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St. Luke's plans two major construction projects

The health system's annual report outlines new multimillion-dollar buildings.

St. Luke's Health System is planning a \$1.28 billion expansion over the next 10 years, including a heart and cardiac tower in Downtown Boise and a cancer center in Meridian. The 10-story heart and cardiac tower is planned directly behind the St. Luke's Boise Medical Center's existing tower on a block bordered by East Bannock Street, Avenue B and Jefferson Street.



A rendering of the heart and cardiac tower that St. Luke's plans in Downtown Boise.

Construction would require some big changes near the hospital's main building. To erect a tower right behind the existing building, St. Luke's would need to close Jefferson Street, said spokesman Ken Dey. The hospital system has not yet sought approval to do that.

In addition, some office buildings and the physical plant that holds the hospital's boilers would have to be torn down and moved. The physical plant would be moved across 1st Street to a block where St. Luke's owns several houses that now are used for St. Luke's operations such as day care, doctor's offices, employee health and the system's nonprofit foundation.

The cancer center would house the Mountain States Tumor Institute, now in Downtown Boise. Moving the institute to the St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center, just off I-84, should make cancer patients' daily trips to MSTI for treatment more convenient, Dey said.

The cancer center in Meridian would be connected to St. Luke's existing hospital.

The health system doesn't yet have groundbreaking dates or cost estimates for the projects, he said.



"A lot of this will hinge on philanthropy and where the market is at when we decide to pull the trigger," Dey said. "In the next couple years, we should have some firmer plans." The \$1.28 billion plan also includes other projects the health system plans in the next decade.