

Two Important Projects

happening for the hospital, and the community

Homer Medical Center Expansion

Built thirty years ago, Homer Medical Center has outgrown its existing 5,000-square-foot space. Multiple staff share office space designed for one, there are challenges with storage and patient flow, and our ability to add new providers is capped. There is no more space to add more providers.

Even with the clinic open six days a week, and evening hours twice a week, existing patients can wait weeks to be seen, and dozens are on the new patient waiting list.

Over **9,000 residents, more than 60% of the service area**, relied on Homer Medical for care in the last three years, in addition to more than 1,000 visitors. This is double the number of patients the clinic was designed for decades ago.

The 5,700 square foot expansion will include:

- Seven additional exam rooms
- Additional consult area, specialty procedure room, office space, lab and imaging space
- An expanded, secure med room
- Conference room for care coordination and education

The project includes renovations to the existing building, including a new roof, expanded waiting room, improved parking, and enlarged lab and imaging area.

This will allow for:

- More immediate availability of appointments and quicker access to care
- Access to the business office staff under the same roof
- Savings by elimination of lease payment currently paid for the billing office space
- Patient Centered Medical Home practices, such as visits with health educators and more regular wellness exams
- On-site lab testing, and additional imaging services

The project will go out for bid in September, with an anticipated completion date of summer 2017.

Operating Room

Air Handling/Ventilation System

There is an immediate need to replace the air handling, ventilation and air conditioning in South Peninsula Hospital's operating rooms. The current units are 40 years old and utilize outdated technologies which do not meet today's standards. The current system does not provide sufficient control of room temperature, humidity levels, and air exchange for the number of surgeries, people and equipment utilizing the rooms.

The number of surgeries has nearly tripled in the last eighteen years, **growing from 665 in 1997 to more than 1,560 in 2015.**

We serve an aging community, and residents require greater medical attention. Thus, numerous new surgeries and procedures are being offered in the OR. This adds people, equipment and usage to these very small rooms on a regular basis.

In addition, record-breaking outdoor temperatures are adding stress to an old air conditioning system already struggling to perform. Several surgical cases were postponed in 2016 due to temperature and humidity levels.

It will take time to develop the replacement system. We need the best, most efficient, affordable system that will last for decades and cause the least amount of disruption to install. The design should be complete by the end of the year. Construction should begin by January, with the new system running by summer, 2017.



One Important Vote

Due to the critical nature of these projects, they are already in progress. The question at hand is the best way to finance them. The estimated cost of the Homer Medical expansion is \$3 million, and the operating room improvements is \$1.8 million. Using general obligation bonds, rather than other forms of financing, will save up to \$300,000. General obligation bonds require a vote of the community, and provides the least expensive way to finance the projects.

Approval of Proposition 2 on the **October 4th ballot in the regular election would authorize general obligation bonds to fund these projects. Based on existing property assessments, the \$4.8 million bond debt should not change the mill rate and will not raise property taxes. This is the least expensive way to fund the projects.**