



News Release

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Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester County Leaders Break Ground on Tri-County Biological Science Center

This morning, Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester County leaders broke ground on the Tri-County Biological Science Center, a 21,480 square-foot state-of-the-art facility that will help reduce DNA processing times by streamlining the local forensic analysis process. This project is the first regional collaboration on DNA testing in state history.

Once completed, the center, located at 3765 Leeds Avenue in North Charleston, will include extensive laboratory and office space for forensic biology analysis, executive offices, and secure storage for evidence. Additionally, the center will provide examination of physical evidence for law enforcement agencies, assist in the identification of bodily remains for coroners' offices, and deliver expert testimony to the judicial system.

"This cutting-edge facility and the outstanding team tapped to run it will transform the forensic analysis process in the tri-county region. That means increased resources, streamlined processes, and, ultimately, reduced turnaround times, all of which will help keep our communities safe and enhance our justice system," said Charleston County Public Safety Chair Jenny Costa Honeycutt. "I'd like to thank everyone at Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties who made this project possible, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact I know it will have on our region."

"This is a historic day not just for our three counties but for the state of South Carolina, and it wouldn't have been possible without our dedicated partners who share our vision and understand our regional forensic analysis needs," said Deputy County Administrator for Public Safety Eric Watson. "Their continued commitment underscores the importance of this project and the need for collaboration to improve the criminal justice process. I look forward to growing our partnership in the years to come."

Construction is expected to be completed in the 4th quarter of 2025. Following construction, the center will begin its two-year accreditation process.

The total project budget approved by Charleston County Council is \$29 million.

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