Building for our community’s future!

The Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) has embarked on an exciting and transformational project to improve healthcare for our region. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity creates a new state-of-the-art hospital in the City of Utica that will better serve the healthcare needs of our community.

Providing our staff with the best environment possible to care for patients will enhance their abilities and improve quality, allowing us to advance our mission – to provide excellence in healthcare for our communities.

Building a new healthcare campus in the heart of downtown Utica with modern design that centralizes the community’s healthcare services at one location is an exciting and truly unbelievable opportunity. We could never have imagined that in our lifetime we would be able to change the face of healthcare for generations to come. We are so grateful for the support of the State of New York, our elected officials and the community’s healthcare services at one location is an exciting and truly unbelievable opportunity. We could never have imagined that in our lifetime we would be able to change the face of healthcare for generations to come. We are so grateful for the support of the State of New York, our elected officials and the community.

DOWNTOWN UTICA

The MVHS Board of Directors, with Hammes Company, a healthcare consulting firm, and Mohawk Valley EDGE’s engineering and planning professionals, engaged in a thorough review process before selecting the site.

- The downtown site aligns with the New York State legislation that allocated $300 million for the project located in Oneida County’s largest population center. MVHS was awarded the $300 million Health Care Facility Transformation Grant in April 2017 by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).
- Other factors supporting downtown: regional accessibility with proximity to major highways and public transit systems, supports our regional community and government stakeholders.
- Enhances economic development by attracting an active presence of community members and visitors. Downtown housing, businesses, food, retail, education and entertainment venues will greatly benefit from the influx of more than 3,500 MVHS employees on a daily basis, as well as medical staff and volunteers at the new, integrated health campus.

WHY NOT BUILD AT THE ST. LUKE’S SITE

The St. Luke’s and St. Elizabeth campuses must remain open and fully functional during construction of a new hospital. Building on the St. Luke’s Campus presents a number of challenges:

- A new, state-of-the-art, 21st century hospital should be designed from the inside out – developing a layout of services and support that maximizes patient need and use.
- The configuration developed by the design teams and presented to the community in November 2017 cannot be sited at the St. Luke’s Campus. Reconfiguring the new hospital design to fit the land available would not deliver the efficient and state-of-the-art care that takes our community into the 21st century.
- There is no contiguous acreage available at the site (which currently includes the hospital and the Center for Rehabilitation and Continuing Care Services) that will support the design of the new hospital. A new hospital would have to be built “around” the current hospital, which would need to remain open during construction.
- Building on the St. Luke’s site could mean an active construction site next to a fully operating hospital that annually has more than 40,000 emergency room visitors, houses 15,000 inpatients and conducts more than 5,000 surgeries. The hospital averages 35 ambulances daily and has nearly 2,000 employees, medical staff and volunteers that support the activity of the hospital. These numbers do not take into account visitors and family members who come with patients or come to see patients.
- The site would need a large area for the staging of the build and construction materials. Whatever space might be available would need to be dedicated to parking and transportation of patients, visitors and families. MVHS would need to find off-site parking for employees, medical staff, volunteers and construction workers and provide 24-hour transportation to and from the property.
- The conditions of the NYS $300 million Transformational Grant, which MVHS was awarded, were to build in the largest population center of Oneida County. Utica is the largest municipality in our region, and its residents represent the largest population of patients served by MVHS.

MVHS and Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, the law firm hired to help support the acquisition of the downtown properties, continue to meet with property owners and finalizing purchase option agreements.

To date, forty-six percent of property owners in the new hospital footprint have signed purchase option agreements. Of the 35 property owners representing 72 parcels of land in the downtown project footprint, not including parcels owned by the City of Utica, 16 have signed purchase option agreements and negotiations are continuing with nine others. Ten property owners have either not responded to MVHS or have stated they will not sign an agreement. MVHS will continue to reach out and work with all property owners. Our desire is to avoid the use of eminent domain if possible.

REUSE OF THE ST. ELIZABETH AND ST. LUKE’S CAMPUSES

MVHS will develop reuse scenarios for the St. Elizabeth and St. Luke’s campuses. The planning and reuse process will engage community stakeholder groups on redevelopment options that fit identified community needs.

STREAMLINE CARE AND IMPROVE PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

- All inpatient rooms will be private to promote healing, protect patients by reducing the risk of infections, promote confidentiality/care provider discussions and reduce the need to transfer patients from room to room; a private patient room will also better accommodate family members and visitors. There is no additional cost to the patient for private patient rooms.
- A new, single healthcare campus brings together emergency, acute care and specialty outpatient services which are currently at separate locations: Emergency Trauma and Cardiac Services are at the St. Elizabeth Campus while Stroke and Maternity Services are at the St. Luke’s Campus.
- Physician coverage for emergencies will improve since there will no longer be a need to cover two campuses. Emergency Medical Services will also be more streamlined as emergency medical technicians will not need to decide which location to take patients based on their symptoms (e.g. St. Luke’s treats strokes and St. Elizabeth treats heart attacks) – all patients will go to one location.
- Physician recruitment will greatly improve with the construction of a new facility. This new campus is only the third new hospital to be built in New York State (NYS) in the past 20 years, so the opportunity to work in a setting that is the most up to date and technologically advanced is very appealing.