



# RE VIVAL: OAKLAND Transformation Project

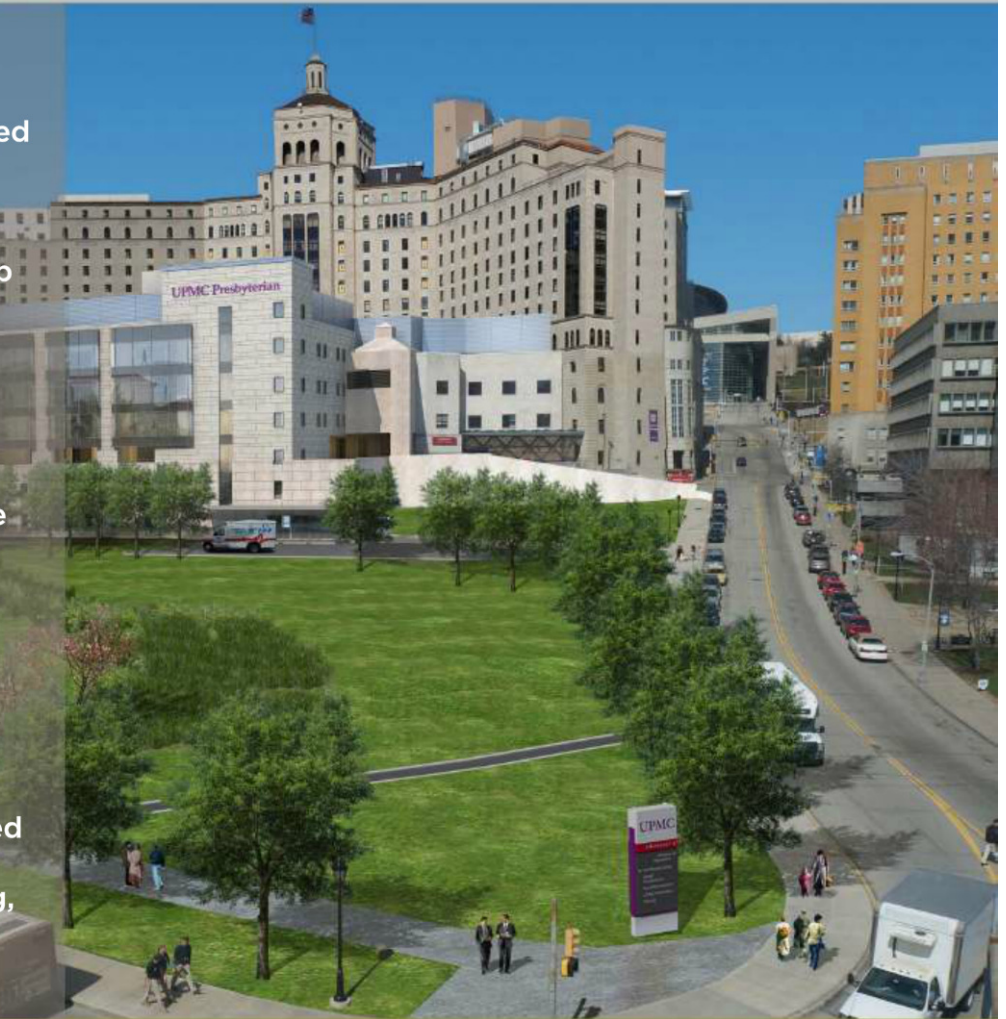
by Martin Kinnunen

UPMC is moving forward with plans to make major improvements that will bring more green space and enhanced traffic flow to the vibrant city neighborhood of Oakland.


The project will remove the top six floors of the South Tower (formerly Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh) and portions of the bottom eight floors. The pedestrian bridge between the Falk Medical Building and UPMC Presbyterian also will be removed.

In all, 400,000 square feet of space will be eliminated, significantly reducing UPMC's use of electricity, natural gas, and other utilities in Oakland.

Demolition debris will be sorted on-site and many materials — such as steel, aluminum, wiring, and pipe — will be recycled rather than placed in landfills.



**A**t project completion, employees will be able to enjoy more than 25,000 square feet of green space at Fifth Avenue and DeSoto Street. The green space will contain more than 40,000 plantings of trees, grasses, shrubbery, and other vegetation. Several rain gardens will be constructed in the green space. Rain gardens, also called “bio-swales,” collect storm water and release it at a slow, controlled rate, which will help reduce flooding and storm sewer backups in Oakland.



With the height of the South Tower reduced, an abundance of natural light will flow into the UPMC Presbyterian main driveway. A new façade and glass windows to be installed on the front of the hospital will provide employees with more natural light in their work environment.



The planned Fifth Avenue entrance to the Falk Medical Building, aligned with Atwood Street, will improve traffic flow on the UPMC Presbyterian campus and reduce the traffic backlog that occurs frequently at Fifth and Lothrop streets. A covered outdoor walkway will connect the Falk building with UPMC Presbyterian.

The project includes great news for Port Authority riders. UPMC is set to grant access to a small strip of land along Fifth Avenue to serve as a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stop. Commuters at this stop will be able to tap computerized, real-time data to check on bus arrival times. The new stop is planned as part of a dedicated express bus system connecting downtown and Oakland.



*Large-scale demolition of the South Tower is scheduled to begin in mid-June. Project completion is anticipated in the summer of 2016.*