

- Seattle Washington
- Boston, Maine
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- San Francisco, California
- New York City, New York



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9. What about the hygienic implications of these facilities?

- The seats are sanitized after every use (*automatic sanitizing*).
- There are also sensor operated basins (*soap, water and air dry*).
- Periodic cleaning cycles with sanitizing solutions are done. The entire facility will be cleansed based upon a time schedule programmed by the City of Atlanta.

10. Who is responsible for maintenance of these facilities?

All maintenance is handled by Public Facilities and Services, Incorporated which includes cleaning, management, service, maintenance and monitoring for two years (*after the two years, the City can renegotiate with PFS or take over maintenance*).

11. What about water consumption? What are the “green” features of the Automatic Public Facilities?

- The toilet paper dispenser actually cuts down on toilet paper use. Rather than free-flowing toilet paper the unit provides paper in metered pieces. The amount of paper provided is programmable to most closely meet the needs of users. Users are adequately accommodated and toilet paper theft and vandalism is eliminated.
- The hand wash station utilizes an energy efficient water “warming” device that is factory pre-set to assure a constant temperature. Water consumption in the hand wash station is based on hand movement under a motion sensor.
- The hand wash station also utilizes a warm air hand dryer that is activated by hand movement under a motion sensor. Air dryers eliminate the need for paper towels.
- Low energy consumption fluorescent lighting and bright interior porcelain walls provide sufficient lighting during use.
- Computer controlled self-closing and opening features ensure that the unit is turned off when not in use.
- Many other computer controlled features such as timed extract fan, preset climate control, and adjustable door opening times ensure that the unit is operating at optimal efficiency.



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- An efficient wash system sanitizes the seat after every use and the floor after a pre-set number of uses. The wash system has been proven to eliminate 99% of bacteria. The result is the cleanest restroom facility with the least use of water.
- The system uses low voltage solenoid activation systems to ensure optimal and efficient operating conditions.