ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)

Project Data Sheet

Revised February 6, 2025

(Due by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday two weeks before the meeting to AARB@dgs.virginia.gov)

Date Submitted: September 18, 2026, for the October 2, 2026 meeting

Agency Name: Virginia Tech

Project Name, Number, and Location *[* must include the project number]*
Timber Harvesting Lab
Blacksburg, Virginia
Project Number: 26-819490

Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer
Agency Representative:
Sandra P. Graham, AIA
Director of Design
Division of Facilities
Virginia Tech
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Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule *[* must select one of the following]*

- Preliminary Design Submission: ☐
- Final Design Submission: ☒

The project is advancing through working drawings under the Design-Bid-Build delivery method, with construction anticipated to begin in early 2027 following required approvals.

Request for Consent Agenda: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

* Please refer to the *AARB Agency Project Submission and Presentation Guidelines* – Project Submission Section for additional information and guidance on the Consent Agenda versus Regular Agenda.

PLEASE NOTE: If you did not check the box for Consent Agenda, your project will be posted on the Regular Agenda and the agency will be required to attend the meeting to make a presentation to the board on the day of the meeting. ***Presentations are not to exceed 15 minutes.***

Project Description
The project will provide approximately 3,800 square feet of research and support space for the Timber Harvesting Lab. The proposed 78-foot by 48-foot pre-engineered metal building will include office space, restrooms, and high-bay maintenance and storage areas supporting the lab's research operations.

An exterior gravel drive will provide access to the high-bay maintenance and storage areas, parking for research vehicles, and limited parking for staff. The new facility will allow research and maintenance functions currently located near the Virginia Tech Airport to relocate to the established Inventive Lane research area, providing updated space better suited to the program's operational needs.

Architectural Aesthetic:

The proposed pre-engineered metal building reflects the straightforward, utilitarian architectural character of the Inventive Lane research area. Its simple gabled form, punched windows, large garage-bay openings, covered lean-to elements, and articulated metal siding are consistent with the functional research and support buildings located nearby.

Exterior materials and colors have been selected to reinforce compatibility with the established building context. Dark bronze and tan metal finishes relate to the muted material palette of adjacent utilitarian structures, while the sloped roof form, building scale, and arrangement of openings provide visual continuity with the surrounding research facilities.

The resulting design provides a durable and functional building appropriate to the operational requirements of the Timber Harvesting Lab while maintaining the established visual character of the Inventive Lane research area.

Relationship to Approved Master Plan [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank*]
The project is consistent with Virginia Tech's adopted 2018 Master Plan, Beyond Boundaries 2047: The Campus Plan, by supporting the modernization of facilities used for research, teaching, and applied learning. Relocating the Timber Harvesting Lab's research and maintenance functions to updated facilities within the established Inventive Lane research area strengthens the infrastructure supporting field-based and applied research. The project further supports Virginia Tech's land-grant mission through continued investment in facilities that advance research and experiential learning.

Existing Architectural Context
The project site is currently used for equipment storage and includes a regularly maintained open field between two existing research buildings along Inventive Lane, across U.S. Route 460 from Virginia Tech's main Blacksburg campus. The site is located within the Inventive Lane research area, which includes a variety of university research and support facilities.

The site is bounded to the north by an access road, vegetation, and pastureland and to the south by Inventive Lane. Across Inventive Lane are a single-family residence, the Kroehling Advanced Materials Foundry, and the Vibration Testing Laboratory. The Ag Engineering Building is located to the east, and the Unmanned Systems Laboratory is located to the west.

The proposed building responds to this context through its scale, roof form, material palette, and architectural expression, which are consistent with the established research facilities along Inventive Lane. Its utilitarian character and muted exterior finishes will allow the building to integrate with the existing cluster while providing updated facilities for the Timber Harvesting Lab.

AARB History (for return presentations on the same project): N/A

- State when previous presentation(s) were made to the Board on the project.
- Restate previous Board comments.
- Show actions taken to address Board comments; use visuals to compare previous renderings with updates.

DESIGN REVIEW for
TIMBER HARVESTING LAB

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

October 2, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION

N

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

SITE PLAN


Ag Engineering Building
Unmanned System Laboratory
Inventive Lane
Proposed Timber Harvesting Lab
N

EXISTING CONDITIONS

VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST

VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST

AERIAL RENDERING

EXTERIOR RENDERING

VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST

ELEVATIONS

WEST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION

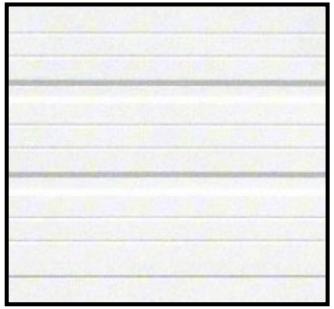
EAST ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION

MATERIAL PALETTE

Metal Wall Panel Color
Color: Tan

Standing Seam Metal Roof
Color: Dark Bronze



Metal Overhead Door
Color: White

Gutters and Downspouts
Color: Dark Bronze