Cancer Center Project — Q&A

What is it?
Plans call for four facilities to be constructed: a multidisciplinary outpatient clinic, a 98-lab research tower, a facility with 108 hospital beds and an ambulatory services structure. Cancer patients with the toughest cases regionally, nationally and from around the world will be treated using the very latest procedures.

Why is the proposed cancer center needed?
The cancer center would provide a vast array of cancer services in one easy-to-access location. It would be a translational project — research developed in the lab would turn into new treatments available at the patient’s bedside. UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center have a national and international reputation as a leader in cancer care and research. This initiative would capitalize on the momentum we currently have, bringing together the brightest minds in cancer research and care. It would elevate Nebraska’s status as a leader and position the medical center to be a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center — one of 40 in the United States.

What does the project mean for Nebraskans?
The cancer center will provide an unmatched cancer care experience for patients and their families. The latest discoveries will translate into new therapies, which will be administered by doctors who specialize in the patient’s exact form of cancer. The cancer center will provide a central location and synergy for all services. Additionally, the center would create an estimated 1,200 jobs by 2020 to serve patients and conduct research. Projections now show an additional infusion of $100 million per year to Nebraska’s economy.

Where will the center be built?
Currently, the area between the Durham Outpatient Center and Durham Research Towers is the site chosen by campus leaders. This is a campus-wide project with input from UNMC, the hospital and the physicians. The construction of the new facility would mean both Swanson Hall and the Durham Outpatient Center parking garage would be razed to make room for the new structure. An underground parking facility would be included in the new project to replace the spots lost in the old garage.

How much will it cost?
The early estimate of the project is expected to cost $370 million. Multiple funding sources will be sought, including both public and private dollars.

When will construction begin?
Ideally, construction could begin in 12–18 months.

What is the next step?
There is more research and analysis still to be done about the site and what would be included in the center. The project must also be approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and The Nebraska Medical Center Board of Directors. Final approval could take several more months.