



# Rochester Area Community Update

*The latest information for members of our local communities*

April 2023

## **Downtown Rochester Task Force shares community feedback on post-pandemic environment**



In March, the Downtown Rochester Task Force invited members of the community and downtown businesses to participate in one of four working sessions to share specific local challenges they are experiencing. Attendees shared concerns and ideas to move forward during the facilitated discussions to inform the building of a community-based action plan. The Downtown Rochester Task Force includes members from the City of Rochester, Destination Medical Center, Experience Rochester, Mayo Clinic,

Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, Rochester Area Economic Development Agency, Inc. and Rochester Downtown Alliance. Four major themes from the working sessions rose to the top to address the COVID-19 pandemic's long-term impacts on downtown Rochester. In April, the community will be invited back to participate in working sessions designed around each of these four major themes:

- Strengthen promotion, activation, and programming
- Improve access to downtown through wayfinding, developing new public parking strategies and mitigating the impact of construction
- Reduce barriers to doing business, including simplifying policies and processes

- Recruit new businesses downtown

## **Proposed 2024 federal budget includes funding for Rochester bus rapid transit project**

In early March, Rochester's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), branded the "LINK," was one of two major Minnesota public transportation projects that President Biden's fiscal year 2024 federal budget recommended for federal funding. The proposed \$28.8 million in federal funding will help cover the project's total cost of \$143 million. The Rochester BRT line, which is expected to begin service in 2026, will cover nearly three miles along Second Street SW. It will connect the West Transit Village, a proposed 13-acre transit-oriented development, to Saint Marys Hospital, the downtown Mayo Clinic campus, the Mayo Civic Center, the Rochester-Olmsted County Government Center and the Downtown Waterfront Southeast site.

Per an operating agreement with the City of Rochester, Mayo Clinic will replace its current shuttle system with LINK BRT to transport employees from the West and East parking locations to Saint Marys and the downtown campus. Mayo is committed to supporting effective and efficient transportation for its staff and Rochester residents.

## **Second Avenue Southwest in downtown Rochester will be closed from April 3 through November**



Beginning Monday, April 3, Second Avenue Southwest from Second Street to Fourth Street Southwest in downtown Rochester closed to vehicle traffic until November 2023. The closure is necessary for the construction of [Discovery Walk](#). Discovery Walk is a project in partnership with the Destination Medical Center to create a linear parkway that will serve pedestrians and vehicle access. The project will connect Heart of the City to Soldier's Field Park creating a positive pedestrian experience with flexible access for bike and vehicular access with space for events and future development in mind. The picture to the left is an artistic concept from [Destination Medical Center](#).

**Wanted: Your volunteer opportunities for Mayo Clinic Cares volunteer program**



**MAYO CLINIC CARES.** 

Local nonprofit organizations with volunteer needs are invited to share those on Mayo Clinic's volunteer platform, [Mayo Clinic Cares](#). Mayo Clinic Cares supports Mayo Clinic's mission and values by connecting staff with nonprofit organizations in the community that have volunteer needs. The program promotes staff involvement with community outreach while supporting efforts to advance diversity, equity and inclusion.

## How to post volunteer opportunities on Mayo Clinic Cares

Mayo Clinic Cares is powered by [YourCause](#), a web-based platform that connects nonprofit organizations (NPOs) with Mayo Clinic staff. Through the [NPOconnect](#) portal on the YourCause website, organizations can post and manage volunteer opportunities in addition to other features. To access the free NPOconnect portal and get started with posting your volunteer opportunities, follow these simple steps:

1. [Create](#) your NPOconnect account.
2. Log-in to your NPOconnect non-profit portal.
3. Set up your NPOconnect presence. This includes uploading your logo, contact information, mission statement and website link. \*
4. Post your volunteer needs, including short-term specific needs or long-term volunteer opportunities.
5. Manage your volunteer event(s) and contact volunteers directly through the portal.

\* Please be sure to select "Mayo Clinic" in the dropdown.

For questions about setting up your account, use the link at the bottom of the NPOconnect [page](#) to view FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), email or live chat with a support representative. Visit the [Mayo Clinic Cares](#) website to learn more about the program or email [Mayo Clinic Community Engagement](#).

## Cancer and culture conversation open to the community



Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center is partnering with Pamoja Women, Together Against Breast Cancer and 125 Live to host a conversation on cancer and culture on Saturday, May 6, 1 – 2:30 p.m. CST. The event will feature panelists and survivors from diverse backgrounds who will share how culture, fear, stigma and traditions influence seeking screening for cancer, sharing information after diagnosis and support through living with cancer. It is free and open to the public with in-person and virtual attendance options. The in-person

option is hosted at 125 Live, River Room. Light refreshments will be served from 12:30-1 p.m. [Registration](#) is required by May 5. Learn more by emailing [CHECER@mayo.edu](mailto:CHECER@mayo.edu).

## **April Plummer building lighting schedule**

<b>April 1</b>	Donate Life Month	Blue and Green
<b>April 17</b>	National Volunteer Week	Blue
<b>April 22</b>	Earth Day	Green
<b>April 28</b>	Mayo Experience Week	Yellow

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