

# FirstLight to Expand Mora Campus in New Phased Project



Organizations typically expand their facilities to address growth or much-needed upgrades. Both reasons are at play with the upcoming expansion project for FirstLight's campus in Mora.

Over the past seven years, for example, Emergency Department visits have increased 11.3 percent, while Rehabilitation visits have increased a whopping 87 percent. In addition, inpatient rooms haven't been remodeled to allow for newer technology or plumbing since the 1970s.

This fall will see the completion of pre-construction and site work including moving power lines, installing fiber optics, and removing the houses along Clark Street (see article on page 7).

In spring 2017, groundbreaking will kick off the first of the four-phase project, moving rehabilitation services to the building's southwest side and adding a second floor to house 23 newly designed inpatient and birthing rooms. These new rooms will enhance our team approach to health care delivery, and make our use of resources more efficient.

The second phase involves moving the existing Emergency Department and helipad to the northeast corner of the campus, and remodeling the existing lab, imaging, materials management, and IT areas.

During phase three we will construct a community pharmacy, a new public dining and common area, create a centralized entrance from State Highway 65, and relocate the eye clinic from downtown. In addition, the current birthing center will become infusion rooms, allowing for more privacy and improved healing environments for chemotherapy and infusion patients.

The final phase will optimize parking areas, alleviating congestion and helping with patient drop-off and pick-up.

The entire project will take approximately two years to complete and result in approximately 200,000 finished square feet. FirstLight's current finished square footage is roughly 130,000.

"This expansion is necessary to continue to exceed our patients' expectations and to adapt to changing needs of our community members," comments CEO, Randy Ulseth.