

How did we determine the best response routes?

One of the major factors in choosing a site for a fire station is location. There are many factors that help determine an appropriate fire station location, among the most important is response time. Geographically Maynard is a small community and although response times would vary, most locations in the community would meet minimum requirements. In our situation we felt it was more appropriate to evaluate response routes. This meant we evaluated the ease of getting from one location to another by factoring in distance, turns, intersections, traffics lights and predicted traffic patterns.

To give a fair assessment of response times from each location, we evaluated six potential response sites. The response sites we chose were, Concord Street Circle, Powder Mill Circle, Summer Hill Glen, 129 Parker Street, Mill at Main and the Main Street area between Waltham and Nason Streets. Concord Street Circle, Powder Mill Circle and Summer Hill Glen were chosen because we already have a high incidence of responses to medical emergencies to those locations. The parcel at 129 Parker Street was chosen because of the predicted occupancies that are being built. Based on similar occupancies already in Maynard and similar occupancies in surrounding communities, we predict that we will see a fair number of responses to that location. Mill at Main was chosen as a response site because it has a large economic impact on the community. The Main Street area was chosen because it too has a large economic impact on the community, and because of the density of buildings and types of construction, it also has a large potential for a larger incident.

Each of the thirteen original locations that we evaluated was rated on a one to five scale for potential responses to the six locations we identified. Each potential location had responses that it graded higher in than others for obvious reasons. We took the average score each location received and used it as the benchmark for the response route portion of our overall scoring matrix. Based on this formula our highest rated location was 170 Main Street with an average score of 3.6, and our lowest was Rockland Ave at 1.6.