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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Portland Planning Board Approves MMC Congress Street Medical Building**

*Approval is Final Sought from City Planning Board for Expansion and Modernization Project*

**PORTLAND, Maine** – Maine Medical Center has received Portland Planning Board approval for a new, six-story building that will reorient the hospital to Congress Street, expand private room offerings, and provide state-of-the-art procedure rooms centered on cardiovascular care.

This is the third and final Portland Planning Board approval sought in MMC's \$525 million expansion and modernization plan. This phase will complete the project's overall goal of improving the experience of patients and visitors to the hospital; developing MMC's presence on the urban edge of the campus and providing convenient, safe and predictable parking for staff and the community.

This approval covers the removal of the Gilman Street garage, MMC's staff parking facility that has reached the end of its useful life, and MMC's expansion into that space with a building featuring 64 modern, private patient rooms and cardiovascular care procedure rooms. Re-orienting the campus toward Congress Street will help ongoing efforts to revitalize this important city gateway, furthering the goals of the community and the city of Portland's Comprehensive Plan.

"This is a very important milestone for Maine Medical Center and for the community, and we're extremely pleased to be moving forward," said Jeff Sanders, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "We'd like to thank the Planning Board, Planning Director Tuck O'Brien and the planning staff, City Councilor Spencer Thibodeau and our neighbors for their diligence and continued work on this transformative project that will certainly be one of Portland's highlights."

This 265,000-square-foot addition allows MMC to internally reorganize cardiovascular services within the hospital campus, which means timely, efficient access for patients and care teams and

reduction of time and effort spent traveling through the hospital corridors. The 19 procedure rooms will align with industry best practices, providing adequate space to treat patients, ultimately improving the experience at MMC.

A series of project milestones must be met before construction on the new medical building can begin. First, a new staff garage at 222 St. John Street must be complete – Phase Two of MMC’s modernization and expansion. The Planning Board approved that project on Sept. 11, and site work began on Sept. 17. That garage is expected to be operational in 2020. When that garage is complete, the old staff garage at the corner of Gilman and Congress Streets can be deconstructed, a process expected to take roughly six months. When that site is cleared, MMC can begin construction of the new medical building, expected to begin in 2020 and be complete in 2022.

Other parts of the expansion and modernization project are well underway. Phase One includes the addition of three stories (225 parking spaces) to MMC’s patient and visitor garage, which was completed months ahead of schedule on Sept. 10.

The other key part of Phase One involves the construction of two additional floors onto MMC’s East Tower. That work has been highlighted on the Portland skyline, and the new floors will hold 64 new Oncology rooms as well as MMC’s two new helipads. MMC expects to complete construction of the new East Tower patient floors later in 2019.

For more information and to receive regular updates on the MMC Modernization project’s progress, please visit [www.mmc.org/modernization](http://www.mmc.org/modernization).

### **About Maine Medical Center**

Maine Medical Center (MMC), recognized as a Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News and World Report for 2018-2019, is a complete health care resource for the people of Greater Portland and the entire state, as well as northern New England. Incorporated in 1868, MMC is the state’s largest medical center, licensed for 637 beds and employing nearly 8,700 people. MMC’s unique role as both a community hospital and a referral center requires an unparalleled depth and breadth of services, including an active educational program and a world-class biomedical research center. As a nonprofit institution, Maine Medical Center provides nearly 23 percent of all the charity care delivered in Maine. MMC is a member of the MaineHealth system, a growing family of health care services in northern New England. For more information, visit [www.mmc.org](http://www.mmc.org).

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