

NEWS RELEASE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008
MIDTOWN RISING PARTNERS UNVEIL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SITE
40-Day Public Comment Period Commences

(Rochester, New York) — The Midtown Rising project partners—the State of New York, the City of Rochester and PAETEC Holdings, Inc.—today unveiled the development plans for the nearly 9-acre Midtown site in the core of downtown Rochester. The plans were unveiled this afternoon at an event hosted by the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation (RDDC) as part of their *Repositioning Rochester* series.

In accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), the development plans were released in conjunction with a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), a document describing and analyzing redevelopment alternatives and impacts for the Midtown site. Primarily an environmental review document, the DGEIS provides a fair summary of the development plan, including work that has been completed to date, underlying project goals, considerations and constraints, including various market conditions needing to be accommodated.

The environmental review process provides an opportunity for comments from the public. The 40-day period for public review and comment officially commences today and will conclude on Friday, December 19. In addition, the City Environmental Commission will conduct a public hearing on December 2. Comments received within this 40-day period, including those received at today's event, will be considered and responded to in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) anticipated for release in early February.

"This is a genuine public-private collaboration that will benefit our city for generations to come," said Mayor Robert J. Duffy. "It is extremely gratifying to witness the potential redevelopment alternatives come to life and we are hopeful that the public is as energized as we are to participate in a dynamic process that will make historic improvements to Rochester's Main St."

-more-



MIDTOWN RISING PARTNERS UNVEIL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SITE

“Midtown Rising has achieved a significant milestone in its development process,” said Empire State Development Upstate President Dennis M. Mullen. “On behalf of Governor Paterson and New York State, ESD is pleased to be a part of such a momentous day for the city of Rochester. To be as far along in the process for a development effort of this magnitude speaks volumes to the importance we feel for bringing forth a new Midtown that the people of Rochester will be proud of and enjoy for years to come. I applaud the extraordinary efforts made that got us here today and look forward to much continued success in the future.”

“Projects like this require strong public-private cooperation across the region and state,” said Arunas A. Chesonis, PAETEC Chairman and CEO. “We are excited about what this project can mean for economic development in the city of Rochester.”

“We will never again in our lifetimes have the opportunity to reconstruct such a huge territory in the center of our city,” said Rochester Downtown Development Corporation President Heidi Zimmer-Meyer. “Downtown is different because it belongs to everybody. So this process is particularly important – the built environment that we create will shape our use of downtown for generations. This is a significant responsibility and the inclusive process initiated by the City and State gives all of us a real voice in what will ultimately happen. A revitalized Midtown block will become a major signature for the region and a great source of community pride.”

The DGEIS is available for review on the Midtown Rising Web site at www.MidtownRochesterRising.com. Comments on the DGEIS can be submitted via e-mail to: Dorraine.Laudisi@cityofrochester.gov. Comments may also be mailed to Dorraine Laudisi, City Hall, Room 125B, 30 Church St., Rochester, NY 14614. Comments can also be made at the public hearing on December 2 at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 30 Church St.

On February 6, 2009, the City of Rochester will publish the Final GEIS. Rochester City Council will consider adoption of the GEIS Findings on February 17, with ESD adopting the Final GEIS Findings on March 19. At that time, ESD will authorize the demolition contracts for all buildings on the Midtown site. As for Midtown Tower, a Request or Proposals (RFP) will soon be issued by the City to determine if there is an appropriate proposal for development of the tower.

For more information on Midtown Rising, including the project timeline and frequently asked questions, as well as to review the complete DGEIS unveiled at today, please visit the Midtown Rising Web site at www.midtownrochesterrising.com.