TOPIC FOR TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2019:

How will the new regional medical center in Downtown Utica affect traffic? Are there any concerns about traffic during games at the Utica Memorial Auditorium (Adirondack Bank Center) and the soon-to-be-built Nexus Center?

Traffic-related issues regarding the new MVHS Regional Medical Center in Downtown Utica have been thoroughly studied by an international firm with extensive expertise in traffic engineering and transportation planning. Drawing on their deep knowledge, conducting studies of the existing and future traffic patterns and using sophisticated computer programming, the team at C & S Companies conducted traffic forecasting and analysis while working closely with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), the City of Utica and Oneida County. Based on this work, a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) was developed and included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); based on feedback from NYSDOT, supplemental analyses were conducted and included in the Final EIS.

Among the findings of the initial and expanded studies were:

- **Traffic during peak morning and evening commute times.** Relying on real-time studies of traffic during peak times and the estimated increase in traffic volume from the new medical center, the TIS concluded that “the proposed development will not have a significant adverse impact on the adjacent transportation network” with the proposed and agreed-upon roadway and intersection changes, some of which are already underway. These changes include turn lanes, signal changes, etc.

- **Impact of games at the Utica Auditorium and the future Nexus Center.** Most of the events now conducted at the Auditorium take place after the evening commute or on weekends, but in some instances these events occur during the day. Likewise, most of the traffic expected to be generated by the new Nexus center will continue to be during off-peak times (evenings and weekends). However, employees and those using the center for practices will be generating some traffic during the afternoon/evening peak period. Specifically, it is estimated that there will be no additional traffic during the morning commute and there will be about 135 additional vehicles during the evening peak time.

It’s also important to note that the new regional medical center will have multiple points of access for staff and volunteers, the public and ambulances – which will keep vehicles moving. There are access points to both the main entrance and the Emergency Department entrances from the north (Oriskany Street ramp to State Street), from the south/west (available from State Street) and from the east (Columbia Street for ED and Lafayette Street for main entrance). Cornelia Street also provides access to the main entrance off of Oriskany Street.