



A NEW BEGINNING FOR HEALTHCARE IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

THE ST. LUKE'S
AND ST. ELIZABETH
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AT THAT TIME,
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THAN IT IS TODAY
OR WILL BE IN THE
FUTURE.

In order to realize the Mohawk Valley Health System's (MVHS) vision of achieving excellence in healthcare for our communities, MVHS is consolidating existing resources, eliminating redundancies, expanding the depth and breadth of services, improving access and elevating the quality of healthcare services in the region. A new,

integrated health campus will help this vision become a reality.

Integrated Health Campus – Features and Benefits

A new health campus will bring together multiple levels of care – from specialty outpatient services to emergency and acute care services – at one site.

This new facility is being designed with the following goals in mind:

- All inpatient rooms will be private to ensure patient privacy, eliminate transfers, promote healing and provide space for families. Private patient rooms also provide greater protection to patients who are highly -susceptible to infections and help prevent infections from spreading.
- Patient rooms will be equipped with accommodations for family members and visitors including seating, Wi-Fi access and a television.
- Patients will have personal control of their room temperature, lighting and window blinds.

- Room design will enable standardization of care and improved efficiency and safety.
- Hospital-wide communication systems will allow for a quieter, more calming environment.
- Critical supplies will be located adjacent to patient rooms to minimize time and travel distances when caring for patients.
- Department locations will be strategically planned for maximum efficiency in patient transport and privacy.
- Access to multiple healthcare providers will be available in one location for convenience and enhanced medical team collaboration.
- Ample and convenient parking will be constructed to serve various populations, such as patients, visitors, employees, medical staff, vendors and emergency vehicles.





SUPPORTING A DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

NOTHING ENLIVENS A CITY MORE THAN THE PRESENCE OF ITS COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND VISITORS. DOWNTOWN HOUSING, COMMERCIAL, FOOD, RETAIL, EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUES ARE POSITIONED TO GREATLY BENEFIT FROM THE INFLUX OF MORE THAN 3,500 MVHS EMPLOYEES AND MEDICAL STAFF AT THE NEW INTEGRATED HEALTH CAMPUS.

In addition, the development of the new health campus will have a number of positive impacts on the surrounding area, including:

- Existing infrastructure upgrades (water, sewer, gas and electric) that will provide for future development.
- Linking existing and planned bike and pedestrian routes throughout downtown and the Harbor Point District via the health campus.
- Future healthcare and development opportunities to anticipate needs in education, research and applied sciences.
- An improved transportation network, including easy access from multiple directions.
- Parking co-utilization for the health campus, the Utica Memorial Auditorium, central business district and adjacent businesses based on the time of day. Hospitals may have a high demand for parking during the weekday but lower demand in evenings and weekends when public events are most often held.



A downtown hospital helps support the ongoing efforts to revitalize downtown Utica, and support the exciting energy at Baggs Square, Harbor Point and Varick Street. The downtown location also aligns with state

initiatives and goals, such as the New York State Empire Development Corporation. It is a unique opportunity to provide access to a state of the art healthcare facility, while also spurring economic development and playing a pivotal role in enhancing the downtown revitalization efforts.



SELECTING THE SITE FOR THE NEW HOSPITAL

SELECTING THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR THE NEW, INTEGRATED HEALTH CAMPUS WAS AN IMPORTANT AND THOROUGH PROCESS.

The MVHS Board of Directors worked with Hammes Consulting and Mohawk Valley EDGE engineering and planning professionals to examine 12 potential sites within a 5- to 10-mile radius from the center of the City of Utica. A master list of criteria was used to evaluate these potential sites, including, but not limited to, infrastructure (water,

sewer and power), access and a good transportation network. The site also had to have the capacity to fit the hospital operations and associated parking requirements.

Of the 12 sites reviewed, only three met the needed criteria. Further analysis led the MVHS Board to unanimously select the downtown site based on its location and its alignment with legislation that allocates \$300 million in New York State funding.

Challenges to Expansion at Existing Facilities

The St. Luke's Campus was identified as a second option

for the new hospital. However, the downtown site was unanimously agreed upon due to its regional accessibility, proximity to major highways and public transit systems.

While the St. Luke's Campus does include 64 acres of land, the presence of wetlands and existing buildings severely limit the available footprint.

Additionally, complex logistical factors create significant challenges in the construction of a new hospital complex in the midst of an active facility – a critical detail that factored into the location decision.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Has the downtown location only been selected because of its role in supporting urban renewal efforts?

A: It is true – a downtown hospital can help support the ongoing efforts to revitalize downtown Utica and support the exciting energy at Baggs Square, Harbor Point and Varick Street. However, that is more of an added bonus. The first priority is to realize MVHS's mission of achieving excellence in healthcare for our communities. The consolidation of existing resources, elimination of redundancies, expansion of the depth and breadth of services, improvement of access and elevation of the quality of healthcare services in the region is vital. The downtown site was unanimously agreed upon due to its regional accessibility, proximity to major highways and the ability to utilize the public transit systems.

In addition, the language of the New York State bill that would provide \$300 million toward the construction of the new health campus very specifically indicates that the "funding will be awarded in the discretion of the commissioner of health in support of projects located in the largest population center in Oneida County...", which is Utica.

Q: The infrastructure (water, sewer, gas, electric and roadways) in the selected hospital location is old. How can these out-of-date services support a state of the art facility?

A: Extensive upgrades will be completed to existing infrastructure to not only enable the development of a new, integrated health campus, but also provide for future development.

Q: Won't a downtown hospital be further away from some surrounding villages and towns and be harder to access?

A: The proposed site will provide easy access to those within the City and beyond via existing street arteries and the newly constructed highway 12/8/5. Healthcare officials have been and will continue to remain in close communication with the New York State Department of Transportation regarding considerations for and implications of a downtown hospital.

Q: Has the footprint of the new integrated health campus changed?

A: No. In October 2016, MVHS announced a reduction in planned square footage of the facility. However, the total footprint of the campus remains unchanged.

Q: What is wrong with the existing hospitals? In some cases, there have been recent modernization attempts and upgrades.

A: The St. Luke's and St. Elizabeth

Campuses were built 60 and 100 years ago respectively. At that time, healthcare was quite different than it is today or will be in the future. The hospital layouts are inefficient for today's use (see the Features and Benefits handout). While each hospital has been updated over the years, the cost to continue these investments outweighs the benefits.

Q: Won't the area become congested when there are events at the Utica Memorial Auditorium?

A: MVHS is excited to be neighbors with the Utica Memorial Auditorium. Officials do not anticipate an increase in congestion because hospital operations are busier during the regular workday (Monday through Friday) and events at the Aud typically occur at nights or on weekends. Additionally, the Aud and other local visitors will benefit from the safe, well-lit and close parking available on the health campus. For planning purposes, MVHS has provided expected traffic volume into and out of the campus to the Department of Transportation.



A PATH TO

ENHANCED REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

PLANNING A PROJECT OF THIS MAGNITUDE OCCURS IN SEVERAL STAGES OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL YEARS. THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT. THE FOLLOWING MILESTONES SERVE AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATES:

