



Sept. 26, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Wickenheiser

207-662-6679 / awickenhei@mmc.org

## **MMC Files Site Plan for New Congress Street Medical Building**

*New Building Will Enhance Gateway to Portland, Feature State-of-the-Art Cardiovascular Care*

**PORTLAND, Maine** – Maine Medical Center has submitted to the Portland Planning Board its site plan application 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 Planning Board submission in MMC’s \$525 million expansion and modernization plan. It completes 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.

The site plan includes the removal of the Gilman Street garage, MMC’s staff parking facility that has reached the end of its useful life. MMC will expand 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.

“Every aspect of this project has been focused on providing the highest quality of patient care and improving the overall experience at Maine Medical Center for our patients, their families and our colleagues,” said Jeff Sanders, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “This new Congress Street medical building will continue those efforts, providing a convenient, modern and easy way to access our state-of-the-art care for all who need it.”

MMC has worked closely with the city, neighbors, and local businesses to make improvements in accessing the Bramhall campus while reducing traffic and parking challenges on neighboring streets.

Work is currently underway to design the Congress Street entrance in order to allow convenient access to MMC while minimizing impact on existing pedestrian, bicycle, transit and vehicular traffic.

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.

“Being able to provide all facets of cardiovascular care in one modern facility designed for this use will have a huge positive impact on both our patients and on all our care providers,” said Joel Botler, M.D., MMC’s Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. “Consolidating cardiovascular care in this new building will allow us to make more effective use of all our clinical space throughout the hospital, further aligning our physical space with our patients’ needs.”

Following this plan submission, MMC will meet with neighbors, local businesses, the Planning Board and numerous city departments to present plans and gather input before seeking final approval later this year.

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.

The new Congress Street medical building will be a prominent piece of MMC’s expansion and modernization project. 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).

###