



Construction is moving quickly on the new hospital, as seen in this aerial view of the front entrance to the building. Photo by Tommy Thompson.

How Do You Move a Hospital?

Answers to your questions about roadway concerns

How did we choose the Port Road site for the new hospital?

When we started the site selection process we engaged the services of John Massey, a consultant who is a national expert in hospital site selection. His firm has helped more than 400 hospitals find sites for new facility construction. Massey helped RMH identify six potential sites that were large enough to accommodate our needs and to allow for future growth. Some were to the north or south, and two were either wholly or partially within the Harrisonburg city limits.

The selected sites were evaluated based on an extensive and diverse set of criteria, including:

- Shape of the site
- Topography or slope/steepness of the site
- Geotechnical, or soil, makeup, such as rock, sand, clay, etc.
- Any existing easements or encumbrances
- Adjacent land uses
- Environmental concerns, such as Civil War sites, wetlands, etc.
- Current zoning
- Law enforcement, fire and rescue proximity and capabilities
- Number of acres available and ability to put future buildings on site
- City comprehensive plan and future growth areas
- Access to utilities—dual electrical power sources, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone, cable
- Projections for community growth and intended land use from Rockingham County's comprehensive plan
- Traffic patterns and roadway access to the site
- and configuration.
- The natural attributes of the site will allow RMH to create a true destination for health and healing of mind, body and spirit, with walking trails, nature gardens, and scenic views from patient rooms.
- The site allows for a generous green space buffer between hospital facilities and the surrounding neighborhoods, affording privacy for both.
- The site is in the area targeted by Rockingham County planners as the region where the most significant growth will continue to occur.

While no site met all the criteria, the Port Republic Road site that we selected met the greatest number and the most important ones, including the following:

- It is close to city and has multiple access roads (Port Road, Reservoir Street and Boyers Road) as well as access by city transit.
- It is close to major roadways, including I-81 and Rt. 33.
- It had ready access to needed high-capacity utilities—water, sewer, power, phone and fiberoptic lines—as well as the opportunity to use methane gas from the county landfill as an energy source.
- The geographic dimensions of the site allow for optimal facility placement

Wasn't road access a problem from the beginning?

Before it approved the Port Road site for construction of the new hospital, RMH conducted an extensive traffic study to ensure that existing roads around the new site, and our planned entrances from those roads, would accommodate the projected traffic volume. RMH developed a listing of qualified traffic consultants with prior VDOT experience and after receiving bids, selected one of those firms. The consultant's study results indicated that the existing roads were adequate

Working in the New Hospital

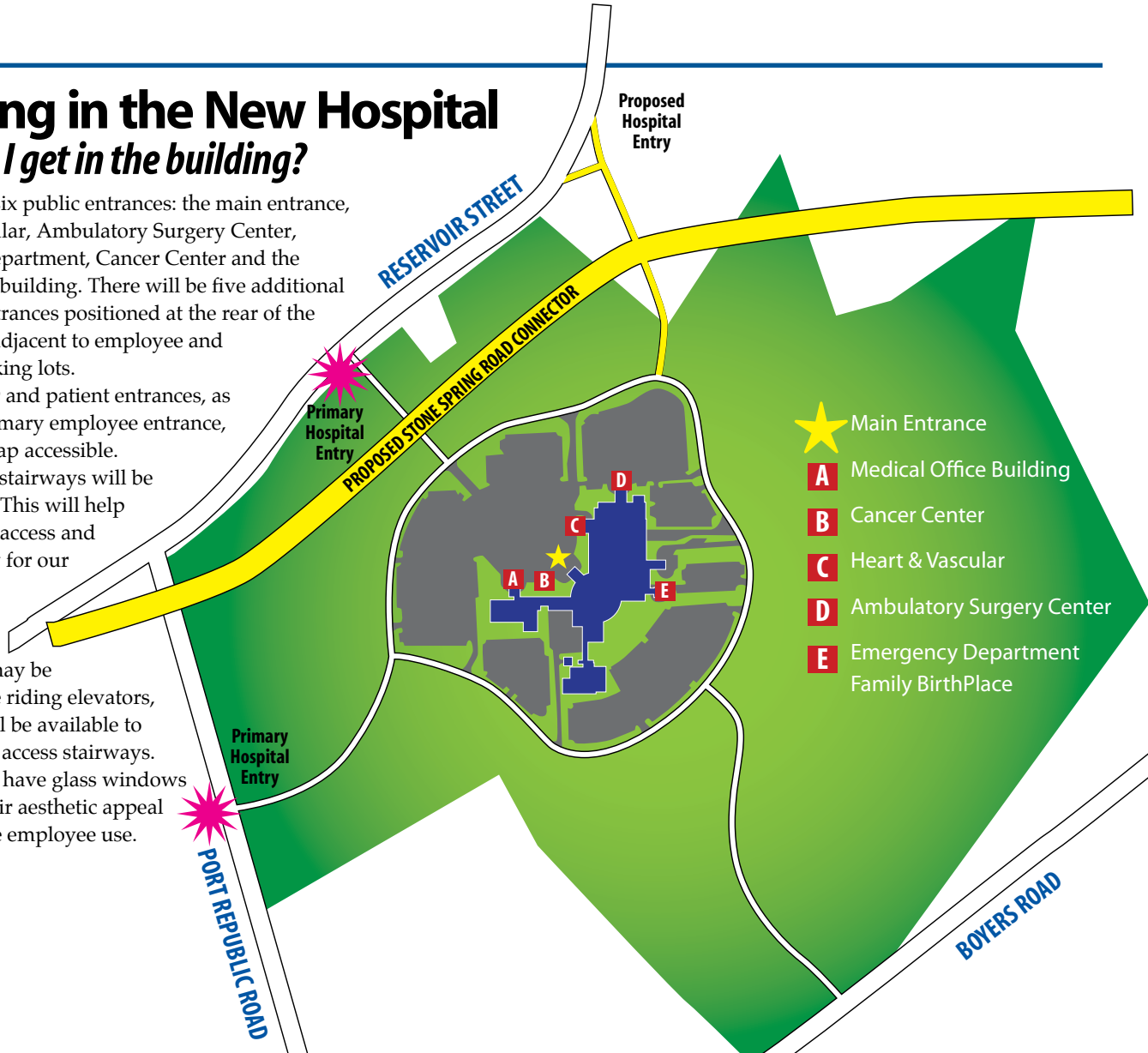
How will I get in the building?

There will be six public entrances: the main entrance, Heart & Vascular, Ambulatory Surgery Center, Emergency Department, Cancer Center and the medical office building. There will be five additional non-public entrances positioned at the rear of the building and adjacent to employee and physician parking lots.

All visitor and patient entrances, as well as the primary employee entrance, will be handicap accessible.

Access to stairways will be "badge only." This will help control public access and increase safety for our employees.

However, for patients and visitors who may be uncomfortable riding elevators, employees will be available to escort them to access stairways. Stairways will have glass windows to increase their aesthetic appeal and encourage employee use.



-  Main Entrance
-  Medical Office Building
-  Cancer Center
-  Heart & Vascular
-  Ambulatory Surgery Center
-  Emergency Department
Family BirthPlace

BUILDING GREEN

RMH Introduces Pilot Recycling Program

In an effort to embrace environmentally friendly, sustainable practices, RMH recently launched a recycling pilot program at its current location on Cantrell Ave.

Plastic and aluminum recycling stations placed in selected areas throughout the hospital will help to assess volume for the organization as a whole. With the full program launch, every department should have a recycling station, said Bernie Ferguson, director, Environmental Services.

"The pilot will provide us the opportunity to gauge capacity and make sure the size and appearance of the stations are appropriate," Ferguson said. "Once the pilot is complete, we plan to further outfit this hospital then transfer the stations to the new hospital. We want to make ensure that the system will work well at the new RMH."

RMH seeks to "go green" at its new facility scheduled to open mid-2010, so the hospital is seeking ways to transition into environmentally friendly work practices at its current facility, Ferguson said.

Recycling at its new facility will help RMH toward achieving U.S. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

Ken Hollihan, manager, Environmental Services (left), is pictured with Julie Smith, RN, Family BirthPlace, trying out one of the new stations. Environmental Services is assessing volume needs throughout the hospital, and with the full program launch, every department should have a recycling station, said Bernie Ferguson, director, Environmental Services.



Building for a Second Century: Revisiting Our Reasons **Why did RMH decide to build a new hospital?**

The RMH Board voted in September 2004 to approve construction of a new hospital facility for a number of reasons:

- Growth in demand for hospital services has exceeded trends and projections due to rapid population growth.
- Much of our facility is stretched to the breaking point (ED serves 70,000 patients in space intended for 40,000).
- Current hospital physical plant needs major infrastructure upgrades (plumbing, electrical) to meet clinical demands.
- The hospital sits on 15-acre landlocked site with little space to grow. We have a severe parking shortage and no room to expand existing services or add new ones.
- Extensive renovation at our current location would disrupt day-to-day operations of the hospital for many, many months and would discourage patients from coming to RMH. Not only would we max out the site, the investment would summarily eliminate any possibility of RMH being able to afford to build a completely new facility at another location at some future time.
- RMH is committed to building a healthier community and a new, state-of-the-art facility is imperative to our achieving that goal.

At the heart of this carefully considered decision was the desire to ensure that RMH, which celebrates its centennial in 2012, would be well-prepared and positioned to meet the health needs of our growing community for a second century.

What are the benefits of this new facility?

Private rooms and enhanced interiors will enhance patient satisfaction, safety, infection control and recovery and will create greater staff efficiency.

A new spacious site will provide plentiful, conveniently situated parking; a true campus setting that is open to the community and encourages healthy activity; and ample land to grow services and programs along with the community.

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to accommodate current and projected traffic needs through the opening of the new hospital in 2010. It also indicated that our intended site entrances from existing roads would be sufficient.

However, based on the county's Comprehensive Plan, we also anticipated that proposed road improvements around the site—completion of the Stone Spring Connector and the widening of Port Republic Road—would be started, if not well on the way to completion, prior to the new hospital opening. The completion of these road projects would greatly enhance traffic flow, not only to and from RMH, but throughout that entire portion of the city and county as growth continues.

The following paragraphs give current details of these two road improvement projects.

Stone Spring Connector—As part of our rezoning negotiations with the county, RMH proffered the land for constructing the Stone Spring Connector where it crosses our property, up to a certain cost. Two other developers along the proposed connector road also have proffered funds to build segments across their properties in the county. The city is to build its portions. Development of the segments of the road that fall in the county but are not owned by RMH or the other two developers have not been funded. To address this, the county submitted a grant application to the State to access the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund. In the application, the County offered to contribute \$1 million toward this project and the application is for almost \$5 million. This grant application is viewed favorably by the Virginia Department of Transportation and it is now before Governor Kaine. We await a decision.

Port Road Improvements—In March 2005, Port Road was upgraded to a primary road, allowing it to be eligible for certain state money for improvements. This road widening was the county's highest priority even before RMH chose to build a hospital there, and the regional commonwealth transportation board placed the widening of Port Road into its six-year plan. The State recently announced that it cannot fully fund this six-year plan as approved. Thus the timetable for the Port Road widening is uncertain. This will require us to build and use the entrances originally identified in our traffic study.

Now that the state says it has no money for these road improvements, what is RMH doing to ensure adequate and safe access to the new hospital?

We would have preferred that the state roadway improvements around the new site be completed before the new hospital opened. However, since the beginning, we have had a plan to provide adequate, safe site access from both Port Road and Reservoir Street. RMH will fund improvements to entrances and intersections to access the new hospital from these two roads. These improvements include acceleration, deceleration and turn lanes as well as stoplights. Unfortunately, these improvements, which will cost RMH \$350,000 to \$500,000, will have to be removed or changed when the state does make the planned roadway improvements after the new hospital opens. The entrances that will be used when the new hospital opens in 2010 are shown on the site map on the facing page.

We are committed to ensuring safe, adequate access to the new facility for our patients, visitors, physicians, staff and volunteers. We will keep you informed as progress continues.





Q: Which RMH services will be located on the main campus in 2010, and which ones will be offsite?

A: That's a good question! Before we move, we will be working to educate the community on wayfinding at our new hospital and health campus, in order to ensure that our patients and visitors can easily find their way around and access the services they need in our new "home." To answer your question, the following list of department and service locations on the main campus, along with those that will be located offsite.

Lower Level

Biomedical Engineering
Cafeteria
Central Sterile Supply
Central Transport
Conference Rooms
Data Center/Phone System
Employee Health
Environmental Services
Food and Nutrition Services
Human Resources
Informational Technology Workroom
Laboratory
Lab—Pathology Offices
Learning & Development
Mailroom
Materials Management
Mechanical Room
Plant Operations
Security
Switchboard Operators
Volunteer Services

First Floor

Administration
Cardiac Cath Labs
Cardiac Rehab
Care Management
Chaplain's Office
Coffee Shop
Compliance & Risk
Doctors Lounge and Sleep Rooms
Emergency Department
Front Desk/Guest Information
Gift and Flower Shop
Heart & Vascular Center
HIM Manager
Hospitalists
Imaging Services/Radiology
Inpatient Education
Library
Medical Staff Services
Nuclear Medicine
Nursing Administration
Outpatient Laboratory
Pre-Anesthesia Testing
Quality Management
Registration
Security/Dispatch
Treatment Center



RMH President and CEO Jim Krauss talks with guests at the Senior Dining event in the Garden Café Oct. 2. Krauss spoke with diners about the ongoing construction of the new hospital and health campus.

Second Floor

Ambulatory Surgery Center
(including Pain Management)
Chapel
Critical Care Unit (16 beds)
Inpatient Beds: PCU, Telemetry (36 beds)
Pharmacy
Respiratory Therapy
Surgical Services

Third Floor

Family BirthPlace
Inpatient Beds: Postpartum (22 beds)
Inpatient Rooms: Medical (36 beds)

Fourth Floor

Inpatient Beds: Pediatric,
Med-Surgical (36 beds),
Surgical (36 beds)
Inpatient Rehab

Fifth Floor

Inpatient Beds: Behavioral Health (20
beds)
Inpatient Beds: Medical (36 beds)
Inpatient Dialysis

Medical Office Building

Cancer Center
Cardiothoracic Surgery:
Physician Offices
Infection Control and Prevention:
Physician Offices
RMH Foundation
RMH Orthopedics

Offsite

Accounting
Business Office
Center for Behavioral Health
Central Scheduling
Community Health
Corporate Communications/
HealthSource
Corporate Health
Decision Support Services
Facilities Planning
Health Information Management (HIM)
Home Health
Hospice
Image Recovery
Information Systems
Outpatient Rehab
Physician Practices Offices/Billing
Planning and Marketing
Print Shop
Rehab Administrative Offices
RMH Family Medicine
RMH Neurology
RMH Pulmonary Associates
RMH Rheumatology
RMH School of Medical Technology
RMH School of Radiologic Technology
RMH Urology
Sleep Center
Storage: Records and General
Wellness Center
Women's Health Focus

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