

Reimagining Hennepin Healthcare

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Hello valued community member,

As we enjoy the beauty and benefits of another Minnesota summer, I'm excited to provide this update on the latest steps in our comprehensive campus development planning work – the process we've designed to create a more equitable future at Hennepin Healthcare.

Today I'll update you on the overall planning process and share some exciting first steps we are taking now to set the stage for future development on our downtown healthcare campus.

Comprehensive Campus Development Plan

We started this [planning process](#) last summer by listening and learning with team members, patients, and community members through pop-up events, surveys, small group conversations, design sessions, a community forum, and a postcard project. Our goal was to hear how Hennepin Healthcare can work better for all.

Your feedback and guidance helped us create a bold vision for a socially just healthcare system that improves outcomes, value, and access for the diverse and vibrant communities we are honored to serve. A draft of that plan is being reviewed right now by our healthcare system board and affiliated boards and operating committees. After we incorporate their feedback, we look forward to reviewing it with you - our community stakeholders and partners – as we continue to refine and improve it. It will provide the roadmap for our future healthcare and land-use strategies.

Parking ramp expansion to enable future redevelopment

To provide flexibility for any future development on our downtown campus we are finalizing plans this summer to expand a parking ramp located at 6th Street and Park Avenue. This expansion on an open lot that has remained undeveloped for the past 40 years in anticipation of an eventual expansion of the ramp, allows us to replace most of the parking capacity that will be lost when the outdated hospital ramp on 8th St. and Chicago Avenue is torn down. Hennepin County purchased this ramp in 2020 and the attached office building in 2019 to provide flexibility for future redevelopment, as both facilities are at the end of their useful life.

Expanding the ramp on 6th Street and Park Avenue enables the final connection of our campus and the Elliot Park neighborhood to the Minneapolis skyway system through the new Thrivent headquarters. This link will also connect the campus to the Transitional Healing Center for families of burn victims being treated at the Hennepin Healthcare Burn Center that Firefighters for Healing will open in the Moment apartment complex currently under construction.

The ramp expansion will also replace the open lot with medical/office space along Portland Avenue and enable the expansion of indoor Emergency Medical Services vehicle parking and support services. The whole ramp on 6th Street and Park Avenue will get a new exterior

treatment to improve the appearance and visually connect the ramp to the new buildings in our neighborhood.

Late last month I joined the team as we presented this project at a public meeting convened by the Elliot Park Neighborhood group and we deeply appreciate the neighborhood's engagement. We hope to begin construction of the expansion this fall. Watch for more information as we move through the approval process.

Staying connected during a time of transition and growth

Hennepin Healthcare is at a pivotal moment in its history as the healthcare industry faces major structural and institutional challenges coming out of a global pandemic. What we have on our side is a 135-year legacy of caring for our community in a neighborhood that is a diverse and dynamic mix of residents, large and small businesses, and agencies and institutions committed to serving social needs.

I believe our mission and our connection to the community provide a strong foundation from which we can support health and wellness in new ways – through new technologies and in new physical facilities – to ensure that we are here to provide equitable and just care to our community for the next 135 years and beyond.

Thank you for joining us on this journey and I look forward to continuing this conversation with you.

With respect and gratitude,

Jennifer DeCubellis

