

## OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

### MOVING FORWARD IN CHANGING TIMES

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Before the world hit “pause” on nearly everything, the Alliant Energy Center Redevelopment Committee was able to complete work through the schematic design portion of the master planning process. While we are adapting to a changing world, those designs represent a solid roadmap for future enhancements to the Exhibition Hall and other critical portions of the campus.

Most agree that preserving and allocating resources toward efforts that will help ensure sustained future economic stability and pandemic recovery is essential. And, while many things that were previously in the works – like the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall — is currently on hold, other efforts such as exploring private development opportunities continue to advance. The Alliant Energy Redevelopment Committee and others believe being ready to go when the time is right could easily mean the difference between a slow and fast economic recovery.

“The important thing at this moment is that we have a strong, agreed-upon master plan along with solid schematic designs in hand and that we are ready to move when the time is right,” explained County Board member and Redevelopment Committee chair, Patrick Miles. “By having a plan that can be implemented incrementally, if necessary, we will avoid losing precious time and potential revenue when that time comes and can then continue the next steps outlined in the master plan.”

The Alliant Energy Center Redevelopment Committee will continue to explore significantly altered funding scenarios that will allow the county and the region to benefit from the future growth potential of the Alliant Energy Center Campus.

Scott Harrington, Principal Planner for Vandewalle & Associates, Inc., the firm supporting the redevelopment committee’s process, explains, “This work represents the completion of one element of a long, thoughtful process that has been underway for several years. And the work is essential for being able to quickly undertake the final steps in the design process and move ahead with construction as soon as it is strategically and economically feasible and advisable to do so.” And, while Harrington and Miles both acknowledge it is unlikely there will be county funds to support the effort in the near future, that does not mean all aspects of the project will be on hold.

“With the schematic designs completed, we are now focusing on how best to integrate private development into the campus,” Harrington explained. “Private development could, ultimately, trigger the expansion that studies show will have the most significant benefit to this vital community asset.” The redevelopment committee will continue to explore all of the options.