

# #NoHospitalDowntown

*“Search-up our group’s Facebook page!”*

[www.NoHospitalDowntown.com](http://www.NoHospitalDowntown.com)

In recent years three Utica hospitals have been merging. Not fully merged, two entities have a combined debt of \$226M. Now, before consolidation is complete, a new hospital complex is being plan by the Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS). The estimated cost is to be between \$500-600M. If this project is like most construction projects, the final cost is more likely to approach \$1B. Albany has pledged \$300M to help finance the new hospital.

Albany-based legislation, bringing \$300M of taxpayer money to Utica, is tied to a hospital to be built in an Upstate metropolitan area. Media has reported the new hospital will be built in downtown Utica. Construction would begin only after blocks-and-blocks of buildings are demolished. These blocks will go from being “taxable property” to “tax exempt”, which will further shrink Utica’s tax base.

This week the MVHS’s Board of Directors voted to place the hospital downtown after allegedly considering 12 locations around the city. Next a Utica newspaper offered a footprint and reported the planned new hospital site was a 34-acre parcel, yet their site appears to only be 12.5 acres. Businesses in that area, as did you the residents of Utica, learned about this project (and the Albany-based legislation) from a newspaper headline- that’s wrong.

Our group’s concerns:

1. Our government leaders created a plan in Albany without seeking a dialogue with local taxpayers.
2. Our government leaders offer no studies to support that there is a need for a new hospital.
3. Our government leaders are supplying headlines and sound bites as to how the new hospital will revive downtown and be an economic engine.
4. Our government leaders are telling us the hospital “needs to be downtown”, our group is one of “naysayers” and our request for more information will only send the \$300M to another city.
5. Our government leaders seem to lack proper insight and are turning to the urban renewal project tactics of the past. This will destroy buildings and an important downtown fabric that can’t be replaced!

We are demanding more information and a public dialogue. We’re posting our thoughts and findings at [www.NoHospitalDowntown.com](http://www.NoHospitalDowntown.com). You are invited to our Facebook Group, listed above. If you’re a member of a Utica-area citizen group, please invite us to attend a future meeting for an exchange of ideas- and let your members know that they are welcome at our future meetings here at the Utica Public Library, Fridays, 4:30-5:30pm.

***Develop A Smart, Vibrant, Downtown!***